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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Indonesia Expo 2026 Showcases Trade in Yangon on 30-31 Oct

This photo captures a poster for the Indonesia Expo 2026 (Yangon).

INDONESIA Expo 2026, which will showcase products and business opportunities from Indonesia, will be held at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon, according to the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Myanmar.

The two-day expo will take place from 30 to 31 October and will be open daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

The expo will showcase a wide range of Indonesian products and businesses, as well as technological innovations, education, culture, tourism and business opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

Admission to the expo will be free. Musical performances by Myanmar singers will also be featured during the expo, according to the embassy. — TWA/KZL

Russia Delivers Sunflower Oil Aid to Myanmar via WFP

This photo features officials with the sunflower oil assistance sent from Russia.

ACCORDING to the Russian Embassy in Myanmar, Russia has handed over more than 530 metric tonnes of sunflower oil as humanitarian aid through the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Embassy officials inspected WFP warehouses in Yangon and worked with local authorities to plan routes and schedules for systematic distribution across the country.

Russia has reportedly confirmed it will continue to support and assist Myanmar not only through direct bilateral aid but also via relevant UN agencies.

Russia previously delivered over 250 metric tonnes of sunflower oil to Myanmar in January of this year, according to reports. — ASH/TH

MPF Members' Duties Vital to State Security, Public Safety

President U Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Continuous training is essential to building a capable, corruption-free and people-oriented police force whose disciplined members earn the trust of the State and the people.

As transnational crimes have become challenges that cannot be addressed by any single country alone, cooperation among countries has become increasingly important, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day.

The commemorative ceremony took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre-I (MICC-I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the President stated that the government is taking action against online scams and online gambling under a zero-tolerance policy, treating them as crimes that will not be tolerated or forgiven. As such, the Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling was reconstituted in 2026, and the Anti-Online Scam Law was enacted on 31 July 2026. SEE PAGE 3

Myanmar targets US$2B from rice exports in 2028

MYANMAR targets to generate US$2 billion in revenue from rice and broken rice exports in 2028, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

"The ministry aims to increase annual rice export volume up to four to five million tonnes and targets around US$2 billion in revenue," said Union Minister U Min Naung of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MALI).

Rice and broken rice bags are pictured being loaded for export at Yangon port.

In order to achieve the five million tonne rice export target, approximately five million acres of Rice Export Zone would need to be developed, he added.

"The target might feel out of reach at once. This year, we have established 300,000 acres of Rice Export Zone," he said.

The ministry plans to continue expanding the Rice Export Zone until the targets are met, depending on annual progress and multi sectoral cooperation.

The Myanmar Rice Federation is targeting three million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the 2026-2027 financial year. More than 840,000 tonnes had been shipped, generating US$291 million as of the end of August in the current FY beginning 1 April. — TWA/KK

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

El Niño Conditions News

Issued on 1 October 2026

(a) Sea surface temperatures and atmospheric conditions over the equatorial Tropical Pacific Ocean persists under very strong El Niño conditions. Based on assessments and forecasts issued by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and international climate centers, El Niño conditions are expected to reach their peak towards 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) Therefore, all relevant sectors are kindly requested to take necessary precautionary measures in advance. — DMH

Legal AI Assistant Testing Underway

TESTING is currently underway to ask and answer legal questions using AI Model Version 1, according to Dr Thida Oo, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney General, who also serves as Chair of the Steering Committee for Disseminating Legal Knowledge through AI Technology.

The Union minister made the statement at a meeting held on 30 September at the Ministry of Legal Affairs meeting hall. The initiative is a joint effort between the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, and the Department of National Artificial Intelligence Technology Development.

The Union minister urged officials to work towards launching an AI Model to the public in the near future, noting that over 130,000 legal Q&As have been trained into the model, with additional legal domains already selected for further training.

Dr Tin Phone Kyaw, Director-General of the Department of National Artificial Intelligence Technology Development, explained the inclusion of legal information, progress made, and technical requirements needed for the Legal AI Version 1.

Members of the Steering Committee subsequently offered suggestions and discussed future work plans. — TWA/ZN

Tatmadaw delegates arrive back after goodwill visit from India

A Tatmadaw delegation comprising senior officers and other ranks of the Army, Navy and Air arrived back in Myanmar yesterday after a friendship visit to India aimed at strengthening relations and cooperation between the two Tatmadaws and promoting cultural exchanges.

The Tatmadaw delegation pose for the group documentary photo in India.

The delegation departed Nay Pyi Taw for Gaya, India, on 29 September. During their visit, they paid homage to the Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya, and visited the Officers Training Academy (OTA). A dinner was also hosted for the delegation by Indian officials.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by officials from the Nay Pyi Taw Command and the Indian Defence Attaché to Myanmar, Colonel Arjun N Singh. — MNA/KTZH

Indian Armed Forces delegates depart Nay Pyi Taw

The Indian Armed Forces delegation is pictured ahead of their departure from Nay Pyi Taw.

A friendship delegation comprising officers and personnel from the Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air), which arrived in Myanmar on 29 September to strengthen mutual trust and friendship between the two countries' armed forces and promote cultural exchanges, left for India yesterday afternoon.

During their visit, the delegation paid homage to major religious sites in Nay Pyi Taw, including the Maravijaya Buddha Image and Uppatasanti Pagoda, and visited prominent sites such as the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) and the National Museum. Tatmadaw also hosted a dinner for the delegation on 30 September.

