

President Urges Agro-Based Industrialization to Drive Economic Growth

Shifting from traditional farming to integrated, value-added agro-industries is key to boosting rural incomes, cutting food costs, and driving national productivity.



President U Min Aung Hlaing delivers a keynote speech at the opening of the national-level workshop—From Agricultural Development to National Productivity Growth—held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 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 yesterday morning.

Before delivering his address, the President for-

mally inaugurated the national workshop by pressing a digital control switch.

In his keynote speech, the President highlighted that approximately 70 per cent of the country’s population resides in rural areas, with over 50 per cent of the national workforce engaged directly in agriculture, livestock breeding, and forestry sectors. With around 30 per cent of the population currently assessed to be living in poverty, improving rural household incomes remains

an urgent national priority. He stressed that transitioning from traditional, subsistence farming to systematic, modernized production methods that yield high-value agro-products is the most effective vehicle for raising family incomes and uplifting rural livelihoods.

Explaining the conceptual foundation of the workshop’s theme, the President noted that the objective is not confined to developing the primary agricultural

sector in isolation. Rather, it represents a strategic policy blueprint designed to construct an unbroken value chain extending from agricultural harvests to raw inputs, intermediate processing, finished industrial commodities, domestic distribution, and international export markets. He observed that contemporary global economic development cannot succeed through segregated sectoral policies.

SEE PAGE 3

Myanmar ships nearly 1M tonnes of maize to Thailand duty free

MYANMAR exported approximately one million tonnes of maize to Thailand during the tariff exemption period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar corn is granted duty free access to Thailand each year from February to August. Maize shipments moved through Yangon, the Kawthoung-Ranong route, and the Myawady border trade channel during this zero-tariff period.

SEE PAGE 6

Foreign tourists set to arrive at Wah Ale Resort in early Nov

FOREIGN tourists will begin visiting Wah Ale Resort, located within the Lampi Marine National Park in the Myeik Archipelago of Taninthayi Region, from 1 November, according to the resort.

Lampi Marine National Park is Myanmar’s first marine national park and is home to abundant terrestrial and marine wildlife.

SEE PAGE 6



Tourists snorkel among coral reefs, exploring vibrant marine life.

ARTICLE

Climbing Higher: Empowering Myanmar’s Youth to Build a Stronger Future

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A large hall with many people seated in rows, facing a stage. The hall is filled with people, and the atmosphere appears to be formal.

Third Pyithu Hluttaw’s 3rd regular session commences

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A group of people in military uniforms are standing in a line, facing a stage. They are in a formal setting, and the atmosphere is serious.

Senior Tatmadaw officers urged to tighten security measures

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

Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Conditions

Issued at 4 pm MST on 21 September 2026

Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Eastcentral Bay of Bengal persists.

Next 48 hours forecast

It is likely to move west-northwestwards and further intensify into a Depression over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours and into a Deep Depression over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours. Continuing to move west-northwestwards and it is likely to reach over the North Andhra Pradesh Coasts- South Odisha, India.

General caution

Due to the Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, (northern and eastern) Shan States and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, southern and Shan States with a likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States from today evening to 25 September 2026.

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

Advisory

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

Kyaukse Thadingyut Festival Showcases Elephant Dance

THE annual Shweth-alyaung Pagoda Thadingyut Elephant Dance Competition will be held in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region, according to U Aung Myo Thein, chairman of the festival's organizing committee.

The elephant dance competition will be held on 16 October, the 14th waxing day of Thadingyut, at the Shweth-alyaung Hill compound. The elephant offering ceremony will be held on the full moon day of Thadingyut, with alms

offered to the participating teams.

At the opening ceremony, veteran elephant teams that have participated in the festival for more than 30 years will receive Perseverance Awards. Traditional awards will also be presented to teams that make three rounds of Kyaukse Myoma Market while playing traditional musical instruments. Traditional elephant, Bawkyal elephant and baby elephant competitions will also be held.



An elephant dance competition held during the Kyaukse Elephant Festival and the Alms Offering Festival in the previous year.

The Kyaukse Elephant Festival and alms-offering ceremony have been held annually since the reign of King Anawrahta, about 900 years ago. — ASH/MKKS

Traditional Myanmar marionette show to launch at Governor's Residence

THE Governor's Residence in Yangon has announced that it will host the "Governor's Yoke Thé Theatre" programme next month, featuring a grand presentation of traditional Myanmar marionette puppetry.

The programme will present traditional Myanmar marionette dance and dramatic arts as a special live performance. Guests can enjoy the puppetry arts while dining on "Burmese Feast", one of the signature menus at the Governor's Residence.

The programme is a collab-

oration between the Governor's Residence and the Myanmar Marionette Theatre, founded by Sayamagyi Daw Ma Ma Naing, Chair of the Myanmar Marionette Committee, and a dedicated preserver and promoter of traditional puppetry. Designed as a cultural evening experience featuring traditional Myanmar cuisine and puppetry, the programme is open to attendees at K150,000 per person.

According to the Governor's Residence, this event – a special tribute to the cultural heritage of traditional Myanmar marionette



A flyer with details on the Governor's Yoke Thé Theatre programme.

art – will be held every Thursday starting 1 October. — MT/ZN

El Niño Conditions News

Issued at 21 September 2026

- a. Sea surface temperatures and atmospheric dynamics across the equatorial Tropical Pacific Ocean indicate very strong El Niño condition. Based on the evaluations from the World Meteorological Organization and international climate centres, the highest El Niño conditions are likely to reach at the end of 2026.
- b. Although El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts can generally lead to irregular rainfall patterns, higher day temperatures, abnormal storm activity, drought and other extreme weather events in the upcoming summer season.
- c. DMH will continue to provide real-time updates on the latest information regarding conditions associated with the El Niño phenomenon. — DMH

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NATIONAL

President Urges Agro-Based Industrialization to Drive ...

FROM PAGE 1

Sustainable prosperity demands strong structural links that connect agriculture, manufacturing, services, financial systems, technology, and market distribution networks to multiply output value.

Consequently, the core question confronting the workshop is not merely how to expand crop volume, but how to elevate product value and systematically convert agricultural yields into high-yielding national productive assets. Agriculture serves as the cornerstone of Myanmar's food security, socioeconomic stability, and broader national development. It supplies daily subsistence while feeding essential raw materials to industrial enterprises. Address-

ing this sector requires an integrated sequence: production, raw supplies, processing, value addition, industrial manufacturing, domestic consumption, and export. Strengthening this entire value chain will expand farm incomes, generate employment, invigorate domestic industry, enhance export earnings, and ultimately expand Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Focusing on geopolitical and spatial dynamics, the President explained that Myanmar occupies an exceptionally strategic position within South-East Asia, situated directly between the world's two most populous nations – India to the west with over 1.43 billion people and China to the east with over 1.41 billion peo-

ple, alongside Bangladesh with roughly 173 million residents. Moreover, Myanmar sits squarely within the Valeriepieris Circle, a geographic zone encompassing roughly half the global population. This presents an immense regional market for Myanmar's agricultural and livestock exports. When coupled with rich arable land, diverse climatic zones, extended coastlines, and abundant natural resources, the country possesses extraordinary structural endowments.

However, the President cautioned that geographic and environmental advantages do not translate automatically into economic wealth. These assets deliver tangible gains only when converted into higher pro-

ductivity, superior quality standards, advanced processing technology, and international cost competitiveness.

Turning to domestic challenges, the President identified soaring prices of basic consumer foods as a pressing burden on public living standards. Price escalation is primarily driven by supply and demand mismatches alongside high production, transport, and logistics overheads. To alleviate these pressures, the country must markedly scale up agricultural and livestock output, ensuring ample domestic supplies that bring retail food prices down to affordable levels.

Citing Vietnam as a benchmark, the President noted that despite possessing only half of

Myanmar's landmass and having double its population – with two-thirds of its terrain covered by mountainous regions – Vietnam successfully exports over eight million tonnes of rice valued at more than US\$4 billion, over one million tonnes of coffee worth US\$8 billion, and more than 240,000 tonnes of pepper valued at US\$1 billion annually. By comparison, Myanmar earned US\$4.741 billion from agricultural exports in the 2024-2025 financial year and US\$3.743 billion in 2025-2026.

Analytical projections demonstrate that if domestic farmers meet designated per-acre target yields, national output could gain US\$4 billion; increasing nationwide cropping intensity could deliver an additional US\$12 bil-

lion. Thus, moving from outdated methods to modern, sustainable farming is the decisive first step toward national economic expansion and poverty alleviation.

The President stressed that agricultural policy must balance commercial profit with long-term national food security. With the global population standing near eight billion and anticipated to reach 10 billion by 2050, international food demand will expand sharply amid regional conflicts, climate shifts, and supply-chain interruptions. Myanmar must secure domestic sufficiency while re-establishing itself as an essential regional and global food supplier – a true "rice granary of the world".

