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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Nay Pyi Taw Builds More Landmark Facilities

President U Min Aung Hlaing made an inspection tour of the People's Square, railway flyovers, the airport road, the Naypyitaw Gate and the Union Commemoration Mausoleum, which are under construction.





President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the progress in construction of the Nay Pyi Taw-Taungdwingyi railway flyover in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspected the development undertakings meeting the city characteristics in Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Accompanied by Vice-President U Nyo Saw, Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi and U Myo Thant, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than and deputy ministers, the President inspected the construction progress of the Nay Pyi Taw People's Square.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant reported to the President on the plans and ongoing implementation for developing Nay Pyi Taw's People's Square into a modern public area befitting the characteristics of the capital, where urban residents can visit, enjoy leisure activities and relax, and which can serve as a multipurpose public space. They also explained the plans to incorporate statues of prominent personalities and marble sculptures and reliefs around the square; to construct landscaped areas, walkways, an entertainment plaza, shophouses and other necessary facilities for public recreation; and to construct a clock-tower building near the People's Square in keeping with the urban characteristics of the capital. SEE PAGE 3

Sequin Embroidery Sparks Prosperity in Waegyi, Dala



PAGE 2



NATIONAL PAGE 6

Machinery, workers sent to Dawei for recovery

India Corner Opens in Yangon on Gandhi Day

IN honour of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2 October, Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur and Dr Kathy Htwe, Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture (NUAC), paid tribute to Gandhi by laying flowers at his statue.

Both the ambassador and the rector delivered speeches reflecting on Gandhi's values of justice, peace, non-violence, and compassion. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the India Corner also took place at the NUAC library. SEE PAGE 2



This image shows attendees at the celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and the opening of the India Corner.



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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 68/2026

7th Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME
5 October 2026

Reassignment of Union Ministers

PURSUANT to Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, the following Union Ministers are hereby reassigned to each other's respective Ministries.

(1)	U Maung Myint Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism	Ministry of Labour
(2)	U Khin Maung Soe Ministry of Labour	Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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

Sequin Embroidery Sparks Prosperity ...

FROM PAGE 1

WAEGYI Village in Thamman Chaung Village-tract, Dala Township, Twantay District in Yangon Region operates small-scale sequin embroidery businesses for a certain family income.

Located more than 10 miles from Dala, the village has about 140 houses, 170 households and a population of over 500. Most residents rely mainly on farming, while women engage in sequin embroidery during periods when farm work is less demanding.

The embroidery business has been practised in the village for around 15 years. Women who have mastered the skill teach others, while finished products are supplied to markets through local markets or sold directly. The work can be done at home, allowing women to earn extra income without leaving their families.

"I learned sequin embroidery skill in Yangon and worked there for some time. Now, I have returned to settle in my village and am passing on the skills I have learned to others. I am very happy that I can teach my siblings, relatives and other villagers this skill and help them earn additional income for their families," said Ma Thuzar Aung, who has about 20 years of experience in sequin embroidery and introduced the business to Waegyi Village.



Photo shows sequin embroidery. **PHOTO: MAUNG YIN OO (DALA)**

Most women in the village initially embroidered shawls and scarves, but they now also decorate women's clothing and outfits for special occasions. Sequin embroidery on garments, shawls and scarves can be done throughout the year and has a stable market. Some women specialize in decorating garments, while others focus on shawls and scarves.

"We specialize in sequin embroidery on shawls and scarves. Some customers bring the garments to our homes, while others take them home to work on. This work requires patience and sitting for long periods. Sometimes, we follow designs provided by shops, while at other times, we create our own designs," said Daw Ohmar and Daw Cho Pyone, who specialize in decorating shawls and scarves in Waegyi Village.

"During the farming season, we work in the fields, and when there is less farm work, we do sequin embroidery. Once one person in a household learns the skill, they teach the other family members. We have been doing this in the village for about 20 years. Since our village is far from both Dala and Yangon, this is a convenient way to earn income. We work from home, and the finished garments are collected by a local supplier, who sends them to Yangon. We do not have to travel to the markets ourselves, so it helps reduce expenses", said U Mya Htun, village administrator.

Those who introduced and currently practice sequin embroidery in Waegyi Village said that anyone interested in learning the skill, from nearby or distant villages, is welcome to come and learn free of charge. They said the business has a stable market, can be done from home and provides additional income for families, and expressed their wish for more women in the village to take up the craft. — Maung Yin Oo (Dala)/ KTZH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 3 October 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea, South Bay, Westcentral Bay and Northwest Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, with a few clouds elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 4 October 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Mandalay and lower Sagaing regions and Kachin, Kayah and (northern and southern) Shan states, and isolated in the remaining regions and states, with a likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.
THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states. Along the area of the cumulonimbus clouds' movement, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur; therefore, it is recommended to be aware of these phenomena in advance.
STATE OF THE SEA: The sea will be moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of an increase in rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 October 2026: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 October 2026: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 October 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

India Corner Opens in Yangon on Gandhi Day

FROM PAGE 1

Ms Shubhra Dutta, a vocal trainer from SVCC, performed Bhajan songs alongside students from NUAC and SVCC, showcasing the shared cultural values and traditional music of both countries. — TWA/ZS

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw Builds More Landmark Facilities

FROM PAGE 1

In response, the President gave guidance to comprehensively consider the emergence of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area as a modern, all-round developed urban area in line with the characteristics of a capital city.

The President also observed the construction of the Nay Pyi Taw-Taungdwingyi railway overpass and the Yangon-Mandalay railway flyover on Shwepyi Tawwin Road.

With regard to the construction of railway overpasses, the President stressed that it is necessary to formulate the Master Plan to continue construction and upgrade of roads and bridges depending on the growing number of road users and vehicles in the future. He underlined that efforts must be made to continue the upgrade of all roads in Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw to meet the urban characteristics.

The President also reviewed the cleaning and beautification along Shwepyi Tawwin Road, the growing of shade trees and windbreaks along both sides of the road and the road upgrade in his motorcade.

Moreover, the President also looked into the progress in construction of the new road leading to Nay Pyi Taw Airport and building Wekkamuhse and Yonbinchaung bridges on the new road.

On arrival at the construction site of Naypyitaw Gate on Razathingaha Road, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and the Union Minister for Construction reported on the creation of designs for the gate with Myanmar's cultural works and systematic preparation for landscapes.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the construction progress at Yonbinchaung bridge of the new road leading to Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

In his guidance, the President instructed that, as the gateway to the nation's capital and a landmark entrance, the site should be grand and up to standard in keeping with the dignity of the capital city. He outlined that the gateway structure be systematically and magnificently constructed, incorporating Myanmar traditional architectural designs, while ensuring that it is strong and earthquake-resistant and built in compliance with the prescribed standards. He further instructed that bypasses be systematically constructed to ensure that traffic is not disrupted by the construction works.

The President viewed the scale model of the Naypyitaw Gate and inspected the construction site.

At the Union Commemoration Mausoleum construction site, the President stated that the Union Commemoration Mausoleum is being constructed to honour those who built the Union and the national brethren born in the Union who have joined hands in efforts to safeguard and strengthen the Union. Therefore, he said that it should be grand and up to standard. He instructed that the project be planned and constructed to enable Union-born national brethren from various regions and states, as well as visitors from foreign countries who come to pay their respects, to do so in a dignified and systematic manner.

He also instructed that designated areas for laying wreaths and paying respects be systematically incorporated into the design. He further emphasized that Myanmar cultural traditions and modern architectural artistry should be harmoniously incorporated and combined in the construction of the mausoleum and its supporting infrastructure.

The President viewed around the construction site of the Union Commemoration Mausoleum and gave necessary guidance to officials. — MNA/TTA

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets YR MPs

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker and Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) U Khin Yi met representatives of the Yangon Region Hluttaw at the Nawarat Hall of the Yangon Region Hluttaw Office yesterday.

During the meeting, U Khin Yi emphasized the need for greater coordination among Union-level, Region and State Hluttaws in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws. He urged Hluttaw representatives to actively address the needs and concerns of their constituents while ensuring that parliamentary proceedings are conducted in line with laws and procedures.

He also highlighted the importance of strengthening the legislative pillar, keeping laws in line with current conditions, and sharing the five-year strategic plan for parliamentary development with Region and State Hluttaws.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) U Khin Yi speaks at the meeting with representatives of the Yangon Region Hluttaw at the Yangon Region Hluttaw Office in Yangon yesterday.

He continued that the Hluttaw has established the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU), and it is continuously studying the needs of Region and State Hluttaws so that it can provide support and assistance where necessary. Hluttaw representatives also need to actively work for the benefit of the constituents and the country, while ensuring that the work is carried out in accordance with the law and relevant procedures. Hluttaw is a legislative body composed of public representatives elected and entrusted by the people of their respective constituencies in accordance with the will of the people.

