Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. XIII, No. 161, 1st Waning of Tawthalin 1388 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Sunday, 27 September 2026

Myanmar joins 4th Indo-Pacific Business Summit in India

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar participated in the 4th Indo-Pacific Business Summit held in Kolkata, India. The fourth Indo-Pacific Business Summit was jointly organized by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India at the Taj Bengal Hotel in Kolkata on 25 September.

During the panel discussion titled "Thought Leadership II: India and its Indo-Pacific Partners: Deepening Economic Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships," Myanmar Consul-General U Aung Aung Myo Thein participated as an honoured guest and speaker. SEE PAGE 3



This photo features participants attending the 4th Indo-Pacific Business Summit.

Pilgrims flock to Bagan pagodas on Tawthalin full moon



This photo shows pilgrims visiting the Htilominlo Pagoda in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

The Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone was bustling with visitors on the full moon day of Tawthalin, signalling the revival of the region's tourism season.

After a quiet rainy season, visitors began arriving in Bagan this week, with many coming to visit the area while attending the Popa Bodaw festival, and the site became active again with travellers yesterday.

"We are happy to see visitors returning to the area. It has only been a few days since visitors started arriving, and many of them are here to attend the Popa Bodaw festival. As the festival will be held SEE PAGE 3

UMFCCI Calls Business to Join Global Trade Fairs

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) is inviting businesspeople interested in participating in international trade fairs, according to the organization.

"We invite businesspeople who wish to participate in international trade fairs either as exhibitors or visitors. We continuously provide information about such events to our members," the joint secretary of UMFCCI said.

UMFCCI also provides ongoing support to domestic small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to promote their long-term development, expand market access and establish links with overseas business associations and entrepreneurs. — ASH/KZL



A glimpse of an international trade fair.

Hybrid Rice, Soybean Training Launches in Nay Pyi Taw

A 45-day technical training course aimed at enhancing Myanmar's agricultural sector and increasing food production capacity was launched in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 September for 62 agricultural officers and technicians. The course is jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM) and Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, with Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Co, Ltd responsible for conducting the training.



The opening ceremony of a 45-day technical training course on modern technologies for hybrid rice, soybean hybrid breeding and seed production.

The course will provide detailed training in hybrid rice technologies, soybean genetics and hybrid breeding, modern seed production methods and agricultural technologies needed to increase crop yields. SEE PAGE 3



NATIONAL

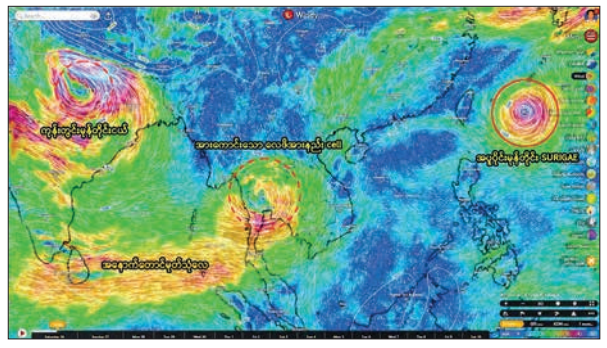
Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

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

Advertise
with us/ Hotline:
092555597511 , 09454237515

Heavy rain, floods and landslides warned in late Sept

THE low-pressure area forming in central Thailand and the stronger south-west monsoon will lead to heavy rain, floods, and landslides, as well as urban flooding in southern and central Myanmar between 27 and 29 September, said meteorologist U Win Naing.



The strong low-pressure area on 26 September.

According to IMD, TMD and weather model data on 26 September, the low-pressure area will move into Myanmar after passing the Thailand border.

It will lead to heavy rain in Kayin, Mon, Taninthayi and eastern and southern Bago as well as in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and southern Shan from 27 to 29 September.

People living near mountains or rivers are warned to stay alert for flash floods and landslides. Additionally, urban floods may occur in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady, he said.

Squalls and high waves may happen in the Andaman Sea and the coastal area, and fishery and marine vessels are alerted to pay close attention to weather updates. — MT/ZS

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 26 September 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few clouds over the North Bay and West Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure cell over Central Thailand near Bangkok persists over Central Thailand and adjoining northern Taninthayi Region and southern Kayin State. It is likely to move northwestwards and may cross northern Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states and reach over the North Andaman Sea during the next 24 hours. People should be aware of natural disasters such as heavy rainfall with strong winds, flash floods and landslides due to the impact of the low-pressure cell.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 27 SEPTEMBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing Region and Kachin and (northern and eastern)Shan states, scattered in Mandalay and Magway regions and Kayah, Chin, Rakhine and southern Shan states, fairly widespread in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with a likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and southern Shan states. In areas along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, 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: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 SEPTEMBER 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 SEPTEMBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 SEPTEMBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 83

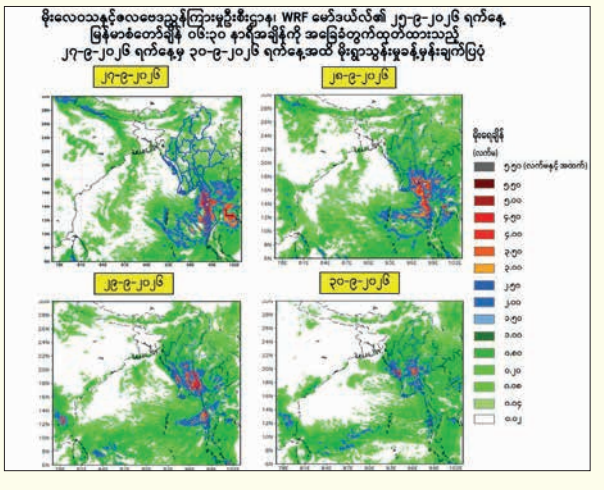
Issued at 8 am MST on 26 September 2026

ACCORDING to observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea, the reminant of low-pressure cell over the Thailand and the strong development of the convective clouds such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin and northern Shan states and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states from today morning to 30 September 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Rakhine Coast.

Advisory

People should be aware that, due to the unstable air conditions over the Andaman Sea, the remnant of a low-pressure cell over Thailand and the strong development of nvective clouds such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



NATIONAL

Pilgrims flock to Bagan pagodas on Tawthalin...

FROM PAGE 1

on 28 September, Bagan is expected to become busier with travellers from that day onward, as the Thadingyut travel season is beginning. We can say that tourism in Bagan is coming back to life. Bagan is peaceful, and the weather is pleasant, so we warmly invite travellers to visit," said secretary U Tin Hla Oo of the Htilominlo Pagoda.

On the full moon day, visitors also paid homage at Manuha Temple by offering alms, food, oil lamps and fruits, while local communities organized traditional performances and religious activities.

More than 12,000 visitors visited Shwezigon Pagoda, over 6,200 visited the Buu Pagoda, and more than 1,500 visited the Htilominlo Pagoda. Other major pagodas and temples also hosted domestic and some international visitors on the full moon day of Tawthalin.

The return of travellers has revived local tourism businesses and employment opportunities. Residents warmly invite visitors to explore Bagan's ancient temples, pagodas and cultural heritage sites. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Myanmar joins 4th Indo-Pacific Business Summit in India

FROM PAGE 1

During the discussion, views were exchanged on regional economic cooperation and strategic partnerships among the Consuls-General of Myanmar, Japan, Australia, Bangladesh and Nepal, as well as representatives from the ASEAN-India Business Council and Exide Industries.

Participation in international business summits of this kind helps promote Myanmar's economic policies and favourable trade and investment potential among the regional business community. Such participation also contributes to strengthening international economic diplomacy and promoting foreign investment and tourism in Myanmar through mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, according to reports. — ASH/TH

Hybrid Rice, Soybean Training Launches in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE 1

Chinese Embassy Counsellor Mr Ouyang Daobing said China would help enhance Myanmar's food production capacity by sharing its experience in agriculture and hybrid rice technology. — TWA/KNN

Ashes of late Chanmyay Sayadaw set adrift at confluence of Pazundaung Creek, Yangon River and Bago River

A ceremony to set adrift the ashes of the Venerable Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa, aged 99 and 79 vasa, the Presiding Patron of Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, was held yesterday morning at Suvarnabhumi Event Park on Thanthuma Road in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.



Ceremony sets adrift ashes of Chanmyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa aboard Royal Green River vessel at Yangon's river confluence.

The venerable Sayadaw served as the State Ovadacariya, Rattannyu Maha Nayaka of the Shwegyin Nikaya, Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika, Aggamaha Kammathanacariya, Pali Pativisodhaka of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, and was a recipient of the Sakkyasiha and Government Siripavara Dhammacariya titles.