The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Tatmadaw officials and Indian Defence Attaché to Myanmar Colonel Arjun N Singh. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 4 pm Thursday 1 October 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few clouds over the the Andaman Sea and the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 2 OCTOBER 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kyin, and Mon States, scattered in Yangon, Bago, and Magway, and Ayeyawady Regions and southern State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Rakhine, and northern and eastern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, and Rakhine States. In area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Deltaic Myanmar area.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 OCTOBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 OCTOBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 OCTOBER 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

Commemorative Dinner Marks 62nd Myanmar Police Force Day

A commemorative dinner marking the 62nd Myanmar Police Force Day was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing.

Also in attendance were the President's wife, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla; Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife; Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and his wife; Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife; Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife; Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries and their wives; the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman; senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives; deputy ministers; members of the diplomatic corps; departmental heads; the Chief of the Myanmar Police Force; police personnel; retired senior police officers; artistes; and other officials.

Upon arrival at the venue, the President, his wife and guests were warmly welcomed by officials before joining the dinner.

Music and dance performances were presented before and during the dinner by members of the Myanmar Police Force's Police Band and Entertainment Branch, artistes from the Fire Services Department, the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, the Myawady Entertainment Troupe under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, and well-known national artistes.

President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer a bouquet to the MPF's Police Band and Entertainment Branch.

Following the dinner, President U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife presented a floral basket and cash awards to members of the MPF's Police Band and Entertainment Branch in recognition of their performances before cordially greeting the attendees. — MNA/ST

MPF Members' Duties Vital to State Security,...

FROM PAGE 1

The President unveiled that, in taking action to uncover and crack down on locations where individuals illegally entered Myanmar and engaged in online scam and online gambling operations, a total of 76,486 individuals were arrested from 5 October 2023 to 29 September 2026, of whom 73,258 were deported and transferred to their respective countries in accordance with established procedures.

With regard to honouring the achievement of MPF, the President recounted that the Myanmar Police Force, in cooperation with Tatmadaw, has been taking action since 22 October 2025 against online gambling and related activities in KK Park. By 9 January 2026, a total of 635 buildings, including residential buildings related to online scam activities, had been completely demolished and cleared through controlled blasting. In addition, 77 buildings in Shwe Kokko Myaing Village had also been completely demolished and cleared.

The President outlined that a total of 41 special operations have been conducted to prevent and combat drug-related activities and to destroy seized narcotic drugs by incineration. He stressed that all concerned are to ensure the successful implementation of "Operation 42", the drug prevention and suppression plan being carried out from 1 April to 31 December 2026.

He underscored that Myanmar needs to further strengthen close cooperation with organizations such as the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), as well as with the drug prevention, suppression and control agencies of neighbouring countries.

He stated that on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, observed on 26 June 2026, seized narcotic drugs and related items worth more than K2.209 trillion (over US$603 million) were destroyed by incineration in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi. This represents another effective achievement in the fight against drugs.

Striving to combat human trafficking as a national responsibility since 1997, the President highlighted that the current fourth five-year plan (2022-2026) is also being implemented based on established strategies, tactics and four areas of work. Myanmar is also cooperating with INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL and participating in projects aimed at preventing and suppressing human trafficking.

The President noted that the National Strategy for Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (2024-2028) was approved by the Union Government and promulgated on 21 October 2024. Myanmar has also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 14 countries, enabling cooperation in information sharing and in taking action in accordance with the law and relevant rules and regulations.

He stressed that continuous training should be emphasized to build a capable, corruption-free and people-oriented police force, ensuring that MPF members are disciplined and worthy of the trust and reliance of the State and the people.

The President presented the Ye Thura medal to Officiating Police Colonel Kyaw Thu, Police Captain Myint Zaw and Police Colonel Yan Naing Tun and the Ye Bala medal to Police Corporal Thant Sin Oo. The recipients and related family members accepted the medals.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and the Union Minister for Home Affairs presented gallantry and honorary medals to relevant recipients.

A documentary video clip on the 62nd Anniversary of MPF Day was screened.

The President and party viewed the documentary photos of MPF members and booths.

Also present at the ceremony were Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, diplomats and guests from international organizations. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by the President on MPF Day

1. The government is taking action against online scams and online gambling under a zero-tolerance policy.
2. A total of 76,486 individuals were arrested in combatting online scams and online gambling operations from 5 October 2023 to 29 September 2026, of whom 73,258 were deported to their respective countries.
3. Seized narcotic drugs and related items worth more than K2.209 trillion (over US$603 million) were destroyed on 26 June 2026.
4. "Operation 42" for drug prevention and suppression is being conducted from 1 April to 31 December 2026.

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Discusses Power, Infrastructure Upgrades and Approves Election Bills

THE ninth-day meeting of the third regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw was convened at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and MPs. During the session, officials addressed 11 questions concerning electricity supply, smart metering, road and bridge developments, and approved two key election amendment bills.