He said lawmaking is the primary responsibility of the Hluttaw and that laws should be continuously amended, supplemented and enacted to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens. He stressed the need to review current conditions and enact laws in line with the times.

He also urged Hluttaw representatives to accurately reflect public concerns in questions and proposals, use officially recognized terminology, and remain well informed about the constituencies and voters' needs so that these concerns can be addressed effectively.

He called on Yangon Region Hluttaw representatives to use social and news media to inform the public about parliamentary activities and to listen to public concerns, particularly regarding the rule of law, safe travel and effective drainage, highlighting Yangon's importance as an economic hub.

Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung explained on the Hluttaw's ongoing activities, following which U Khin Yi made a concluding remark. — MNA/KTZH

Falam conducts collective cleaning

A collective cleaning activity was carried out along Taungzalat Road in Kyinmwal Ward, Falam, Chin State, yesterday morning to maintain cleanliness and beautify the town. Police personnel and staff from relevant departments took part.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Thaung Naing visited the site and encouraged the participants.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister, together with the Chin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, met officials from relevant departments at the City Hall to discuss rehabilitation work.

The deputy minister called for rehabilitation, infrastructure, repair and construction works to be carried out systematically and in accordance with prescribed standards. He also stressed the need to repair roads and transport facilities damaged during the monsoon to improve transport and help reduce commodity prices, and to facilitate the systematic return of displaced residents to their places of origin.

Officials from relevant ministries reported on rehabilitation activities and requirements, and the necessary measures were coordinated.

The deputy minister and officials later inspected facilities at Falam General Hospital and the temporary hospital. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

MOB bank, Kayin CCI sign MoU

TO support entrepreneurs and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Kayin State with necessary financial assistance, banking services and business support through enhanced cooperation, Myanmar Oriental Bank Limited (MOB Bank) and the Kayin State Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Kayin CCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the morning of 3 October at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an.



The MoU signing event between Myanmar Oriental Bank Limited (MOB Bank) and the Kayin State Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Kayin CCI) in progress at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an.

Kayin State Minister for Planning, Economy and Finance U Nyi Nyi Zaw spoke on the occasion that the MoU signed between Kayin CCI and MOB Bank would strengthen cooperation among MOB Bank, Kayin CCI and affiliated business associations, enabling them to work together to provide entrepreneurs with financial and technical assistance.

Subsequently, the chairmen of Kayin CCI and MOB Bank presented a commemorative mosaic painting and K5 million for regional development funds to the state minister and delivered remarks on the significance of the MoU signing. The Chairman of the Ayeyawady Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ARCCI) also delivered welcoming remarks. Kayin CCI and MOB Bank signed the MoU in the presence of the attendees.

Following the signing ceremony, an official from MOB Bank gave a briefing on banking services, after which attendees raised questions that were answered and clarified by MOB Bank officials. The event concluded with an exchange of commemorative gifts between Kayin CCI and MOB Bank. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/TH

YR Police beefs up security

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

As part of the operations yesterday, police personnel from Hmawby District conducted vehicle checks at the checkpoints along No 4 Highway Junction, raised public awareness of traffic rules and regulations, and arrested motorcyclists using modified exhaust systems.

Additionally, police personnel from Thanlyin and Bahan townships, together with Kyauktada traffic police, conducted bicycle patrols, door-to-door crime-prevention awareness activities, vehicle checks and public awareness campaigns on the proper use of pedestrian crossings. Meanwhile, yesterday evening, police personnel in Dagon Myothit (South), Shwepyitha, Hmawby, Hlinethaya (West), Ahlon and Sangyoung townships conducted guest-list checks, security patrols and KTV inspections. — Aung Thu/MKKS


Crime reduction measures are underway in Yangon Region, with a guest-list inspection pictured. **PHOTO: REGION POLICE FORCE. PHOTO- YANGON REGION POLICE FORCE.**

Free rabies vaccination programme begins in Kangyidaunt

THE "Mass Dog Vaccination Programme", which provides free rabies vaccinations for three consecutive years, was launched yesterday morning in Ward 7 under the supervision of the Kangyidaunt Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Ayeyawady Region.

Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Thet Naing Oo, Deputy Township Administrator U Aung San Cho, Dr Soe Aung from the Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, departmental staff and ward/village administration members observed the vaccination of 180 pet and stray dogs owned or kept by residents in Ward 7.

The free rabies vaccination programme is being systematically implemented over three consecutive years, with this year marking the first year of the programme. The Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department stated that the programme would help effectively prevent the spread of rabies and the dangers associated with dog bites in the township. — Kyaw Zin Soe (IPRD)/MKKS

Schools reopen in Laymyethna as floodwaters recede

BASIC education schools in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, have reopened as floodwaters receded following flooding caused by water flowing through a breach in the Ngawun River embankment. Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw inspected the resumption of classes at the Aithabyu Village Basic Education High School and provided support to the school and its students.


Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw encourages students from Basic Education High School in Aingthabyu Village, Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 3 October 2026.

The chief minister urged education officials and teachers to arrange make-up lessons for classes missed during the temporary closure and encouraged students to continue their studies diligently. The school was provided with a water purification machine, rice and cooking oil.

He also inspected the resumption of monsoon paddy cultivation on flood-affected farmland in Yegyi, Ngathainggyoung and Laymyethna townships, drainage improvement works, and the reopening of public hospitals and basic education schools. Farmers whose paddy fields were damaged by the floods were provided with paddy and vegetable seeds.

In Laymyethna, he inspected drainage works along the town embankment and called for improved water flow and the removal of obstructions. He also visited Laymyethna People's Hospital and the Aung Mingala Market to inspect rehabilitation and reopening activities. — IPRD/KZL

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

NATIONAL

Overseas jobs underway for 46 people's military servants

PLANS are underway to send 46 people abroad who have proposed overseas employment after completing the People's Military Service, Deputy Minister for Labour U Maung Maung Than told Pyithu Hluttaw on 2 October.

He responded to a question raised by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Tint Wai from Dagon Myothit (North) Township, about the overseas employment plan for people's military servants who have the desire to go abroad.

Among those who have applied for overseas jobs, the worker-sending process has been underway for 46: 15 for Thailand, 22 for Malaysia, two for Korea and seven for Japan. By connecting with licensed overseas employment agencies, the Ministry of Labour has focused on ensuring safe migration for them, said the deputy minister. — TWA/ZS



People's Military Servants from Training 19 are seen in November 2025.

Gold Market Rate as of 3 October 2026



THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,100,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Officials inspect construction of reinforced concrete bridge in PutaO

KACHIN State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Ye Yint Swe inspected the construction of an 80-foot-long and 20-foot-wide reinforced concrete bridge being undertaken by the Kachin State Rural Road Development Department and HSP Myanmar Company with State capital funds in Makyawtwah Village, PutaO Township, yesterday.

During the inspection, the state minister instructed officials to ensure that the work meets quality standards, is completed within the specified period and systematically complies with occupational safety requirements.

The completion of the concrete bridge in Makyawtwah Village will contribute to the socioeconomic development of 208 households comprising 1,297 residents and improve access to healthcare, education and business opportunities. — District IPRD/MKKS



Officials inspect the construction site of a reinforced concrete bridge near Makyawtwah Village, PutaO Township, yesterday.

Marga Landmark pledges complete construction and handover of Central Project

MARGA Landmark Co Ltd, a developer of The Central Project, released a statement on 3 October reaffirming its firm commitment to complete construction and hand over every unit to all condo owners.

The statement also mentioned that the company takes pride in contributing to the real estate sector, which remains a key pillar of Myanmar's economy.

To address current challenges facing the real estate sector, practical measures are being implemented. These include working closely with relevant government authorities to accelerate the import of construction materials, as well as streamlining approval processes to ensure uninterrupted construction progress.



The Central Yangon building design released in the notification by Marga Landmark.

The company emphasized that condo owners' concerns remain its top priority, and it stands ready to address these issues. Furthermore, Marga Landmark announced it will compile and release detailed updates to owners covering the current construction status, upcoming project timelines, force majeure events, delay notifications, and adjustments needed to satisfy commercial agreements and terms.

To prevent further misunderstandings, Marga Landmark has requested condominium owners and the community to refrain from sharing unverified comments and statements. The Central Yangon is located at 7-8, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. — TWA/ZN

Myanmar students participate in 2026 Yunnan International Youth Exchange Programme

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar students studying at universities in Yunnan Province participated in the 2026 Yunnan International Youth Exchange Programme.

The programme was held at Kunming University of Science and Technology in Kunming, Yunnan Province, featuring meetings and discussions between Chinese and international students studying at universities in the province, exchanges of views among officials from Yunnan Province's education and youth affairs departments, Consuls-General based in Kunming and student representatives, as well as international cultural performances, according to reports.