SEE PAGE 4

Preliminary results of 9th State Duma election announced



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn gives interviews to Russia-1 television channel.

A Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, currently in Russia as international election observers, attended the ceremonies for the announcement of the preliminary results of the election for

the ninth State Duma and to review the election by international observers, UEC representatives and parliamentarians yesterday.

Russian Central Election Commission Chairperson Mrs Ella Pamfilova briefed them on election

process.

The observers and participants coordinated the discussion.

During the election period, a drone attack occurred, killing two people and injuring 20 others, including Mrs Sanaikhina, the chairperson of Polling Station No 1283. Moreover, the cyberattacks aimed at disrupting voting machines occurred on the first day of voting, while election commission officials and their family members received threatening messages.

A total of 12 political parties contested the 9th State Duma election. United Russia secured the largest vote with 57.79 per cent, followed by the Communist Party with 13.73 per cent.

Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn also gave an interview to Russia 1 television channel. – MNA/KTZH

Farm Development to Product Growth in Focus at National Workshop



The launch of the national workshop – From Agricultural Development to National Productivity Growth – held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A national-level workshop on "From Agricultural Development to National Productivity Growth" was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to promote agricultural, livestock and fisheries development, related industries, financial services and investment.

The workshop was chaired by Dr Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister (Retd) for Fi-

nance and Revenue, and attended by deputy ministers from the ministries of Finance and Revenue, Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Industry and MSME Development, and Commerce, along with representatives of business organisations.

The participants discussed the current situation and reforms needed to increase national output in the agriculture, livestock, fisheries, industry, finance, investment and

export sectors and answered questions from attendees.

In the afternoon, deputy ministers and representatives of business organisations chaired sector-specific discussions. Speakers presented papers on their respective sectors, answered questions and discussed measures for implementation. The workshop will continue on 22 September with further sector-specific discussions. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Third Pyithu Hluttaw's 3rd regular session commences

THE third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw was convened for the first day at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Seven Defence Services Personnel Representatives for the Pyithu Hluttaw took an affirmation and signed the affirmation form in the presence of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi.

At the meeting, the Speaker delivered a speech, saying that as part of the process of representing the people, a total of 885 questions with and without asterisks were raised and answered, and three proposals were submitted during the term of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

In addition, the Speaker revealed that the Hluttaw's 22 committees held 72 meetings and consultations



The first-day meeting of Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session is underway.

with relevant ministries and external organizations and individuals. The Committee on Fundamental Rights of Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights received a total of 305 submissions from the public, of which 248 were resolved, four were referred to relevant

organizations, 11 were heard, and one field inspection was conducted. A total of 41 complaints are still under consideration. Moreover, the Pyithu Hluttaw successfully carried out international relations in its past period.

He continued that

the Hluttaw session commencing today must further strive to become a Hluttaw that listens to the people's voices, discusses and consults on public affairs in relation to the actual conditions of the State, and practically coordinates and seeks solutions to address

the needs of the people.

The Speaker announced the Hluttaw recorded the donations of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives for the flood victims from Laymyethna Township.

In the question-and-answer session, MP Daw Swe Swe Thin from the Paungde Constituency asked about the plan to construct the new building of Paukkhaung Township Immigration and National Registration Department. Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Ye Tun Oo stated that departmental offices and staff housing which need to be rebuilt for various reasons will depend on the budget allocation, and the budget will be requested in the 2027-28 financial year.

MP U Than Tun Oo from the Kengtung Constituency asked the question

of whether there is a plan to resume the systematic entry of foreign tourists into border towns in eastern Shan State, which has been temporarily suspended; if there is no such plan, the reasons for it, and if there is, when the entry of foreign tourists will be permitted again.

The deputy minister replied that under the bilateral border crossing agreement between Myanmar and Thailand, systematic entry and visits for foreign tourists are permitted exclusively within Tachilek District for Thai citizens holding a Border Pass (BP) or Temporary Border Pass (TBP).

ChaugU Constituency MP U Tun Lwin raised a question on plans to prevent flooding in four urban wards in ChaugU.

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President Urges Agro-Based Industrialization to Drive ...

FROM PAGE 3

Regarding the rice sector, he called for comprehensive improvements spanning milling, sorting, storage, branding, and export logistics to realize the vision of a renewed golden age for Myanmar Pawsan rice. In competitive export markets, domestic enterprises must adhere to clear commercial principles: offering superior quality at equal pricing, or lower pricing for matching quality, while prioritizing high-volume turnover over excessive profit margins.

Addressing the national cooking oil shortfall, the President cited findings from a November 2021 study by the Food and Fertilizer Technology Centre for the Asian and Pacific Region (FFTC-AP) covering 220 households in Nay Pyi Taw. The survey revealed that families spent 63 per cent of monthly

income on food, with rice (17.75 per cent) and cooking oil (13.16 per cent) representing the two largest household expenses. Because domestic sesame, groundnut, and sunflower oils remain costlier than consumer purchasing power allows, working-class households rely heavily on imported palm oil. Consequently, the State must spend substantial foreign currency importing between 550,000 and 650,000 tonnes of palm oil annually, even though theoretical national production of oilseed crops exceeds one million tonnes. To correct this imbalance, the President called for lower domestic production costs, systematic yield expansion, progressive reductions in palm oil imports, and the commercial adoption of modern rice bran oil extraction technologies using milling by-products.

In his supplementary remarks, the President reviewed the 2025-2026 financial year data, noting that paddy was sown and harvested on 17.4 million acres, producing an average yield of roughly 85 baskets per acre. Achieving established target yields would generate an extra US\$3 billion in value, while double-cropping could yield US\$15 billion. Expanding target yields across the State's nine priority crops would further capture US\$6.5 billion in lost export revenues.

Furthermore, with 30 per cent of the national population – around 15 million citizens – residing in urban centres, meeting basic daily nutritional needs requires substantial livestock expansion. A consumption rate of one egg per urban resident daily requires a national flock of 20 million lay-

ing hens, while meeting modest daily poultry and pork consumption targets demands 800,000 broiler chickens and nearly 16,000 pigs every day.

To develop rural economies, the President advocated for the "One Region- One Product" (OROP) initiative, alongside zero-waste agro-processing across sectors such as cotton, bamboo, and sugarcane. Cotton should be processed locally into yarn and apparel rather than exported as raw fibre; bamboo should be manufactured into consumer items, charcoal, and furniture; and sugarcane waste and molasses should be transformed into organic fertilizers and distillates. Integrating apiculture with sunflower and sesame farming would likewise boost pollination and generate extra farm income.

To finance modern ag-

ricultural transformation, the President urged commercial banks to design tailored credit instruments matched to agricultural production and revenue cycles. Emphasizing effective implementation, he concluded by urging delegates from both the public and private sectors to formulate actionable, time-bound strategies through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) rather than remaining confined to theoretical papers.

Following the opening session, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw presented a commemorative gift to the President. The President and attendees subsequently viewed commemorative exhibition booths displaying agricultural innovations and production models, during which the President provided necessary operational guidance.

The opening ceremony was attended by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers and Union-level dignitaries, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of Regions and States, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, chairpersons and secretaries of Hluttaw standing committees, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, heads of departments, the President and executives of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), subject-matter experts and scholars, and invitees. — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

Senior Tatmadaw officers urged to tighten security measures

AS breaches of information security can result in significant harm and losses, all security measures must be handled with utmost seriousness and carefully safeguarded, said Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin at the meeting with senior Tatmadaw officers from departments and offices at the compound of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday afternoon.

He noted that those senior Tatmadaw officers must be fully qualified and must systematically build and strengthen the units under their command. He urged them to remain loyal to the State and Tatmadaw with steadfast and proper conviction.

The General stressed that although senior Tat-



Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin meets Senior Tatmadaw officers from departments and office yesterday.

madaw officers may not personally be involved in online gambling activities, they must supervise and instruct all Tatmadaw members and their family members under their command to ensure that they do not become involved in such activities.

He underlined that as breaches of information security can result in significant harm and losses, all security-related matters must be handled with

utmost seriousness and carefully safeguarded. The General highlighted that the country

“... the country needs to restore peace and stability to promote national interests. To ensure peace and stability, it is necessary to strengthen the country’s defence capabilities. Therefore, all must work together to enhance the capabilities of individual Tatmadaw member so as to build a strong and capable Tatmadaw.”

needs to restore peace and stability to promote national interests. To ensure peace and stability, it is necessary to strengthen the country’s defence capabilities. Therefore, all must work together to enhance the capabilities of individual Tatmadaw member so as to build a strong and capable Tatmadaw.

After the meeting, the General cordially greeted the senior Tatmadaw officers. — MNA/TTA

Third Pyithu Hluttaw’s 3rd regular session ...