The ninth-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

Regarding the transition to real-time power metering, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw stated that 1,373,075 Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) units have been installed out of over 6.92 million meters nationwide. The phased replacement of the remaining 5.55 million meters, along with software and server expansions to enable automated tracking and online payments, will proceed based on annual budget allocations. Addressing regional power issues, the deputy minister reported that power disruption in Launglon followed a September 2025 attack on a 33/11 kV substation, with repairs to be funded in the upcoming Taninthayi Region budget once security conditions permit. He added that the 90-mile, 230 kV Kalay-Tamu transmission line project remains paused due to local security concerns, while a 33 kV substation project in Nawnghkio will be budgeted for the 2029-2030 financial year, and damaged generators in Tanai will be repaired as soon as stability is restored.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint addressed road and bridge development plans, clarifying that the proposed 14-mile Mongnai bypass is currently deferred because existing urban routes sufficiently handle traffic, making costly land compensation unwarranted. For regional corridors, phased maintenance and paving works were confirmed for the Letpadan-Tharawaw route in Bago Region, the Mongpyin-Metmung road in Shan State, the Bogale-Kyeinchaunggyi-Kadonkani network in Ayeyawady Region, and rural access routes in Magway Township. Meanwhile, remaining construction on the Kambani reinforced concrete bridge along the Kalay-Gangaw road, which stands at 70 per cent completion, remains temporarily halted.

Following the question-and-answer session, the Hluttaw approved the seventh amendment bills to both the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law and the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law as submitted by the Bill Committee with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw. The session then adjourned, with the tenth-day meeting scheduled for 2 October. — MNA/ST

62nd Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day celebrated

THE 62nd Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force Day was held at the Yangon Region Government Office at 8 am yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung, Commander of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tin Min Latt, members of the Yangon Region Government, departmental heads, invitees and officials attended the ceremony.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and officials view photo records on display at yesterday's event.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu delivered the opening speech. Police Brig-Gen Ko Ko Lwin of the Yangon Region Police Force read out the message from the Chief of the Myanmar Police Force.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and officials presented certificates of appreciation and cash awards to police officers who had successfully cracked down on crime in Yangon Region.

The Yangon Region chief minister and officials toured the photo gallery displayed as part of the 62nd Myanmar Police Force Day celebrations. — Bala/MKKS

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Union Minister receives Charge d'Affaires of Embassy of Japan to Myanmar

The charge d'affairs of the Embassy of Japan calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Tin Maung Swe received Mr Yoshitake Shogo, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. — MoFA

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

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses rural infrastructure upgrades, Election Law Amendment

THE fifth day of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw was convened at 10 am yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the session, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced that 198 out of a total of 209 eligible representatives attended the fifth day of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw. As this constituted more than half of the total membership, the meeting was declared duly convened and commenced. The attendance list was then submitted for the approval of the Hluttaw and recorded.

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

Subsequently, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe explained that KanU Pond in Phayangazu Village, Paungde Township, Bago Region, serves as an irrigation water source for agricultural land rather than as a village drinking-water pond. It benefits about 120 acres of farmland, has a water surface area of approximately 2.36 acres and an average water depth of about 20 feet, but is currently obstructed by overgrown bushes. The deputy minister noted that the lake also helps maintain the groundwater table, ensuring that shallow wells and hand-dug wells in nearby villages do not face water shortages during the summer. He said local communities should carry out routine maintenance annually, while plans would be made to educate the village community and clear bushes and debris from the lake area. Renovation of the lake is estimated to cost approximately K20 million, and a proposal has been made to include the work in the 2026-2027 FY Union supplementary budget, subject to the availability of funds.

Regarding the proposed improvement of the road linking Nankhon Village-tract in Ywangan Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), with Kywedap Village in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, Deputy Minister U Thaik Soe explained that the route comprises two sections under the respective jurisdiction of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and the Ministry of Construction.

He said a four-furlong damaged section is already being repaired in the 2026-2027 FY using Union maintenance funds to facilitate travel. The five-mile and five-furlong damaged earth-road section on the Thazi Township side is approximately eight feet wide on average, and regional budget allocations will be proposed after field surveys, with work to proceed subject to the availability of funds. The three-mile and one-furlong road section within Thazi Township is an earth road under the management of the Ministry of Construction and the Mandalay Region Government, directly connecting the Meiktila-Thazi-Taunggyi Road with villages. Upgrading the two-furlong earth-road section managed by the Mandalay Region Government under the Ministry of Construction into an asphalt road will be carried out using the 2027-2028 FY regional budget.

Regarding the proposed upgrading of the 8,062-foot-long and 12-foot-wide production road passing through Letkhokpin Village in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, the deputy minister explained that the project cannot be undertaken at present as land donations have not yet been secured and field inspections are still pending.

Regarding the proposed replacement of the self-help Ngamoeyeik pedestrian suspension bridge in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, with a new bridge capable of accommodating two-way motor-vehicle traffic, Deputy Minister U Thaik Soe stated that, as the bridge remains sound and sturdy and provides uninterrupted connectivity, upgrading it to a concrete bridge is not currently a priority, although maintenance will be carried out as necessary.

Concerning the proposed replacement of the damaged 120-foot-long and 14-foot-wide wooden-decked bridge on the entrance road to Chaungwa Village, Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region, Deputy Minister U Thaik Soe explained that a proposal will be submitted to include the construction of a reinforced-concrete bridge in the 2027-2028 FY Union capital budget.

Regarding the proposed upgrading of the 200-foot-long Htantabin Suspension Bridge in Kyaunggon Township, Ayeyawady Region, Deputy Minister U Thaik Soe stated that a project feasibility study field trip would be conducted in the 2027-2028 FY to assess the possibility of upgrading it into a bridge suited to the region. In the meantime, maintenance works to ensure smooth travel would be carried out using Union maintenance funds. As the bridge is essential for the beneficiary villages and agricultural areas, the construction of a Bailey bridge would be proposed in the 2028-2029 FY regional budget.