The exchange programme was attended by officials from the Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, the Yunnan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Yunnan Provincial Youth Development Foundation and the Communist Youth League of China Yunnan Provincial Committee, as well as Consuls-General and diplomats from consulates-general based in Kunming, including Myanmar Consul-General in Kunming U Zeyar Myo Myint, and Myanmar students pursuing their education at universities across Yunnan Province, according to reports. — ASH/TH



This photo shows a portion of the 2026 Yunnan International Youth Exchange Programme.

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

25 September

President inspects universities in Yangon

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspected Dagon University, University of Medicine 1 and Yangon University (Hline Campus) in Yangon Region.

Myanmar Marks 2026 World Tourism Day

Myanmar held a ceremony to mark World Tourism Day 2026 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw, with Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Chairperson of the National Committee for Tourism Development, attending and delivering a speech.

29 September

President's Office issued Order 67/2026

President's Office issued Order 67/2026 to appoint U Htay Aung as a Judge of the Mandalay Region High Court under Clause (iv) of Section 208 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 82 (d) of the Union Government Law, Section 45 of the Union Judiciary Law and Section 18 (d) of the Region or State Government Law.

30 September

E-Government Steering Committee meets

Vice-President U Nyo Saw, who chairs the e-Government Steering Committee, emphasized the importance of information security and cybersecurity measures during a coordination meeting of the committee held at the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw.

2 October

MPF marks 62nd Anniversary Celebration

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day in Nay Pyi Taw.

3 October

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses Union Supplementary Appropriation Bill

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

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Kyaikkhami mid-water pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya Festival set for 5 days

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Kyaikkhami Mid-Water Pagoda in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, will be held from the 14th waxing to the 5th waning of Thadingyut, according to the festival organizing committee.



This photo shows the Kyaikkhami Mid-Water Pagoda, beautifully situated off the seashore.

As a pre-festival programme, a Maha Pathana recitation ceremony will be held for five days from 20 to 24 October.

Starting at 3 am on the full moon day of Thadingyut, pilgrims from near and far will participate in the alms-bowl offering ceremony on the water. An Abhidhamma Day ceremony will also be held at 8 am in the main hall of the Sasana Temple on the hill of the Mid-Water Pagoda.

In addition, from the 1st waning day to the 5th waning day of Thadingyut (from 27 to 31 October), two Mawlamyine Thabin performances will be staged at the Thirizeya Theatre on the hill of the Mid-Water Pagoda, while another two Mawlamyine Thabin performances will be staged at the stone pillar in downtown Kyaikkhami, bringing the total to four performances.

As part of the sports programme, a football tournament will be held from 25 to 31 October at the Kyaikkhami Myoma Football Stadium, with eight independent football teams competing. Admission is free.

The festival organizing committee stated that applications are currently being accepted for vendors wishing to sell goods at the festival. Stall spaces will be allocated on 18 October. — TWA/MKKS

Advanced Sewing Course 12 concludes in Myeik

THE 12th Advanced Sewing Course concluded at the Women's Domestic Vocational Training School, under the Department of Education and Training, the Ministry of Border Affairs, in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on 2 October.

Speaking at the ceremony, Myeik District Management and Administration Committee Chairman U Myo Oo encouraged the trainees, while the school principal presented a report on the training programme. An outstanding trainee from Kyunsu Township received a sewing machine as a prize, and certificates of completion were presented to the trainees.

Officials also viewed the trainees' design work.

A total of 25 trainees from Myeik, Palaw, Kyunsu, Taninthayi and Bokpyin townships completed the 22-week course, which covered 18 subjects from 4 May 4 to 2 October. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/KTZH



Trainees of 12th Advanced Sewing Course's fashion design works are on display at the Women's Domestic Vocational Training School in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on 2 October. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

Machinery, workers sent to Dawei for recovery

NINETEEN machinery vehicles and skilled workers departed Myeik for Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on the evening of 3 October to assist with rescue and rehabilitation work in disaster-hit areas of Dawei District affected by flooding and landslides caused by heavy rains in late September.



The Pyae Phyo Tun IX vessel carrying heavy machines departs for Dawei. **PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (IPRD)**

The group comprised 12 excavators, three loaders, one fuel tanker, one transport vehicle, one dump truck and one administrative support vehicle, along with skilled workers. The machinery and personnel travelled aboard the Pyae Phyo Tun IX vessel under the leadership of the Taninthayi Region government.

Myeik District Administration and Management Committee Chairman U Myo Oo and officials inspected the loading of the machinery onto the vessel, encouraged the drivers, skilled workers and supervisors, and provided allowances for their expenses. — Khaing Htoo (IPRD)/KZL

NATIONAL

Business-friendly environment urged to grow MSMEs



Panellists and moderator participate in the "Mainstreaming Modern Market for Myanmar MSMEs" event at the UMFCCI Mingala Hall in Yangon on 1 October 2026.

REPUBLIC of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry's President U Aye Win has called for the creation of a business-friendly environment to support the longterm growth of domestic MSMEs, during the event titled "Mainstreaming Modern Market for Myanmar MSMEs" held on 1 October at the UMFCCI Mingala Hall in Yangon. The event was coorganized by the UMFCCI and the Myanmar Retailers Association (MMRA) with a view to bridging business links between domestic MSMEs and producers. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu gave a remark that Yangon Region is the economic hub that drives the country's commercial activity, with most local goods flowing to the public through the region's trade networks. The main challenge for MSMEs is penetrating modern trade networks. Therefore, the regional government has been supporting efforts to upgrade packaging standards, branding, and shelflife requirements, create B2B matching opportunities, and organize trade fairs. He urged continued efforts to help MSME products reach not only domestic supermarkets but also international markets.

UMFCCI's President U Aye Win said that MSMEs account for over 90 per cent of businesses in Myanmar and 70 to 80 per cent of job creation, yet contribute only 35 per cent to GDP, which is lower than in comparable countries. He emphasized the need to create a businessfriendly environment to enhance MSME capacity and foster mutual support among related businesses. Citing the proverb "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," he called for collaboration among MSMEs, retailers, financial institutions, and associations to build a resilient economy. He said the event was organized by UMFCCI and MMRA to help Myanmar MSME products enter modern retail networks in response to changing market demands. The event featured direct market linkages with leading domestic modern retail chains, including City Mart Holding, City Express, Orange, Sein Gay Har, ABC Convenience Store, Ocean Supermarket, Pro 1 Global, Super 1 One Stop, SSN, and Yangon Bazaar, in addition to panel discussions. Competitiveness is the key to MSME survival and growth. UMFCCI is working with all stakeholders to improve MSME capacity, provide technical assistance, and facilitate financial linkages in line with government economic policies. Representatives from AYA Bank presented financial and banking services available to MSMEs. Next, a panel discussion on "Mainstreaming Modern Market for Myanmar MSMEs" was moderated by UMFCCI General Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe, with panellists: Daw Win Win Tint, Founder & Group CEO of City Holdings Ltd; Daw Mu Mu Aye, Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection; and Daw May Hnin Wai, Co-Founder & CEO of Health & Happy Myanmar Co Ltd. The event also facilitated direct B2B discussions and advisory sessions between modern retailers and MSME operators, according to UMFCCI. — NN/KK

IPD offers basic patent agent training course in Nov

THE Intellectual Property Department will conduct the Basic Patent Agent Training Online Course 1/2026 in November. The course is designed for those who wish to serve as registered patent agents. The course will run virtually (Zoom) from 10 am to 3:45 pm from 3 to 11 November, excluding public holidays at the Intellectual Property Department, under the Ministry of Commerce, at Office 52. Application forms and course fees (K500,000) will be accepted between 1 and 30 October. Those selected applicants will be announced on www.ipd.gov.mm on 2 November. The examination date is at 10 am on 12 November. Payment must be deposited into the IPD account MD014366 of Myanma Economic Bank, Nay Pyi Taw.

Interested individuals can download the application form via www.ipd.gov.mm and submit the completed form to ipdtraining2022@gmail.com, along with a scanned copy of the bank receipt (PDF or photo). Further course information will be sent to the email address provided in the application. Once payment is verified, the Zoom ID and password will be sent to the applicant's email. If paying via another bank, the Myanmar Economic Bank's service charges must be included in the transfer. Late applications will not be accepted. All required information in the application must be complete and accurate. If applications exceed the set quota, priority will be given to the next training batch. Participants must complete the full course and pass the qualifying examination. Certificates will be issued only to those who complete the full course and pass the exam. Applicants who fail to pay within the specified period will not be considered for admission. Course fees are nonrefundable whether a participant is unable to attend or withdraws during the course. The course is open to domestic applicants who wish to serve as patent agents, but not to government employees. Individuals can enquire about further details through the Intellectual Property Department at 067 430571. — NN/KK

K8.11B disbursed for MDY earthquake reconstruction loans


The 3/2026 meeting of the Central Committee for Supervision of the Fund for Rehabilitation of Areas Affected by the Major Mandalay Earthquake in progress.

