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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Sundowner Musical Gathering Opens Its Call

YOUNG local bands are invited to join the Sundowner Musical Gathering series at the Goethe Institut Myanmar.

Since its launch in 2022, the Sundowner Musical Gathering series has connected young musicians with music lovers and provided a platform for original music and creative exchange. Featuring youth bands and organized in collaboration with Goethe Café, the program has become a popular gathering for music enthusiasts during Myanmar's open and dry season.

The programme will run from December 2026 through March 2027, with performances taking place on the last Friday of each month.

This year, plans are underway to expand the programme to reach a wider audience by welcoming artistes from diverse musical backgrounds. Goethe-Institut Myanmar and Goethe Café warmly invite bands from across Myanmar, including those based in cities and regions outside Yangon. Applications will be closed by 31 October. — TWA/ZS



This image illustrates an advert for the Sundowner Musical Gathering programme.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Fast-Tracks Supplementary Appropriation Bill for 2026-2027

A coordination meeting on the Union Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the 2026-2027 financial year was held yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of the Zabuthiri Building at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe said the meeting was being held to coordinate efforts towards the approval by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of the Union Supplementary Budget proposal and Union Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the 2026-2027 financial year. He said that 18 joint scrutiny teams were formed to conduct a detailed review of the revenues and expenditures included in the draft bill. The Joint Public Accounts Committee and the joint scrutiny teams should examine the amounts originally approved in the estimates, expenditures already incurred, remaining balances and funds that would have to be returned if they could not be utilized.

He also emphasized the need to assess the additional revenue that could be generated through the allocation of supplementary funds to economic organizations. The status of payments made to the State, including commercial tax, income tax and other contributions, should also be reviewed by comparing the records of the respective paying and receiving departments.

SEE PAGE 3


Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe presides over the coordination meeting on the Union Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the 2026-27 financial year.

111 Dawei Flood Families Receive MRCS Relief

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society distributed hygiene kits and mosquito nets to 111 households across seven flood relief camps in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region, after heavy rains triggered widespread flooding.

Assistance reached households in seven flood relief camps across Dawei Township, after heavy rains from a powerful cyclone left them inundated. The assistance comprised 111 hygiene kits and 111 mosquito nets, which were distributed to flood-affected households by volunteers from the Dawei Township Red Cross Society under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee. The Myanmar Red Cross Society held the opening ceremony of the First Aid Skills Competitions to commemorate World First Aid Day 2026 on the morning of 1 October on the third floor of its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw. — ASH/MKKS


Myanmar Red Cross volunteers distribute relief supplies to households at a flood camp in Dawei Township.

Fog Warning Issued for Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

DENSE fog and mist are likely to occur in some sections of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway annually from October to February, prompting the Expressway Maintenance, Repair and Supervision Team to advise drivers to reduce their speed and drive with caution.

Fog and mist commonly occur at night and in the early morning when temperatures fall and humidity rises, causing water vapour to accumulate on the road surface and the soil along both sides of the expressway.

The affected sections include five locations in the Yangon Region between mileposts 0/0 and 185/0, 13 locations in the Bago Region, five locations in Nay Pyi Taw between mileposts 185/0 and 365/3, and five locations in the Mandalay Region.

SEE PAGE 4


This image shows cyclists moving through dense fog.

NATIONAL PAGE 7



Bago's 3 Fisheries Yield 122M Viss in 6 Months

NATIONAL PAGE 10



Township-level inspections of fertilizer shops for compliance and hoarding

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



MTB launches new service for MMQR payments

MYANMAR Tourism Bank (MTB) held a launch ceremony for a new service, enabling payments via MMQR using MTB Pay, on 1 October at the MTB Head Office Functional Hall located in Sule, Yangon. The event aimed to develop digital payment systems and further expand cashless payments.


MTB hosting the launch ceremony for MMQR payments via MTB Pay.

At the launch ceremony, members of MTB's Board of Directors, MTB CEO U Win Lwin, and the CEO of Bards Limited delivered congratulatory remarks on the MMQR payment service using MTB Pay, the importance of digital payment systems, and the enhanced payment opportunities that will provide greater convenience for users.

Afterwards, U Lwan from MTB's Digital Banking Department gave a detailed explanation of how the MMQR system functions within the MTB Pay application and the procedures for proper usage.

MTB will continue to implement innovative banking services by leveraging modern digital technology to make customers' daily banking needs faster, easier, and more convenient. — TWA/ZN

Weather

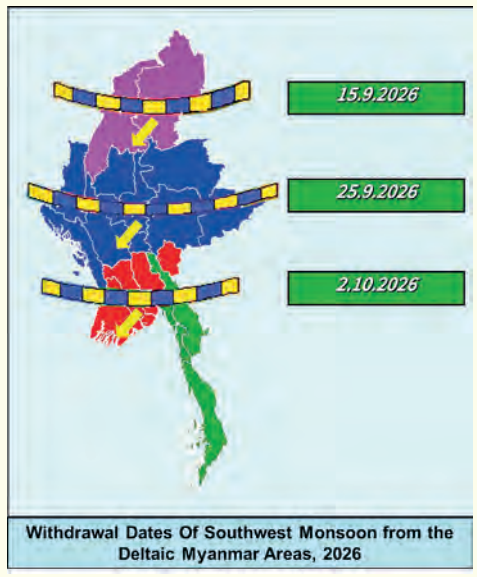
Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 4 pm Friday 2 October 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Southwest monsoon has been withdrawn from the Northeast Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and Deltaic Myanmar areas. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and South Bay, Westcentral Bay and Northwest Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few clouds to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 3 October 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, scattered in Mandalay, Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and northern Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.
THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, and Mon States. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of thundery activities in Southern Myanmar area.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 October 2026: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 40 per cent.
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 October 2026: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 40 per cent.
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 October 2026: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 40 per cent.
WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region and scattered in Yangon Region. — DMH

Condition of Southwest Monsoon Withdrawal from Deltaic Myanmar areas

Issued on 2 October 2026



Withdrawal Dates Of Southwest Monsoon from the Deltaic Myanmar Areas, 2026

SOUTHWEST monsoon has been withdrawn from Northeast Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and Deltaic Myanmar areas.

Heart and vascular disease risk rise by 20% in 10 yrs

THE Ministry of Health stated that the risk of heart and vascular disease among adults in Myanmar is expected to rise by 20 per cent or more over the next 10 years.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun made the remarks at the World Heart Day 2026 ceremony held at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September.


Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun speaks on the occasion of World Heart Day 2026.

According to a 2024 survey on the causes of non-communicable diseases, 24.4 per cent of adults had high blood pressure, while 13.4 per cent of people aged 40 to 69 had heart and vascular disease.

The deputy minister said that it is necessary to monitor and treat symptoms early and systematically because heart health is important. He added that the global goal is to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as cancer and heart and vascular disease, with a target of reducing premature deaths from diabetes and chronic lung and respiratory diseases by one-third.

In addition, the deputy minister emphasized that heart and vascular diseases can be effectively prevented by eating a healthy diet, refraining from smoking and using tobacco products, avoiding excessive alcohol consumption, engaging in regular moderate physical activity and leading a stress-free lifestyle. — TWA/MKKS

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Fast-Tracks Supplementary Appropriation Bill for 2026-2027

FROM PAGE 1

He further said that the scrutiny process should take into account expenditures that could not be transferred or utilized in accordance with financial regulations during the financial year, and projects that must be completed within the year and their actual implementation status.

Following the review, approval should be limited to essential expenditures, including commercial tax, income tax and contributions payable to the State; additional expenses arising from changes in foreign exchange rates; genuinely necessary salary expenditures; pensions; interest payments; and supplementary expenditures requested in accordance with the needs of the State.

He noted that, in scrutinizing the bills, weaknesses and strengths should be identified, with efforts made to further improve the strengths and address the weaknesses. This would help make the budget scrutiny process more effective and successful.

He also instructed that when responsible officials from ministries and organizations are invited for discussions and questioned, the purpose should be to obtain and compile information to strengthen the Hluttaw's oversight and budget scrutiny functions. Care should therefore be taken to ensure that the discussions do not take the form of interrogating the officials concerned.

The bills should be scrutinized strictly in accordance with the Constitution, the Union Hluttaw-related laws and bylaws. He also emphasized the need to submit the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny teams to the Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee within the prescribed timeframe and in accordance with the law related to drafting and submitting the Union budget.

Regarding the scrutiny of expenditures contained in the bill, he said that the Joint Public Accounts Committee will provide further clarification, and he urged the Hluttaw leaders, members of the joint committees and members of the scrutiny teams attending the meeting to contribute their suggestions and participate in the discussions.

The Chairman of the Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee discussed the need to complete the scrutiny of the bill within the prescribed timeframe, ensure the accuracy of revenue and expenditure accounts, and prioritize essential expenditures that can be fully utilized during the financial year.

Then, the Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice-Chair 1 explained the coordination between Hluttaw committees and the 18 joint scrutiny teams to ensure timely submission, review, discussion, amendment and approval of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the 2026-2027 financial year, and timely budget scrutiny and reporting.

The other attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Speaker concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions 2026 commences



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo speaks at the opening of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) Sports Competitions 2026 in Nay Pyi Taw.