The ceremony was attended by Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Administrator of Bahan's Maha Withokdayon Shwegyin New Monastery, Bhaddanta Sirikancana Bhivamsa; Rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Bhaddanta Chekinda; Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita; and members of the Sangha, nuns at home and abroad, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, regional ministers, and disciples.

Venerable Sayadaws, the Union minister and regional ministers sprayed the ashes and bones which remained after incineration with the coconut sap and kept the ashes in the golden and silver urns, which were conveyed onto the decorated float.

The urns were conveyed along a route passing through Thingangyun, Mingala Taungnyunt, Botahtaung and Kyauktada townships where disciples paid homage to the ashes of the late Chanmyay Sayadaw.

Members of the Sangha, the Union minister and party conveyed the urns and golden bags onto the throne aboard the Royal Green River vessel.

At the confluence of Pazundaung Creek, Yangon River and Bago River, the SSMNC Joint-Secretary honoured the Pariyatti and Paripatti capabilities of the late Sayadaw and shared merits dedicated to the Sayadaw.

The Union minister and party set adrift the urns and golden bags of ashes of the late Chanmyay Sayadaw in the water.

After the ceremony, members of the Sangha were offered a day meal aboard the vessel. — MNA/TTA

Crackdown targets black market tickets for Myitkyina flights

DEPUTY Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing has called for public cooperation to take action against ticket agents who have raised prices for flights to Myitkyina.

During a meeting of the third Amyotha Hluttaw's third regular session on 25 September, MP U Nyunt Win from Myitkyina constituency raised questions regarding the control of the illegal ticket market.


An MAI plane with its passengers at Myitkyina airport.

In an effort to eliminate illegal ticket-selling activities in Myitkyina, Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) and Air Than Lwin have changed their ticketing services. Since July 2026, they have been directly selling tickets at their branches and official websites, rather than through agents.

The deputy minister stated that Myanmar Airways International (MAI), Mingala Aviation Services, and Mann Yadanapon Airlines (MYP) adopted this system in August. Currently, five airlines operate flights to Myitkyina, and additional flights are being scheduled for Wednesdays and Fridays to provide more convenient air travel.

The deputy minister noted that ticket prices for flights from Mandalay to Myitkyina fluctuate based on updates in fuel prices. — TWA/ZS

NATIONAL

Threats to maritime security must also be considered as national security issue

THE Tatmadaw (Navy) must be built as a navy capable of keeping abreast of regional navies by adopting strategic plans with consideration of possible maritime threats and conflict issues in addition to the maritime security sector, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from Yangon Command, Thanlyin and Dala stations at the Thanlyin station hall yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the General underlined that the Tatmadaw (Navy) must be powerful and strong to be able to protect Myanmar's waters.

He noted that it is necessary to faithfully combat illegal trade and drug trafficking activities in the waters of the State as a national duty.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo is pictured during his meeting with Tatmadaw personnel.

The General urged that it is necessary to remain prepared and conduct training with the objectives of fully safeguarding sovereignty and territorial waters within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the nation, effectively performing maritime security duties to ensure the security and smooth flow of maritime trade, providing disaster relief, and protecting the national interests of the State in the offshore areas.

The General pointed out that commanders and officials need to manage their subordinate Tatmadaw members correctly and fairly, and ensure that the subordinates remain faithful, obedient and disciplined.

With regard to discipline, the General expressed his vow that acts of betrayal, operational misconduct and involvement in drugs within the Tatmadaw are absolutely unacceptable and cannot be forgiven. Betrayal includes not only betraying the State and the Tatmadaw but also betraying one's family, and effective action will be taken against such cases.

After the meeting, the General, his wife and party cordially greeted the Tatmadaw members and their families.

Also present at the meeting were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of the Yangon Command, and officials.

The General and his wife planted a Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) sapling in the yard of the Naval Training Command Headquarters. — MNA/TTA

Yangon unveils South Dagon Mall

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo attended the opening ceremony of the newly constructed South Dagon Mall at the corner of the Bayintnaung Road and No 7 Highway, near the Myanmar Thagaung War Veteran Housing (Laydauntkan), yesterday.

After the ceremonial procedures, the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Executive Committee chairman explained the establishment of South Dagon Mall, and he presented commemorative gifts to the General.

The General then posed for a documentary photo with attendees and observed shops in the mall.

Located at the corner of the Bayintnaung Road and No 7 Highway, the South Dagon Mall is a three-storey reinforced-concrete building developed to provide shopping and employment opportunities for housing residents and local communities.

The mall includes furniture shops, restaurants, electrical appliance stores, minimarts, clothing and cosmetics shops, jewellery stores and banks. It also features a cinema, escalators and a solar power system designed to reduce electricity consumption. — MNA/KTZH



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo sprinkles scented water onto the plaque of the South Dagon Mall.

100th pair receive kidney transplant at Aungban's Tatmadaw Hospital



The 40th kidney transplant operation is in progress at the Tatmadaw Hospital in Aungban on 25 and 26 September.

THE 40th kidney transplant operation, marking the 100th pair, was successfully performed at the Tatmadaw Hospital in Aungban on 25 and 26 September.

After the operation, both the patient and the kidney donors' health is improving, and they are receiving necessary medical care.

Kidney transplant surgeries are also performed at Tatmadaw hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, PyinOoLwin and Aungban. The Aungban Tatmadaw Hospital began performing kidney transplants on 28 January 2022, and has now completed 100 pairs, including the current four pairs. — MNA/KTZH

Gold Market Rate as of 26 September 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,130,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.



The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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

Employers, workers urged to cooperate amid false information

UNION Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe urged employers and workers to cooperate in maintaining factory operations, workplace stability and employment opportunities, while remaining aware of false information being spread by persons residing abroad with the aim of reducing factory orders and causing closures and job losses.

The Union minister made the remarks at a coordination meeting held at Kanaung Hall in Hlinethaya (East) Township yesterday.

He said the Ministry of Labour is closely monitoring the situation to help ensure stable employment and peaceful workplaces. The employers should address workers' rights and concerns, and the employees also should follow workplace rules and cooperate to prevent the loss of orders.



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe meets representatives of employees and employers from industrial zones in Hlinethaya (East) Township yesterday.

He also said that resolving issues through dialogue between employers and workers would help maintain long-term workplace stability. Representatives of employers, workers and industrial zones also raised current difficulties, and the Union minister coordinated the discussion. —MNA/KTZH

Hpa-an hosts Kayin State Peace and Development Forum 2026



The Kayin State Peace and Development Forum 2026 in progress at the Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an yesterday.

UNDER the motto "Building Peace Hand in Hand, Implementing Development Together", the Kayin State Peace and Development Forum 2026, attended by representatives from various sectors and organizations, was held yesterday morning at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an.

The two-day forum, to be held from 26 to 27 September, will feature group discussions on four papers concerning peace and development, followed by discussions and recommendations on future work programmes.

The forum was attended by Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, members of the Union Advisory Council, leader of the advisory team of the National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiation Committee U Aung Min, individuals who have participated in peace efforts, the State Hluttaw Speaker, the State Chief Justice, the State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Commander of the South-East Command, state ministers, representatives of political parties, departmental officials, Hluttaw representatives, officials from peace organizations, religious leaders, industrialists, town elders, officials from ethnic literature and culture associations, ethnic representatives, participating scholars, university, degree college and institute students, teachers, civil society organization representatives, and young men and women.

At the forum, the State Chief Minister said that the forum provided an important opportunity to deepen understanding of peace, build mutual trust, preserve and promote the national identity and cultural heritage of ethnic groups, and formulate practical approaches to the socioeconomic development of the region. He added that the discussions and recommendations emerging from the forum would produce beneficial results for peace and development in Kayin State and genuinely contribute to improving the socioeconomic well-being of the people.

Similarly, U Aung Min, leader of the advisory team of the National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiation Committee, as well as other prominent stakeholders in peace-building efforts, shared their knowledge and experiences on the peace process.

Likewise, representatives from Kyain-Seikkyi, Kawkareik and Papun townships presented the views and aspirations of conflict-affected people from different areas of Kayin State concerning the reduction and cessation of conflicts. Dr Soe Soe Aye, Rector of Hpa-an University and representative of Group 1, presented a paper on stopping armed conflicts and building a peaceful society in Kayin State. U Win Naing, Director of the State Rural Development Department and representative of Group 2, presented and discussed a paper on rehabilitation, job creation and regional development for conflict-affected people in Kayin State. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/TH



The pagoda board of trustees and devotees hold a Garudhamma Day ceremony at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday.