A total of K8.11 billion in loans has been disbursed through 12 loans to support reconstruction in areas affected by the Mandalay earthquake, in accordance with the prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs), according to Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo.

She made the remarks at the 3/2026 meeting of the Central Committee for Supervision of the Reconstruction Fund for Areas Affected by the Mandalay Earthquake, held on 2 October.

The special loan scheme, funded by State contributions, supports reconstruction for State service personnel and residents whose homes and businesses were damaged by the earthquake in Nay Pyi Taw and six regions and states.

The scheme covers State service personnel, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), large-scale factories, hotels and education businesses. It provides home loans, reconstruction loans, working capital loans and fixed capital loans at concessional interest rates.

At the meeting, 10 additional loans totalling K24.75 billion, submitted by five authorized banks for one State service personnel and nine businesses, were also approved.

The loans are being scrutinized systematically in line with the recommendations of the Fund Management Working Group and the prescribed loan SOP criteria. — TWA/KZL

Customs Dept to auction seized electrical appliances in Taunggyi

THE Taunggyi Township Customs Department will auction electrical appliances seized as public property through a competitive bidding system.

Myanmar citizens are invited to participate in the auction, which will be held at 9:30 am on 8 October at the Taunggyi Township Customs Department office. Auction forms (including rules and the list of items) will be available at K10,000 per set from 6 to 7 October. Sample items will be available for inspection at the same time.

Individuals can enquire for further details through the Auction Committee, Taunggyi Township Customs Department, at 081 2121158. — NN/KK

OPINION

Contributing to productivity of the State through agriculture sector

AS the majority of people living in rural areas depend on agriculture and livestock farming for their livelihoods, the government is implementing poverty reduction and the improvement of farmers' livelihoods as one of its key priority tasks. As about 70 per cent of the country's population lives in rural areas, efforts are being made to improve the livelihoods of farmers and promote rural development. In addition, measures are being taken to narrow the socioeconomic disparities between urban and rural areas.

Efforts are also being made not only to ensure domestic food sufficiency but also to restore the country's previous level of high rice exports. In addition, in line with the vision of ushering in a new era for Myanmar's Pawsan rice, efforts are being made in the first phase to expand the cultivation and production of premium quality rice varieties that meet market demand, with the aim of exporting three million tonnes of rice annually. Measures are also being implemented to expand rice cultivation by an additional 350,000 acres according to specific rice varieties.

The development of the agricultural sector will contribute to increasing national production. While the Government is encouraging the expansion of rice varieties that have access to overseas markets, all stakeholders involved in the agricultural sector must also work together to improve the quality of the entire rice value chain. Emphasis must be placed on complying with internationally recognized quality standards, systematic packaging, branding, connecting with the global rice market, and making preparations for the timely delivery and transportation of rice to importing countries. Through these measures, greater emphasis should be placed on increasing national output through the agricultural sector.

In the second phase, the country aims to increase annual rice exports to five million tonnes. Furthermore, efforts are being made to enable Myanmar to become one of the world's major rice-producing countries and a "granary" capable of supplying not only the food needs of regional countries but also contributing to global food security.

To increase rice exports, rice cultivation zones covering more than 300,000 acres are being developed in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions. Satellite-based remote sensing technology will initially be used to monitor 100,000 acres of rice cultivation zones for export, including the status of cultivation, crop conditions and harvesting. It aims to raise farmers' rice yields and incomes, improve the quality of rice for export, and increase annual rice exports, thereby promoting comprehensive development of the entire rice and paddy sector, led by export activities.

The development of the agricultural sector will contribute to increasing national production. While the Government is encouraging the expansion of rice varieties that have access to overseas markets, all stakeholders involved in the agricultural sector must also work together to improve the quality of the entire rice value chain. Emphasis must be placed on complying with internationally recognized quality standards, systematic packaging, branding, connecting with the global rice market, and making preparations for the timely delivery and transportation of rice to importing countries. Through these measures, greater emphasis should be placed on increasing national output through the agricultural sector.

BOOKRACK

POEM



Book Title	-	AI and the Digital Economy Rivalries Poised to Transform the World
Author	-	Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)
Publishing House	-	AZ
Publication Date	-	June 2026 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K10,000

AI and the Digital Economy Rivalries Poised to Transform the World

DURING Chinese President Xi Jinping's three-day official visit to the United States from 23 to 25 September, he met President Donald Trump at the White House. Aiming to stabilize bilateral relations, the two leaders focused their discussions on six major agenda topics, among which was the crucial subject of regulations concerning Artificial Intelligence (AI). Both sides reportedly agreed to establish a dedicated communication channel and convene a government-to-government risk management dialogue in the coming November regarding the benefits and risks of advanced AI technologies – referred to by Trump as "Super Intelligence" and framed by China as "AI Dialogue". This serves as clear evidence of the immense strategic significance AI holds between the two superpowers.

The book introduced to readers this week is:

"In the coming era, while governments around the world navigate the intricate and challenging terrain of AI regulations, their governance models and digital economic regulatory frameworks – though diverse from nation to nation – will inevitably develop alongside intense strategic competition."

This excerpt comes from the book "AI and the Digital Economy Rivalries Poised to Transform the World", authored by Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT).

Within this volume, readers will explore chapters examining whether China's AI breakthrough signals a new era of technological innovation, the concept of digital empires and the China-EU-US rivalry over tech regulations, the innovation secrets of Japan and South Korea, the global semiconductor supply chain and Indonesia's strategic initiatives, and whether globalization is coming to an end. Other featured chapters cover practical applications of artificial intelligence, ICT-driven e-government, the global race for AI regulation, India's digital technology power, the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement, Japan falling behind in the electric vehicle manufacturing race, the integration of bureaucracy and democracy, strategic convergence between India and the European Union, three perspectives on international relations, what the world can learn from Japan, and why India cannot yet replace China.

The opening chapter, titled "Does China's AI breakthrough signal a new era of technological innovation?", begins:

"Amid multilateral discussions at the Munich Security Conference and high-level talks at the Paris Summit, Chinese leaders called for global collaboration on AI safety. Technology companies and investors in China witnessed a volatile yet promising week of AI breakthroughs. Both domestically and internationally, alongside symposiums led by top Chinese tech leaders and President Xi, China's high-level leadership has demonstrated confidence in AI development while maintaining transparency toward international cooperation."



Book Title	-	AI, Power, and Our Future
Translator	-	La Min Thaung Tun
Publishing House	-	Sar Si Sein
Publication Date	-	March 2025 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K15,000

AI, Power, and Our Future

SAYA La Min Thaung Tun translated the book The Coming Wave, co-authored by Mustafa Suleyman and Michael Bhaskar, into Myanmar. Mustafa Suleyman is a co-founder of DeepMind and currently serves as CEO of Microsoft AI.

Readers will grasp the author's concept of The Grand Bargain, suggesting that risks of advanced technology can be mitigated through a tri-party compromise between state, private cooperation and civil society by relying on three interconnected pillars: international cooperation, technology security engineering, and new governance frameworks. This approach focuses on balancing competing interests to achieve technology containment.

Additionally, the book analyzes the dangers and shifts in power distribution from the insider perspective of a technology creator. Among books discussing artificial intelligence AI, this book stands out because it not only points out problems but also offers high-level security policy and governance, based on the author's industry experience.

In the book's "Preface", the question of how the coming technological wave will affect humanity is addressed from the AI perspective: "There are moments in human history that stand as turning points. At those moments, humanity's fate hangs in the balance. The discovery of fire, the invention of the wheel, and the harnessing of electricity were moments that transformed human civilization. From those periods onward, the course of history changed forever. And now we are stepping into a rapidly cresting era of unprecedented technological power. We are about to face the next wave, including both advanced AI and biotechnology. We have never encountered technologies with such potential to reshape the world in ways both exhilarating and terrifying.

On one hand, the benefits of these technologies are extraordinarily broad and profound. With AI, we might unlock the secrets of the universe and cure diseases that have baffled us for centuries. We may expand the boundaries of imagination and create new forms of art and culture. With rapidly advancing AI, we can fight disease, improve agriculture, and create a healthier, more sustainable world. But on the other hand, the potential dangers of these technologies carry big risks.

AI helps us create systems beyond our control and find ourselves at the mercy of algorithms we do not understand. Biotechnology allows us to edit the foundational code of life, creating immense potential for innovation alongside significant ecological and ethical risks. As we stand at this turning point, we have to face a choice between a future of unparalleled possibilities and a future of unimaginable catastrophe. Humanity's fate hangs in the balance. The decisions we make in the coming years and decades will determine whether these technologies lead us towards challenges or make us victims of their dangers."