Following this, Bill Committee Member and Ayeyawady Region Amyotha Hluttaw Representative for constituency 3, U Khaing Win Aung, explained the Bill Committee's findings and recommendations on the Seventh Amendment to Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bill, which was sent returned with amendments and approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Subsequently, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that representatives wishing to discuss the Seventh Amendment to the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bill, as amended and sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw, may submit their names in detail, specifying the sections and subsections they wish to amend, to the Director-General of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.

The fifth day of the third regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw was then adjourned, with the sixth day of the session scheduled to resume on 2 October. — MNA/TH

Kalay-Falam-Haka Road reopens after landslide clearup work

A landslide caused by continuous heavy rain blocked the Kalay-Falam-Haka Road between mileposts 25/4 and 26/1 yesterday morning.

Road Special Task Force 10 carried out clearance work using sufficient manpower and machinery to reopen the road as soon as possible and ensure safe travel for the public. The road was reopened to traffic yesterday evening.

Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Thaung Naing, who is in Chin State to oversee rehabilitation work, yesterday morning inspected the road conditions along the Kalay-Falam-Haka Road together with members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee.

Officials reported on the ongoing work, and the deputy minister instructed the officials to make special efforts to prevent disruptions to road transport. He also instructed them to keep sufficient manpower and machinery ready to respond promptly to any difficulties with road transport and to coordinate the necessary measures. — MNA/MKKS

Deputy Minister Dr Thaung Naing and officials oversee rehabilitation efforts in Chin State.

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw vessels return carrying 1,476 Myanmar nationals from Malaysia

A total of 1,476 verified Myanmar nationals who were facing hardship and unable to afford to return to Myanmar after serving their respective sentences in immigration detention camps for illegal stay and violation of immigration regulations were repatriated from Malaysian immigration detention camps by Myanmar naval vessels.

Repatriates are seen boarding Tatmadaw naval vessels in Malaysia.

Mottama, Thanlwin and Sinphyushin vessels departed Yangon on 24 September and arrived at Lumut Port, Malaysia, on the morning of 28 September.

During the return voyage on the night of 29 September, the repatriated nationals were provided with accommodation, medical care, daily meals, recreational activities, exercise sessions, clothing and personal necessities by naval personnel and representatives of relevant ministries.

Onboard healthcare services provided to returnees.

Vessels entered Myanmar territorial waters on the morning of 1 October. The returning nationals expressed their happiness and gratitude as they received a message welcoming them back home.

Naval vessels are expected to arrive in Yangon within the next few days. Relevant regional and state authorities, together with the returnees' family members, will be waiting at the port to welcome them and arrange transport to their respective hometowns so that they can reunite with their families as soon as possible. Further assistance will also be provided to help them live peacefully with their families in Myanmar. — 100/KTZH

Myanmar Repatriates from Malaysia Voice Their Experiences

Interview I

I worked there. It has been a long time. I have been there since 1999. Because of various issues and troubles, I ended up getting arrested and returned home. Many of our fellow compatriots are still left behind in prisons and detention centres over there. Please do your best to help bring them home. It has been so long since they were separated from their motherland, and so many people are suffering emotionally. Because we neither know English nor Chinese, we faced all kinds of hardships. Only when you go to someone else's country, and you can speak their language and take the time to learn their culture, will the people of Malaysia truly warm up to you. Just as we would expect people coming to our country to learn our language, when you are in another country, please learn to adapt and live in harmony with their culture. That is what I would like to urge everyone to do. We were arrested, kept in camps and handed over to the Myanmar Embassy. The Myanmar Embassy then arranged for us to be brought back to Myanmar. Even if we reported something here, we could still be arrested. Whether it was true or not, in this country, there are permits that are valid for one year and permits that are valid for three years. We are allowed to stay only after renewing those permits. Since we had not paid taxes in their country, we were arrested under Malaysia's immigration laws. We are happy to be able to return like this. We want to see our families, as well as our children, spouses, brothers and sisters, and grandparents whom we have been separated from. We know the Head of State helped us in this way, and that this effort involved not just one person but thousands, spending millions of kyats. We can feel and understand how much effort has been made to help us and what has been done for us. We are grateful to everyone. We would like to thank the State leaders, the immigration authorities, the Navy, the engineering units, and everyone else involved.

Interview II

I travelled from Yanbye to Yangon, and from Yangon to Mawtaung. From Mawtaung, I went to Malaysia. Of course, I encountered many difficulties along the way. But after arriving in Malaysia, I also faced many problems finding suitable work and with different jobs. Many of the employers treated us badly, which made things very difficult. As we are poor, we faced many hardships. That was why I went to Malaysia in the first place. Now that we are about to return to Myanmar, I am happy. However, I feel sorry for the people left behind at the camps because they are facing difficulties. Since many of the Myanmar nationals have left, those who remain are reportedly being harassed and beaten, which makes me very sad. I am very grateful to everyone, including those who came to take us back. Thank you all very much.