WHILE striving to achieve success for their team, athletes should be happy when they win, but also learn to accept defeat and demonstrate good sportsmanship, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo at the opening of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions 2026 at the Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The General remarked that athletes should also carry with them throughout their lives the conviction that, with good discipline and unity, they can confidently compete against any kind of opponent, and put this principle into practice.

Chairman of the Tatmadaw Sports and Physical Education Administration Body Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Zaw Hein and Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Kyi Thaik cut the ribbon to open the competitions.

The sports teams led by the parade commander saluted the General and left the stadium.

The General and party watched a second-round group match between the Camp Commandant's Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the Yangon Command teams at the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Football Tournament.

Although both sides played under pressure against each other in an effort to secure a favourable result, the team representing the Yangon Command was able to dominate possession through well-coordinated play and an effective game plan. At the final whistle, the Yangon Command team defeated the team of the Camp Commandant's Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) 2-1.

The ceremony was also attended by Daw Nilar, the wife of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief; Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife Daw Nan Kue Ku; Union ministers and their wives; the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and his wife; senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives; and guests.

The Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competitions comprise football, Sepak Takraw, futsal, Myanmar martial arts, boxing, volleyball, athletics, judo, golf, Taekwondo, karatedo and traditional cane ball events, and it will last till 16 October. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar virtually attends 24th SCO Prosecutors-General Meeting



Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo leads the Myanmar delegation in attending the 24th Meeting of Prosecutors-General of the SCO member states.

THE 24th Meeting of Prosecutors-General of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Kazan, the Russian Federation, on 1 October, with a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo attending virtually.

Prosecutors-General from SCO member states, observer states and dialogue partner countries also attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed promoting legal cooperation to protect the rights and legitimate interests of minors, exchanging experiences on preventive measures and enhancing international cooperation among SCO member states.

The participants exchanged views on measures to prevent children from becoming involved in destructive activities and discussed relevant cooperation.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation, and the participants adopted a protocol containing decisions on cooperation. — MNA/KZL

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 2 October 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,655.00~3,671.00	555.30~558.70	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	9, 458.00, 573.63	15,328.00,737.44	37,147.00,235.81	-

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session enters its 10th day

THE 10th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session was held at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and parliamentarians. During the session, nine questions were answered, and a key proposal was debated and approved.



The 10th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session underway presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Lin Aung answered an enquiry regarding the beautification and sanitation of the historic Botahtaung Pagoda precinct and jetty, noting that the Yangon Region Government is collaborating with municipal and administrative bodies to enhance the area to international recreational and pilgrimage standards.

Deputy Minister for Labour U Maung Maung Than addressed arrangements for individuals who have completed their military service under the People's Military Service Law. He stated that the ministry coordinates with the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation and licensed agencies to facilitate overseas employment, provide skill training, and verify qualifications.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw Than Than Lin clarified that civil servants temporarily transferred to areas without regional allowances are entitled to keep their allowances only if they meet specific criteria under Civil Service Rule 153(b). She also confirmed that farmers genuinely cultivating land can access agricultural loans even if there are Form-7 ownership name discrepancies, as the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank has eased related procedures. In response to a query regarding additional subsidies and dry rations for civil servants and prospective retirees, the deputy minister explained that the government has no immediate plan to provide such relief, given current fiscal constraints and existing salary allowances and benefits.

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe addressed four separate questions concerning rural road upgrades in Danubyu, Kyaiklat, Kawhmu (Kungyangon), and Einme townships. He detailed project allocations, including a planned 800-foot asphalt overlay in Danubyu for the 2026-2027 financial year and ongoing gravel surfacing projects, noting that concrete paving remains subject to regional and union capital budget availability.

Parliamentarians then debated a proposal submitted by Dr Kyaw Swe of the Taungdwingyi constituency urging the Union Government to enact and implement an Agricultural Mechanization Development Law to transition Myanmar's agricultural sector from traditional to modern mechanized farming.

Debating representatives emphasized that the law should focus on accessible machinery rental services, local spare parts manufacturing, maintenance hubs, and financing options for smallholders and youth rather than merely individual ownership.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw supported the proposal, highlighting that mechanization is vital to improving productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, and raising rural incomes. He revealed that the ministry is already drafting a 16-chapter Agricultural Mechanization Development Law and will incorporate the parliamentarians' recommendations.

The Hluttaw subsequently approved the proposal after seeking the assembly's consensus. The session was adjourned until its 11th day on 5 October. — MNA/ST

APTERR Programme-3 Delivers 164 Tonnes of Chinese Rice to MDY

UNDER the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Programme-3 (2025), 163.877 tonnes of rice donated by the People's Republic of China to support flood victims in Mandalay Region were handed over to the Mandalay Region Government through the Mandalay Region Agriculture Department.

During the event, APTERR Secretariat General Manager Dr Choomjet Karnjanakesorn and Agriculture Department Deputy Director-General U Myo Zaw explained the donation, while the Deputy Director-General presented the 163.877 tonnes of rice donated by the People's Republic of China to Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung. The APTERR Secretariat General Manager also handed over the donated rice to representatives of flood-affected communities.



163.877 tonnes of rice from China provided to Mandalay Region under APTERR Programme-3.

The region chief Minister presented a letter of appreciation to the APTERR Secretariat General Manager, while a representative of the flood-affected communities expressed gratitude for the donation. The donated rice, comprising 3,277 bags weighing 50 kilogrammes each, will be systematically distributed through the districts and townships. — MNA/MKKS

Fog Warning Issued for Yangon-Mandalay ...

FROM PAGE 1

Warning signs featuring a vehicle entering dense fog in black on a yellow background have been installed before fog-prone sections to alert road users. Drivers who see the signs should be aware that foggy conditions may occur ahead.

As visibility can be limited in dense fog, drivers have been advised to use fog lights and headlights, reduce their speed and drive carefully. They are also urged to maintain a safe distance from vehicles ahead and pay close attention to road conditions. — TWA/KZL

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Efforts made to repair damaged railway sections and bridges

THE Amyotha Hluttaw continued the sixth-day meeting at its meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Thet Win Aung responded to the question on preventing risks that children and young people under 18 face on online platforms raised by MP U Thein Hlaing from the Sagaing Region Constituency 7, saying that measures are also being undertaken to prevent in advance the risks that students and young people may encounter when using online platforms. These include distributing cybersecurity awareness pamphlets at national-level events, showing videos and animations, and organizing quizzes. In addition, short cybersecurity awareness cartoons, including those on the topic of "Teenagers and Cyberbullying", are being broadcast from time to time on state-owned TV media.



The sixth-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw in progress in Nay Pyi Taw, chaired by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

Furthermore, under the Telecommunications Law, cases involving "extorting, defaming, harassing or threatening any person by using any telecommunications network" can be reported and filed with the relevant police stations. If found guilty, offenders may be sentenced under Section 66(d) of the Law to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or a fine not exceeding K1 million, or both.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo responded to the questions on construction and repair of bridges raised by MP U Aung Chit Lwin from the Sagaing Region Constituency 2 and MP U Rakwi Pung from the Kachin State Constituency 1. He stated that the reconstruction of the wooden bridge connecting Hinnawng Village and Nammaukkhan Village in Homalin Township will be proposed in the five-year local development plan, starting from the 2028-2029 financial year, using Union or Region funds allocated by the Department of Rural Road Development. Moreover, maintenance of the suspension bridge linking Kammaukkhan and Samkyein villages will be undertaken under the regional development's five-year plan starting in the 2028-29 financial year. The deputy minister also replied that construction of an RC bridge in Zeethang Village-tract of Khaunglanphu Township will depend on the local security.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing also responded to the questions raised by MP Daw Khin Swe from the Magway Region Constituency 12, MP U Khin Maung Aye from the Sagaing Region Constituency 6 and MP Saw Myat Htut Win (aka) Ko Sweet from the Kayin State Constituency 9. He explained that trains cannot be operated along the Minbu-Minhla-Thayet route yet, but the major repair will be carried out there with the annual financial allocation.

The deputy minister explained that the approximately 34-mile section from Yahtaung Railway Station to Wetlet Railway Station took about four months to repair, during which numerous disruptions and acts of destruction by armed insurgents were encountered.

During the railway repair works, four 10-foot-long bridges and one 20-foot-long bridge on the Wetlet-Shwebo section were destroyed by mines. In addition, more than one mile of railway tracks were dismantled and stolen, while the railway embankments were dug up and damaged using backhoes. Due to the security situation, the repair works could not be continued. Furthermore, on the completed Yahtaung-Wetlet section, the steel framework of Bridge No 57, a 120-foot-long box culvert between Thahlaing Yontha and Wetlet railway stations, was destroyed. Approximately 4,200 feet of repaired railway track between Khetkha and Paukkan railway stations was also destroyed. Moreover, in areas that have not yet been inspected, roads, bridges, railway station buildings, locomotives, and carriages have also been damaged or destroyed. As a result, even railway station staff members have been forced to evacuate and take shelter elsewhere.

Accordingly, the railway connecting Sagaing, Shwebo, Kanbalu and Katha districts will be repaired when the security situation in the area permits.