Thus, it is worth reading for those who want to systematically understand how AI and biotechnology are reshaping society, and for leaders who need to draft AI governance frameworks for their organizations.

White and Green

By Min Min Zan

For more than fifty years, it has stayed the same,
A simple uniform with a timeless name.
White on top, with green below so bright,
I wear it with love and pure delight.

Fashions may sparkle,
then fade away,
New styles may shine
for just a day.
But simple beauty
never grows old,
Its quiet charm is worth
more than gold.

Whenever I wear my
white and green,
I feel the pride of the
school I've seen.
So simple, so lovely,
forever dear,
My school uniform – I'll
always hold near.





The Light of a Teacher

By Moon Cherry K

With passion to teach,
With kindness to care,
With patience and empathy,
A teacher is always there.

Not only to teach,
But to guide and inspire,
To listen, encourage,
And lift dreams higher.

With courage to learn,
And creativity bright,
With dedication and fairness,
They turn darkness to light.

Through every challenge,
They patiently stay,
Giving hope and wisdom
To brighten the way.

A teacher gives freely,
Expecting no reward;
A student's success
Is the greatest award.

Not merely a teacher,
But a guide for tomorrow—
Lighting young hearts
To build a brighter world.

Happy World Teachers' Day — 5 October

To every teacher who teaches with passion, leads with compassion, and inspires the future.



The Goodwill of Zaw (Gyi)

By Maung Swan Yi (Translated by Myint Zan)

"Father" Zaw
while flying in the air
look into the ground
and descends
in doing so
he floats
his body moving smoothly,
gingerly

in the air and on the water
there's no deceivers
but on the ground (on earth)
there's the gloomy, gripping
forest
with hypocrites and pretenders galore
one is anxious:
so (one moves)
a step at a time
to be aware (of the wiles of
the world)
'tis worth a million

Translated on 1 October 2026.

Translator's note: Maung Swan Yi (born 17 February 1937) published this poem in the June 1986 issue of Lone Ma Lay magazine to commemorate the 79th birthday of Saya Zaw Gyi (12 April 1907-26 September 1990). Only two of the eight stanzas of the poem have been translated in commemoration of the 36th anniversary of Saya Zaw Gyi's passing, which was on 26 September 2026.

NATIONAL
Entertainment



Actress Hsaung Yoon San donates K1 million.



Actress May Myint Mo donates K1 million.

Two actresses donate to MMPO's events

AS preparations are underway for the 106th Myanmar Motion Pictures Day ceremony and the 49th homage-paying ceremony for senior artistes, which will be held on 13 October, members of the entertainment industry have been making donations. Actress May Myint Mo donated K1 million on 28 September, while actress Hsaung Yoon San also donated K1 million on 30 September.

"The homage-paying ceremony is held annually on Myanmar Motion Pictures Day. This year's 49th ceremony will be held on 13 October at Wazira Cinema. Artistes and professionals have been making donations, with actresses May Myint Mo and Hsaung Yoon San each donating K1 million on 28 and 30 September. Unlike previous years, all senior members who can attend will be invited, except those unable to attend for health reasons," said U Kyi Soe Tun. The event will include food donation and 40 food stalls. – ASH/KTZH

Sunset Rhythm music festival set for 22 Oct

THE "Sunset Rhythm" music festival will be held on 11 October at Star City Sports Club (SCSC) in Thanlyin, following the "Ion+ SCSC Half Marathon" and continuing into the evening.

"Sunset Rhythm" is an all-day Sportainment event combining sports and entertainment. Sports activities, including a pool party and game zone, will be held during the afternoon of 11 October.

In the evening, the "Sunset Rhythm" concert will feature popular artists performing songs filled with love, longing and emotion. Early Bird tickets are currently available. Participants in the morning's half marathon will also have the opportunity to enjoy the day's activities and relax rather than heading straight home after the race.

Those interested can register through https://eventickat.com/run-and-rhythm. For more information, they can contact the hotline numbers 09 777377666 and 09 777377555, or visit the official Star City Sports Club website https://starcitysportsclub.com/. The latest updates on the Ion+ SCSC Half Marathon can also be followed through its Viber communities. – TWA/KTZH





Young autistic artist's exhibition receives strong support

THE solo painting exhibition of young autistic artist Than Sin was successfully held, attracting more than 500 visitors. Of the more than 50 paintings displayed at the exhibition, only six remained unsold, showing the strong support and appreciation she received from art lovers.

Regarding the success of the exhibition, Than Sin's elder sister said, "More than 500 people came to support my younger sister Than Sin. She displayed more than 50 paintings, and only around six are left. Than Sin has been a very lovable younger sister since she was little. When we look back at her childhood photos, we sometimes feel sad and wonder why we didn't take even better care of her. She has always been a gentle and lovely child, especially with her adorable dimples."

Than Sin is a beloved member of her family and, despite being autistic, has shown exceptional talent and ability in painting. – TWA/KTZH

Miss Multicultural World 2026 hopes for more support from Myanmar fans



MISS Multicultural World 2026 titleholder Soe Myintzu Lwin said that she is currently receiving more support from Vietnamese fans than from Myanmar fans, and expressed her hope for greater support from fans in her home country.

For her appearance, she said, "Rather than thinking I look Vietnamese, people usually don't think I look Myanmar when they first meet me. I don't really look Myanmar typically. Before joining pageants, when I dressed normally, almost everyone said I looked like a Japanese girl. Now I have more Vietnamese fans than Myanmar fans, so I hope my Myanmar fans will also support me."The beauty represented Myanmar at the Miss Multicultural World 2026 pageant and won the crown. – TWA/KTZH

Costume for theatrical star's role in 'Zabudipa Hmar Achit Sone' Unveiled

THE costume for Myanmar traditional dancer San Yay Moe's character in the upcoming film "Zabudipar Hmar Achit Sone", which stars San Yay Moe and is directed by U Aung Kyaw Tun, has been revealed by the director.

The film will be based on a Myanmar legend from before the Buddha achieved enlightenment and will run about three hours. Due to the film's large production and filming costs, two production companies will collaborate on the project. Filming will take place at Mount Popa, the region where the Ayeyawady River originates, and other unique natural locations across the country.



With its historical and legendary storyline, grand filming locations and San Yay Moe's character portrayal, the film has attracted audience interest. – TWA/KTZH

Myanmar's musical film wins 4 prizes at Asian Academy Creative Awards 2026



THE Myanmar-produced musical film "Eain Mat Kar Yan" has won four awards at the Asian Academy Creative Awards 2026, according to singer Ni Ni Khin Zaw. The awards include Best Feature Film for "Eain Mat Kar Yan," Best Direction (Feature Film) for Academy Director Win Lwin Htet, Best Actress in a Leading Role for Ni Ni Khin Zaw, and Best Theme Song or Title Theme for the film's theme song. The film and its creators were selected as National Winners in all four categories. "A dream that began as Myanmar's original musical film has now become a National Winner in four categories at the Asian Academy Creative Awards 2026, representing Myanmar. This achievement does not belong to the "Eain Mat Kar Yan" team alone. It is another step toward our dream of bringing Myanmar films and creative works to the international stage," said filmmaker, actress and singer Ni Ni Khin Zaw. – Htun Htun/KTZH

Film comeback of actress set to shine this Oct

'LOON EAINZI', the debut film of model and actress Yun Wady Lwin Moe, daughter of veteran actor Lwin Moe, will be released in cinemas in October, according to Yun Wady Lwin Moe.

"My father also walked this path, so I will continue moving forward with confidence, for my father, my mother and myself. Liam has also been constantly supporting and watching over me from behind the monitor, so I feel very lucky. When I returned from abroad and started filming my first movie, I was very happy that everyone stood by me and supported me," said Yoon Wady Lwin Moe. The film is produced by Bellarie, H&L, and Lin Production. The story is by K Khine, with the screenplay and direction by Ei Ei Khine. The cast includes Paing Takhon, Sai Si Tom Kham, Yun Wady Lwin Moe, Chaw Yadana and other artistes. – Htun Htun/KTZH



WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq to resume Iranian flights to Najaf airport

THE Iraqi government on Friday announced an agreement allowing Iranian airlines, except Mahan Air, to operate 40 flights daily to and from Najaf International Airport in central Iraq.

A statement by the media office of Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi said the agreement follows the US government's cooperation in granting a requested exemption, which will help facilitate the movement of pilgrims and travellers, particularly those travelling for medical treatment, religious visits, and tourism. The office said last Saturday that the Iraqi government was in direct dialogue with the United States to secure sanctions exemptions for certain Iraqi airports to resume flights with Iran on humanitarian grounds. – Xinhua

Portugal public services disrupted by strike

A 24-hour strike by workers in the general careers of Portugal's public administration caused widespread disruptions across the country on Friday, with schools closed, health services severely affected and citizen service offices shut.