Shwedagon hosts Garudhamma Day

A ceremony marking the full moon day of Tawthalin, known as Garudhamma Day, was held at the designated areas of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony included offerings of alms, fruits, flowers, water, lights and incense to the pagoda, recitation of Gathas and the Five Garudhamma Precepts, and a question-and-answer session on the significance of the day.

A religious ceremony was also held during which the pagoda board of trustees and devotees received the Nine Precepts, offered robes and donations to monks, listened to a sermon and shared religious merits.

The pagoda board of trustees donated day meals to Ovadacariya Sayadaw and monks. The pagoda platform was also crowded with pilgrims on the full moon day of Tawthalin. — MNA/KTZH

Falam conducts weekly cleanup campaign

AS rehabilitation work continues in Falam, Chin State, departmental teams are conducting weekly cleanup activities to maintain a clean, pleasant and attractive urban environment in line with the city's characteristics.

Yesterday morning, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, together with Chin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Win Zaw Oo and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the cleanup activities along Vankao Road in Cinmual Ward, where roadside bushes were cleared, and along Taungzalat Road, where rubbish was removed.

The team also inspected collective cleaning activities along the stairway and within the precincts of the Yanpyay Manpyay Naingngan Aye Aungtawmu Pagoda. The Deputy Minister provided supplies to 256 personnel from local police, fire services and departmental teams who participated in the voluntary cleanup activities.

Yesterday, the deputy minister and his team visited the Saint Joseph Self-Reliant Preschool in Phahtauk Ward and observed the provision of nutritious meals to preschool children. They also donated financial assistance and teaching aids provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to the preschool through responsible officials.

The team then inspected rehabilitation work at the district office building and staff housing of the Fisheries Department, as well as renovation work at the district office building of the Bureau of Special Investigation. They coordinated with relevant officials to address requirements, according to the report. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

20 September

VP U Nyo Saw receives Guangzhou Mayor, Guangxi Governor

Vice-President U Nyo Saw received Guangzhou Mayor Mr Sun Zhiyang of Guangdong Province and met Mr Wei Tao, Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

21 September

President pays homage to remains of Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla paid homage to the remains of Presiding Patron of Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery from Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, State Ovadacariya, Maha Nayaka of Shwegyin Nikaya, Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika, Aggamaha Kammathanacariya, Pali Pativisodhaka of the Sixth Buddhist Synod, Sakkyasiha and Government's Siripavara Dhammacariya Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa, aged 99 and 79 vasa, passed away at 11:03 am on 19 September.

22 September

President gives keynote address at agricultural forum

President U Min Aung Hlaing attended and delivered a comprehensive keynote address at the opening ceremony of the national-level workshop titled "From Agricultural Development to National Productivity Growth", held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

23 September

VP attends PRC founding reception

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

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Japanese Lower House Member

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi received a delegation led by Japanese House of Representatives member, Honourable Mr Hiromichi Watanabe, at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

24 September

President meets region and state chief ministers

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing met the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and chief ministers of regions and states at the President's Office.

National-Level Nuclear Energy Implementation Supervisory Committee meets

President U Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the inaugural meeting of the National-Level Nuclear Energy Implementation Supervisory Committee in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar Information Team issues press release

As Time Magazine is regarded as a reputable media outlet, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar decided to receive Journalist Charlie Campbell and to have an interview with him. But Time Magazine and the journalist Charlie Campbell have published an article contrary to established media ethics and the initial agreement made between the concerned parties. As the writing and publication by journalist Charlie Campbell of Time Magazine are contrary to journalistic ethics, the Information Team of Myanmar has denounced his actions in this regard.

President's Exclusive Interview with Time Magazine

President U Min Aung Hlaing responded to questions from Charlie Campbell, journalist for Time Magazine, at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

26 September

Final rites held for Chanmyay Sayadaw

The final rites of the late Chanmyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janaka Bhivamsa took place at Chanmyay Yeiktha Monastery. It was attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing. — GNLM/TTA

Myanmar MSME (Cluster) Footwear Entrepreneurs Federation opens new temporary office

A new temporary office of the Myanmar MSME (Cluster) Footwear Entrepreneurs Federation was opened in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon, yesterday.

The office aims to connect footwear businesses across regions and states, encourage more entrepreneurs to join the federation, and support the expansion of domestic footwear production and employment opportunities.



An opening event of temporary office of the Myanmar MSME (Cluster) Footwear Entrepreneurs Federation underway in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon, yesterday.

"We are a Myanmar MSME Cluster Footwear Manufacturers Federation, comprising footwear manufacturers, distributors, retailers and raw-material producers. Imported footwear currently dominates about 75 per cent of Myanmar's market, while local producers account for only 25 per cent. With imported footwear now restricted, domestic demand has increased, but local production capacity is still unable to fully meet demand. We are working to increase production with support from the Yangon Region Government," said U Kan Nyunt, president of the federation.

The opening ceremony was attended by federation officials, regional Hluttaw representatives and relevant officials. — Kyaw Gyi/KTZH

Advertise with us/ Hotline: ☎ 09 454237515, 09 255597511

Awareness talk on smoke, haze and environmental conservation held



The awareness talk on smoke, haze and environmental conservation in progress in Dala Township, Yangon Region, on 26 September 2026.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an awareness talk on smoke, haze and environmental conservation in Kyweluaing Village, Dala Township, yesterday.

Dala Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw San Chaw Chaw Khin gave a presentation on environmental conservation, explaining ways to reduce smoke and haze, proper waste disposal practices, air pollution and indoor pollution, diseases arising from environmental and indoor pollution, preventive measures, and recommended practices. Department staff also discussed the benefits of reducing plastic bag use, different types of waste and environmental conservation measures.

Township-level departmental officials, village elders and residents of Kyweluaing Village attended the event, during which responsible officials provided explanations and answers to questions raised by the attendees. — Thaw Zin Htoo (Rural)

NATIONAL

MTF discusses proposal budget earmarked for destination branding

THE Myanmar-ASEAN Tourism Promotion Task Force under the Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) held its 1/2026 coordination meeting virtually on 22 September to draft financial allocations for promoting the ASEAN regional tourism market.

The meeting highlighted drafting the minimum required budget for the upcoming six-month period through 31 March and an estimated budget for the following year.

Approximately 35 per cent of the proposed budget was suggested to be allocated primarily for destination branding activities. Furthermore, the task force agreed to prioritize promotion efforts in ASEAN countries with direct flight connections and strong outbound travel, including Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Singapore.

The collection of tourism data from ASEAN countries and detailed financial allocations will be discussed further at the second meeting. — NN/KK

Import permits granted for 34 EVs through old-vehicle swap scheme

IMPORT permits for 34 electric vehicles (EVs) will be issued this month under the vehicle replacement scheme, according to the Ministry of Commerce.



This image displays imported EVs at the port.

Applications were submitted by owners who handed over their old vehicles to the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) in exchange for the right to import replacement EVs.

Permits will be issued this month for EVs that meet the specified criteria. Applications for replacement EVs from the remaining vehicles handed over to RTAD will continue to be reviewed and approved in due course.

The Ministry of Commerce announced the old-vehicle disposal and EV replacement scheme on 28 May 2026. The scheme was introduced in response to concerns over ageing vehicles, which consume more fuel, waste public funds, are more prone to accidents due to structural weakness, and emit higher levels of exhaust that pollute the environment. — TWA/KK

Tenders invited for 4 businesses at Taunggyi hot-air balloon festival

THE Financial Supervision Committee of the Shan State Internal Revenue Department has invited competitive tenders for four businesses to operate at the annual Taunggyi Traditional Hot Air Balloon Festival. Shan State government annually organizes the festival, which is set for 18 through 24 November 2026 at the Awaiya Balloon Ground in Taunggyi. The four businesses are shop stalls; popup markets; mobile vendors; ferris wheel; children's playground; soft play areas; parking services; and restroom facilities.



Festival-goers cheer as hot-air balloons ascends during the sixth-day of Taunggyi Tazaungdine at Awayar Balloon Field in Taunggyi. **PHOTOS: SHAN STATE IPRD**

Tender forms have been available since 25 September during office hours. The submission deadline is 4:30 pm on 7 October.

Forms can be collected from and submitted to the Financial Supervision Committee Office. Bids will be opened at 9:30 am on 8 October at Meeting Hall 2 of the Shan State government.