SEE PAGE 7

55 basic education schools reopen in Taninthayi Region

THE regional government stated that a total of 55 out of 56 basic education schools that were temporarily closed due to heavy rains and flooding in Taninthayi Region have reopened.

Due to continuous heavy rains since the evening of 26 September, rivers in five townships of Taninthayi Region – Dawei, Launglon, Yebyu, Thayetchaung and Palaw – have flooded, resulting in the temporary closure of 56 basic education schools in these townships since 28 September.



This photo features a school in Taninthayi Region that was temporarily closed due to flooding and has since reopened.

As the floodwaters receded, relevant officials carried out cleaning and rehabilitation work around the schools. Subsequently, 14 basic education schools were reopened on 30 September and 41 on 1 October, bringing the total number of reopened schools to 55.

Currently, efforts are underway to reopen the remaining school, Palaw Post-Primary School in Palaw Township, as soon as possible. — TWA/MKKS

K45M provided to 11 ethnic organizations in Shan State (South)

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, K45 million has been provided to 11 ethnic literature and culture associations and organizations in Shan State (South) to help preserve and promote the languages, literature, culture, arts and traditions of ethnic groups.



This photo features officials receiving the K45 million allocated from the Shan State government fund.

The approved funds were disbursed from the Shan State Government's budget to the 11 ethnic literature and culture associations and organizations to promote ethnic literature, procure traditional musical instruments and accessories, conduct traditional textile weaving and tailoring training courses, and carry out ethnic affairs, according to reports.

Shan State Government will reportedly continue providing funds to the 11 ethnic literature and culture groups in Shan State (South), before extending the support to groups in northern and eastern Shan State.

The funds were received by 11 ethnic literature and culture associations and organizations representing the Shan, Pa-O, Danu, Taungyo, Inntha, Kachin, Kokang, Htanote, Lisu, Yinkya and Yinnet ethnic groups in Shan State (South), according to reports. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Frontline Tatmadaw members receive warm welcome home

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw members returning from security and regional stability operations were warmly welcomed at a local battalion in Tanai, Kachin State.

Tatmadaw officers, other ranks, families, departmental officials, Myanmar Police Force members, Fire Brigade members, teachers, students and local communities welcomed back returning troops with heartfelt enthusiasm.

They also welcomed home victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia and presented the cash prizes to the returnees. The event included traditional dance and music performances. — MNA/KTZH



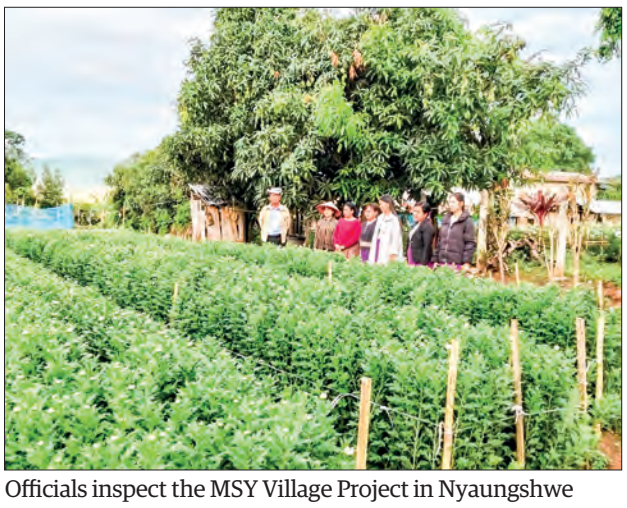


Images show triumphant Tatmadaw troops receiving warm welcome home in Tanai, Kachin State.

MSY Village Project activities inspected in Nyaungshwe

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on 1 October regarding the activities implemented under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Loinyeint Village. The project is being carried out by the Nyaungshwe Township Department of Rural Development and the Kalaw District Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, in southern Shan State, aiming to create employment opportunities, increase family incomes, and reduce poverty among rural residents.

The inspection team, including U Aung Zaw Lin, District Head of the Kalaw District Department of Rural Development, Daw Yu Yu, Nyaungshwe Township Head of the Department of Rural Development (DRD), along with project staff, inspected agricultural activities in Loinyeint Village funded by the MSY Village Project, totalling K33.6 million, and checked the completeness of the required monthly record-keeping forms. The district officer coordinated and addressed necessary matters.



Officials inspect the MSY Village Project in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South).

According to U Aung Zaw Lin, District Head of the Kalaw District DRD, loans totalling K33.6 million have been disbursed to 70 individuals engaged in agricultural activities in Loinyeint Village. — Hein Htet Soe (Mahlaing)

Terror Bomb Attack Hits 33/11kV Saung Naing Gyi Substation in Kyaikto

TWO bombs were dropped by the insurgents to attack the Saung Naing Gyi 33/11 kV, 5 MVA power substation in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, at around midnight on 30 September, causing damage to the substation's control room and disrupting electricity supplies.

The incident occurred at 12:10 am when two bombs struck the control room of the 33/11 kV, 5 MVA Saung Naing Gyi substation. The explosions damaged the walls, roof sheets, ceiling and window and door glass of the control room. The 33 kV and 11 kV control panels were also hit by shrapnel, while control cables were damaged, resulting in power outages.

Electricity supply was restored at 9:55 am on 1 October by connecting the 33/11 kV, 5 MVA Kinmunchaung Substation to the 33 kV Kyaikto power line. However, electricity remained disrupted in Saung Naing Gyi, Mae Yone Gyi, Mae Yone Lay and Win Kalaw villages. Electricity staff are working to restore power to the affected villages as soon as possible, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar attends ASEAN Tourism Ministers' Retreat in Manila

A Myanmar delegation, led by Ambassador Daw Ei Ei Tin from the Myanmar Embassy in Manila, attended the ASEAN Tourism Ministers' Retreat held at the Philippine International Convention Centre in Manila on 29 September.

Philippines Tourism Department Secretary Ms Verna Buensuceso acted as the chair of the event, and tourism ministers, deputy ministers and delegates from ASEAN countries, as well as the ASEAN deputy secretary-general, attended the meeting. At the event, participants discussed the development of the ASEAN Sustainable and Resilient Tourism Investment Outlook and underscored the importance of mobilizing quality and sustainable investment to strengthen tourism infrastructure, enhance destination resilience and improve competitiveness across ASEAN.

Along with the event, the ASEAN Tourism Investment Showcase was held, and ASEAN member states and respective institutions joined the Showcase and exchanged their views on investment opportunities in the tourism sector. — TWA/ZS



Officials oversee the implementation of an agricultural project in Taunggyi Township.

Taunggyi's MSY income-generating activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection on 1 October to review the progress of household income-generating activities financed through the revolving fund of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Htipaung Village, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South).

Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win and staff visited the village to inspect the progress of systematic agricultural activities, systematic livestock farming and trading activities being carried out with loans from the project's revolving fund. He met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Management Committee to examine whether monthly financial records had been properly completed. He also discussed the need to make advance plans to produce at least one local product in each village, while urging committee members to ensure systematic management and safeguarding of the revolving fund to prevent losses.

The MSY Village Project was launched in Htipaung Village during the 2019-2020 financial year.

At present, concessional revolving loans totalling K50.2 million have been disbursed to 49 project members, all of whom are successfully operating systematic agricultural, livestock farming and trading activities with support from the project funds. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Efforts made to repair damaged ...

FROM PAGE 5

He also replied that on the Thaton-Hlaka-Myainggalay railway section, repair works are continuing on the remaining 17-mile section from Bago (Myainggalay) Railway Station to Laytaing Railway Station in order to connect with and operate the Yangon-Mawlamyine DEMU train service. The repair works on this section are expected to be completed in the 2027-2028 FY, after which arrangements can be made to operate a connected train service.

Deputy Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Aung Zeya clarified the objectives for formulating the MSME Development and Protection Bill.

Member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee MP U Hein Min Oo from the Mandalay Region Constituency 3 read out the studies, assessment and remarks of the committee on the bill.

The Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw announced that Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the bill may register with the director-general of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its sixth-day meeting on 5 October. — MNA/TTA

Bago's 3 Fisheries Yield 122M Viss in 6 Months

FISH farmers from three major fisheries sectors in Bago Region-freshwater aquaculture, inland fisheries and common fishing grounds-produced and distributed a total of 122,636,987 viss of fish during the first six months of the 2026-2027 financial year, from April to September, according to the Bago Region Fisheries Department.



Fishery workers are seen hard at work at a local fish farm.

During the six months, 42,488,098 viss of fish were produced through aquaculture, 32,672,266 viss through inland fisheries, and 47,476,623 viss through common fishing sectors.

Fish produced through aquaculture was supplied for domestic consumption and exported, while surplus production from inland fisheries and common fishing grounds was distributed to fish markets in Yangon after meeting local demand.

"There are three main sources of fish production in the region, such as farmed fish, fish caught from inland fisheries and tendered fishing grounds, and fish caught from natural rivers, streams, lakes and flooded areas. In particular, we are pleased that efforts to conserve natural fish species and stock fish into natural water bodies are helping to ensure a sustainable supply of aquatic resources and contribute to food security. Continuous income generated from these three fisheries sectors is also contributing to the improvement of the livelihoods of fish farmers and the development of the regional and State economy," said Dr Su Myo Thwe, director of the department.