Interview III

I have been in Malaysia for about three years. I went through an irregular route, entering Malaysia from Kawthoung. After arriving there, I worked at a car repair shop, but my employment situation was not stable. Since many people did not have proper documents, they were arrested by the immigration authorities several times. Eventually, I was detained at an immigration detention centre, where I spent about six months. Then, when arrangements were made for us to return to Myanmar, I came back with them. The reason was that life inside the detention centre was very difficult. We suffered both physically and mentally, including difficulties with food and living conditions. When the embassy told us that we would be returning, we were extremely happy for about a month. Although we were not yet certain whether we would actually be able to return, we were already very excited. On the night before our departure, we could not sleep at all because we knew we were finally going back to Myanmar. While we were outside, nothing had happened to us, but once we were detained, the living and food conditions were very difficult. I deeply regretted having left Myanmar. After leaving Malaysia and arriving at the port, I saw the Myanmar national flag, and I even shed tears inside. I cannot put into words how happy I felt. This morning, when the officials announced that we had entered Myanmar's territorial waters, it felt just like returning home. Some people even cried because we had finally reached our homeland. Everyone was very happy. The responsible officials have made all the necessary arrangements on board the vessel to ensure that everything is convenient for us. I would like to express my heartfelt and deepest gratitude to the Government of Myanmar, the relevant departments, the regional governments and officials who came to bring us back, and all the officers on board the vessel.

■

NATIONAL

Kangyidaunt inspects VDP concrete wheel-track road project

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of a concrete wheel-track road construction project implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Pepingyi Village, Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Region, during the 2026-2027 financial year.

Officials oversee the road construction project in Kangyi daunt Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Kangyidaunt Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Thinzar Nyunt and engineering staff, together with members of the Village Development Project Committee, inspected the construction of a 400-foot-long, three-foot-wide and six-inch-thick concrete wheel-track road in the village. She met village elders and residents and urged them to ensure the project's completion on schedule in compliance with prescribed standards and specifications.

The concrete wheel-track road is being constructed with K15 million in VDP support funds and K3 million in contributions from local communities, totalling K18 million. Work commenced in the fourth week of September by local residents themselves under the technical assistance and close supervision of department officials, and construction is currently 70 per cent complete. — Karan (Rural)

Early Monsoon Exit Forecast, Water Security Essential

RAINFALL is below average in most areas of Myanmar since the beginning of October; preparation for water security is necessary for irrigated crops and drinking water in the late monsoon, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

According to the Global Tropics Hazards Outlook issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Climate Prediction Centre (CPC), the latest weather forecasts showed that the possibility of below-average rainfall is high in some regions of Southeast Asia, including Myanmar, between 30 September and 6 October. The rainfall will stay below average in Myanmar and southern India between 7 and 13 October. This phenomenon coincides with the weak monsoon period, so it is important to ensure the efficient use of rainwater in the late monsoon and to start proactive approaches to the conservation of water resources.

When the rainfall declines, cloud formation of clouds will be low, and the temperature will rise; therefore, preparedness for heat hazards and water shortages is necessary in regions and states.

However, depending on current forecasts, it is still not possible to set the exact date for monsoon departure across Myanmar, so the public will need to continue watching daily weather forecasts. — MT/ZS

MoI & MSME Development to sell various fabrics

THE Ministry of Industry and MSME Development has invited tender proposals for the sale of various fabrics from the No 3 Textile Factory, with a minimum purchase of 30,000 yards per lot required. The fabrics are offered in four lots: 195,400 yards of 150D by 150D dyed multicolour fabric in Lot 1, 86,400 yards of 300D by 300D dyed multicolour fabric in Lot 2, 100,000 yards of Bullock dyed/printed assorted fabric in Lot 3 and 39,400 yards of 2/80s by 2/32s Silon green fabric; (b) 31,000 pieces of 2/80s by 2/32s Silon green longyi (men/women) in Lot 4.

Tender forms have been available since 30 September, with submissions closing on 15 October.

Interested individuals can enquire about further details through the Sales and Distribution Department of the factory via 067 408157, 067 408203, or 067 408362. — NN/KK

Applications Open for Online Food Science, Safety & Management Course

APPLICATIONS are now open for the Certificate Course in Food Science, Safety & Management Online Learning Programme, which will commence on 16 November 2026 and run through 16 January 2027.

The programme is designed to make food science, food safety, and food quality management accessible to those interested in learning these subjects. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate.

As it is a self-paced online course, trainees can study completely on their own schedule. The trainee fee is K22,300 (payable via any convenient payment method). Interested individuals can apply for the course through http://tiny.cc/FSSM-apply. They can explore course topics and further details via https://m.me/FoodSSMO. — NN/KK

Tenders invited for materials, machinery for Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) maintenance project

BRIDGE Department's Construction Team 1 under the Ministry of Construction has invited an open tender to procure construction materials and machinery rental for the maintenance of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) on the Mandalay-Sagaing-Monywa road.

The project is funded under the Union Capital (Construction) budget allocation of the 2026,2027 financial year from the National Disaster Management Fund. Tender forms are available at the Director (Urban) Office, Bridges Department in Mandalay by 12 October. Bid opening will take place at that office at 10 am on 14 October.

Interested individuals can enquire about details of tender forms, terms and conditions through Construction Team 1 Mandalay by dialling 09 750050554, according to the Tender Scrutiny and Selection Committee. — NN/KK

MSY village project funds disbursed in Thanlyin

An Emerald Green village project fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Thanlyin Township.