The stoppage, held days before the government is to present its 2027 state budget proposal, began at midnight and involves approximately 350,000 workers including operational assistants, technical assistants and senior technicians in central, local and regional public administration,

The impact of the strike, called jointly by three trade union federations, was most visible in education, but disruptions were reported at hospitals, social security services, civil registry and notary offices, justice services and refuse collection.

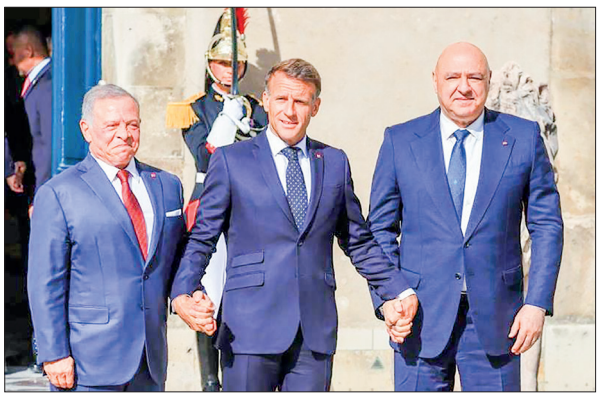
Thousands of demonstrators marched from Praca da Figueira to the Finance Ministry in Lisbon, where union representatives delivered a resolution with workers' demands. – Xinhua

Jordan's king, US secretary of state discuss regional de-escalation efforts

Leaders focus on strengthening regional stability and supporting Lebanese national security.

JORDAN'S King Abdullah II and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday discussed efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region, according to a statement from Jordan's Royal Hashemite Court.

During a phone call, King Abdullah II stressed the need to reach an agreement on a comprehensive ceasefire that guarantees the security and sovereignty of Arab states, while highlighting the US role in supporting efforts to achieve regional stability. The king also briefed Rubio on the outcomes of recent meetings held in France, which focused on mobilizing international support for the Lebanese Armed Forces and enhancing its capabilities to maintain Lebanon's security and stability.



(From L) Jordan's King Abdullah II, France's President Emmanuel Macron and Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun pose before a meeting of the Aqaba process in support of the Lebanese armed forces at the Hotel des Invalides in Paris on 17 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

He warned of the consequences of Israel's escalation in southern Syria and reaffirmed Jordan's support for Syria's efforts to strengthen its security, stability and territorial sovereignty. The call also addressed ways to further enhance the strategic partnership between Jordan and the United States across various fields. — Xinhua

Japan opposition party Komeito selects new leader

FORMER longtime ruling coalition junior partner the Komeito party on Saturday formally selected Mitsunari Okamoto as its new leader, as it gears up for an extraordinary Diet session from next week under a new opposition parliamentary caucus.

Following approval at the party convention, House of Representatives lawmaker Okamoto, 61, replaced Toshiko Takeya, a senator who had led the party since January after its lower house lawmakers joined the opposition Centrist Reform Alliance that went on to split in September. Okamoto served as the CRA's policy chief. He was first elected to the lower house in 2012 and during the coalition years with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party he assumed posts including parliamentary vice minister at the Foreign Ministry. — Kyodo

Over 7,200 rescued from rubble in Iran

MORE than 7,250 people were pulled from the rubble alive in Iran during the 40-day war launched by the United States and Israel, an Iranian rescue official has said. Head of Iran's Red Crescent Society (IRCS) Pirhossein Kolivand made the remarks at a ceremony in Tehran on Thursday, where new rescue and relief vehicles and equipment were delivered to the organization, the Iranian Labour News Agency reported. Kolivand attributed the rescue achievement to using modern equipment in operations. He described the development of the IRCS's fleet and equipment in recent years as "unprecedented", adding that the organization has over six million volunteer members nationwide.

On 28 February Israel and the United States launched joint airstrikes on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region, and tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz. — Xinhua

Suspect in Flydubai onboard attack admitted intent to crash plane

A pilot suspected of assaulting a colleague on a flydubai flight has admitted he wanted to crash the plane in Israel, media reported, citing sources.

The suspect, identified as 29-year-old Hamam Al Hammami by multiple sources, had earlier been identified as a security risk, senior intelligence and law enforcement officials said, but had been allowed to continue working for Oman Air in 2024, and later had been somehow permitted to fly for flydubai, according to the report.

Al Hammami was transferred Thursday from Saudi Arabia to the United Arab Emirates.

On Wednesday, a flydubai aircraft en route from Dubai to Tel Aviv issued an emergency signal and made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. The airline later confirmed that a fight broke out between the pilots during the flight. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said one pilot stabbed the other and tried to crash the plane as it was approaching Israel.

The report also said a disaster was prevented when the flight's captain, Smit Machchhar, fought back and some passengers subdued the attacker. — SPUTNIK



A flydubai flight bound for Dubai is seen before taking off from Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on 30 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Global food prices hit four-year high in Sept: FAO

Climate disruptions and logistical bottlenecks significantly increased international shipping costs.

GLOBAL food prices rose in September to their highest level in nearly four years amid disruptions to logistics and concerns over weather conditions, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said Friday.

The FAO Food Price Index averaged 136.0 points in September, up from a revised 134.0 points in August and reaching its highest level since November 2022.

The FAO benchmarks for cereal, sugar and vegetable oil prices all increased last month, while meat and dairy prices declined.

FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero said disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and the Black Sea, combined with climate shocks, were putting pressure on energy, transport and key food commodities.

If sustained, such pressures could eventually be passed on to consumer food prices, particularly in countries dependent on food and energy imports, Torero said.

Concerns over a severe El Nino weather pattern pushed international sugar prices to an 18-month high, while disruptions to Black Sea trade amid the conflict drove wheat futures to a three-year peak in early September, according to the FAO.

The FAO forecast global cereal production in 2026 at 2.979 billion metric tonnes, broadly unchanged from its previous forecast. The figure is 2.1 per cent below the 2025 level but would still be the second-highest on record. — Xinhua



A farmer harvests wheat manually using a sickle in the countryside of Damascus, Syria, 30 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

G20 could become platform for discussing AI regulation

THE G20 could become a platform for discussing artificial intelligence regulation, Russia's G20 sherpa Denis Agafonov said.

"Yes, the G20 would probably be a suitable platform for discussion, since it consolidates different views and different points of view, and we could talk about this," Agafonov said at a press conference with Russian media correspondents in Washington, answering a question about whether the G20 could become a platform where an agreement on AI would be reached.



Russia G20 sherpa suggests multilateral forums can discuss artificial intelligence. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

The business track of Russia-US cooperation within the G20 has been paused, Denis Agafonov said.

"The business sector, the business track of cooperation within the G20, has to some extent been, one could say, paused," Agafonov said at a press conference with Russian media correspondents in Washington.

He expressed regret that an additional platform for contacts between business circles has ceased to operate within the G20. Such a platform could work, he added.

Agafonov took part in the third meeting of G20 sherpas, which was held on 1-2 October in Washington.

The US is preparing a concise but substantive document for the G20 summit in Miami, and its adoption would be a good sign that the association can develop a consolidated position, Agafonov said. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU says export curbs would damage trust

EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Friday welcomed a decision by the Group of Seven (G7) countries not to impose export bans on allies, and voiced support for an International Energy Agency (IEA)-coordinated release of fuel stocks.

"Our citizens need and deserve affordable energy," von der Leyen said in a social media X post following a virtual meeting of G7 leaders earlier in the day.

She said the G7 would closely coordinate towards that goal and welcomed "the decision of G7 countries not to impose any export bans on allies".

As to the IEA-coordinated G7 plan to release 100 million barrels of diesel and other oil reserves over the next four months, von der Leyen said the European Union (EU) supported the release, which would strengthen energy security.

Hours before the diesel release announcement, the European Commission publicly rejected the possibility of a US ban on diesel exports. — Xinhua

Türkiye, Iraq to expand cooperation in energy sector

TÜRKIYE and Iraq plan to activate joint working groups to advance projects in the energy sector, including extending the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline to Basra, Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said Friday.

After meeting with the Iraqi Oil Minister Basim Mohammed Khudhair in Ankara, Bayraktar said on social media platform X that the two sides discussed extending the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline to Basra province in southern Iraq and increasing its capacity, describing the plans as important for establishing a strong alternative to the Gulf region and the Strait of Hormuz.

The two countries also aim to expand the role of Türkiye's state-owned Turkish Petroleum Corporation beyond the Kirkuk oil fields to other fields across Iraq, the Turkish minister added. Iraq and Türkiye signed a one-year agreement on 1 August to boost crude oil exports through the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline, targeting a flow of 750,000 barrels per day. — Xinhua



A file picture shows Iraqi oil employee checking pipelines at the Bai Hassan oil field, west of the multi-ethnic northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Japan decision on lifting ban on US fresh potato imports may come earlier

JAPAN may reach a final decision on whether to lift its import ban on fresh US potatoes for uses other than potato chip production sooner than the two to three years initially expected, government and ruling party sources said Saturday.