Bago Region makes efforts to ensure food security in the region and contributed 122,636,987 viss in the first six months from April to September in the 2026-2027 financial year. — Oktha/KTZH

Income-generating activities underway through MSY Village Project in Kyain-Seikkyi

ON the morning of 2 October, officials from the Kyain-Seikkyi District Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kayin State, conducted a field inspection to monitor the implementation status of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Development Project (MSY) in Seikphugon, Myohaung, and Kawtkama villages. The project is a community-managed rural development initiative aimed at boosting family income, creating job opportunities, and increasing local productivity.



This image shows an income-generating village project in Kyain-Seikgyi Township, Kayin State.

U Min Wai Phyo, Head of the Kyain-Seikkyi District Department of Rural Development, along with project staff, met members of the respective MSY Village Development Project committees. The team inspected the implementation of project activities, verified whether financial accounting forms were systematically maintained, and ensured compliance with the guidelines outlined in the project manual, while providing necessary instructions to address operational requirements.

To support income-generating activities through the MSY Village Development Project, the Kyain-Seikkyi Township Department of Rural Development, under the Kyain-Seikkyi District Department of Rural Development, disbursed loans totalling K87.1 million to 157 project members in Seikphugon Village, K60.9 million to 153 members in Myohaung Village, and K48 million to 19 members in Kawtkama Village, according to U Saw Tun Aye, Staff Officer (Technical) of the Kyain-Seikkyi District Department of Rural Development. — Pue Lay (DRD)

MSY Village Project activities inspected in TadaU

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday in Gwaygon Village, Mandalay Region, to assess the progress of income-generating businesses funded by the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project. The project, implemented by the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, aims to enable rural residents to engage in small-scale, household-level businesses and to access low-interest financial capital.



Officials oversee the progress of MSY Village Project in TadaU Township, Mandalay Region.

During the field inspection, Daw Khin Mar San, Head of the TadaU District Department of Rural Development, along with district and township project staff, met members of the MSY village project committee. They inspected the progress of agriculture and livestock activities funded by the K36-million MSY project fund and reviewed the completeness of monthly financial record-keeping forms. Daw Khin Mar San provided necessary coordination and guidance.

In total, funds were distributed to 109 individuals engaged in agriculture (K10.9 million), 81 in livestock farming (K20.60 million), and 30 in vocational activities (K4.50 million). According to Daw Khin Mar San, Head of the TadaU District Department of Rural Development, a revolving fund of K36 million has been disbursed at a low interest rate to 220 members, and MSY project activities are operating successfully. — Aung Ye Kyaw (DRD)

OPINION

Banning the use of mobile phones during school hours

In basic education schools, measures are being carried out under the supervision of education officers at different levels to ensure that the teaching and learning activities of basic education students are not disrupted, to improve the quality of learning, and to ensure systematic compliance with school rules.

Using mobile phones during school hours can disrupt students' learning in basic education schools. It may also give the impression that students are not paying attention to their teachers. In accordance with Myanmar's traditional way of life, students are expected to study peacefully and quietly and to respect their teachers and follow their guidance while receiving an education. Therefore, the use of mobile phones that may disrupt teaching and learning activities and disturb the surrounding environment should be restricted and suspended during school hours.

Although the efforts of teachers can effectively prevent students from using mobile phones during school hours, teachers, parents and students should work together to ensure that mobile phones are used beneficially outside school hours. Students should be guided in the right direction and encouraged to improve their knowledge and intellectual abilities in order to achieve more beneficial results in their academic sector.

School principals and teachers are issuing strict rules prohibiting students from bringing and using mobile phones during school hours and making arrangements to ensure that students comply with these rules. Students and their parents also need to understand that these measures are being taken in the interests of the students and should cooperate with teachers in implementing them.

In the technology era, digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets, iPads and computers such as desktops and laptops can be used to acquire general knowledge, study subjects related to school lessons, develop language skills, and learn about a wide range of other technology-related topics. The purpose of restricting mobile phone use is to protect children from excessive phone use and prevent negative consequences such as exposure to bad habits, inappropriate imitation, bullying or abusive behaviour among students, moral deterioration, unnecessary distractions during class, and neglecting the lessons being taught.

Although there are currently no provisions under Myanmar's existing laws that prohibit or restrict the use of mobile phones by student children, legal protection and action can be provided in cases involving threats, harm or exploitation of student children through online platforms. Therefore, parents of students also need to understand the purpose of imposing strict restrictions on mobile phone use.

Although the efforts of teachers can effectively prevent students from using mobile phones during school hours, teachers, parents and students should work together to ensure that mobile phones are used beneficially outside school hours. Students should be guided in the right direction and encouraged to improve their knowledge and intellectual abilities in order to achieve more beneficial results in their academic sector.

ARTICLE

The Weight of Progress: Why the World's Major Cities Are Sinking

By Khin Maung Myint

While global headlines frequently focus on rising sea levels driven by climate change, a parallel and often faster-moving crisis is happening beneath our feet: land subsidence, or the gradual sinking of the Earth's surface. From the fast-growing megacities of South-East Asia to historic hubs around the globe, urban centres are dropping at rates that vastly outpace the melting of polar ice caps. In some regions, the ground is dropping by several inches every year, transforming a slow geological shift into an urgent, existential threat for millions of urban residents. Globally, oceans are rising by a fraction of an inch per year. However, in many sinking cities, relative sea level rise is amplified tenfold because the ground itself is plummeting. When land drops, high tides, storm surges, and heavy downpours permanently claim areas that were once safe, turning streets into canals and contaminating freshwater supplies with saltwater.

Global Hotspots: A Regional Breakdown

South-East Asia has emerged as one of the world's primary hotspots for severe land subsidence due to rapid urbanization, coastal delta geography, and heavy groundwater extraction.

• **Jakarta, Indonesia:** Widely considered one of the fastest-sinking cities in the world, parts of Jakarta drop by as much as 10 inches annually due to excessive groundwater extraction. This rapid sinking forced Indonesia to initiate massive plans to move its national capital from Jakarta to Nusantara in East Kalimantan, Borneo.

• **Bangkok, Thailand:** Built on soft marine clay deposited by the Chao Phraya River delta, Bangkok has historically faced severe subsidence due to intensive groundwater pumping. While strict regulations and alternative water policies in recent decades have slowed its rate of sinking, it remains vulnerable to flooding and requires ongoing adaptations like large underground retention basins.

• **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam:** Located in the low-lying Mekong Delta region and downstream of the Dong Nai River, the city rests on compressible alluvial sediments. Rapid urbanization and heavy reliance on groundwater compound the risks of seasonal flooding and tropical storms.

• **Manila, the Philippines:** Excessive groundwater extraction paired with rising sea levels causes coastal districts around Manila Bay to sink significantly faster than the global average.

• **Yangon, Myanmar:** As industries and the city's population have grown over many decades, the heavy reliance on private tube wells has caused underground water tables to drop and soft delta-like sediments to compact. Combined with heavy monsoon floods, rising sea levels, the emergence of many high-rise buildings and infrastructure, and proximity to active fault lines, unchecked subsidence risks turning parts of the city into vulnerable, flood-prone lowlands.

Beyond South-East Asia

Major urban centres worldwide face similar fates – Mexico City drops by up to 14 inches a year as underground aquifers are drained, and even New York City experiences a slow, fractional descent into the Atlantic.

• **The Root Causes:** Why Is the Ground Dropping? While natural geological processes play a minor role, human activity remains the primary engine behind modern land subsidence:

• **Aquifer Compaction:** Pumping water from underground aquifers faster than nature can replenish it causes underground sediment pores to lose internal pressure, permanently collapsing and compacting the earth.

• **Infrastructure Overload:** The sheer concentration of skyscrapers, heavy transit systems, and asphalt creates a massive urban infrastructure weight that compresses soft sub-surface soils.

• **Soil Oxidation:** In areas like parts of the Netherlands and coastal wetlands, draining organic-rich soils for farming or development causes the land to oxidize, shrink, and vanish.

• **Resource Extraction:** The industrial extraction of oil, gas, or heavy hydrocarbons leaves underground voids that inevitably cave in under surface weight.

The Direct Consequences of Sinking Cities

The direct consequences of land subsidence extend far beyond a general loss of elevation. Because the ground drops unevenly, it triggers a cascade of severe environmental, structural, and socioeconomic hazards:

• **Dramatically Increased Flooding (Chronic and Severe):** As land drops, relative sea level rise is magnified. Coastal and river-delta cities experience deeper, longer-lasting, and more frequent floods. Heavy downpours and high tides regularly turn streets into canals because gravity-dependent storm drains can no longer flow outward.

• **Severe Infrastructure and Building Damage (Slow-Motion Earthquakes):** Subsidence is rarely uniform, meaning different neighbourhoods sink at different speeds. This uneven shifting acts like a slow-motion earthquake. Foundations warp, building facades tilt, and structural beams experience intense stress that compromises the safety of high-rises and homes.

• **Ruptured Underground Utilities:** As the surrounding earth shifts and compacts, underground networks, such as water mains, gas pipes, and sewage systems, shear apart. This leads to dangerous gas leaks, sewage contamination of neighbourhoods, and massive losses of treated drinking water.