THE first-round disbursement of revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project was held at the Dhamma Hall in Pyinhtaungkyaung Village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, on 30 September.

Township Head Daw Myat Myat Maw of the Thanlyin Township Department of Rural Development explained the objectives and benefits of the MSY Village Project, as well as relevant provisions of the Rural Development Law and its rules.

A project officer then explained the rules and regulations to be followed to receive project loans and repayment periods for principal and interest. Daw Myat Myat Maw subsequently handed over K30 million in project funds to the MSY Project Working Group of Pyinhtaungkyaung Village.

Under the supervision of the Township Head and project officials, the project working group disbursed a total of K30 million in MSY Village Project revolving funds at concessional interest rates directly to 59 project members engaged in farming, livestock breeding, trading, livelihood activities, production and small-scale cottage industries on the same day, according to the Thanlyin Township Department of Rural Development. — Myo Myo (DRD)

OPINION

Striving to generate nuclear energy for national interest

All matter that we see is composed of tiny particles called atoms, at the centre of which lies a nucleus. Immense energy is harboured within these nuclei, and when an atom is split, the nucleus inside breaks apart, releasing a colossal amount of thermal energy. This energy is harnessed as needed, for both the benefit and the detriment of humanity.

Myanmar has used nuclear energy for many years, including in healthcare, agriculture, environmental conservation, and archaeology. Diagnostic machines that use radioisotopes to detect internal diseases and destroy cancer cells rely on nuclear technology. Efforts are also underway to incorporate nuclear energy to help meet electricity demand, a vital energy source for the nation's development.

Although the initial costs and technological requirements for generating electricity from nuclear energy are extremely high, several neighbouring and regional countries have already constructed and operated nuclear power plants to generate electricity, owing to their numerous advantages. Myanmar is also making preparations to begin construction next year of an RITM-200N small modular reactor (SMR) power plant. The plant will comprise two reactor units, each with a capacity of 55 megawatts, with an initial total generation capacity of approximately 110 megawatts.

To meet the current and growing future electricity demands and to ensure long-term energy security, Myanmar needs to effectively utilize available energy resources and systematically formulate and implement suitable long-term energy policies. Myanmar's energy policy should not rely on a single energy source, but rather be based on an energy mix combining renewable energy, natural gas, and other sources. In this context, nuclear energy represents an option that must be studied and assessed to achieve a stable electricity supply and long-term energy security.

To meet Myanmar's electricity demand, power is currently being generated from renewable energy sources such as hydropower, solar power, geothermal energy and wind power, as well as fossil fuel sources such as natural gas and coal. Each of these energy sources has its own advantages and disadvantages. Nuclear power generation has several advantages, including being among the lowest sources in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, being capable of producing a stable supply of electricity around the clock because it is not dependent on weather conditions, and requiring relatively little land for power plants.

Although the initial costs and technological requirements for generating electricity from nuclear energy are extremely high, several neighbouring and regional countries have already constructed and operated nuclear power plants to generate electricity, owing to their numerous advantages. Myanmar is also making preparations to begin construction next year of an RITM-200N small modular reactor (SMR) power plant. The plant will comprise two reactor units, each with a capacity of 55 megawatts, with an initial total generation capacity of approximately 110 megawatts.

In implementing the peaceful use of nuclear energy, priority must be given to "Safety, Security and Safeguards". It is necessary to firmly uphold these fundamental principles while making concerted efforts to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and contribute to the country's development.

ARTICLE

Mindfulness at Work

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

There can be seen many different practices in any domain that will diminish work-related stress. Some people tend to drink coffee or tea to reduce stress; some have a short chat with anyone online or offline; some run errands for themselves;and others like to croon gently. Whatever it is, those practices often release stress from work to some extent. But among the practices which people have still been doing, practising mindfulness or meditation at work may be one of the best solutions to stress management. To my way of thinking, this practice is like yoga in sports and Vipassana in Buddhism, but not the same at all. Here, the four ways to practice mindfulness at work for controlling stress will be suggested below.

Make time for short mindfulness exercises – In `A Monk's Guide to Happiness´, Gelong Thubten has recommended practising micro moments of mindfulness, like sitting with good posture and listening to the sounds around us. First of all, good posture means sitting up on the chair, leaning against the armchair with eyes closed, sitting cross-legged on the floor or maybe something like that. While doing so, we should feel free from care, smart and relaxed, without any tension, pain, or numbness in hands and legs, as though the whole world were still peaceful. And we can listen to pleasant music, only tunes, not songs, when suffering from work-related stress. Not only that, but we can also listen to little birds chirping sweetly or singing beautifully.

Be aware of what we are doing – In order to decrease stress at work, we need to stay present by paying attention to conversations and physical sensations. In other words, we should be living just in the present, not the past or the future. What are we talking about now? Is it about education, business, love affairs, social dealings, games, politics or even religion? No matter what we are discussing, we must focus our attention on that matter. Some people enjoy thinking back to memories, whether they are good or bad. This is not always worth doing. On the other hand, other people are given to daydreaming about the future as if they would be a trillionaire one day. In fact, past events have happened once; they will not happen the same way for certain, even though the saying goes that history repeats itself. In the same way, something new may or may not happen in the future, not for sure. We do not possess the past or future, but the present. Hence, when our mind wanders, we have to notice it and bring our focus back to the moment.