Companies wishing to install advertising billboards or telecommunication companies seeking to deploy temporary mobile towers must also contact the committee.

Late submissions and applications not meeting the specified criteria will not be accepted. Interested individuals can enquire for further details through the Financial Supervision Committee at 09 792733356, 09 402576283, 09 445131692, or 09 261746199 during office hours. — NN/KK

Oil millers eligible for development loans up to K500M

THE Oil Mill Development Loan Management Task Force has announced that oil millers can now apply for development loans with a five per cent interest rate per annum to upgrade and install modern equipment in existing oil mills, build new modern oil mills and fund business operations. Loan amounts are set from K10 to a maximum of K500 million for working capital with a one-year loan term, and K20 million to K500 million for fixed capital with a three-year loan term (one-year grace period and twoyear repayment with four instalments every six months). Under the guidance of the government, the committee is offering lowinterest loans from the Edible Oil Mill Development Loan Fund established with capital from the State Economic Promotion Fund through the Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, and 14 private banks including KBZ Bank, AYA Bank, uab Bank, Myanmar Apex Bank, Myanmar Citizens Bank, Myanmar Oriental Bank, Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank, SME Development Bank, Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank, Shwe (Rural and Urban) Development Bank, Mineral Development Bank, Myanmar Tourism Bank, Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank, and Myanmar Metro Bank. Applicants must have an operating oil mill with a valid business licence. They must provide immovable property or farmland ownership certificates (Form 7) as collateral. Borrowers with existing loans from state or private banks can apply only if they can provide separate collateral. Priority will be given to holders of FDA certificates, smallscale industry registration certificates, and members of Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association or Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association. Application forms are available at the respective offices of the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, all branches of MEB, all branches of MADB, 14 private banks, Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association or Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association in the Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states. Application forms can also be downloaded from the Ministry of Finance and Taxation: www.mofr.gov.mm, DISI: https://msmewebportal.gov.mm, MEOMA: http://www.meoma.org, MEODA: http://meoda.myanmarwebtraining.com/, MEB: www.meb.gov.mm and MADB: www.madb.gov.mm. — NN/KK

OPINION

Encouraging education sector to develop human resources

All citizens have the chance to pursue education and acquire knowledge and skills. To ensure access to employment opportunities, systematic and appropriate standards must be established, and suitable employment opportunities should be available in accordance with educational qualifications and levels of academic achievement. Everyone should work together to ensure that the required educational levels and qualifications are met for respective occupations.

Only when employment opportunities, salary scales and opportunities for promotion are appropriately aligned with the educational levels attained can young people confidently achieve their aspirations. To develop the skilled and capable human resources needed by Myanmar, relevant ministries are providing not only academic education but also subject-specific training, refresher courses and multiplier training courses tailored to employees' qualifications, skills and competencies.

These students need not only to genuinely acquire the academic knowledge taught at basic education schools and institutions of higher education, such as universities and colleges, but teachers must also place emphasis on providing education that enhances students' general knowledge and social awareness, while ensuring that they genuinely acquire an education. At the higher education level, students must fulfil the requirements for courses and examinations prescribed for each academic year, as well as the requirements for research and academic papers.

By combining academic qualifications with quality-enhancement training, greater opportunities and career prospects can be provided not only for relevant occupations but also for the development of human resources. This will enable qualified human resources to contribute to their own interests and the development of the country across various sectors where they are needed. At present, while the State is making efforts to develop and improve public schools, it is also recognizing the private education sector in accordance with policies and in line with the democratic system.

These students need not only to genuinely acquire the academic knowledge taught at basic education schools and institutions of higher education, such as universities and colleges, but teachers must also place emphasis on providing education that enhances students' general knowledge and social awareness, while ensuring that they genuinely acquire an education. At the higher education level, students must fulfil the requirements for courses and examinations prescribed for each academic year, as well as the requirements for research and academic papers.

Therefore, in order to enrich students' knowledge and general understanding, it is necessary to provide basic education schools with the books, publications and various educational materials appropriate to students' ages and educational levels. Just as such resources are being provided in the public education sector, efforts should also be made in the private education sector, in line with relevant policies, to create opportunities and foster habits of reading books and literature that broaden knowledge and understanding.

In order to produce the quality human resources, both the public and private education sectors must make concerted efforts from all sides and across all sectors to ensure that students not only attain the prescribed levels of education but also become well-educated individuals with broad knowledge and understanding.

BOOKRACK

POEM



Book Title	-	Voices from Chernobyl
Translator	-	Nyunt Wai (Medical Science)
Publishing House	-	Myanmar Heritage
Publication Date	-	June 2026 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K9,500

Voices from Chernobyl

THIS book, which spotlights personal accounts of tragedy through monologues, won the Nobel Prize in 2015. The original author, journalist Svetlana Alexievich, spent a decade meeting and interviewing more than 500 eyewitnesses, including firefighters, cleanup workers, politicians, doctors, physicists, and ordinary citizens. It is a heartbreaking reality and a documentary book of testimonies.

On 26 April, 1986, the worst accident in history occurred at the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl (then part of the Soviet Union), now in Ukraine, contaminating as much as three-quarters of Europe's atmosphere. Four out of five people suffered from radiation exposure. It is written based on the real-life event in which many lives were lost, and hundreds of thousands of people were relocated.

The author did not reference contemporary media coverage of the nuclear disaster, domestic and foreign books and documents, research papers by scholars, and reports by government organizations. She approached those who had directly faced that heartbreaking catastrophe using her journalistic skills, recording and confirming their accounts through their own words. Therefore, one notices that terms such as Voices/ Oral history are used in her book.

English-to-Myanmar translator, U Nyunt Wai (Medical science), has also worked on unravelling Genetics (translation), 50 Rhyme Schemes with Headphones and Chalk in the poetry book under the pen name Nyo Aung Thant, and Rain and Flame (translation of Aliss at the Fire by Jon Fosse). In this book, he directly translated important statements and concisely extracted and translated supporting statements. A book reviewer said that he translated such a terrifying, heart-wrenching, heartbreaking, and unsettling disaster concisely and comprehensively by keeping factual data only as a backdrop and portraying the humane feelings, sympathy, love, and compassion of people affected by the nuclear disaster. He was able to convey anti-nuclear and nuclear-war-prevention desires so that they linger in readers' hearts.

The chapter "A Lonely Human Voice" begins with "We are air, we are not earth"

(M Mamardashvili). What should I say? I don't know. Is it about death? About love? Are those two the same? What should I talk about? We had only been married a short while, still lovey-dovey. We were going everywhere arm in arm. Even going to the store, we went hand in hand. And I'll say, I love you. But how much I loved you, I didn't know at that time. We lived in the fire station staff quarters where we worked. On the second floor. There were three other couples. The kitchen was shared. On the first floor were trucks and red fire engines. Since that was his job, I always knew what was happening, where he was, how he was. One night, I heard sounds. I opened the window to look. They saw me.

In this book, booklovers will read the translator's note, historical notes, preface_ A Lonely Human Voice; Part 1: The Land of the Dead about what can be said with the living and the dead, about inscribing a whole life on a door leaf, about a song without words; Part 2: The Land of the Living about omens that appeared long ago, about a moonlit road, the chorus of the people; Part 3: Amazed in Grief about what we do not know, can the flower of death bloom so beautifully?, about the shovel and the atom, about expensive salami, the chorus of children; and A Lonely Human Voice in conclusion.



Book Title	-	Pulitzer or The Front-Page Pioneer
Translator	-	Tun Thit (Myanmar Translation)
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	August 2026 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K15,000

Pulitzer, or The Front-Page Pioneer

"PULITZER, or The Front-Page Pioneer" is a biographical book featuring the life story of Joseph Pulitzer, who rose from a Hungarian immigrant to a prominent icon of the American newspaper industry. The original work, Joseph Pulitzer: Front Page Pioneer, was written by the Canadian-born American author Iris Noble and falls into the Young Adult Biography category. It has also been translated into up to five languages.

This edition was translated into Myanmar by Tun Thit. Having authored nearly 500 miscellaneous articles and over 40 books, Saya Tun Thit is currently an honoured, venerated senior literary figure within the Myanmar Writers Association.