The development comes amid growing US pressure as President Donald Trump seeks support from domestic farmers. Some Japanese government officials believe a decision could be reached in about a year, depending on how quickly the United States takes the steps required by Japan, the sources said. — Kyodo

US visa bonds apply to 50 countries, India excluded

THE United States has designated 50 countries whose citizens face visa bonds reaching up to US$20,000 for tourist and business visas, leaving India exempt from the mandate while encompassing South Asian nations such as Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

On Friday, the State Department released a revised list of nations whose nationals must post financial bonds upon qualifying for B1/B2 visas. Under this programme, individuals travelling on passports from the specified countries are required to deposit bonds valued at US$10,000, US$15,000 or US$20,000, with the exact figure fixed by a consular official during the visa interview, according to the State Department.

Holders of Indian passports remain exempt from this obligation. — ANI



Statue of Liberty is a structure located on Liberty Island in New York Harbour. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF PESTICIDE DISTRIBUTOR

Notice is hereby given that the distribution of the following pesticides manufactured by Ningbo Cycle Chemical Co., Ltd., China will be transferred from Golden Wish Agribusiness Co., Ltd. to Oakthar Phone Hlyan Company Limited.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Fun Valid	Validamycin 20% SP	Full	F2025-4886
2	Oxygame 23.5% EC	Oxyfluorfen 23.5% EC	Full	F2025-4905

Any person or organization having any objection to the transfer of the distribution of above-mentioned pesticides may submit a written objection to the Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Oakthar Phone Hlyan Company Limited.09 408 518 811

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (SB639A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRADER VOY. NO. (SB639A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2618S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2618S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XIN HUA YUAN VOY.NO. (BY80B0S89)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XIN HUA YUAN VOY.NO. (BY80B0S89)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3619S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3619S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML046)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML046)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-10-2026** 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 THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (039)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (039)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-10-2026** 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 ANDAMAN SEA GATEWAYS GROUP OF COMPANIES LIMITED

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



It aims to enable public and private organizations to adopt new technology. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

3 OCTOBER

Norway reaches agreement with labour, employer groups on workplace AI use

THE Norwegian government and eight labour and employer organizations reached an agreement to promote the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace while protecting employees' rights, according to a press release on Saturday by the government.

"Artificial intelligence can help us work more efficiently, create value and strengthen competitiveness," Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said. He said the agreement would help employers, employees and authorities develop solutions that also safeguard workers' rights.

Covering the period from 2 October 2026, to 31 December 2029, the agreement emphasizes employee participation and cooperation when introducing AI.

It aims to enable public and private organizations to adopt new technology while ensuring that the benefits are shared by businesses, employees and society. — Xinhua

2 OCTOBER

Swiss glaciers lose over 5% of ice

GLACIERS in the Swiss Alps suffered a "devastating" year due to intense heat and low snowfall, with their volume shrinking by more than five per cent, experts said Thursday.

The decline was the second-biggest annual loss since 1950, according to Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland. "Intense heatwaves from May to September, combined with a winter with little snow, led to another devastating year for the glaciers."

It added that the freezing level rose above 4,000 metres on a record 76 days during these months, more than twice the average, and that by September, no snow remained even at 3,500 metres above sea level.

Alpine glaciers have no chance of surviving in the long term under such conditions. — Xinhua

1 OCTOBER

Denmark unveils annual climate plan

DENMARK'S government released its annual climate program on Wednesday, warning that the projected margin for meeting its 2030 emissions reduction target had narrowed sharply.

The country is still expected to meet its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030. The projected margin has fallen to 0.4 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, down from 1.5 million metric tons in last year's assessment, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities said.

Climate, Energy and Utilities Minister Samira Nawa warned that even a few delays could wipe out the remaining margin, making closer monitoring of implementation essential. — Xinhua

30 SEPTEMBER

AI reshapes innovation investment

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is driving a rebound in venture capital and R&D spending, while a new generation of deep-science startups is turning frontier research into new industries, said the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO).

WIPO's Global Innovation Index 2026 (2026 GII) shows that Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, the Republic of Korea and Singapore lead the 2026 rankings. China, India, Vietnam, Türkiye, the Philippines, Morocco and Indonesia have climbed quickly over the past decade. According to the report, global R&D expenditure grew by more than 3.3 per cent in real terms in 2025 and is expected to reach US$3.4 trillion in 2026. Corporate R&D rose 5.8 per cent in 2025 to a record US$1.5 trillion, driven by software, AI and defense-related research.

"AI is opening new technological frontiers across all fields of science," said WIPO Director General Daren Tang.

Published annually, the WIPO GII ranks 139 economies on their innovation ecosystems using 79 indicators. — Xinhua

29 SEPTEMBER

Egypt stresses Red Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait security

EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty on Monday stressed the need to ensure freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait, stressing that their security is the responsibility of the Arab and African countries bordering them, according to an Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement.

Abdelatty made the remarks during a meeting in Cairo with UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg, during which they discussed the latest developments in Yemen and their repercussions on regional security, said the statement.

Abdelatty reaffirmed Egypt's support for Yemen's unity and legitimate national institutions, stressing the need for a peaceful solution to the crisis that would contribute to Yemen's stability. He also expressed Egypt's support for efforts to reach a comprehensive political solution that meets the aspirations of the Yemeni people and preserves the country's resources.

Yemen's conflict began in late 2014 when the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa and much of northern Yemen. — Xinhua

28 SEPTEMBER

China to complete Mars geologic map by end of 2028

CHINA plans to complete a new-generation geologic map of Mars by the end of 2028, aiming to reconstruct the red planet's watery past and introduce a Chinese system for dividing Martian geologic time.

Hou Zengqian, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and chief scientist of the Tianwen-3 Mars sample-return mission, revealed the plan at a symposium held Monday at the Institute of Geology under the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences.

Zhurong, the rover China landed on Mars in 2021 as part of its Tianwen-1 mission, has offered new clues to the planet's water history.

The project will primarily utilize the data from Tianwen-1. — Xinhua

27 SEPTEMBER

Climate disasters threaten Nepal's hydropower energy

NEPAL'S hydropower boom has long been touted as a cornerstone of economic growth and renewable energy, but the devastating flood in August exposed its vulnerability.

The disaster triggered by a glacial mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed more than 1,400 people and left thousands missing — while knocking 410 megawatts (MW), or about 10 per cent of the generation capacity, out of Nepal's power system.

More than 90 per cent of Nepal's electricity comes from hydropower, but extensive damage to its river projects has prompted questions about its energy security as climate and geological risks intensify.

Over the past decade, the Himalayan nation has increased hydropower output more than fourfold to about 4,120 megawatts. — AFP

SPORTS

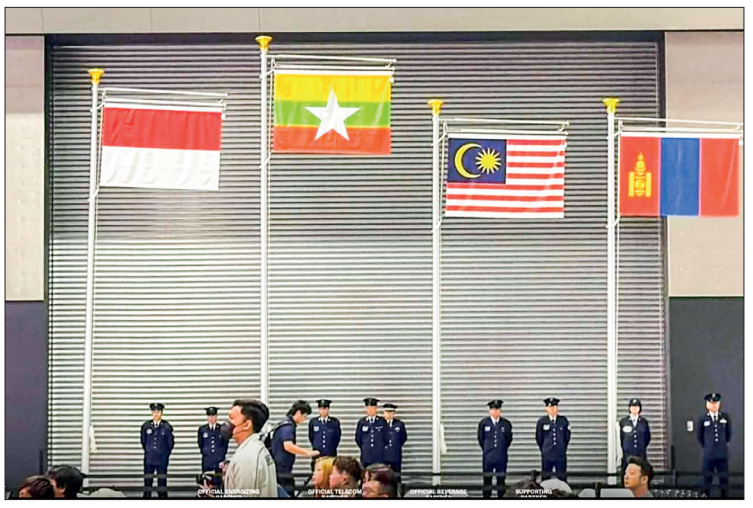
Myanmar ranks 22nd with four Asian Games medals

MYANMAR won two golds, one silver and one bronze – four medals in total – at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, ranking 22nd among the 45 participating countries.

Myanmar's second gold medal came from the national esports team in the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB) event. Myanmar defeated Indonesia 4-0 in the Grand Final to claim the title.

Myanmar's medals at the Games comprise one gold, one silver and one bronze in Teqball and one gold in esports.

With the latest results, Myanmar has secured more medals than at previous Asian Games and currently ranks 22nd in the medal standings. — TWA/KZL



The Myanmar flag flying at the venue during the Asian Games.