FROM PAGE 4

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Khin Maung Latt stated that drains will be dug in low-lying Myothit and Myoma wards to ensure proper flow of water, depending on the fund allocation. Moreover, two bridges will be constructed in the urban areas of ChaungU.

He also responded to the question raised by MP U Win Swe (a) U Win Shwe from the Labutta Constituency on the plan to build the Myoma market of Labutta Township as a shopping centre. He said that the Labutta Township Development Committee has been carrying out town beautification, road and bridge works, and town development projects using the taxes collected. Currently, the committee has no plans to rebuild a new market.

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing responded to questions raised by Tamu Constituency MP U Aung Ko Latt, Myitkyina Constituency MP U Nyunt Win, Dawei Constituency MP Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay and Madaya Constituency MP U Hla Myint. He answered that the plans are to construct a two-storey school building for Basic Education Post-Primary School No 2 in Tamu, a three-storey RCC school building for Myitkyina BEHS Branch No 2, and a school building at Dawei BEHS No 3, depending on the budget allocation in the coming financial years. He also replied that regarding the

three schools with teacher shortages at schools in Madaya Township, if there are applicants who volunteer during teacher transfer processes, positions will be filled and appointed in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

In replying to the questions submitted by Nattalin Constituency MP U Tint Lwin, Myaungmya Constituency MP Daw Myint Sanda Aung, Wakema Constituency MP U Than Naing and Zigon Constituency MP U Kyaw Min Tun, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe unveiled that the budget will be requested to build road sections and bridges in these four constituencies.

The Speaker sought the approval from the Hluttaw for the formation of parliamentary friendship associations with parliaments from India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Thailand.

The Speaker informed the Pyithu Hluttaw about the acceptance of the Seventh Amendment to the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law and the Seventh Amendment to the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments.

He also invited proposals from the MPs for the Fourth Amendment to the Political Parties Registration Rules.

The third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw will continue for the second day on 22 September. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar attends 3rd Intl Techno Congress in Russia

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister U Min Zeya Hlaing for Digital Development and Communications attended the third International Technology Congress and Technologies Exhibition held in Moscow, Russia, from 8 to 10 September.

Organized by Russia’s Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media, the event brought together more than 5,000 participants from over 40

countries, with more than 300 companies and organizations showcasing advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and autonomous systems.

During the visit, the Myanmar delegation attended the Congress and ICS Forum and held separate meetings with Russian government officials and business leaders to discuss cooperation in cybersecurity, digital sovereignty and nation-



Deputy Minister U Min Zeya Hlaing and Myanmar delegates join the third International Technology Congress and Technologies Exhibition held in Moscow.

al digital development. The delegation also invited Russian companies to invest in Myanmar’s Cyber City project. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

Foreign tourists set to arrive at Wah Ale ...

FROM PAGE 1

Visitors can observe evergreen forests, mangroves, diverse plant and animal species in their natural habitats, and enjoy the scenic beauty of the sea, sandy beaches, islands and sea turtles. As a result, foreign tourists visit Wah Ale Resort every year, with European tourists accounting for the largest share of visitors.

Foreign visitors to Wah Ale Resort can enjoy a variety of nature-based activities, including watching sunsets over the sea and sea turtles on the sandy beaches, exploring mangrove forests, observing birds, plants and coral reefs, kayaking to limestone caves, diving to explore coral reefs and marine life, relaxing on the beach and surfing.



Scenic splendour of the Wah Ale Resort. **PHOTO: KANU**

“Wah Ale Resort is scheduled to reopen for the tourist season on 1 November this year. As we welcomed several tourists last year, we expect more European visitors to come this year as well,” said U Aung Zin Latt, managing director of the resort.

Among nature-based resorts and marine parks in South-East Asia, Wah Ale Island in Myanmar is particularly attractive because it combines the natural beauty of forests and

the marine environment. Foreign tourists interested in nature and environmental conservation are especially drawn to the island, where they can observe endangered terrestrial and marine animals and rare species in one location.

Moreover, foreign travellers frequently travel to Makyongalet Island, which is home to a large population of the Salone people. Visitors are particularly interested in learning about the Moken's traditional cul-

ture and observing Moken families living aboard their boats and engaging in traditional fishing activities, including spearfishing and squid fishing.

Wah Ale Resort, renowned for its beautiful marine and forest environments, usually opens at the beginning of November each year and closes in March. Last year, however, tourists continued to visit until early April.

Most of the foreign tourists who visited Wah Ale Resort came from countries including Russia, the United States, India, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, Canada, Spain and Latvia, while tourists from several Asian countries also visited the resort for leisure. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Myanmar ships nearly 1M tonnes of maize ...

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar primarily exports corn to Thailand and the Philippines. Although Thailand's tariff exemption period has ended, exports to the Philippines will continue. Robust demand from domestic feed processing factories currently raises prices.

Myanmar cultivates approximately 1.38 million acres of maize, with annual production of over 84 million baskets (more than 2.06 million tonnes). Maize is grown mostly in hill regions, with about 85 per cent cultivated as a monsoon crop between 15 May and the first week of June. — ASH/KK



Myanmar maize designated for export.

Taunggyi inspects rural farm-to-market road construction

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of a rural farm-to-market road construction in Naungpyit Village, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South).

Taunggyi Township Department of Rural Development Head U Zaw Win and engineering staff inspected the construction of the four-furlong-long, 12-foot-wide farm-to-market road featuring a two-foot earth embankment and a nine-inch sand-gravel surface, with CBR meas-

urements using the DCP method. He also met members of the village road construction committee and responsible officials from the tender-winning company, emphasizing the importance of completing the works on time within the designated period.

The road construction and related works are being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with K62 million in State-approved funds through cooperation between township department engineers and the tender-winning company. Upon completion, the project will enable local farmers to transport agricultural produce from their farmlands to markets at lower costs. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



A field inspection is underway in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State.

Concrete paving on Chinhtaung-Kyauksan Road in Minbu inspected

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on 20 September to inspect the concrete paving work on the Chinhtaung-Kyauksan Road, which is being implemented with the Union (Capital) Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year by the Minbu Township Rural Road Development Department, Magway Region, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The assistant director (Civil) of the Minbu District Rural Road Development Department, Staff Officer (Civil) Daw Shwe Sin Oo of the Minbu Township Rural Road Development Department, and responsible officials inspected the ongoing construction of the sub-



Officials inspect the concrete paving work on the Chinhtaung-Kyauksan Road in Minbu Township.

base course for the concrete paving work on the Chinhtaung-Kyauksan Road. The assistant director (Civil) instructed that the work be carried out in line with specified standards to ensure timely completion and coordinated the necessary details.

The concrete paving work on the Chinhtaung-Kyauksan Road, measuring 3.85 furlongs in length, 14 feet in width, and seven inches in thickness, was initiated by the Rural Road Development Department in the third week of July 2026 with K458.379 million allocated from the 2026-2027 financial year Union (Capital) Budget, and 60 per cent of the project has reportedly been completed to date. — Set Lu

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NATIONAL

Pesticide registration board warns violators of legal action

THE Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board has issued a public warning that violations of the Pesticide Law will result in legal action.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is working to develop the agricultural sector and ensure safe, healthy agricultural products. The ministry is monitoring the import, storage, production, and distribution of agricultural inputs to eliminate counterfeit products and ensure quality, taking effective legal action.

Tun Taw Win pesticide shop in Kangyi Ward, Aungmye Township, Magway Region, was found selling a pesticide named Shwe Aung La without import authorization and with sub-standard quality, violating the Pesticide Law. Action

was taken under Section 18(b) and Section 27(a), resulting in the revocation of the shop's retail/wholesale licence (Ma Ka Ta – A La Na – 04-2023 (096)) via Order 1/2026 dated 10 March, 2026. The shop has been closed.

Moreover, 170 kilograms of remaining stock (200 grammes by 50 packets by 17 cartons) were seized from the warehouse of the distributor, Golden Rocket Co Ltd, in Mandalay. The company was reported to Myoma Police Station No 9 by the Mandalay Township Agriculture Department. The Mahaangmyay Township Court ruled under Section 39 of the Pesticide Law, imposing a fine of K1 million or six-months' imprisonment. The defendant paid the fine. — NN/KK

MPA to auction goods in 6 unlicensed containers

THE Myanmar Port Authority will auction goods from six containers held without proper identification or licences at the AWPT and MIP ports.

The goods will be sold in their current condition through an open tender auction at 1 pm on 1 October.

Auction forms and

terms and conditions are available until 29 September at the Central Store Department, Myanmar Port Authority, located on Strand Road in Botahtaung Township, Yangon. Individuals can enquire in person at the department for further details, according to the Auction and Disposal Committee. — NN/KK

Gold Market Rate as of 21 September 2026

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

MLF to offer Hands On Dairy & Meat Processing Training 2026 in Nov

THE Myanmar Livestock Federation will conduct the Hands On Dairy and Meat Processing Training 2026 in November.