Make a list of things we are grateful for – Listing what we are thankful for shifts our focus from negativity to a balanced view, boosting motivation, creativity and productivity. Of course, since we have come to the world, we owe a debt of gratitude to all our mothers, fathers and the natural environment. We are born of our mothers and fathers only if they wish, or we have got a chance of being human. If not, we could not even know whether this world is black and white. Merely being a human does not come to an end in the world; so as to survive after birth, we must live on the earth and rely upon bodies of water, plantations and animals there for growth, energy and struggle. Because almost all our food, clothing and shelter depend on the world's natural sources, we are deeply obliged to conserve this worldagain. Thus, even if we feel exhausted in the work domain to death, we ought to try harder and harder, considering a deep sense of mother's, father's and the earth's gratitude.

Avoid multitasking – Multitasking lessens focus, efficiency, and happiness. Really, everybody is only able to stretch their physical energy to the limit. This means that nobody can do work beyond the limit, as in the elastic limit of a rubber band or spring. And it is impossible for anyone to do many things like the ubiquity in one sitting. Worst of all, multitasking will probably breed backlog and frustration before, during and after work. Instead, we are required to prioritize tasks and give each one our full attention to improve concentration.

Therefore, work and mindfulness should go hand in hand as often as possible. Only if so, will our work automatically lead to job satisfaction and career success, the ultimate goals of business. If there is work, there is also stress. Above all, mindfulness is a spiritual healer of stress-related work.

Action Research

By Maung Maung Aye

Action research is an important approach to educational research that enables teachers to investigate problems in their own classrooms and improve their teaching practices. Unlike traditional research, which is often conducted by outside researchers, action research allows teachers to become researchers of their own professional practice. It connects theory with practice by encouraging teachers to identify classroom problems, introduce appropriate changes, collect evidence, and reflect on the results. In language education, action research is particularly useful because language learning involves communication, interaction, motivation, participation, and individual differences among learners. Through action research, teachers can develop more effective teaching strategies and create better learning opportunities for their students.

The action research process is generally presented as a cycle of planning, action, observation, and reflection. These four stages are closely connected, and the completion of one cycle often leads to another. The process is therefore continuous rather than a simple sequence of separate steps. The teacher identifies a problem, plans a possible solution, implements the solution, observes its effects, and reflects on the findings. If the problem is not completely solved, the teacher modifies the plan and begins another cycle. In this way, action research promotes continuous improvement in teaching and learning.

The first stage of action research is planning. At this stage, the teacher identifies a specific classroom problem or an area that needs improvement. The problem should be clear, manageable, and related to the teacher's actual classroom practice. For example, a language teacher may notice that students are reluctant to speak English during classroom activities. Some students may have limited vocabulary, while others may lack confidence or fear making mistakes. After identifying the problem, the teacher considers its possible causes and develops an action plan. The plan may involve introducing pair work, group discussions, information-gap activities, interviews, role plays, or other communicative activities. The teacher also decides what kind of evidence will be collected to determine whether the planned action is successful.

The second stage is action. In this stage, the teacher puts the planned strategy into practice. The teacher introduces the new activity, method, or technique and gives students opportunities to participate. For instance, if the research problem concerns students' lack of speaking participation, the teacher may replace some teacher-fronted activities with pair and group activities. Students may be asked to interview their classmates, discuss familiar topics, solve problems together, or perform role plays. During this stage, the teacher acts not only as an instructor but also as a practitioner-researcher who carefully considers how the intervention works in the actual classroom. The action should be realistic and appropriate for the students' level, needs, and learning context.

The third stage is observation. After implementing the action, the teacher observes what happens in the classroom and collects relevant data. Observation is important because teachers need evidence rather than personal assumptions to judge whether an intervention has been effective. Different types of data can be collected depending on the research question. These may include classroom observation notes, student questionnaires, interviews, tests, written assignments, recordings, attendance records, or students' self-assessments. For example, a teacher investigating speaking participation may record the number of students who participate in discussions before and after the intervention. The teacher may also observe students' confidence, fluency, willingness to communicate, and interaction with classmates.

The fourth stage is reflection. Reflection involves examining and interpreting the information collected during the observation stage. The teacher considers whether the action has addressed the original problem and identifies both successful and unsuccessful aspects of the intervention. For example, the teacher may discover that group discussions increase students' willingness to speak but that some students still remain quiet. This finding can help the teacher understand that the strategy has produced some improvement but requires further modification. Reflection therefore enables teachers to learn from their classroom experiences and make informed decisions about future teaching.

An important characteristic of action research is its cyclical nature. After reflection, the teacher may begin a new cycle by re-planning the action. The second plan may include changes based on the findings from the first cycle. For example, if group discussions increase participation but weaker students still hesitate to speak, the teacher may introduce smaller groups, provide useful vocabulary, give students preparation time, or assign specific roles to group members. The teacher then implements the revised strategy, observes the results, and reflects again. The process can continue through several cycles until meaningful improvement is achieved.

Action research has several important benefits for teachers. First, it encourages professional development because teachers critically examine their own practices. Instead of simply following established teaching methods, teachers become active participants in developing and evaluating their approaches. Second, action research promotes learner-centred teaching because classroom decisions are based on students' actual needs and difficulties. Third, it encourages teachers to use evidence when making instructional decisions. Finally, action research can increase teachers' confidence because they can see how systematic changes in their teaching affect student learning.