• **Saltwater Intrusion:** In coastal areas, sinking land allows saltwater from the ocean to push inland, contaminating local freshwater aquifers, ruining agricultural soil, and threatening municipal drinking water supplies. Soaring Economic Costs: The combination of property destruction, broken utilities, and necessary flood-defence construction results in billions of dollars in annual damages globally, placing a heavy financial toll on local governments and residents.

• **Solutions:** How to Slow Down and Reverse the Sinking Process

Unlike global climate trends, which require complex international consensus to address, land subsidence can often be tackled at a local or regional level. Cities are beginning to fight back through innovative engineering and policy shifts:

1. Strict Regulation and Alternative Water Sources

• **Banning Illegal Well Drilling:** Governments must heavily monitor and penalize unauthorized private groundwater extraction.

• **Developing Surface Water Infrastructure:** Shifting municipal and industrial reliance from underground aquifers to surface reservoirs, rivers, or desalination plants gives natural aquifers time to rest and recharge.

• **Success Story:** Tokyo, Japan, suffered severe subsidence of up to nine inches per year during the mid-20th century. By strictly regulating groundwater pumping and transitioning to industrial surface water supplies, Tokyo successfully halted its subsidence almost entirely.

2. Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

Instead of letting rainwater run off concrete surfaces into storm drains, cities can capture, treat, and artificially pump stormwater back into depleted underground aquifers.

This injects vital fluid pressure back into the soil layers, helping push the ground back up and preventing further compaction.

3. Nature-Based Urban Planning ("Sponge Cities")

• **Permeable Pavements & Rain Gardens:** Replacing traditional, non-porous asphalt with permeable materials allows rainwater to soak directly into the ground rather than flooding the surface.

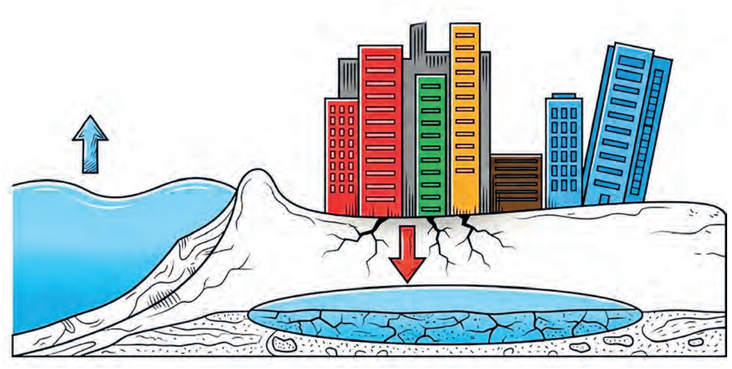
• **Wetland Restoration:** Restoring natural coastal wetlands and green spaces acts as a natural buffer against floods while helping regulate local hydrology.

4. Smart Engineering and Lightweight Construction

Future urban expansions in high-risk zones can utilize lighter building materials, modular infrastructure, and deep-foundation pilings that anchor structures into stable bedrock rather than floating them on soft surface clays.

Conclusion

Ultimately, saving the world's sinking cities requires acknowledging that the ground beneath our feet is not a permanent fixture. By fundamentally changing how we manage water, protect our aquifers, and engineer our urban centres, we can give these modern marvels a fighting chance to stay afloat. ■



How Do We Use Our Brain?

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

We often treat the three-pound organ sitting inside our skull like a biological supercomputer. We talk about processing power, memory storage, and mental bandwidth. Yet, unlike a computer, the human brain isn't just executing pre-written code – it is continuously rewiring itself, anticipating reality before it happens, and transforming physical sensations into rich internal experiences.

For decades, popular culture offered a simplistic picture of brain function: left brain versus right brain, or the myth that we only use 10 per cent of our capacity. Today, modern neuroscience reveals a far more fascinating reality. We use 100 per cent of our brain, but we do so through intricate, dynamic networks that govern how we perceive, predict, learn, and feel.



1. Constructing Reality: The Brain as a Prediction Machine

Most people assume the brain acts like a camera: light hits your eyes, sounds hit your ears, and your brain passively records the external world. In reality, your brain operates as a prediction engine.

Because incoming sensory data is noisy, slow, and overwhelming, your brain uses past experience to predict what is happening in your environment long before the full signals arrive. It constructs a dynamic simulation of reality, then compares that simulation against sensory input.

Predictive Processing: When you walk through a familiar dark hallway, your brain uses past spatial memories to fill in the dark spots so you do not stumble.

Error Correction: You only pay conscious attention when a prediction fails, such as when a chair has been moved, forcing your brain to rapidly update its model of the room.

Sensory Filtering: The brain selectively suppresses vast amounts of redundant background noise – such as the feel of clothing against your skin – so you can focus on immediate visual or auditory targets.

2. Dynamic Rewiring: The Engine of Neuroplasticity

One of the brain's most remarkable abilities is neuroplasticity – its capacity to physically restructure its connections based on how you use it.

Every time you practice a skill, rehearse a language, or attempt a complex puzzle, specific neural circuits fire repeatedly. Over time, these circuits build thicker myelin sheaths around their axons, allowing electrical signals to travel faster and with less energy expenditure.

3. Orchestrating Action: Network Coordination

Your brain does not operate in isolated, rigid compartments. Instead, it relies on large-scale neural networks that constantly hand off control depending on your focus and immediate goal.

4. Chemical Modulation: Neurotransmitters and Mood

While electrical impulses carry messages across individual neurons, chemical messengers called neurotransmitters alter the overall state of the brain. They act like volume knobs for your focus, motivation, and emotional resilience.

By treating the brain not as a static vessel, but as a living, adaptable network shaped by deliberate practice and healthy habits, we can unlock sharper thinking, richer creativity, and greater mental resilience at every stage of life. ■

NATIONAL
BUSINESS

Collaborative efforts urged to boost yields, expand maize export markets

MYANMAR Corn Industrial Association Chairman U Aye Chan Aung has called for a concerted effort to improve corn yields and develop high-demand export markets during the association's first annual general meeting for the 2025-2028 term, held on 26 September at the UMFCCI Mingala Hall on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, Lanmadaw Township.


A commemorative group photo of the first annual general meeting of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association in Yangon.

The chairman said that Myanmar's corn output had previously exceeded three million tonnes but has since fallen to just over 2.5 million tonnes due to various factors. Corn cultivation is being expanded in the 2026 season to improve yields. Stakeholders in the corn supply chain in the northern Shan State, the main corn-growing region, need to exert concerted efforts to restore normal output levels. Of the previous three million tonnes, one million tonnes were consumed domestically, and two million tonnes were designated for export. Myanmar previously exported corn to 10 countries, which has now shrunk to just three, with Thailand the sole major market. Executive members must work to diversify into highdemand markets. The association will hold new elections in 2028 and hopes to see greater participation from younger generations.

The Myanmar Corn Industrial Association (MCIA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with MAX to coordinate and ensure the supply of diesel needed for corn cultivation, harvesting, and distribution to domestic and international markets.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win also gave a remark during the meeting that the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association was founded in 2019 and has remained strong and stable through both good times and challenges over its sevenplus years. He highlighted that a recent nationallevel workshop on "From Agricultural Development to National Productivity Growth" held in Nay Pyi Taw discussed strategic plans for the corn sector. Corn is an essential raw material for the domestic livestock and feed industry, and the association should coordinate export volumes with domestic consumption and submit reports to relevant ministries. He emphasized priority on domestic production.

General Secretary U Phyo Ko Ko Naing presented the annual report. Joint Treasurer U Moe Set Phyo Han also presented the 20262027 financial report, which was later approved. Auditor U Aung Kyaw Phyo presented the audit report, and decisions were made regarding changes to the responsibilities of management committee members for the 2025-2028 term. — NN/KK

Township-level inspections of fertilizer shops for compliance and hoarding

UNION Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myo Zaw Thein called for inspections of fertilizer shops at the township level to ensure fertilizer quality and accurate weight, prevent selling above the set reference prices, and stop hoarding and price manipulation, during the meeting of the Urea Fertilizer Purchase, Distribution and Sales Steering Committee on 30 September.


Fertilizers and pesticides are displayed at a shop in DaikU Township.

He also urged regional and state governments and relevant departments to cooperate fully to achieve the committee's goals: timely access to fertilizer for farmers, quality assurance, and direct sales at set prices.

Amid high international fertilizer prices, the steering committee has been operating a cooperative consortium system to enable collective purchasing and distribution without a profit margin and to issue reference prices monthly.

With the committee's recommendation, 142,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer and 570,584 tonnes of other fertilizer including compound fertilizers were imported and distributed as of the end of September 2026.

Under the committee's supervision, the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) set reference prices for Yangon at K120,000 per 50-kilogramme sack of Urea (large granular), K138,000 per sack of diammonium phosphate (DAP) (151515). Prices may vary slightly by region depending on transport costs. The public has been advised that they can file complaints with relevant authorities if overpricing is found. — KK

Digital Tourism Marketing course set for Nov

THE Digital Tourism Marketing course (Batch 2) will be held from 9 to 20 November at the Central Tourism Development Centre of the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism in Yangon, organized under the supervision of the Yangon Region Tourism Committee.