The federation has been working to develop the livestock sector, ensure food security and safety, and promote value added livestock production in cooperation with domestic and international organizations.

The federation, in partnership with Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD), offers two annual courses: Value Added Dairy Processing and Value Added Meat Processing – at the Livestock Product Research and Development Centre (LPRDC DLD) in Chiang

Mai, Thailand.

This year's courses will run concurrently from 15 to 21 November, covering theoretical and practical approaches. The curriculum is updated annually with new product lines developed and marketed by LPRDC, and trainers also accommodate specific product requests from participants.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit recreational spots around Chiang Mai outside training hours with assistance from course leaders.

Participants must share expenses covering the Yangon-Chiang Mai-Yangon airfare, course fees, and raw ma-



terials used in training.

As this is a customized course organized exclusively for Myanmar, a minimum of 10 participants is required per course to proceed. Course content and estimated costs will be announced later. MLF and LPRDC – DLD will arrange a discounted rate below the standard fee.

Participants must hold a passport with at least six months' validity remaining as of 21 November.

The training is designated for those seeking to add value to livestock products, expand markets, or launch new ventures. Interested individuals can enquire about details through the Myanmar Livestock Federation office at 09 752278795 (phone/Viber) or email myanmarlivestock@gmail.com. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 21 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,649.00~3671.00	557.00~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	5,615,892.78	9,499,451.96	46,666,346.00	-

YGN opens tenders for parking fees in 8 restricted zones

TENDER application forms for parking fee collection in Yangon's eight restricted parking zones were launched on 21 September, according to the Engineering Department (Roads & Bridges).

Tender applications will be available until 9 October, and the tender process will close on 16 October. The tender selection will then be held at the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) on 20 October.

The competitive

bidding rules and application forms for the parking fee collection project can be purchased and submitted at the Engineering Department (Roads & Bridges) headquarters on the second floor of City Hall in Kyauktada Township during office hours.

The Engineering Department (Roads & Bridges) stated that it will lease out parking fee collection services in eight restricted parking zones across



This photo shows the City Hall, where the Department of Engineering (Roads and Bridges) head office is located in Kyauktada Township.

six townships of Yangon through a competitive bidding system. — TWA/MKKS

under the management of the Yangon City Development Committee

Workplace positions secured without bribery

The government must create job opportunities for the people, while the most important requirement is their genuine willingness to work, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at a recent Union Government meeting.

Regarding employment opportunities, Myanmar needs systematic standards for civil service recruitment and must ensure that appropriate, suitable job opportunities are provided based on educational attainment. Only when employment opportunities, salary scales, and career advancement correspond properly to their level of education will parents be encouraged to support their children's education in pursuit of employment prospects.

Departments and organizations under the respective ministries should create employment opportunities for people who meet the prescribed qualifications. Depending on their educational qual-

ifications, some applicants may enter government service at different levels, from entry-level positions to deputy staff officer or staff officer positions. In addition, some job seekers apply for relevant positions in government service.

Whatever the circumstances, all applicants for employment must comply with the rules and regulations of the respective departments and organizations at their workplaces. In particular, all employees accept their appointments with a clear understanding of the salaries and allowances announced in advance before they apply for the positions. Therefore, government employees must clearly understand the financial rules and regulations and should not seek illicit income through bribery or corruption on the grounds that they need additional income to support their livelihoods. Even though employees and people across

the country are facing the impacts of inflation, bribery is not a solution to their livelihood needs. Those who engage in such practices are committing crimes.

On the other hand, officials at the superior levels should regularly review the work processes of their respective departments and the daily lives of their employees to identify and address their needs. Encouragement from officials can greatly contribute to the well-being of their subordinates and motivate them to accelerate their work.

To nurture the capable and dynamic human resources the country needs, relevant ministries must conduct refresher and multiplier training courses tailored to specific disciplines, skills and qualifications. Only then can the nation continuously develop and effectively utilize the human resources required across all sectors. To motivate employees, foster a strong work ethic and enhance their workplace capabilities, officials at all levels must take the initiative to develop human resources within their respective workplaces. Only then will those who are willing to work be able to improve their capabilities and contribute to the development of their respective organizations.

Climbing Higher: Empowering Myanmar's Youth to Build a Stronger Future

By Dr Zaw (Sli)

Education, practical skills, resilience and community participation can help a new generation turn today's challenges into opportunities for tomorrow.

Every nation's future is shaped not only by its natural resources, economic strength or technological progress, but also by the knowledge, character and determination of its young people. Youth are not simply the leaders of tomorrow; they are already important contributors to the development of their families, communities and country.

For Myanmar, where young people are growing up amid rapid social,

economic and technological change, empowering the younger generation has become particularly important. Providing opportunities for education, skills development, creativity and meaningful participation can help young people respond constructively to challenges and contribute to a more resilient and prosperous society.

Progress, however, rarely follows a straight and easy path. It is more like climbing a difficult mountain. A climber may encounter steep slopes, changing weather and unexpected obstacles, but each step taken with patience and determination brings

the destination closer. Young people can draw a similar lesson from nature: difficulties should not necessarily be viewed as barriers to success, but as opportunities to develop resilience, experience and confidence.

"Progress is not about avoiding obstacles; it is about gaining the strength to rise above them and moving forward together."

Education: The Foundation for Youth Development

Education remains one of the most powerful foundations for individual and national development. In the twenty-first century, however, education must go beyond memo-

rizing information and preparing for examinations. Young people need opportunities to develop critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, problem-solving and digital literacy.

These competencies become particularly valuable when learning is connected with real-life situations.

For example, a student who learns about environmental protection can move beyond simply memorizing definitions by identifying waste-management problems in the neighbourhood, discussing possible solutions with classmates and participating in a small commu-

nity clean-up activity. Through such experiences, classroom learning becomes practical knowledge and practical knowledge becomes social responsibility.

In Myanmar, schools, universities, vocational institutions, community organisations and youth groups can contribute to this kind of learning by encouraging project-based activities, community service, entrepreneurship, digital learning and career-oriented skills development.

Education should therefore help young people answer not only the question, "What do I know?," but also "What can I do with what I know?"

From Learning to Practical Skills

Academic knowledge matters, but it becomes more valuable when it can be applied effectively. Young people need opportunities to develop practical skills that are relevant to both employment and everyday life.

Digital skills, communication, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, technical and vocational skills, teamwork and problem-solving can all strengthen young people's ability to respond to changing economic conditions.

A young person in a rural community, for instance, may use a smartphone not only for entertain-

ment but also to learn new agricultural techniques, access educational resources, promote locally produced goods or communicate with wider markets. Similarly, a young person with technical skills may establish a small repair service, digital business or other community-based enterprise.

Such examples demonstrate that youth development does not always require large-scale projects. Sometimes, a small amount of knowledge, combined with initiative and determination, can create meaningful opportunities.

SEE PAGE 11

Tobacco-Free School: Laying the Foundation for a Tobacco-Free Generation

By Dr Aung Tun

Smoking is no longer a habit young Myanmar picks up late in life; it is a danger that reaches children while they are still in school. The 2016 Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) found that 9.8 per cent of students aged 13 to 17 were current tobacco users, and that 70.6 per cent of those who had ever smoked had started before the age of 14. A more recent School-based Adolescent Health Survey by the Department of Medical Research found that current smoked-tobacco use among adolescents had climbed to 31.0 per cent – more than four times the 7.2 per cent recorded in 2016 – while exposure to second-hand smoke among adolescents reached 81.3 per cent, with roughly four in ten students reporting that a parent or guardian used some form of tobacco.

With about a quarter of Myanmar's population of over

51 million classified as school-age youth, the scale of this danger is national. Adolescence is precisely the period in which children, observing smoking and betel-chewing habits around them, form the decisions that will shape their health for the rest of their lives, and research consistently shows that the younger a person is at first use, the harder that habit is to break later on. Schools reach the great majority of young people and hold their attention for most of each day, making them both an efficient and a cost-effective entry point for prevention – and the knowledge students gain there does not stay behind the school gate. It travels home to siblings, parents, and the wider community, reinforcing protective behaviour against alcohol and drug use as well.

A Foundation Laid Over Nearly Three Decades

Guarding children against this danger has never depended on a single law or a single ceremony; it rests on a foundation built brick by brick since the mid-1990s. Tobacco-danger education talks entered school health education between 1995 and 1997, and by 1997 tobacco-danger articles were included in health bulletins for grades 4 to 10. In 1998, the Health-Promoting School programme was launched in 285 townships with tobacco-free schools built in as a core component from the start, training students in the decision-making skills needed to refuse tobacco rather than simply warning them of its dangers. From 2002, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education jointly deepened this foundation through tobacco-prevention content in the Life Skills Education co-curriculum for grades 3 and 7.