Asian Games: Olympic champion Fujinami's winning streak ends at 155 bouts

PARIS Olympic gold medallist Akari Fujinami lost in the women's 57-kilogramme wrestling semifinals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Saturday, snapping her roughly nine-year winning streak at 155 matches.

The 22-year-old Fujinami, who had not lost since September 2017, when she was in junior high school, was beaten by North Korea's Son Il Sim at Inae Sports Centre in Nagoya but went on to win bronze.

"My weakness showed," said Fujinami, who struggled from the first round before losing the crucial bout 10-0. "I'll take a look at myself from the basics and climb my way up. I'll definitely look to win the gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics."

Fujinami won her maiden world championship in the 53-kilogramme class in 2021, before adding another world title and Asian Games gold in 2023. — Kyodo

Asian Games: China claims first men's football medal in 28 years

CHINA took the men's football bronze medal at the 2026 Asian Games on Saturday, beating Uzbekistan 4-3 on penalties after the two sides drew 2-2 in regular time.

Goalkeeper Li Hao saved two penalties in the shootout before Peng Xiao converted the decisive spot kick.

The bronze marked China's first Asian Games medal in men's football in 28 years. It was also China's first medal in the event since the tournament adopted an under-23 format in 2002.

China lost 2-1 to South Korea in the semifinals, while Uzbekistan was beaten by Japan on penalties.

The match was the second meeting between China and Uzbekistan in a major continental tournament this year. In the quarterfinals of the AFC U23 Asian Cup in January, the two sides played out a 0-0 draw after extra time before China prevailed on penalties, with Li making a crucial save. – Xinhua

Myanmar U17 to Meet India in Friendlies Before AFC Qualifiers

THE Myanmar U17 and India U17 national teams, which are preparing for the 2027 AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers, will play two friendly matches in Yangon, with the first match scheduled for 3:30 pm today at Star City Stadium in Thanlyin.

The Myanmar U17 team will use the friendlies against India as part of its final preparations for the AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers, which are scheduled for November.

The Myanmar U17 squad for the AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers comprises 29 preliminary players selected from States and Regions and Myanmar football academies. Japanese head coach Koisuke is in charge of the team.



This photo shows Myanmar U17 players celebrating the victory. **PHOTO: MFF**

The players are also competing in the domestic M-League U20 competition under the name Galaxy to gain competitive experience.

The two friendly matches will be played on 4 and 7 October at the Sunset Venue of Star City Stadium in Thanlyin, Yangon. Myanmar and India also played two friendly matches in Yangon in early March, with India winning one and drawing one. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Asian Games: Japan breaks gold record with new wins in Sepak Takraw, padel

JAPAN surpassed its Asian Games gold medal record tally of 78 set in Bangkok 60 years ago on Saturday, highlighted by titles in Sepak Takraw and debutant padel.

The host nation also grabbed gold in staple sports such as judo and breaking at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, which are set to close on Sunday.

In Sepak Takraw, Japan defeated Indonesia 2-1 in the men's quadrant final, winning the country's first-ever gold medal in the sport. — Kyodo

Asian Games: China sweeps golf team golds as Kim, Urs take individual titles

CHINA swept the men's and women's golf team titles on Saturday at the 2026 Asian Games, securing its first gold medals in the sport, while South Korea's Kim Joo-hyung and India's Pranavi Urs won the men's and women's individual titles.

Yin Ruoning, Liu Yan and Zhang Weiwei won the women's team title with a four-round total of 538 strokes, eight ahead of India. Chinese Taipei took bronze. Liu shot a closing 66 and Yin a 67 to deliver China's first Asian Games golf gold.

Yin, 24, who had taken team bronze at the Asian Games in both 2018 and 2023, said the Asiad represented the highest level of competition in Asia. "Standing on top of the podium for the first time, watching our national flag raised and hearing our national anthem played, it's a breakthrough for Chinese golf. I hope this victory will also help the sport grow in China," she said. Ding Wenyi, Zheng Yunhe and Jin Zihao completed China's team double in the men's event with 532 strokes, two ahead of South Korea, while host Japan took bronze. — Xinhua



Gold medallists Team China (L), silver medalists Team India (L) and bronze medallists team Taiwan Province of China pose during the awarding ceremony for the women's team of golf at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Kasugai of Aichi Prefecture, Japan, 3 October 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Bulgaria's Tsar Samuel returns 'home' after 1,000 years

MORE than 1,000 years after his death, the remains of what may be Tsar Samuel, one of the last major rulers of the First Bulgarian Empire, are returning "home" on Saturday.

Greece and Bulgaria reached an agreement on their return this week, with Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev hailing the accord as "historic". The remains "belong to our two peoples", Radev said as he attended a ceremony to mark the return alongside Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Greece will in return receive 48 objects pillaged by Bulgarian troops from churches and monasteries in northern Greece during World War I. Samuel, who reigned from 997 to 1014, led several campaigns against the Byzantine Empire with his brothers, one of whom he later executed. He gradually extended his authority over a swathe of the Balkans, making the Lake Prespa and Lake Ohrid region, now mostly in North Macedonia, his powerbase.

But the Byzantines regained the upper hand after 1001, soundly defeating Samuel's army in 1014. Samuel is said to have died of shock when he saw thousands of his defeated soldiers returning home blinded by order of Byzantine emperor Basil II, known as the "Bulgar Slayer". — AFP

Remains of medieval ruler Tsar Samuel return to Bulgaria after centuries.



This photograph shows the reliquary of Saint Dionysius the Patriarch of Constantinople 1744 that are part of a collection of sacred artifacts returned to Greece from Bulgaria. **PHOTO: AFP**

Generative AI users in China exceed 700 million

Advanced domestic superclusters support continuous technological innovation.



Visitors look at the Sugon scaleX 10,000-card supercluster prototype displayed in the exhibition area at the World Intelligence Expo 2026 in North China's Tianjin on 30 May 2026. **PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES**

Users of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in China had surpassed 700 million in number by the end of June 2026, according to a report released on Tuesday.

The penetration rate of generative AI had exceeded 50 per cent, the report by the China Internet Network Information Center noted. There had been a diversified range of application scenarios for this technology, said the report, adding that the main scenario is to use generative AI as a conversation tool. A total of 76 per cent of users employed it to answer questions, it revealed.

Noting that the potential of consumption regarding intelligent technology, with purchases of smart devices as a representative, had been unleashed at a faster speed, the report said that 38.7 per cent of internet users bought smart devices online during the past six months.

China's first homegrown AI supercluster boasting 100,000 graphics processing units had been put into use, said the report, adding that this underpinned the country's independent innovation regarding AI. Generative AI had been empowering in-depth industrial transformation and upgrading, making various sectors smarter, said the report. — Xinhua

Hundreds attend New Zealand's biggest guinea pig show

CLAREMONT Girl Clash of Hearts took the coveted Best in Show title Saturday at New Zealand's National Guinea Pig Show, which drew hundreds of fans to see the coifed and combed cavies. Nearly 300 guinea pigs were paraded before crowds at Taupo's Great Lakes Centre, some of which had support guinea pigs in tow as they prepared for the show.

Competitors travelled from throughout New Zealand and the two judges flew in from England and the Czech Republic for the show. Judges closely examined each pig, looking at the colour and condition of their coat and their general health. Some of the competitors prepared their pigs for months, putting them on special diets and sometimes spending hours a day grooming to have them in the best shape possible.

The national champion, a black short-haired guinea pig hailing from Timaru on New Zealand's South Island, is owned by teenager Josh Wilson-Jones. — AFP

NY museum opens to media exhibition on manga

THE Brooklyn Museum in New York on Wednesday gave a media preview of an exhibition focusing on manga as an art form, featuring more than 600 original drawings by popular manga artists.

Conceived by the de Young Museum in San Francisco as a traveling exhibition, Art of Manga will open to the public from Saturday through 31 January. The Brooklyn Museum says it is rare for so many original manga drawings to be displayed together.

Art of Manga features booths dedicated to 10 manga artists, including Tetsuya Chiba and the late Fujio Akatsuka, described on the museum's website as "foundational manga artists", as well as Eiichiro Oda, creator of the hit series "One Piece", Rumiko Takahashi of the "Urusei Yatsura" series and Mari Yamazaki of "Thermae Romae".

Each booth highlights the featured artist's distinctive style, creative process and use of manga as a means of expression.

One of the exhibition's themes is to "showcase manga's immersive power and social impact", with support from Japanese publishers.

The exhibition was curated by Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere, emeritus professor at the University of East Anglia and deputy director general of the MOA Museum of Art in Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture. — Kyodo

The cultural event features historical drawings.



An exhibition space for Art of Manga is pictured at the Brooklyn Museum in New York on 30 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**