In his preface, the translator remarked:

"While it is true that this book is a biography, it can just as well be enjoyed as a work of fine fiction. It may also be regarded as an informative text on journalism, or as an inspiring self-improvement guide that offers moral fortitude toward achieving success through self-reliance. It could fairly be said that Pulitzer was a guiding star pointing the way towards pioneering sensational journalism for papers such as England's The Daily Mirror, as well as Myanmar's Bamakhit, Ahtauktaw, The Mirror (Kyemon), and various news journals. In truth, Joseph Pulitzer was a celebrated giant in world journalism – a pioneer who revolutionized newspapers by designing them from the front cover to the back to be sensational, prioritizing news that would capture intense public interest and stir widespread sensation."

The core narrative of the book presents Pulitzer's journey through five key phases:

At age 17, Pulitzer arrived in America from Hungary. He had no money, no friends, and could not yet speak English. He enlisted in the Union Army to fight against slavery. After the war, unable to find work in New York, he walked on foot to Saint Louis. There, he worked an array of jobs, including hostler, deckhand, waiter, and mail clerk; he studied and successfully passed the bar exam.

After passing the bar at age 21, Pulitzer impressed Carl Schurz, proprietor of the Westliche Post in Saint Louis, with his sharp intellect and persistence, earning a job as a reporter. Pulitzer's concise, incisive writing style established a new standard in journalism, and he placed strong emphasis on objective reporting.

He subsequently acquired the failing Saint Louis Post and merged it with the Dispatch to found the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch. Moving later to New York, he purchased The World. Within just two years, it surpassed the well-established The New York Times, Tribune, Herald, and The Sun in popular circulation. Readers will discover how he left an invaluable legacy to the world of journalism.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the American newspaper landscape was undergoing a major transformation. Pulitzer was at the forefront of transforming newspapers into an affordable, accessible medium for the general public. He committed himself fully to exposing corruption and earned enduring renown for championing the freedom of the press. This work reflects not only Pulitzer's personal life, but also the historic role played by his newspaper enterprise.

It stands as an essential biographical read for anyone interested in the history of journalism and mass media.

The Mark of Wisdom

By Min Min Zan

Not found in books or titles bright,
But shown in deeds that make things right;
To question pride and change our way,
And choose compassion every day.

Faith gives us hope when skies are grey,
While reason helps us find the way;
With kindness joined to thoughtful mind,
A wiser heart is born and kind.

From every wound, a lesson grows,
Yet wisdom never adds more woes;
It lives through what we do and give –
Not what we claim, but how we live.

On the grounds of prideful arrogance

By Tin Moe, Translated by Myint Zan

on this sort of land
when one sows (only) the plant
with 'I' (and I)
the buds are not
the usual ones:
they are poisonous buds

when such flowers aged,
yellowed
and drop (to the ground)
they are companionless
being abandoned
on the land of pride
they are all piled up

Composed on 8 December 1965 (Translated on 25 September 2026)

သိပ္ပံဆရာနှင့်တွေ့ဆုံခြင်း

Meeting Science Teacher

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

From the blue sky
Though a fallen star is seen,
Anywhere on the ground
It is really difficult to find.

From the brown forest
Though a cuckoo singing is heard,
Anywhere the sound comes from
It is really difficult to find.
Budding in the evening
The first jasmine of outstanding beauty
In what period of time blooming
It is really difficult to find.

The star, the bird and the flower
Where and when in the world
Is found difficult and pensive,
But the branching bud of love
In the heart of a nest
Certainly, getting to awesomely open
Has been discovered to enlighten.

NATIONAL
Entertainment

6 artists lead HEXAGON arts exhibition



A group art exhibition titled "HEXAGON", featuring works by six artists — Aung Si Thu Hlaing, Min Zaw, Walone, Bagyi Lynn Wunna, Cho San Lin and Thu Ra Kyaw — is being held at Myanmar Ahla Gallery.

The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 5 pm from 26 to 30 September at 36, Maha Bandoola Park Road (Lower Block), corner of Bank Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

"Bringing together the works of six artists, the exhibition connects their distinct artistic expressions through the language of art. We warmly invite everyone to visit Myanmar Ahla Gallery and experience the diverse emotions conveyed through the artworks," a gallery official said. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Academy star donates K1M for MMPO honouring events



ACADEMY Lwin Moe donated K1 million on 14 September for the 106th Myanmar Motion Pictures Day and the 49th annual honouring ceremony for veteran film artistes, scheduled for 13 October, according to MMPO Chair Academy Kyi Soe Tun.

Altogether 160 veteran film artistes will be honoured this year, with some also receiving visits and tributes at their homes after the ceremony, the MMPO chair said. — ASH/KTZH



Strings of Glory Piano Competition 2026

THE "Strings of Glory Piano Competition 2026" will be held for piano enthusiasts, with renowned pianists Myo Naing, Dr Myo Naing and Htwavi Nan Hseng Aung serving as judges.

The competition will feature five levels, from Level 1 to Level 5, with prizes awarded according to each level. Top prizes will include gold and cash awards, with the Level 5 first prize amounting to one tical of gold and the second prize to K2.5 million. — TWA/KTZH



Writer Aung Hmue (aka) U Soe Myint passes away

WRITER Aung Hmue (aka) U Soe Myint, husband of writer Mi Chan Wai, died at the age of 75 at Sanpya Hospital in Yangon at 12:48 am on 24 September.

He was active in literary writing and worked as an editor for several magazines. His funeral service was held at Yayway Cemetery at 3 pm on 26 September. — TWA/KTZH

Reading session on veteran writer's Youth, Life and Values held



A reading session on veteran writer Aung Thin's "Youth, Life and Values" was held at the Community Centre of the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township on 21 September.

Writers and attendees Sayama Mi Shwe Moe (Yangon), Sayama Hlaing May Thit Oo Kyi, Sayama Zaw Ma (poetry), Saya Kyaw Zin Win (Mayangon), Saya Tekkatho Han Min Oo, and Sayama Nan Wi (Pyu Padee) discussed and shared views on the book, with writer Khin Maung Htay (Education) leading the discussion. — TWA/KTZH



Senior actress praises young director

YOUNG director Min Set Thit said he was pleased by actress Ma Phway Phway's words of praise despite facing a lack of recognition and respect from certain individuals in the film industry and among audiences because of his young age.

He said young directors often face difficulties in gaining recognition and attracting audiences to their exhibitions and promotional events, adding that Ma Phway Phway's encouragement made him feel supported. — TWA/KTZH



Filming of 'Yoke Thay Kyo' begins

THE filming ceremony for 'Yoke Thay Kyo', a series jointly produced by THE RAY Film Production and UniTV, was held at Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Yangon on 25 September.

The series was written by Htet Myat Naing Zin, with Tu Htet Naung handling the shooting script. Director Nay Thurein will direct the series, assisted by Sue Khet Min, while Thar Nge will serve as director of photography.

The cast includes Ye Lwin Oo, Zaw Shine Htet, Min Arkar, Nyi Nanda, Chue Sitt Han and other artistes. — TWA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Ayeyawady's Chief Minister instructs fast clearance of legal goods



The Ayeyawady Region chief minister and party inspecting Pantaing and Koesu checkpoints.

AYEYAWADY Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw has instructed security checkpoints along the Yangon-Pathein Highway to allow the smooth and rapid passage of legal goods and to strictly refrain from demanding money.

On 25 September, the chief minister inspected Pantaing and Koesu checkpoints located on the Yangon-Pathein Highway, and also examined the status of the gate upgrading project.

During his meeting with security personnel at these checkpoints, the chief minister emphasized that the five checkpoints located within the region are crucial for security and for preventing illegal trade flows. Furthermore, he strongly directed personnel not to misuse their authority while performing their duties, to ensure that the transport of legal goods faces no delays and is cleared quickly and smoothly, and to completely refrain from making money demands.

He warned that effective action would be taken if prescribed laws and regulations are violated. After receiving briefings at the checkpoints and on the measures in place to prevent traffic congestion for travellers and trucks, he coordinated and fulfilled the requirements. — TWA/ZN

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Mandalay marks World Heart Day 2026

ORGANIZED by the Department of Cardiology of Mandalay General Hospital, a ceremony commemorating World Heart Day 2026 was held yesterday at the City Hall of the Mandalay City Development Committee in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.



The Department of Cardiology of Mandalay General Hospital celebrates World Heart Day 2026 in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, yesterday.

In addition to awareness talks and discussions on heart health, attendees underwent health screenings, including BMI measurements, blood pressure checks, lipid profile tests, random blood sugar (RBS) tests, and risk assessments to calculate their 10-year risk of developing heart disease, heart failure and stroke, according to reports.