On this basis, tobacco-free school plans now stand in every township, translated into daily practice: banning the sale of cigarettes, betel quid, and even tobacco-shaped toys and snacks at school shops; enforcing the sales ban around school premises in cooperation with local authorities; running exhibitions, talks, and essay or poetry competitions to raise awareness in ways that go beyond the classroom lecture; training teachers so

they can model and reinforce the message themselves; and monitoring compliance at least once a year, with clear, publicised penalties for violations. Oversight flows through a structured chain – from the Department of Public Health's School Health Division and the Department of Basic Education nationally, down through School Health Committees at state/region, district, township, and school level – which is what allows the same standard to be applied in a classroom in Kachin as in Taninthayi.

A Legal Backbone That Keeps Growing

The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law of 2006 remains the backbone of this effort, prohibiting tobacco sales within 100 feet of basic education schools, banning sales to children under 18 and the sale of single cigarettes, and outlawing tobacco advertising in any form. In recent years, this backbone has grown stronger still, through two developments that speak directly to the products young people are most likely to encounter today. In September 2025, after years of delay in the face of industry lobbying, Myanmar fully implemented standardised plain packaging, requiring all tobacco products to be sold in a uniform drab-brown pack – Pantone 448C – with pictorial health warnings covering 75 per cent of the surface, stripping cigarettes of the branding and colour that make them attractive to first-time users, including students. It made Myanmar only the third country in Asia to adopt the measure. Then, on 18 February 2026, the Ministry of Health issued Order No. 8/2026 under the Essential Supplies and Services Law, banning the import, export, sale, possession, storage, transport, distribution, use, and consumption of electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco products, electronic shisha, and their related components, including devices, batteries, chargers, and e-liquids, nationwide, making Myanmar the eighth ASEAN country to prohibit

these devices.

Both measures speak directly to what happens around a school gate. Plain packaging removes the glamour that once drew a curious teenager's eye on a shop shelf, while the e-cigarette ban closes off a channel that had begun reaching students who might never have started with an ordinary cigarette, often through flavours and discreet devices marketed to look harmless. Paired with the 100-foot sales ban already in force, these newer measures narrow, from several directions at once, the routes by which tobacco and nicotine reach young people during the very years when the habit is most likely to take hold for life. Myanmar's move also places it alongside Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam as the eighth country in the region to close off e-cigarettes altogether; a regional signal that protecting school-age youth from new nicotine products is now treated as seriously as protecting them from cigarettes themselves.

President's Directive

This layered effort – school-based education, legal restriction, and now product-level controls – was reaffirmed at this year's School Health Week ceremony, where President U Min Aung Hlaing noted that all schools have been designated smoke-free and called on health staff, teachers, and parents alike to carry school health programmes forward more effectively than before, with emphasis on nurturing children who are healthy in both body and mind. The value of that call lies less in its novelty than in what it reaffirms: a foundation that has already been under construction, and strengthened by new laws, for nearly thirty years – and a reminder that a policy on paper protects no child unless health staff, teachers, and parents carry it out together, day by day, in thousands of schools at once.

Laying the Foundation for a Tobacco-Free Generation

None of this – decades of curriculum-building, a

strengthened 2006 law, plain packaging, or the new e-cigarette ban – protects a single child unless it is carried out consistently in thousands of schools and reinforced by families at home, especially given how many adolescents are still exposed to second-hand smoke at home and how many still have a parent or guardian who smokes. Each layer depends on the one beneath it: curriculum without enforcement teaches facts that go unpractised; law without curriculum restricts supply without changing minds; and neither survives contact with a home environment that normalises tobacco use in front of a child every evening. It is only when all three reinforce one another – classroom, law, and household – that a school can genuinely call itself tobacco-free.

As Myanmar continues to face a rising burden of non-communicable disease, and as new nicotine products test old defences, safeguarding the coming generation at the point where habits are formed – in school, among peers, guided by teachers – remains one of the most cost-effective investments the country can make in its long-term health. Sustaining and strengthening the tobacco-free school is, in this sense, sustaining the very foundation of a tobacco-free generation.

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NATIONAL

Falam MEB resumes pension payment services

PENSION payments to retired civil servants have resumed at Falam Myanma Economic Bank for the first time after nearly two years of suspension due to terrorist attacks. Banking services were suspended in November 2024, and the bank reopened on 6 July 2026, after Falam was brought back under control in April.

The urban, political, defence, police and bank pensions are now being paid. Pensioners who had been displaced and were unable to collect their pensions must reapply at Falam Myanma Economic Bank. Those applying to receive pensions in Falam for the first time may apply in person from 1st to 8th



Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin inspects the pension payment process at the Falam's Myanmar Economic Bank.

of each month.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, 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

pension payment process and encouraged retired employees receiving their pensions.

The deputy minister and party also inspected Surbung Airport, including damage to the main terminal, control tower, staff housing, equipment and runway. Officials explained the damage and

the necessary rehabilitation and repair work.

Surbung Airport, built for K43.79 billion as Chin State's first aviation gateway, received its first test landing by an ATR 72 aircraft on 27 October 2020. Parts of the airport infrastructure and equipment were damaged or lost during the terrorist incidents, causing huge losses to the country and people.

Rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts are now being accelerated in Chin State under the guidance of the Head of State and the supervision of committees led by deputy ministers and relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH

One Indonesian national transferred over telecom fraud links

AN Indonesian national who had illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after travelling through neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and become involved in illegal online gambling, online scams and other offences in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area of Kayin State was handed over to Indonesian authorities via Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II in accordance with legal pro-

cedures and humanitarian principles.

Myanmar and Thai officials coordinated the necessary measures for the handover, and the relevant deportation and transfer documents were formally transferred to Indonesian officials.

Of the remaining 1,343 foreign nationals awaiting transfer, 640 have faced legal action under the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act and



Immigration officials processing the repatriation of an Indonesian.

the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. The remaining 703 foreign nationals are ready to be transferred to their respective countries and are being provided with appropriate care and accommodation.

Myanmar is cooperating with neighbouring

regional countries and international organisations to identify and take legal action against foreigners involved in online scam centres. It is also coordinating the repatriation of foreigners stranded in or trafficked to Myanmar to their respective countries. — MNA/MKKS

Yangon Stage Shines with Yunnan Culture at Mid-Autumn Festival



A glimpse of performances at the Mid-Autumn Festival art event.

A Mid-Autumn Festival art performance titled "Love Under the Moon, Bonds Through Art - 'Celebrating Together Around the World' Yangon Mid-Autumn Festival Art Exhibition" was held at the central hall of the Jewellery Mall at Times City Complex in Yangon on 21 September.

The event was jointly organized by the Department of Culture and Tourism of Yunnan Province, China, and the China Cultural Centre in Yangon, with support from Times City, Bowen School and the Kunming Ethnic Theatre.

The event featured Mid-Autumn Festival music and dance performances under the theme "Bright Moon, Dear Friends, Music Brings Hearts Together",

as well as the "Moonlight in the City, Yangon Song Gala". Performances of songs, dances and traditional musical instruments showcased Yunnan's distinctive ethnic culture and helped promote friendship and cultural ties between the peoples of China and Myanmar.

A Chinese-Myanmar attendee from Lanmadaw Township said she was pleased to have the opportunity to watch the cultural performance in Yangon and experience Yunnan's unique ethnic traditions, music and dances. She expressed her hope that such cultural exchanges would further strengthen friendship and close ties between the peoples of the two countries. — TWA/KNN

Myanmar Set to Enter the 5G Era Soon

THE 5G services will be available soon in Myanmar, said Digital Development and Communications Ministry Deputy Minister U Thet Win Aung.

He told it during a meeting with mobile tel-

ecommunication operators and internet service providers at the Hanthawady Office in Sangyoung Township on 20 September.

He also urged respective companies and operators to continue

cooperating in phases to clear tangled WIFI cables in Yangon.

After the meeting, the deputy minister visited the Data Centre at the Mytel office.

Operators will need to set up 1,000 stations in

a year to offer 5G services, said the deputy minister at the meeting on 18 August. — TWA/ZS

Deputy Minister U Thet Win Aung visiting the Data Centre.



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China explores multi-purpose satellite design

CHINESE researchers are moving satellites from single-service platforms towards multi-functional systems that combine communication, sensing, computing and intelligent processing.

The latest example is PEGA-SUS1, which launched on Sunday aboard a Chinese commercial rocket along with eight other satellites.

Weighing about 150 kg, it carries a range of

advanced payloads for non-terrestrial networks, satellite-ground laser links and microwave communications.

The satellite was jointly developed by Pengcheng Laboratory in tech-hub Shenzhen, Beijing-based private satellite maker GalaxySpace and other research institutions.