Applicants must hold a university degree and must currently be employed in the hotel and tourism sector.

The training will run from 9 to 20 November, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, at 9:30 am-12:30 pm at 40/42, CTD on Bosunpat Road, Yangon. The class size is limited to 50 trainees.

Participants will be selected via Google Form based on qualifications. The course is free of charge. A deposit of K100,000 is required, which will be fully refunded upon successful completion of the course. Trainees must attend all sessions without absence. — NN/KK

Palm oil reference price shows uptick

THE palm oil wholesale reference price set for the Yangon market slightly increased to K7,269 per viss this week ending 8 October, up from K7,179 last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, market prices remain high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce has informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

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

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

Complaints about overcharging can be lodged via hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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

Agency ends contract of Japan idol group member over suspected assault

Japanese talent agency terminated exclusive contract with Shuto Inomata following arrest.



Pop idol group timelesz will continue its future activities with seven remaining members. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A Japanese talent agency said Thursday it has terminated its exclusive contract with a member of pop idol group timelesz who was arrested last month for alleged assault and subsequently released.

Shuto Inomata, 25, was arrested on 19 September a day after allegedly hitting a woman in her 20s in the face multiple times in a car parked in front of a convenience store in Tokyo's Koto Ward. Since his release on Friday, he has been questioned by police on a voluntary basis.

Starto Entertainment Inc said that it had found "a serious violation of the exclusive contract and determined that this constitutes grounds for termination".

Inomata joined the group last year through an audition programme that was aired on the Netflix streaming service for new members of the group. The audition programme gained public attention and controversy particularly for opening the doors for new recruits who were not part of Starto or any other entertainment agency.

The group will continue its activities with the remaining seven members, according to the agency.

The seven appeared before the press in Tokyo to apologize over the incident. One of the group's members, Fuma Kikuchi, said, "We apologize for causing great concern and trouble to our fans, relevant parties and all those who have supported us."

Kikuchi pledged that they would do their best to make their group one that people feel is "worth supporting". — Kyodo

Tunisia amends cybercrime law to replace prison terms with fines for first offences

TUNISIA has amended Article 24 of Decree-Law No 54 of 2022 on combatting offences related to information and communication systems and networks, replacing prison sentences for certain offences involving false information with financial penalties for first-time offences, according to the Tunisian official gazette, Journal of the Republic of Tunisia, published Wednesday. Under the amendment, the previous penalty of five years in prison and a fine of 50,000 Tunisian dinars (about US$16,786) has been replaced by a fine of 10,000 to 20,000 dinars.



First-time offenders spreading false news face fines instead of imprisonment terms. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

The provision applies to anyone who deliberately uses information and communication systems or networks to produce, promote, publish, transmit, or prepare false news, data or rumours, or fabricated, forged or falsely attributed documents, with the aim of violating the rights of others, harming public security or national defence, or spreading terror among the population.

The same fine applies to the deliberate use of information systems to disseminate false information or fabricated or forged documents, or data containing personal information or falsely attributing acts to others, with the intent to defame, damage reputation, cause material or moral harm, incite attacks, or promote hate speech. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gaza patients face catastrophic shortages of diagnostic tools

PALESTINIAN women suffering from breast cancer in the Gaza Strip are in a catastrophic situation due to a lack of diagnostic equipment and drugs for chemotherapy and hormone therapy, the Gaza Health Ministry said on Thursday. "As 'Pink October' begins, we confirm that women with this diagnosis in the Gaza Strip are in a catastrophic situation due to the destroyed diagnostic and treatment system," the ministry said in a statement, referring to the international Breast Cancer Awareness Month. — SPUTNIK

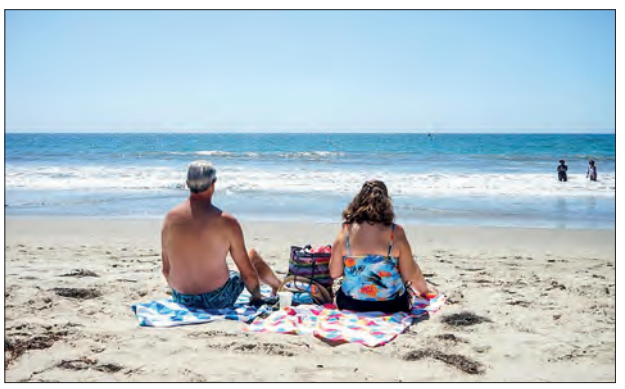
Cambodia detains drug suspects

CAMBODIAN authorities detained 20,906 drug-related suspects across 7,769 cases during the first nine months of 2026, according to an Anti-Drug Department report released Thursday.

The report noted a near-even split among those arrested: 49.5 per cent were classified as traffickers, manufacturers, possessors, or transporters, while 50.5 per cent were identified as users.

"A total of 3.08 tonnes of narcotics and 389 kilogrammes of dry marijuana were seized from the suspects' possession during the January-September period of 2026," the report said. — Xinhua

Extended heat wave to hit Southern California



People sit at Santa Monica beach in Los Angeles, California, the United States, 4 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

SOUTHERN California is bracing for an extended heat wave starting Friday and continuing through next week, with temperatures expected to rise by about 8 to 11 degrees Celsius above normal, according to the US National Weather Service (NWS).

The NWS Los Angeles office has issued an Extreme Heat Watch for much of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles counties. The extended heat wave is expected to last until at least next Thursday.

The NWS warned that the temperature could reach 95 to over 105 degrees Fahrenheit (35 to over 40 degrees Celsius) in most areas of Southern California. The weather agency also warned of a high risk of large and fast-moving fires in valleys and mountains. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Ho Chi Minh City's economy grows 9.86% in Q3

Services and industrial sectors drive strong regional domestic product growth.

THE economy of Vietnam's southern hub of Ho Chi Minh City grew 9.86 per cent year on year in the third quarter of 2026, local news outlet VnExpress reported Thursday.

The services sector, which accounted for 51.9 per cent of overall growth, expanded by 9.95 per cent, while the industry and construction sector grew by 10.17 per cent and the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector expanded by 3.4 per cent.

The strong third-quarter performance brought the city's gross regional domestic product (GRDP) growth in the first nine months to 9.06 per cent year on year, with services remaining the main growth driver, accounting for 51.8 per cent of GRDP and contributing 53.6 per cent to the overall expansion, the report added.



This area blends seamlessly into Nguyen Hue Walking Street, providing an accessible pathway directly towards the shopping district and the Saigon River.
PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

To achieve its full-year growth target of over 10 per cent, the city's economy would need to expand by more than 13 per cent in the fourth quarter, according to the report. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada lists Pacific Link oil pipeline project of national interest

THE Canadian government on Thursday designated a proposed West Coast oil pipeline, now named Pacific Link, as a project of national interest, a move aimed at reducing reliance on the United States and expanding energy exports to other markets.

The roughly 1,250-kilometre pipeline would run from Bruderheim, Alberta, to a deepwater port near Delta, British Columbia, adding up to 1 million barrels per day of oil export capacity.

The project is the first to receive a national interest designation under the Building Canada Act. The designation allows it to undergo a streamlined federal regulatory review. – Xinhua

Dutch food industry looks to innovation ecosystem

THE Dutch food industry is seeking to transform by building an innovation ecosystem that links research institutions, companies, private investors and government to turn emerging technologies into commercially viable solutions for a more sustainable food system.

For Cosun, a Dutch agricultural cooperative with more than 8,000 sugar beet growers, innovation is closely tied to making greater use of plant-based raw materials and reducing waste.

"We really try to make sure that we valorize our co-products to the maximum," said Fanny Weinbreck, chief R&D officer at the Cosun Innovation Centre in Dinteloord, in the Dutch province of North Brabant, on Tuesday. – Xinhua

European Sept gas storage levels hit lowest levels since 2011

GAS storage levels in Europe exceeded 71.5 per cent by the end of September, but remained at the lowest level recorded for 30 September since 2011 and stayed at a record low throughout the month, according to data from Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) analyzed by Sputnik on Thursday.

As of the end of September 29 gas day (ended on the morning of 30 September), EU countries had injected 0.22 billion cubic metres of gas into their storage facilities, raising stock levels by 0.21 percentage points. Consequently, the total average storage level in the EU stood at 71.9 billion cubic metres, or 71.54 per cent. Gas stocks have never been this low since records began. In 2021-2025, the average European gas storage level by 30 September was 87.05 per cent. The current figure is 15.5 percentage points lower than the five-year average for this date. Statistics show that Europe is rushing to replenish its gas storage facilities, with the average injection rate in September at 0.22 per cent. — SPUTNIK



Industrial natural gas storage facilities and pipelines operating across European energy networks.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ IEA

Britain's automotive production rises in August, but pressure persists

BRITAIN'S automotive production registered the second rise in the year to date in August, but the prospect is volatile amid pressure derived from the protectionist policies of the European Union (EU).