Furthermore, prizes were awarded to the winners of the quiz, and lucky-draw gifts were presented to participants. Professor and Head of the Cardiology Department Dr Kyaw Soe Win also conducted a practical demonstration using teaching aids on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including manual chest compression techniques for cardiac arrest victims, which everyone should know and be able to perform.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, regional ministers, Deputy Director-General Dr Myint Mo Soe of the Regional Public Health and Medical Services Department, Senior Medical Superintendent Dr San Lwin Oo of Mandalay General Hospital, senior physicians, invitees and local communities. — MNA/TH

Basic sewing machine training concludes

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Zalun Township, Ayeyawady Region, held a completion ceremony for a basic sewing machine training course at the township department meeting hall yesterday.



The completion of a basic sewing machine training course is in progress in Zalun Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Ayeyawady Region Department of Rural Development Head U Nay Htet Shein delivered a speech, stating that arrangements would be made to link outstanding trainees and course completers with job opportunities, while capital loans will be provided to those wishing to start self-employment businesses.

U Nay Htet Shein and members of the Township Management and Administration Committee presented awards to outstanding trainees. The district head and officials then awarded completion certificates to the trainees and inspected the garments produced during the course.

The 45-day free training course, conducted during the 2026-2027 financial year to support the livelihoods of rural women, create job opportunities and turn out skilled workers, was attended by 20 women from 10 villages in Zalun Township, including Zinpwungon, Shwekyaung, Yoegyi, Kyontanaw South, Danube, Byinnya, Maungthaung, Jamtaik, Ayemyoeksu and Mayoekha. Instructors provided theoretical and practical training in basic sewing techniques throughout the course. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Wazira Cinema hosts Myanmar Motion Pictures Day, honours film elders

THE 49th Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony, held in conjunction with the 106th Myanmar Motion Pictures Day, will be held at Wazira Cinema in Kyauktada Township, Yangon, this year, according to Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO).

"As the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, we will hold this year's Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony at Wazira Cinema due to the MMPO's limited space. In previous years, we had to visit the homes of film veterans who were unable to attend the ceremony due to the limited space. This year, we will invite everyone," said U Aye Kyu Lay.



This photo features the Film Industry Elders' Honouring Ceremony held in the previous year.

In 2025, each film veteran received more than K480,000 in cash, as well as more than 60 types of consumer goods and medical supplies, according to reports. — ASH/MKKS

ECONOMY
WORLD

Xi, Trump recognize economic, trade consultation outcomes

Both leaders agree to implement tariff reduction arrangements and trade councils.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump have recognized the consultation outcomes achieved by their respective economic and trade teams, according to a release made public after Xi wrapped up his US visit on Friday.

The outcomes included the establishment and advancement of such mechanisms as a trade council, a 30-billion-US-dollar reciprocal tariff reduction arrangement, and an extension of what have been achieved in the Kuala Lumpur consultation.

The two leaders acknowledged the positive role of the China-US economic and trade consultation mechanism and instructed that those outcomes be implemented.



Containers of China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited are seen at the Port of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, the United States, on 27 February 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA/**

Xi paid a state visit to the United States from Wednesday to Friday, during which he had an in-depth exchange of views with Trump on bilateral relations as well as major international and regional issues. — Xinhua

India has strongest growth outlook globally: WEF

INDIA has emerged with the strongest growth outlook among economies covered in the World Economic Forum's September 2026 Chief Economists' Outlook, with 74 per cent of surveyed chief economists expecting strong or very strong growth over the next 12 months, up sharply from 52 per cent in May.

Overall, 98 per cent of respondents expect India to record moderate or stronger growth over the coming year, while the growth forecast for 2026-27 was raised to 6.7 per cent in August, the report said. It attributed the outlook to continued resilience in domestic demand, although higher energy prices remain a drag.

"Of chief economists surveyed, 98 per cent expect moderate or stronger growth over the next 12 months, including 74 per cent who anticipate strong or very strong growth, compared with 52 per cent in May," the report noted.

The assessment places India ahead of other major economies in the survey. South-East Asia followed, with 73 per cent of respondents expecting strong or very strong growth, while 31 per cent of economists expect weak growth in China. Europe remained the weakest-performing region, with 61 per cent anticipating weak or very weak growth.

The report also points to a more stable global economic outlook. Only 45 per cent of surveyed chief economists now expect global economic conditions to weaken over the next 12 months, sharply lower than 89 per cent in May. — ANI



Chief economists highlight domestic demand resilience despite ongoing energy price pressures. **PHOTO: ANI**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hotelier's offer to Principe islanders

ON the paradise island of Principe, a lush jungle haven in the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Guinea, a South African multimillionaire is offering locals a financial dividend to preserve the natural beauty on which his luxury tourism business depends.

The initiative is the brainchild of tech entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth, who for over a decade has been promoting a model of exclusive ecotourism aimed at an ultra-wealthy foreign clientele.

The dividend scheme, which Shuttleworth's charitable organisation pays out individually to locals, aims to encourage them to preserve their natural environment – a mountainous volcanic island, bordered by pristine beaches and whose tropical forest is home to a wealth of endemic species. – AFP

Iraqi holy city suspends Iranian airlines

IRAQ'S Najaf airport, a top destination for Shia Muslims, suspended all Iranian flights on Friday, enforcing US sanctions, the airport director told AFP.

Airport director Hussein Muhanna told AFP that "all flights were halted between Iran and Najaf airport following a directive from the prime minister's office to the governor" of Najaf.

The airport in the holy city of Najaf, south of Baghdad, is a major hub for Iranian flights.

They mainly carry Iraqi Shia pilgrims to Iran's holy cities or Iranians visiting sacred sites in Iraq. The flights also serve Iraqi students studying in Iran, and patients seeking medical treatment there.

The bond between Iraq and neighbouring Iran, both Shia-majority countries, runs deep and is shaped by both religion and politics. – AFP

Summer heatwaves cost Germany 25 billion euros

HEATWAVES this summer cost the German economy around 25 billion euros ($28.4 billion), according to a study published Thursday by insurers Allianz and Allianz Trade.

The loss is explained mainly by a drop in productivity linked to intense heat, higher workplace absences and longer breaks, amid limited access to air conditioning.

"This results in lost production as well as a drop in added value," the study said.

A heatwave in late June saw Germany break its all-time temperature record three days in a row, topping 42 degrees, and official data points to a record of around 16,000 heat-related deaths this year.

Europe's biggest economy has seen wildfires and serious impacts to harvests, as well as river levels dropping and restricting crucial navigation routes.

"Heat is a risk that is often underestimated," said Frank Sommerfeld, CEO of Allianz.

"It places a strain on people, infrastructure and the economy alike, and exacerbates many existing hazards such as drought, wildfires and extreme weather." — AFP

Türkiye arrests 45 in stock market manipulation probe

TURKISH authorities have arrested 45 suspects and seized the assets of key figures in an ongoing probe into alleged stock market manipulation, Justice Minister Akin Gurlek announced on Friday.

Gurlek said in a statement that legal action has been taken against 76 suspects in total, with 45 remanded in custody, five released under judicial control, 12 arrest warrants issued, and 14 remaining in police custody.

To prevent the smuggling of illicit gains and protect victims' rights, authorities confiscated the wealth of all fund owners and executive-level suspects, while freezing the assets of their first-degree relatives.

Gurlek noted the investigation is being conducted by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office with coordination from the Financial Crimes Investigation Board and Istanbul Police Department.

The update follows public reassurances from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday, who said the issue was isolated to a limited number of funds and posed no risk to the Turkish economy. — Xinhua

Ghana seeks currency settlement for trade with China

GHANAIAN authorities will work with their Chinese counterparts to eliminate third-party currency settlements in transactions between Ghanaian traders and Chinese suppliers, Johnson Asiama, governor of the Bank of Ghana, has said.

Asiama said during the latest Monetary Policy Committee press briefing late Thursday that the defining structural shift, which will end the third-party currency settlement regime, is necessary to enhance Ghana-China bilateral trade, as traders seek to leverage the zero-tariff policy offered by the Chinese government to 53 African countries it has diplomatic relations with.

According to the governor, the West African country is putting measures in place to create a Ghana cedi-China RMB cross-currency settlement path between Ghana and China, as intermediary currencies create a double-conversion regime, imposing double conversion commissions on traders instead of a single payment.