Pengcheng Laboratory said the satellite is the first in the PCL-Pegasus Constellation, an in-orbit

technology verification platform for an integrated “communication-sensing-intelligence-computing” system. The constellation is expected to include nine satellites in total.

GalaxySpace said the satellite will explore a “one satellite, multiple functions” design concept and is expected to support further testing of next-generation integrated space-ground connectivity

technologies.

Ren Jiadong, a senior technical staff member at GalaxySpace, used a fire warning as an example to demonstrate the strength of the satellite. Traditionally, he explained, data must first be downloaded, converted into images and then analyzed. The new satellite, however, can analyze remote sensing data in orbit, determine whether there is a fire, estimate the affected area and quickly



A Lijian-1 Y18 carrier rocket carrying nine satellites blasts off from the Dongfeng commercial space innovation pilot zone in northwest China, 20 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

send back the results. This approach eliminates the need to return raw images. — Xinhua

Climbing Higher: Empowering Myanmar’s Youth to ...

FROM PAGE 9

Young People as Contributors to Their Communities

A healthy society is built through participation and shared responsibility. Young people can make valuable contributions through volunteering, community service and local initiatives.

Cleaning public spaces, supporting elderly people, helping younger students with their studies, participating in environmental activities and assisting communities during emergencies are simple but meaningful forms of civic participation.

A youth group that organizes a neighbourhood clean-up, for example, may appear to be undertaking a small activity. Yet the experience can develop teamwork, leadership, communication and a sense of responsibility among its members. More importantly, it can encourage other community members to participate.

These activities show that leadership does not always begin with a formal position or title. Leadership often begins when a young person sees a problem and decides to become part of the solution.

Overcoming Modern

Challenges with Resilience

Young people today face a range of challenges, including economic uncertainty, changing employment patterns, social pressures and the rapid transformation brought about by technology. These challenges can create anxiety and uncertainty, but they also highlight the importance of resilience and adaptability.

Rather than becoming discouraged by difficult circumstances, young people can strengthen their capacity to learn continuously, adapt to change and cooperate with others.

A young entrepreneur who cannot immediately establish a large business, for example, might begin with a small local service, learn from customers, improve the product and gradually expand. A student who struggles with a particular subject can seek help, practise regularly and use reliable digital learning resources to improve.

The important lesson is that progress is often the result of consistent small steps rather than one dramatic achievement.

Technology: A Tool, Not a Substitute for Action

Digital technology has created unprecedented op-

portunities for young people to access information, communicate with others and acquire new skills. Online courses, educational videos, digital libraries and professional networks can help young people continue learning beyond the traditional classroom.

At the same time, technology must be used responsibly. Young people need to distinguish reliable information from misinformation, protect their personal data, respect others online and use digital platforms for constructive purposes.

Technology is most valuable when it connects knowledge with action.

A young person may learn about environmental conservation through an online course, communicate with other young people through a digital platform and then apply that knowledge by participating in a local environmental project. In this way, digital learning becomes a way to create real-world impact rather than simply consuming online content.

Key Actions for Youth Development

To build a stronger future, young people can focus on several practical actions:

- Keep learning: Develop knowledge and practical

skills through continuous learning and daily practice.

- Think critically: Question information, examine evidence and make responsible decisions.
- Create and innovate: Look for practical solutions to problems in the family, community and workplace.
- Serve the community: Volunteer time and skills to support people and improve local communities.
- Work collaboratively: Respect different perspectives and learn how to achieve shared goals with others.
- Use technology responsibly: Take advantage of digital opportunities while maintaining digital safety, ethics and critical awareness.
- Turn ideas into action: Begin with achievable projects and learn from experience.

These actions can help transform youth development from an abstract idea into a practical process.

A Shared Responsibility for the Next Generation

Youth development is not the responsibility of young people alone. Families, teachers, schools, universities, employers, communities and policy-

makers all have important roles to play.

Young people need safe and supportive environments in which they can ask questions, make responsible choices, learn from mistakes and develop their talents. They also need opportunities to participate meaningfully in decisions and activities that affect their communities.

Parents can encourage learning and responsible independence. Teachers can create classrooms that promote enquiry, creativity and collaboration. Employers can provide opportunities for young people to gain practical experience. Community organizations can create platforms for volunteering and leadership. Policymakers can strengthen pathways for education, skills development, employment and entrepreneurship.

When these efforts are connected, youth development becomes a shared national investment.

A Unified Vision for Tomorrow

The strength of a nation is ultimately reflected in the capabilities and character of its people. Young people possess energy, creativity and the capacity to introduce new ideas, but these qualities need to be supported by

education, practical opportunities, ethical values and meaningful participation.

Myanmar’s young people can contribute to the country’s future in many ways—from classrooms and vocational institutions to farms, businesses, technology platforms and community initiatives. What matters is not the size of the first step, but the willingness to begin, learn, cooperate and continue moving forward.

The journey may not always be easy. There will be obstacles, uncertainty and setbacks. Yet every challenge can become an opportunity to build resilience, every learning experience can become a source of strength, and every constructive contribution can become part of a larger transformation.

The future is not built in a single day. It is built through the knowledge we acquire, the skills we develop, the values we uphold and the actions we take today.

When Myanmar’s young people are equipped with knowledge, strengthened by practical skills, guided by responsible values and united by a shared vision, they can do more than prepare for the future – they can help build it.



Affluent consumers drive US retail sales surge as lower-income households struggle, experts say

AFFLUENT Americans are driving a surge in US retail sales, while lower-income households continue to struggle with inflation, experts said.

US retail sales rose 1.2 per cent in August to US\$773.9 billion, up six per cent from a year earlier, according to data released by the Census Bureau earlier this week. Experts said the increase likely reflects stronger spending among affluent consumers, highlighting a widening gap between higher- and lower-income Americans.

“If you take the last two months together, (retail sales are) still a decent pace, but likely driven by higher-income people,” Dean Baker, economist and co-founder of the Centre for Economic and Policy Research, told Xinhua.



Customers shop at a store in New York, the United States, 8 May 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Some experts noted that high earners, supported by gains in stocks and real estate, continue to spend on travel, luxury goods and apparel, while lower-income Americans are struggling to keep up as everyday essentials consume much of their income gains.

“The cost of living is going up, but wealthy indi-

viduals still are traveling and making big purchases. That is keeping retail sales up even while the overall economy is not doing well for many individuals,” Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua. Economists warned that this lopsided economy could leave the retail industry vulnerable. If top-tier consumer spend-

ing cools, retail sales could contract. Some observed that consumers are increasing their spending simply because inflation has made essential items more expensive. “People in all income groups need to buy their essentials. As inflation drives up prices, people are increasing their spending in one sense -- buying the same items they need at higher prices,” said Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Centre for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland. While the US administration campaigned on bringing down inflation, prices have shown little sign of easing. Moreover, the conflict with Iran is contributing to high gas prices, placing additional pressure on lower-income Americans. — Xinhua

German enterprises scale up investment in China amid market growth

GERMAN companies are stepping up investment and expanding production in China, tapping into the country’s growing market and emerging opportunities.

Weiss Group, a German “hidden champion” specializing in mechanical, mechatronic and digital solutions, has opened its first production base in China in Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province.

With an investment of US\$10 million, the project will serve as the group’s China headquarters for

production, research and development (R&D) and trade. Its first phase is expected to generate annual sales of about 60 million yuan (about US\$8.89 million) and annual imports and exports of around 35 million yuan once operational.

The Qingdao project is among a growing number of examples of German companies deepening their presence in China, with investment increasingly extending from production to localized R&D and supply chains. — Xinhua

Laos launches digital tourism platform to modernize travel services

LAOS’ Ministry of Culture and Tourism, in collaboration with the private sector, has launched the Lao Travel Platform, a new digital tourism hub designed to make travel planning and tourism ser-

vices in Laos more convenient and accessible.

Described as a “Digital Gateway to Laos”, the platform brings tourism information and services together in one place. — Xinhua

MYANMA Port Authority “NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.07 feet to 21.09 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of September 26th to October 1st, 2026. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium
The Information about 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium 2026

1. The significant 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium 2026, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held from October 8 to 17, 2026 at Maniradana Emporium Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. The local gems entrepreneurs who got the permit and the local gems merchants who got the license to operate in the finished gemstone making and dealing under the Myanmar Gem Law, will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2026 according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at 61st Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2026, any merchants can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 9 VOY.NO. (33N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 9 VOY. NO. (33N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (181N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (181N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SAFETY OCEAN VOY.NO. (106805)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SAFETY OCEAN VOY.NO. (106805)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO., LTD

New Zealand’s Fonterra lifts 2026/27 milk price forecast midpoint

NEW Zealand dairy giant Fonterra on Monday raised its forecast farmgate milk price mid-

point for the 2026/27 season, citing improvements in global dairy commodity prices.