The country's vehicle production rose 5.7 per cent year on year to 40,872 units in August, according to data released Wednesday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

However, it said August is a low output month and subject to volatility given summer shutdown schedules. Car production recorded its strongest increase since December 2025, rising 6.1 per cent to 39,328 units. The output for the domestic market surged 26 per cent, while that for export edged up 1.4 per cent. Exports to Australia posted the strongest growth in its top 10 markets, while those to the EU, its largest overseas destination that accounts for 54.1 per cent of all the exports, fell 7.4 per cent, according to the SMMT. — Xinhua



Automated assembly lines manufacturing new vehicles inside a British automotive factory. **PHOTO: ISTOCK**

Uzbekistan's air cargo volume almost triples in 5 years

UZBEKISTAN'S air cargo market has recorded rapid growth, with air freight volume increasing by 182 per cent from 2019 to 2024, making the country one of the fastest-growing markets in Central Asia in terms of air cargo volume, a transport ministry official said Wednesday.

Jamoliddin Nazarov, head of the air transport authority at Uzbekistan's Ministry of Transport, announced the figures at the third Central Asia Aviation Cargo Summit held in Tashkent from Wednesday to Thursday.

According to Nazarov, 98,000 tonnes of cargo were handled through Uzbekistan's airports in 2025, while air cargo volume rose by another 33 per cent in the first half of 2026. He attributed the growth to Uzbekistan's strategic location, open skies policy and aviation reforms, which create ample opportunities to transform the country into a regional air cargo hub. — Xinhua

Singapore, Malaysia deepen cooperation on competition law enforcement

SINGAPORE and Malaysia's competition authorities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Kuala Lumpur to deepen cooperation on competition law enforcement. The agreement between the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore and the Malaysia Competition Commission will facilitate the exchange of information and coordination on enforcement actions in cases of mutual interest, the two parties said in a statement on Thursday.

Beyond enforcement cooperation, the MoU provides opportunities for officials from both authorities to exchange perspectives on developments in competition law and policy, share institutional experience and build expertise in areas of mutual interest. – Xinhua

Thousands sign up for legal action website in car-share service data leak

OVER 15,000 people have signed up for a website to prepare for a possible joint compensation lawsuit over a recent data breach at a Japanese car-sharing service that exposed identity-verification documents, including driver's licence images, a lawyer involved in the launch of the website said Friday.

The initiative is led by lawyer Yuki Makino after Park24 Co, a major Japanese parking service operator, admitted late September that hacking into the "Times Car" web system led to a data breach of up to 6.6 million accounts.



Photo taken in Tokyo on 2 October 2026 shows a sign board for car-sharing service, Times Car. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The system is operated by a Park24 subsidiary.

"We need the cooperation of as many people as possible to hold companies accountable," Makino said.

Anyone affected by the data leak can sign up, regardless of whether they have cancelled their Times Car membership.

The website's registration form asks applicants to provide their name, contact information and any repercussions they may have experienced as a result of the breach. Pointing to the highly sensitive nature of the leaked information, including driver licence numbers, images of identification verification documents and transaction records, the site says the lawsuit will be filed to seek compensation for the alleged failure of the companies to properly manage their members' personal information. — Kyodo

Algeria hosts 2nd energy ministers' meeting on major hydrogen corridor project

THE second meeting of energy ministers from countries involved in the SoutH2 Corridor project, a planned green hydrogen import route from North Africa to Europe, opened Thursday in Algiers, focusing on advancing the transport initiative. The meeting brings together representatives from Algeria, Austria, Germany, Italy and Tunisia, Tadamssa news website reported.

It seeks to move the project from political commitments towards concrete decisions, including agreements on production volumes, hydrogen prices, infrastructure costs and long-term purchase contracts, it reported.

The SoutH2 Corridor is a planned 3,000-kilometre hydrogen transport network linking Algeria with Italy, Austria and Germany via Tunisia. It aims to transport up to four million tonnes of renewable hydrogen annually to Europe, meeting about 10 per cent of the European Union's projected hydrogen demand by 2040, according to media reports. — Xinhua

Poland imposes windfall tax on fuel companies to curb price hikes

POLISH President Karol Nawrocki on Thursday signed into law a temporary windfall tax on fuel companies aimed at curbing rising fuel prices.

The tax covers the period from 1 March 2026 to 31 March 2027. Fuel producers will face a 60-per-cent tax on revenues above a benchmark based on their normal margins.

Polish Finance Minister Andrzej Domanski said pump prices should fall by an estimated 1.2 to 1.3 zlotys (about US$0.31 to US$0.33) per litre this weekend. Rising fuel prices have become a major source of inflationary pressure in Poland. Consumer inflation accelerated to four per cent in September from 3.4 per cent in August, while fuel prices surged 36.1 per cent year-on-year, official data showed. Economists at ING Bank Slaski estimate that higher fuel prices now account for about half of Poland's annual inflation. — Xinhua



Rising fuel prices have become a major source of inflationary pressure in Poland. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V OCEAN STAR VOY.NO. (SSL017)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN STAR VOY.NO. (SSL017)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SUPER LIGHT LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMTED

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Putin's Valdai speech warns nuclear powers are one step from direct war

Russia rejects partial ceasefires while remaining open to negotiations.

Vladimir Putin's key message at the Valdai Discussion Club is that escalation with NATO could reach a "point of no return" faster than expected, Russian Council on Foreign & Defence Policy Deputy Research Director Dmitry Suslov told Sputnik.



Russian President Vladimir Putin addressing participants during the annual Valdai Discussion Club session. **PHOTO: KREMLIN.RU**

Dmitry Suslov identifies three key drivers of risk:

- West's resistance to a multipolar world
- European elites escalating to mask domestic failures
- Ukraine's looming defeat pushing the West towards direct confrontation to keep it afloat

The expert singles out Russia's "competitive advantages" - including nuclear - against a larger adversary, as emphasized by Vladimir Putin, and readiness to use its full arsenal to defend Kaliningrad.

An attack against the enclave, the analyst notes, is a scenario "baked into NATO war plans" in case of direct military confrontation with Russia.

Russia rejects partial ceasefires that could prolong the Ukraine conflict but remains open to talks with the US and Europe on its own terms, based on the victory it is achieving, and recognition of multipolar realities, notes the analyst, adding:

"Until now, Western policy has been aimed at inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia. Putin's message was that continued attempts to achieve such a defeat could lead to effectively a hot Third World War." — SPUTNIK

Trump says tariffs bringing factories back to US

US President Donald Trump credited his tariff policies with returning manufacturing employment and industrial plants to the country, asserting that shielding domestic markets from foreign competitors is driving a revival in American manufacturing.

Speaking in Texas, Trump cited the expansion of truck manufacturing as proof that his trade measures are yielding results.

"We have more factories being built, like, you're doing so well, they're doing well, better than anybody in the history of our country. All over the country, they're building factories, plants, manufacturing's coming back," Trump stated.

The US President explained that import duties have successfully prevented foreign manufacturers from dumping merchandise into the American market while depriving local labourers of livelihoods.

"They'd drop their products here; they'd walk away with the money, and you'd walk away with no jobs. But not with me and we changed it," he noted.



Mack has equipped the new Granite with multiple industry-first technologies that deliver advanced protection to demanding work environments. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/MACK TRUCK**

"Thanks to our strong tariff policy, this year, American exports have surged to the highest level in history, in the history of our country," Trump remarked.

"And after years of decline, this year, the United States has added 60,000 new manufacturing jobs and heavy truck manufacturing is almost up by about, what, 31 per cent or something," he said.

"And heavy truck shipments have hit an all-time high, the highest in the history of our country under the Trump administration."

"American trucking is back," Trump declared.

Additionally, Trump connected the sector's performance to his government's choice to rescind environmental mandates impacting heavy commercial vehicles.

Trump has established import tariffs as a primary pillar of his commercial and economic agenda, maintaining that levies on foreign goods safeguard local output and incentivise businesses to operate domestically. — ANI

Hundreds of French high schools shut as new violence erupts

FRENCH high school students lit fires outside schools and faced off with police on Friday as a protest movement that has forced the closure or disrupted education at more than 560 establishments showed no sign of abating.

The movement, which began last week in the Paris region and rapidly spread nationwide, has seen teenage pupils at lycees in their final years of schooling block access to buildings and clash with police.

The students say their school hours are excessively long, conditions inadequate including overheated classrooms, and that there are too many staff absences.

"For a whole year, we didn't have a science teacher. We don't have any textbooks," said Simon, a 15-year-old who declined to give his surname outside the Turgot high school in central Paris. — AFP

AI gives South Korea's security camera network a sharper eye



Photo taken on 11 August 2026 shows a control centre in Seoul where staff monitor security camera footage and other data around the clock. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SOUTH Korean authorities are increasingly turning to artificial intelligence to make better use of security camera footage, deploying systems that can quickly search for missing people and automatically detect incidents such as violence or people collapsing in the street. The technology is helping authorities sift through vast amounts of footage that would otherwise have to be checked manually, while generally positive public attitudes toward security cameras as a tool for safety have helped spur their wider use.

At a control centre in Seoul's Yeongdeungpo district, staff and police officers monitor footage around the clock from about 5,500 security cameras installed by the local government.

Using information provided to police, an operator enters details including the missing person's gender and the colors of their upper and lower body clothing.