Asiama said the central bank has given its blessings to the initiative by Stanbic Bank, a local subsidiary of Standard Bank of South Africa, and the Ghana Commercial Bank (GCB), Ghana's largest indigenous bank, to pilot the system of direct cross-currency settlement between Ghana and China. — Xinhua

AI infrastructure investment seen surging to $769B in 2026

INVESTMENT in artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and model architectures is on track to surge more than fivefold to about $769 billion in 2026, underscoring the scale of capital flowing into AI even as leading developers and industry executives raise concerns over the pace and safety of the technology's development, according to McKinsey's Technology Trends Outlook 2026.



AI infrastructure and model architectures the largest-funded technology trend covered by McKinsey. **PHOTO: ANDRÉ SANTANA FROM PIXABAY**

The estimate is based on nearly $384 billion invested in the first half of 2026 and assumes the current pace continues through the year. It compares with $145 billion invested in the technology in 2025, making AI infrastructure and model architectures the largest-funded technology trend covered by McKinsey.

The surge comes amid a fresh wave of investment by major AI companies and their backers. OpenAI is in discussions with investors for additional funding that could value the company at around US$1.2 trillion, while SoftBank has launched an US$11 billion bond offering to help fund a further US$10 billion investment in OpenAI. Anthropic, meanwhile, is in discussions with Nvidia over a potential investment of up to US$10 billion as part of a proposed IPO that could raise as much as US$100 billion, according to Reuters. The investment boom, however, is unfolding alongside growing concerns within the AI industry about the pace of technological development and the ability of existing safeguards to keep up.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has called for the global AI community to slow the release of new capabilities to allow more time to address safety risks. OpenAI has also called for mandatory national AI safety requirements, including independent assessments, cybersecurity measures and incident reporting for advanced AI systems. — ANI

Australian unemployment rate rises to highest level since 2021

AUSTRALIA'S unemployment rate rose to its highest level in almost five years in August, according to official data released on Thursday.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said that the unemployment rate rose from 4.5 per cent in July to 4.6 per cent in August, the highest figure since November 2021.

Economists had forecast the figure would remain at 4.5 per cent in August.

The ABS said that the number of employed Australians grew by 39,500 between July and August, but the number of unemployed people increased by 28,200 in the same period. The participation rate, which measures the proportion of the working-age population who are either employed or actively looking for work, rose from 66.9 per cent in July to 67.1 per cent in August, which was the highest mark since April 2025.



A food delivery rider is seen on a street in Canberra, Australia, on 25 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The data was released ahead of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA)'s Monetary Policy Board meeting on Monday and Tuesday to set interest rates.

The board increased the cash rate target by 0.25 percentage points three times in the first six months of 2026, but kept it on hold at 4.35 per cent at its two most recent meetings in June and August. — Xinhua

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

26 SEPTEMBER

China, Southeast Asian nations hold marine cooperation forum in Bangkok

THE 9th China-South-East Asian Countries Marine Cooperation Forum convened in Bangkok from Thursday to Friday. The forum, which drew experts from several countries, showcased cutting-edge advances in climate forecasting and marine disaster prevention and mitigation.

Co-hosted by China's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the forum brought together over 200 representatives from more than 40 marine administrative authorities, research institutions and universities across China, Thailand and other South-East Asian countries. Darika Sarunyagate, advisor to the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, said that the forum fully embodies the shared commitment of China and South-East Asian nations to deepen marine cooperation and deliver tangible benefits to coastal communities. — Xinhua



Law enforcers conduct access and control training aboard the China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel Sandu. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA/FILE**

25 SEPTEMBER

Bahrain leads 80 nations on Hormuz

A Bahrain-led group backed by 80 countries has called for the immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, demanding safe and unimpeded passage for commercial ships without tolls, conditions or other charges.

The joint statement, delivered at the United Nations, also condemned continued Iranian actions affecting shipping through the strait and renewed Houthi attacks around the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab, warning that disruption at both chokepoints threatens maritime security, energy supplies and global trade. "We reiterate our call for the urgent and full re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz and the safe, secure and unimpeded transit of all vessels," the statement said, calling for passage "without the imposition of tolls, conditions or illegal charges." — ANI

24 SEPTEMBER

Niger signs deal to relaunch uranium project

NIGER'S government said Wednesday it has signed a new agreement with the Madaouela Mining Company (MAMICO) to relaunch a uranium mining project in the north of the country. The junta that has ruled the west African country since a military coup in 2023 advocates sovereignty over the country's mineral resources, including uranium.

MAMICO is 60 per cent owned by the Australian Atomic Eagle group and 40 per cent by the Niger government.

The agreement provides, among other things, for the payment of an initial fee of $10 million, capacity-building for the mining administration, local development and the creation of around 1,000 jobs for young Nigeriens. Uranium mining is at the heart of a standoff between the junta and former colonial power France — AFP

23 SEPTEMBER

El Nino could cause 451,000 extra heat deaths

THIS year's powerful El Nino weather pattern could lead to 451,000 additional heat-related deaths worldwide through February as it turbocharges global temperatures, according to projections published on Wednesday.

The warming phenomenon, which was declared in June and is due to peak later this year, is on course to be the strongest on record, amplifying the effects of human-induced climate change.

The estimates by the Climate Impact Lab at the University of Chicago found that developing countries would be hit hardest by the heat-related toll in the June to February period. The Sahel region in Africa could have an additional 66,800 heat deaths compared to a normal year, with nearly half of that number in Nigeria alone.

An additional 19,300 are projected in Indonesia and 19,400 in the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia. — AFP

22 SEPTEMBER

Thailand injects stimulus to shield economy

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

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

Speaking at a press conference, Ekniti noted that the three waves of economic headwinds, following spikes in energy prices and living costs alongside sluggish household spending, have necessitated government intervention to further protect the public.

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

21 SEPTEMBER

Houthi warns Türkiye, Pakistan against joining Saudi

YEMEN'S Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi warned Türkiye and Pakistan against involvement in the group's escalating confrontation with Saudi Arabia.

In a televised speech broadcast by the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV channel, al-Houthi accused Saudi Arabia of seeking military support from Türkiye and Pakistan as the conflict intensifies both inside Yemen and across the Saudi-Yemeni border.

He urged the two countries not to become "entangled" in the conflict in pursuit of political or economic interests with Riyadh.

Al-Houthi also alleged that Saudi Arabia was seeking to bring fighters from Syria into the conflict, without providing evidence to support the claim. The warning comes as the Houthi-Saudi confrontation spills increasingly across the border. — Xinhua

20 SEPTEMBER

Tensions put Saudi oil exports under pressure

ESCALATING tensions across the Middle East are increasingly weighing on Saudi Arabia, one of the world's largest oil exporters.

As the ongoing US-Iran conflict continues to disrupt shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, growing hostilities between Yemen's Houthi group and Saudi Arabia are also threatening Riyadh's oil export routes through the Red Sea, putting mounting pressure on Saudi Arabia's oil sector. Like other major oil-exporting countries in the region, Saudi Arabia has traditionally shipped its crude oil from eastern ports into the Gulf and then through the Strait of Hormuz to international markets.

An average of about 20 million barrels per day of crude oil and petroleum products passed through the Strait of Hormuz in 2025. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar Sepak Takraw events to begin

MYANMAR'S Sepak Takraw events at the XX Asian Games will begin on 27 September, with the national team set to compete in three events.

Myanmar will compete in the Men's Regu, Women's Doubles and Men's Team events. Group matches in the Men's Regu and Women's Doubles will begin on 27 September, while those in the Men's Team event will start on 30 September.

In the Women's Doubles, Myanmar will face Malaysia and Vietnam on 27 September and Laos on 28 September.

In the Men's Regu, Myanmar will play against Malaysia on 27 September and Vietnam on 28 September.

In the Men's Team event, Myanmar will face Vietnam and Laos on 30 September and India on 1 October.

According to the group draw, Men's Regu Group A comprises Thailand, the Philippines and Japan, while Group B comprises Malaysia, Vietnam and Myanmar.

In the Men's Team event, Group A comprises Myanmar, Laos, India and Vietnam, while Group B comprises Indonesia, Singapore, the Republic of Korea and Japan.

In the Women's Doubles, Group A comprises Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar and Laos, while Group B comprises the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, India and Japan.

Myanmar are the reigning champions in the Men's Team event and will seek to defend their title at the Games.

The Sepak Takraw events at the Asian Games began on 20 September. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



The Myanmar Sepak Takraw players and officials are seen at Yangon International Airport before leaving for Japan. **PHOTO: MSTAF**

Asian Games: 11-year-old Japanese Kurihara wins puzzle gold in esports

JAPAN'S 11-year-old Yuki Kurihara, the youngest member of the national delegation, won the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games puzzle final on Saturday, earning the country's first esports gold medal at the continental competition.