The new forecast midpoint has lifted to 9.5 NZ dollars (US\$5.44) per kilogramme of milk solids

from 9.25 NZ dollars. The cooperative also narrowed its forecast range to 8.5-10.5 NZ dollars per kg of

milk solids from 8-10.5 NZ dollars previously, Fonterra said in a statement.

Fonterra’s Farmgate Milk Price is the average price it expects to pay farmers for milk supplied during the season.

Fonterra CEO Richard Allen said the higher

midpoint reflected recent improvements in global commodity prices, with Global Dairy Trade auction results for key products, particularly whole milk powder and skim milk powder, improving since the company’s last update in July. — Xinhua

Malaysia’s mean monthly salaries, wages up 4.1% in 2025

MALAYSIAN citizens’ mean monthly salaries and wages rose 4.1 per cent year on year to 3,803 ringgit (about US\$933) in 2025, according to an official survey released on Monday.

The median monthly salaries and wages increased 5.3 per cent to 2,940 ringgit, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement.

The services sector, which accounted for 71.5 per cent of wage recipients, was the main contributor to growth in the number of recipients, which rose 1.8 per cent to 7.42 million.

Mining and quarrying recorded the highest mean monthly salaries and wages at 6,175 ringgit, followed by services at 3,993 ringgit, manufacturing at 3,357 ringgit, construction at 3,188 ringgit and agriculture at 2,575 ringgit.

DOSM said the growth in mean and median monthly salaries and wages reflected improvements in the labour market and workers’ incomes.

Looking ahead, sustained efforts to enhance productivity, strengthen skills and create high-value jobs are crucial to supporting sustainable real wage growth and workers’ well-being, it said. — Xinhua

“ TRADEMARK CAUTION ”

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Daw Zin Mar Aung (LL.B, LL.M)
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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Heavy rain hits near Tokyo as typhoon approaches eastern coast

A large typhoon was moving towards eastern Japan's Pacific coast Monday, bringing heavy rain that triggered landslides in Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures near Tokyo and left one person injured, according to local governments.

In Sodegaura, Chiba, a woman in her 40s sustained minor injuries after driving into debris from a landslide. In Yokosuka, Kanagawa, rescue operations are underway for a female resident of a house struck by a landslide, with mud flowing inside.

The weather agency issued a top-level warning for landslides on its 5-point scale for the northern part of the Izu island chain and a level 4 warning for the rest of the chain, some areas in Tokyo, Chiba, Kanagawa and Ibaraki prefectures.

Eight houses in Chiba were damaged by the typhoon, including some that were submerged, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Typhoon Dujuan was projected to pass near the Boso Peninsula in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, from Monday evening until late into the night, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Downpours are occurring on Izu Oshima, the largest island in the Izu chain, located about 100



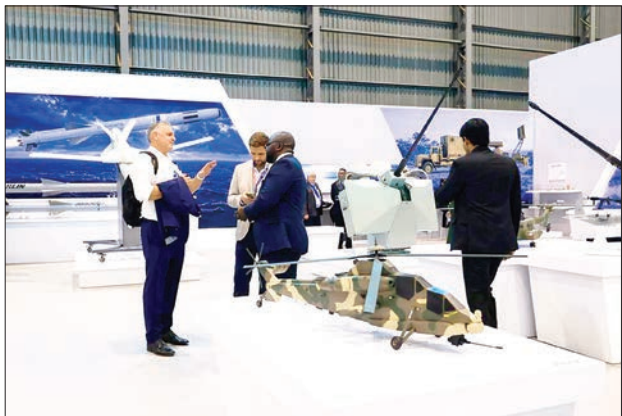
Photo shows people walking along a road flooded by heavy rain from Typhoon Dujuan in Ichikawa, Chiba Prefecture, on 21 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

kilometres from Tokyo, as well as in the Kanto region, including Tokyo, and Shizuoka Prefecture in central Japan. A top-level landslide warning has been issued for Izu Oshima.

In the city of Chiba,

roads were flooded and two cars were driven into floodwaters and became submerged, but the drivers managed to get to safety and no one was injured, the local fire department said. — Kyodo

AAD 2026 concludes in South Africa, highlighting aerospace, defence cooperation



People visit the exhibition area of the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) expo in Pretoria, South Africa, 16 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE 13th edition of Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition concluded on Sunday in Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital, highlighting technological innovation, industrial development and international cooperation in the aerospace and de-

fence sectors.

The five-day event was held at Air Force Base Waterkloof under the theme "Africa's Gateway to Defence and Aerospace Collaboration".

South African Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Angie Motshekga said the exhibition provided a platform for exchanging ideas, forging partnerships and unlocking new opportunities in the aerospace and defence industries.

According to Motshekga, more than 250 exhibitors from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America participated in

this year's event.

"The diversity of nations present at AAD 2026 underscores the importance of this event as a meeting point for global innovation, trade and cooperation," she said.

Segomotso Tire, executive manager at the Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armcor), a core partner and key organizer of the exhibition, told Xinhua at the event that the exhibition offered opportunities for African companies to establish partnerships with international counterparts. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qatar says US wants deal with Iran amid effort to resume talks

QATAR is working with the United States and Iran to resume talks, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said Sunday, noting that US officials have indicated that Washington wants a deal.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Qatar Economic Forum in New York, Al Ansari said Qatar had been exchanging ideas with Washington and Tehran over the past few weeks in an effort to restart negotiations.

"We have been working together through our mediator team with both Tehran and the United States to see if we can get it restarted again. A lot of ideas have been thrown back and forth," Al Ansari said, adding that Qatar was trying to "bridge the gap and find the right moment to move forward".

"We have heard statements on the record from various administration officials who have confirmed that the United States wants a deal, and the United States wants a solution to this war," he said.

Al Ansari said any settlement should provide regional stability while establishing an international understanding to protect strategic waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz. — Xinhua

South Australia reports 4 new bird flu cases in endangered sea lions

SOUTH Australia (SA) on Monday reported four new confirmed cases of the H5N1 avian influenza in endangered sea lions.

SA Environment Minister Emily Bourke told reporters that four out of 10 Australian sea lions that were found dead on the Pages Island group off the state's southeast coast tested positive for H5N1 bird flu, including one pup.

It takes the total number of confirmed H5N1 cases in Australian sea lions to five after the first case in the species was detected on the nearby Kangaroo Island earlier in September.

North and South Page Island and Kangaroo Island are considered key breeding grounds for the Australian sea lion. According to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, there are fewer than 12,000 Australian sea lions in the wild, 85 percent of which are in SA. Kangaroo Island is home to the third-largest colony of the species.

In addition to the sea lions, Bourke on Monday reported a new H5N1 mass mortality event involving crested terns on the Pages, with about 900 birds found dead on the islands. — Xinhua

German Chancellor Merz's CDU fails to enter northeastern state parliament

GERMAN Chancellor Friedrich Merz's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) secured only 4.9 per cent of the vote in the election of the northeastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, failing to enter the state parliament for the

first time in post-war Germany, preliminary official results showed early Monday.

Falling short of the mandatory five per cent threshold, the CDU saw its support drop by 8.4 percentage points from its re-

sult in 2021.

Earlier on Sunday, Merz called the results a "disaster" but vowed to carry forward reforms and rebuild confidence.

The far-right Alternative for Germany won the state election with 38.2 per

cent of the vote, followed by the Social Democratic Party with 35.5 per cent.

The Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance also narrowly missed the threshold for parliamentary entry, securing 4.8 per cent of the vote. — Xinhua



Voters fill their ballots at a polling station in Magdeburg, Germany, 6 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS

Myanmar's Teqball team snatches gold, silver, bronze at 20th Asian Games

MYANMAR'S national Teqball team was warmly welcomed back to Yangon yesterday after winning one gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the 20th Asian Games, held from 17 to 20 September at the Nagoya City Higashi Sports Centre in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Khin Hnin Wai won gold in the women's singles event, while Su Mon Aung and Phyu Phyu Than won silver in the women's doubles. Saw



The triumphant Teqball team poses for a group documentary photo.

Friday secured bronze in the men's singles. The team, comprising two coaches and four

athletes, was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Social Affairs Min-

ister U Bo Htay, officials, students, representatives of the Myanmar Teqball Federation, and the athletes' families and friends.

The team was also presented with a total of K180 million in cash awards-K60 million each from the government, the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar Teqball Federation-in recognition of their achievements. — MNA/KTZH

Barcelona goes into break five points clear as Atletico wins Madrid derby

FC Barcelona heads into the international break top of La Liga, five points clear of Atletico Madrid and six ahead of Real Madrid after Atletico won the Madrid derby 2-1 on Sunday.

After a first half with few clear chances, the game changed dramatically in the 52nd minute when Atletico was awarded a penalty after Dean Huijsen brought down Giuliano Simeone, with the Real Madrid defender also sent off.