After specifying when and where the person disappeared, the AI analyzes footage from cameras in the surrounding area and displays images of people matching the description. — Kyodo

SPORTS

M-League II to kick off on 15 Oct

THE 2026-27 M-League II season, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation's Myanmar National League, will kick off on 15 October with 10 teams.

The competition will be played on a double round-robin basis at Padonma University and South Dagon grounds in Yangon. The fixture schedule will be announced soon.

Participating teams must comply with the professional club licensing criteria set by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The league has also conducted checks and approvals to ensure that there are no disputes over salaries and contracts involving coaching and management staff and players.

The 10 participating teams are Rakhine United, Yadanabon United, University, Manaw, Royal Dagon, Enjoy Brother, VUE Nay Pyi Taw, Elite Kings, Asian Lion and Junior Lions, which is the Myanmar U19 national youth team. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

Myanmar Sepak Takraw team wins joint third

THE Myanmar Sepak Takraw team secured a joint third award at the 20th Asian Games after the Sepak Takraw competition concluded on 2 October.

Myanmar beat Laos 2-1 in the group stage but lost 2-1 to Vietnam and 2-1 to India. After Laos defeated Vietnam, Myanmar finished second in the group and advanced to the semifinals.

Myanmar faced Indonesia in the semi-finals but lost 2-0, missing out on a place in the final and settling for a joint bronze medal.

Myanmar were the men's four-team event champions at the previous 2022 Asian Games but could not defend their title at this year's Games.

Myanmar competed in three Sepak Takraw events at the 20th Asian Games and won one bronze medal. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Asian Games: 2030 host Doha draws on big-event experience, existing venues

ORGANIZERS of the 2030 Asian Games in Doha are confident the event can be staged without major new construction, with existing venues and infrastructure already in place, the head of the local organizing committee said. Ahmed Abdullah Al Buainain, chief executive officer of the Doha 2030 organizing committee, told a press conference Thursday in Nagoya that all competition venues required for the games are already available and that no additional facilities are planned.

"We have all the infrastructure ready. It's a matter of utilizing the venues," he said, stressing Qatar's experience in hosting major international events, including the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Al Buainain pointed to Qatar's ability to repurpose facilities built for previous events, citing the conversion of Al Janoub Stadium into a basketball venue for next year's FIBA Basketball World Cup in Doha. The organizers said they would be ready if the event is moved to 2031 as part of discussions between the Olympic Council of Asia and the International Olympic Committee.

The organizing committee is also working with the OCA on the final sports programme and athlete quotas. Al Buainain said discussions remain ongoing with international federations and that organizers are not seeking to reduce the number of sports or disciplines on the schedule. – Kyodo



Ahmed Abdullah Al Buainain, CEO of the 2030 Doha Asian Games organizing committee, holds a press conference in Nagoya on 1 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Asian Games: Japan tops record medal haul from Hiroshima

YUSUKE Kusuhara and Shunsuke Nakagawa won the men's tennis doubles gold at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Friday, helping Japan surpass its previous record medal tally of 218 set at the 1994 Hiroshima Games. Kusuhara and Nakagawa beat South Korea's Nam Ji Sung and Park Ui Sung 6-3, 7-6(4) in the final at Higashiyama Park Tennis Centre in Nagoya. "I didn't know this was on the line, but I'm very appreciative of the support we received in the match," Kusuhara said at a press conference after the pair secured Japan's first Asian Games men's doubles gold since 1974. Also expressing appreciation for the support from the crowd, Nakagawa said, "I'm not sure if we would've made it this far if we didn't host the event." — Kyodo

Asian Games: Susaki, Kagami win wrestling golds for Japan, Ishiguro silver



Japan's Yuka Kagami celebrates after winning the women's 76-kilogramme wrestling gold medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Nagoya on 2 October. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S Tokyo Olympic champion Yui Susaki and Paris Games gold medallist Yuka Kagami took wrestling gold medals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Friday, while Hayato Ishiguro secured silver.

In the women's 50-kilogramme category, Susaki, who also took bronze in Paris, dominated Kim Son Hyang of North Korea 10-0 by technical superiority at Inae Sports Centre in Nagoya. The 27-year-old Susaki took a 7-0 lead in the first period and added three more points.

"I was able to show what I've worked on in training and win the title, so I think I had very good games," Susaki said.

"I'm beginning to see where I stand and what I need to improve to become an Olympic champion in Los Angeles. I'll resume training right away and prepare for the next world championships." Kagami beat Elmira Syzdykova of Kazakhstan 5-1 in the women's 76-kilogramme class final. Trailing 1-0 after the first period, Kagami came from behind to score five points. — Kyodo

Manchester City appeals Premier League financial breaches ruling

MANCHESTER City confirmed on Friday that it has lodged an appeal against a ruling by an independent commission that found the club guilty of all charges relating to alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial regulations.

In a brief statement, Manchester City said the commission's ruling contained "clear material errors, of law, principle and fact" and was "unsafe".

The club maintained its innocence and said it had submitted "a comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence" on Thursday evening in support of its position on all the issues concerned.

The Football Association (FA), the governing body of English football, said on Friday that the ruling had "significant implications for the integrity of the game.""We are carefully considering the decision and its implications and will take action where appropriate," the FA said in a statement. — Xinhua

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US asks Europe to assist with diesel shortages

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called on European countries to make additional fuel supplies available as the United States struggles with a global diesel shortage and rising pressure on farmers, truckers and businesses.

"American farmers, truckers, and businesses should not be left carrying the burden of a global diesel shortage. America is doing its part. We look to our allies to match their commitments with action," Bessent wrote on X.

Bessent's appeal comes as the US-Israeli war against Iran continues to disrupt energy markets and increase pressure on fuel supplies. — SPUTNIK

RBA warns AI boom risks financial stability

THE Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) on Thursday warned that the rapid development and adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) could pose risks to financial stability.

The central bank said in its semi-annual Financial Stability Review that the rapid advances in frontier AI capabilities, together with broader technological developments, are reducing the cost and technical expertise required to conduct sophisticated cyber-attacks against financial institutions and financial market infrastructures. It noted that before AI's potential to support productivity growth and strengthen operational resilience is fully realized, its rapid advances could worsen the cyber threat landscape and increase the likelihood that underlying operational vulnerabilities could be exposed. — Xinhua

US sends third carrier, 10,000 troops to Mideast

THE Pentagon is sending a third aircraft carrier strike group and additional Marine Corps ships to the Middle East, adding 9,000 to 10,000 more US troops to the region, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

The ships, jet fighters, Marines and sailors will arrive in the region by the end of November, the report cited US officials as saying.

Two carriers — the USS George HW Bush and USS George Washington — are already in the Middle East. The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt left its home port of San Diego on Sunday for a scheduled deployment.

If the Washington stays after the Roosevelt arrives, it will bring the region to three carrier strike groups for the first time since April, the report noted. Also on Thursday, US President Donald Trump said at the White House that Iran "won't exist any longer" unless it signs "a very fair deal", renewing his threats amid stalled negotiations. — Xinhua

South Korea proposes talks with North Korea over border line issues

Seoul urges Pyongyang to resume communication and jointly survey military demarcation line.

South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young proposed to North Korea to start talks over last week's mine blast inside the demilitarized zone, when three South Korean servicemen were injured, the Yonhap news agency reported on Friday.

"The root cause of this incident ultimately lies in the issue of the ceasefire line ... I, as unification minister, propose to the North: We should meet now and communicate. We should at least start communicating, verifying the MDL and surveying it again," Chung was quoted by the Yonhap as saying.



South Korean soldiers check a military iron fence in the border city of Paju near the demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas, on 27 March 2013. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

On 21 September, three people, including two South Korean soldiers, were injured in what was believed to be an explosion of two mines in the demilitarized zone. Another unexploded mine was later located in the same area. The South Korean military stated that the mines that exploded had been planted by North Korea, described the incident as a violation of the armistice agreement, and demanded an apology and appropriate measures from North Korea. North Korea denied its involvement in the incident, calling such accusations from South Korean a provocation. — SPUTNIK

China's longest undersea highway tunnel completes shield tunneling

CHINA'S longest undersea highway tunnel completed all shield-driven excavation work on Friday as a shield machine reached its designated position at a depth of 105 metres beneath the sea surface in Jiaozhou Bay, eastern China's Shandong Province, according to China Railway Construction Corporation Limited.

The Qingdao Jiaozhou Bay Second Tunnel will connect Qingdao's main urban area with the Qingdao West Coast New Area. The latter is a national-level new area. The 17.48-kilometre project includes a 14.37-kilometre main tunnel section, featuring two main tunnels and a middle service tunnel, with three lanes in each direction and a design speed of 80 kilometre per hour. According to Wang Junping with the China Railway 14th Bureau Group Corporation Limited, the project used a combination of drill-and-blast and shield tunneling methods, advancing from both the east and west shores of Jiaozhou Bay and meeting under the sea.



Constructors make a safety inspection at the construction site of Qingdao Jiaozhou Bay Second Tunnel in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, 2 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The main shield section has a maximum depth of 95 metres below the sea surface, and the service tunnel reaches 105 metres, creating high water pressure and requiring stringent sealing and waterproofing. — Xinhua