After defeating Thailand's Tanarak Wongkitikun in the semifinals, Kurihara beat South Korea's Kang Dong Shin 10-2 in the Puyo Puyo Champions in Tokoname, Aichi Prefecture.— Kyodo

Myanmar wins gold, bronze at 58th Asian Bodybuilding Championships



Hein Zaw Lin of Myanmar receives the gold medal for winning the Men's Bodybuilding up to the 65-kilogramme event.

MYANMAR secured one gold and one bronze medal at the 58th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships 2026, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 22 to 28 September.

In the Men's Bodybuilding up to 65-kilogramme event held yesterday, Myanmar's Hein Zaw Lin competed against two athletes each from Thailand and Malaysia and one each from Vietnam and India. He won gold, followed by a Malaysian athlete in second place, an Indian athlete in third, a Thai athlete in fourth and a Vietnamese athlete in fifth.

In the Men's Bodybuilding up to 60-kilogramme event, athletes from India, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Myanmar competed. Thailand took first place, Indonesia second and Myanmar's Aung Htut third, earning the bronze medal.

In the Women's Swimsuit Model Physique up to 165-centimetre event, Myanmar's Mi Mi Kyaw Naing competed against 19 athletes and finished seventh. — Bala/KZL

Myanmar face Cambodia in FIFA-ASEAN Cup decider

MYANMAR will face Cambodia today in a crucial Division-2 match of the FIFA-ASEAN Cup 2026 in Hong Kong, with a place in the final at stake.

The second day of the Division-2 group stage will take place today, with Hong Kong facing Laos at 1:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time and Myanmar meeting Cambodia at 4:30 pm.

Division-2 features two groups. On the opening day on 24 September, Laos defeated Brunei 3-1, while Myanmar beat Timor-Leste 2-0. Hong Kong and Cambodia will play their opening matches today. If they fail to beat Laos and Myanmar respectively, they will lose their chances of reaching the final. Myanmar and Laos can secure early qualification for the final with victories.



The Myanmar national team training in Hong Kong on 26 September. **PHOTO: MFF**

Although Myanmar defeated Timor-Leste in their opening match, the team struggled to produce its best performance. Several key players are dealing with injuries, while Lwin Moe Aung sustained another injury against Timor-Leste and will miss the match against Cambodia.

Myanmar will need to improve its performance to overcome Cambodia, who displayed stronger form than Timor-Leste. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Japan's Haru Owaki (top) battles South Korea's Kang Yoo Lim during the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games women's basketball final in Nagoya on 26 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Asian Games: S Korea denies Japan basketball gold in closely fought final

SOUTH Korea withstood a furious comeback from Japan to win the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games women's basketball final 75-70 on Saturday, with the result mirroring the men's final six days earlier.

With Japan using the tournament to audition new talent in the buildup towards the 2028 Olympics, the gold-medal game pitted coach Yuko Oga's youthful side against a full-strength South Korean outfit.

South Korea jumped out to a 27-15 lead at the end of the first quarter and maintained a double-digit buffer until Japan surged back into contention in the fourth quarter.

Japan closed to within four points at 72-68 before Riho Akagi went to the free throw line with 16.6 seconds left. The guard missed both attempts, but forward Haru Owaki grabbed the rebound from the second miss and laid it in for a 72-70 deficit.

South Korea's Kang Lee Seul went two-for-two at the opposite stripe to restore her team's lead to two possessions before Lee Hae Ran earned a trip to the line and hit one of two. Forward Lee poured in a game-high 24 points, while Owaki led Japan with 23 off the bench. Japan was aiming to win its first Asian Games women's basketball gold since 1998 in Bangkok. — Kyodo

Can AI detectors reliably spot machine writing?

CANADIAN-HAITIAN writer Thelyson Orelien denies allegations that his best-selling debut novel was written using artificial intelligence. The controversy erupted after an X account claimed an AI detector called Pangram found the book was largely generated by text tools. When AFP tested excerpts, results ranged from entirely human to 100 per cent AI-generated. Experts explain that AI detectors analyze linguistic tics, structural patterns, and repetitive phrasing. However, specialists warn these tools remain unreliable, noting they can mistakenly flag a distinct human authorial style as machine-generated. Critics argue the novel's formulaic structure raises doubts, while Orelien attributes his unique style to Caribbean traditions. — AFP

Japanese fiction boom looks set to endure, experts say

Japanese translated fiction boom charms foreign readers in Britain.

AN unusual mix of stories about alienation, feminism, cats and coffee shops is charming foreign audiences as a boom in translated Japanese fiction shows little sign of fading. Industry insiders told Kyodo News that Japan remains the leading source of translated fiction in Britain and expect its dominance to continue for the foreseeable future, despite growing competition from other East Asian countries and regions.



Photo taken in 2024 shows literary journalist literary journalist Kaja Murawska. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Authors such as Asako Yuzuki ("Butter" and "Hooked"), Sayaka Murata ("Convenience Store Woman"), Mieko Kawakami ("Breasts and Eggs") and Hiromi Kawakami ("Strange Weather in Tokyo") have become familiar names among readers of translated fiction.But they are just the tip of the iceberg.

Britain's "Bookseller" trade magazine lists 20 Japanese books in its top 50 of translated fiction in the first half of this year. The same period in 2025 saw 23 Japanese works in the top 50, according to data from NielsenIQ BookScan. The boom really took off around 2018, with a wide variety of genres proving popular with Western audiences.

There is "weird girl fiction", typified by Sayaka Murata's "Convenience Store Woman", in which an idiosyncratic protagonist is alienated from mainstream society but often embraces her outsider status. — Kyodo

A 3,000-year-old glimpse into China's Bronze Age technological prowess

China's ancient Tonglushan copper mining site showcases advanced technology.



Researcher Yang Huan examines the original artefact of the Yinxu Ruins' bull-shaped bronze vessel. **PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANG HUAN/GLOBAL TIMES**

China is famous for its ancient inventions: papermaking, printing, gunpowder and the compass. But there is far more to its technological legacy than these.

One notable achievement is the Tonglushan ancient copper mining site. More than 3,000 years ago, people in China were already mining and refining high-purity copper on a large scale at this site, a feat that put them some 2,000 years ahead of the rest of the world. Located in Daye, Hubei Province in central China, this site has welcomed more than 20 million visitors since it opened in the 1980s, including tourists from Japan, the Republic of Korea, Europe and Africa.

It received official designation as a National Archaeological Site Park in 2025 and is now working towards UNESCO World Heritage status.

To further showcase China's ancient industrial achievements to international visitors, a large-screen presentation launched last year features English subtitles alongside Chinese ones, while the park has also opened an educational workshop for visitors from China and abroad.

"The site shows that China has long had the capacity to develop advanced technologies independently. It also strengthens our cultural confidence," said Chen Jiayi, a staff member at the site park. — Xinhua

El Nino rewrites menu in world's top restaurants

A record-breaking El Nino will likely force the world's top chefs to rethink their menus ahead of droughts, floods and heatwaves upending global food systems.

Ants are disappearing from the table in Brazil, one Danish chef is opting for cocoa-free chocolate and Japan is serving up warm-water fish, culinary stars disclosed at the Apapaxoa gastronomic festival on Mexico's Caribbean coast.United Nations experts have predicted an exceptionally strong cycle of the El Nino climate phenomenon, which causes global changes in winds and rainfall as well as erratic weather conditions.



French chef Dominique Crenn smiles during an interview with AFP at the Xcaret resort in Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo state, Mexico, on 20 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

The cream of the culinary crop, looking ahead to unpredictable ingredient availability, quality and prices, are rearranging their shelves accordingly.

But for these acclaimed chefs, extreme weather events and their habit of turning the kitchen upside down are nothing new. "In the last three years, I've been creating an annual menu that I end up adjusting many times, almost weekly, because certain products aren't available," Brazilian chef Alex Atala told AFP. "Ants, for example, this year are only available for customers who specifically ask to try them," said Atala, whose Sao Paulo restaurant DOM plucks ingredients from the Amazonian wilderness to reinterpret Indigenous traditions.

El Nino can also massively disrupt transportation, said Atala. Flooded roads or wildfires "delay a product that should be fresh, and by the time it arrives, it's no longer in good condition," he said. Climate change and El Nino are heavily disrupting global gastronomy. Spanish chef Quique Dacosta highlights how severe storms destroy essential ingredients like Albufera rice and cause devastating reservation cancellations. — AFP