Alex Grimaldo made no mistake from the spot, and Atletico quickly doubled its lead after Julian Alvarez set up Jonathan

David in the 59th minute. Antonio Rudiger powered in a header from a Bernardo Silva free kick in the closing minutes, but Atletico held on for a vital win.

Real Betis was denied three points away to Deportivo La Coruna by Diego Villares' late equalizer after Cucho Hernandez had put Betis ahead on the stroke of halftime.

Goals from Ayoze Perez, Alberto Moleiro and Georges Mikautadze gave Villarreal a 3-1 home win over Levante.

Ivan Romero scored a spectacular goal to cancel out Ayoze's opener be-



Atletico de Madrid's Giuliano Simeone (front L) vies with Real Madrid's Marc Cucurella (front R) during a La Liga football match between Atletico de Madrid and Real Madrid at Riyadh Air Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain, on 20 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

fore Moleiro and Mikautadze sealed Villarreal's victory in the second half.

Ivan Azon scored the only goal in the 85th minute as Getafe beat

Malaga 1-0, while Ander Barrenetxea struck an injury-time winner to give Real Sociedad a 3-2 victory away to Valencia. — Xinhua

South Korea, Thailand reach badminton men's team quarterfinals

WORLD No 2 Kunlavut Vitidsarn led Thailand to a 3-0 victory over Macao, China, while South Korea defeated Hong Kong, China 3-1 to reach the men's team badminton quarterfinals at the Asian Games on Monday.

South Korea took the lead when Yu Tae-bin rallied from a game down to beat Hong Kong, China's Lee Cheuk Yiu 18-21, 21-16, 22-20 in the men's singles opener. World No 1 men's doubles pair Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae then defeated Deng Chi Fai and Hung Kuei Chun 21-9, 21-10 to put South Korea 2-0 ahead.

"Honestly, playing against the world No 1 is like playing against a wall. Their defence is unbreakable.

It's really impressive," Hung said after the game.

Jason Gunawan beat Park Sang-yong 21-18, 21-17 to pull one back for Hong Kong, China, before Kang Minhyuk and Ki Dong-ju defeated Chan Yin Chak and Lui Chun Wai 18-21, 22-20, 21-18 to seal South Korea's victory.

Thailand also reached the quarterfinals with a 3-0 win over Macao, China. 2024 Olympic silver medallist Kunlavut Vitidsarn edged Pui Pang Fong 21-19, 20-22, 21-10 in a three-game thriller, before Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul extended Thailand's lead with a 21-8, 21-7 victory over Pui Chi Chon. Puritat Arree then sealed the win by beating Leong Lok Chong 21-14, 21-12. — Xinhua

China sweeps men's 10m air rifle golds with team world record



Gold medallists team China (C), silver medallists team India (L) and bronze medallists team South Korea pose during the victory ceremony for the 10metre air rifle men team of shooting at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Toyota of Aichi Prefecture, Japan, 21 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINA claimed both the men's 10 metre air rifle individual and team gold medals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Monday, setting a world record in the team event.

Zhang Changhong, Sheng Lihao and Ma Sihan all produced steady performances in qualification, with each finishing in the top eight.

The trio combined for 1,899.0 points to take team gold, breaking the previous world record of 1,898.4. India won silver with 1,890.1 points, while South Korea claimed bronze with 1,884.2.

The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games marked 18-year-old Ma's first appearance at the continental event. With both of his teammates Olympic champions, Ma said he had learned a lot from them during preparations for the Games.

"I feel like I have two great teammates to lean on, so I wasn't that nervous," Ma said.

In the individual final, Sheng was locked in a close battle with India's Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil and Himanshu Dhillon. Patil scored 106.0 points after the first 10 shots to lead Sheng by 1.1 points. — Xinhua

Zhang scores 22 as China romps past Indonesia to reach women's basketball knockouts

CENTRE Zhang Ziyu scored 22 points on her Asian Games debut to lead China to a 110-41 rout of Indonesia in the women's basketball group stage here on Monday.

Zhang was rested for China's opening group game against Thailand to recover from her recent stint at the FIBA Women's World Cup. She played 13 minutes Monday, shooting 10-for-13 from the field for 22 points.

China head coach Gong Luming praised Zhang's progress.

"From having relatively simple positioning in the past, to being able to participate in team plays, and now being able to pass back out and re-post, including her facilitating passes, these are all visible skills she has developed," Gong said.

Centre Liu Yutong added 20 points and 10 rebounds for China, followed by 17 points from Luo Xinyu. — Xinhua



WORLD

Xi to pay state visit to US from 23 to 25 Sept

Chinese President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to the United States from 23 to 25 September at the invitation of US President Donald Trump, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Monday.

During the visit, Xi and Trump will have an in-depth exchange of views on major issues concerning China-US relations and world peace and development, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a reg-



Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomes US President Donald Trump upon Trump's arrival at Zhongnanhai in Beijing, capital of China, 15 May 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

ular news briefing. Head-of-state diplo-

macy plays an irreplaceable role in providing strategic guidance for China-US relations, and the exchange of visits between the two heads of state within six months marks a historic milestone, Guo said.

China is ready to work with the US side to enrich the connotation of the constructive relationship of strategic stability, enhance dialogue and cooperation, properly manage differences, and continuously contribute to the well-being of both peoples and global peace, stability and prosperity, he added. — Xinhua

United Russia Leads with 57.85% in State Duma Elections After 87.91% of Ballots Counted

THE United Russia party is leading with 57.87 per cent of the vote in the State Duma elections after the processing of 87.91 per cent of the protocols, according to the Russian Central Election Commission (CEC) data on Monday.

The Russian Communist Party is gaining 13.84 per cent in the elections, while the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) is receiving 8.86 per cent.

The New People party is getting 7.94 per cent, with A Just Russia party gaining 4.95 per cent of the vote, below the five per

cent threshold.

In addition, the Pensioners' Party is receiving 2.07 per cent of the vote, the Green Party 1.12 per cent, the Communists of Russia party 0.86 per cent, the Rodina Party 0.73 per cent, and the Party of Direct Democracy 0.34 per cent of the vote.

Elections of lawmakers to the ninth State Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, took place in Russia on 18-20 September. Russian President Vladimir Putin previously described the elections as a very important domestic political event in the country. — SPUTNIK

Iranian president to attend UNGA session — state media



This file photo shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian delivering a speech in Tehran, Iran, 11 February 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

IRAN'S President Masoud Pezeshkian will leave Tehran for New York on Tuesday to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the official news agency IRNA reported.

The announcement was made by Habibollah Abbasi, director general of public relations at the Iranian president's office, in an interview with IRNA published on Monday.

Abbasi said Pezeshkian

will deliver a speech at the UNGA's session and hold meetings with other participating countries' leaders and officials during the trip.

The US government had refrained from issuing visas to some members of the Iranian delegation, including those of the president's media team, he said.

On Thursday, Washington said it would issue visas to some top Iranian officials for the session. — Xinhua



Russian national flags with attached black ribbons are seen on the headquarters of State Duma, the lower house of parliament, on the day of mourning, declared following a terrorist attack in the Crocus City Hall concert venue in Moscow region on 22 March, in Moscow, Russia. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

COP31 host says AI's climate footprint to be a summit priority

COP31 host Türkiye said Monday that pursuing "climate-responsible AI" and pushing tech companies to power data centres with clean energy would be priorities when it stages the summit in November.

The annual UN climate conference is taking place in Antalya, where the hosts are asking countries to support initiatives to tackle emissions from waste, climate-proofing cities and boosting elec-

trification.

On Monday, COP31 President and Turkish Climate Minister Murat Kurum announced that the summit would also address "growing fears over the rise of AI" and its carbon footprint.

"COP31 will meet this moment," Kurum said in a statement in New York, where he is attending the annual Climate Week event.

"We must openly



Murat Kurum, the president of the 2026 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), speaks at a London Climate Week reception, hosted by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), at Saint James's Palace, London on 24 June 2026. PHOTO: AFP

discuss AI's growing energy consumption and it is time for governments to start setting the terms. We expect companies to be transparent about their energy use and to power their operations with clean energy."

A "political pledge" on how AI can support climate goals was being developed with a United Nations agency, and a draft would be unveiled before the summit, the COP31 presidency said.

A second initiative would showcase pilot projects to "demonstrate the responsible use of AI in practice".

The pledge would be voluntary and not require the approval of the nearly 200 nations that take decisions by consensus during the hard-fought UN-sponsored climate summits.

Every year, countries are encouraged by COP hosts to support non-binding pledges on a parallel "action agenda" that is separate from the formal negotiations.

In an unusual arrangement this year, Australia is presiding over the marathon political negotiations but Türkiye is hosting the event and designing the sideline agenda. — AFP