Action research is also highly relevant to language classrooms. Language learning requires students to use language actively, and teachers often need to experiment with different activities to determine which approaches work best for their learners. A teacher may conduct action research on problems such as students' speaking anxiety, limited vocabulary, poor reading comprehension, weak writing skills, pronunciation difficulties, lack of classroom participation, or low motivation. For example, a teacher may investigate whether regular pair-work activities improve students' speaking fluency. The teacher can compare students' participation before and after the intervention, collect students' opinions, and reflect on the results.

However, action research also requires careful planning. Teachers should select a realistic research problem and avoid attempting to investigate too many issues at the same time. They should collect relevant and manageable data and interpret the findings objectively. Ethical considerations are also important. Students should be treated respectfully, and their privacy should be protected when information is collected. Most importantly, the purpose of action research should be improvement rather than simply producing research results.

In conclusion, action research is a practical and cyclical approach to improving teaching and learning. Its four major stages – planning, action, observation, and reflection – provide teachers with a systematic way to investigate classroom problems and develop effective solutions. By engaging in action research, teachers become reflective practitioners who learn from their own experiences and respond more effectively to their students' needs. In language education, this approach can contribute particularly to greater interaction, communication, participation, confidence, and overall language development. Therefore, action research is not only a research method but also a powerful means of professional growth and continuous classroom improvement.

SCI/TECH WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

California governor signs laws to protect workers from AI risks

CALIFORNIA Governor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday signed four laws regulating artificial intelligence in the workplace, including measures requiring human oversight of automated discipline and dismissal decisions and limits on workplace surveillance. Senate Bill 947 bars employers from relying solely on automated systems to discipline or dismiss workers. When an employer primarily relies on such a system, a human must corroborate the decision using relevant supporting information.

Senate Bill 951 requires employers to add AI-related information to the advance notices already required under California law before covered mass layoffs, relocations or closures. It applies when AI or automated technology wholly or substantially causes displacement by replacing or automating jobs. The California Federation of Labour Unions sponsored the two Senate bills. The California Chamber of Commerce opposed both, citing compliance costs and potential penalties. — Xinhua

Forum calls for youth-centred approach to drive digital future

AFRICA'S policymakers, experts and enterprises have called for a youth-driven approach to cultivate inclusive and sustainable digital ecosystems across the continent.

The call was made during the 2026 African Union Innovation Festival, which opened on Tuesday at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Prudence Ngwenya, director of the women, gender, and youth directorate at the AU Commission, highlighted the critical importance of capitalizing on Africa's youthful demographic potential, the continent's largest demographic group and its greatest innovation asset.

She called on young African innovators to dream big, noting that the continent's future rests in their hands.

"Innovation is not only about brilliant ideas; it is also about people; it is about creating relationships; it is about creating an ecosystem and ideas. An idea can become a solution, a solution can become an enterprise, and enterprises create opportunities for others," Ngwenya added.

AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy Lerato Dorothy Mataboge called for concerted efforts to address several constraints that are hindering African youth from effectively championing the continent's digital transformation ambition. These barriers include limited access to finance, infrastructure and skills gaps, regulatory constraints, and uneven connectivity. — Xinhua

Swiss and Bengaluru scientists measure meditating brains

Swiss and Indian researchers successfully visualized real-time brain activity during advanced meditation.

GENEVA-BASED research and development organization All Here, in collaboration with the World Meditation League (WML) and S-VYASA Deemed to be University, conducted a live demonstration of Quantified Meditation in Bengaluru. The event utilized electroencephalography (EEG) and brain-computer interface (BCI) technology to visualize measurable patterns of brain activity while participants meditated.

Advanced technology transforms subjective meditation experiences into objective and measurable scientific data. **PHOTO: SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY**

Held at S-VYASA in Bengaluru, the demonstration marked the concluding public event of All Here's Silent Mind Advanced Meditation Training, which took place from 25 to 28 September. The technology captured brain activity and allowed audiences to observe changing signals in real time.

Unlike traditional approaches to meditation, where progress and experience are largely understood through subjective measures such as concentration, awareness, and perceived mental stillness, Quantified Meditation seeks to add a measurable layer to the practice. It does this by directly observing patterns of brain activity associated with attention, mind-wandering, and mental silence. — ANI

Chinese icebreakers Xuelong, Xuelong 2 return after fruitful Arctic expedition

CHINA'S research icebreakers Xuelong, or "Snow Dragon", and Xuelong 2 returned to Shanghai in east China on Wednesday after nearly three months of the country's 16th Arctic Ocean expedition.

The expedition successfully completed key tasks, including comprehensive investigation and monitoring, cutting-edge scientific research, and international cooperation. According to the expedition team, both the scale of the expedition and the total number of tasks reached new highs.

It achieved fruitful results in new scientific discoveries, theoretical breakthroughs, technological tests, and equipment applications, providing strong support for a deeper understanding of and effective response to global climate change and promoting sustainable development in the Arctic, said Wang Jinhui, the leader of the expedition team.

"Xuelong 2" docked at Lyttelton Harbor in Christchurch, New Zealand, held an open day event to the public on 18 March 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

A series of new discoveries and breakthroughs made during the expedition have refreshed China's understanding of the marine environment and geophysics of the Arctic Ocean. For example, researchers found that the subsurface water in some areas of the Arctic Ocean exhibited a warming phenomenon. — Xinhua

The US Federal Trade Commission initiated a broad safety investigation into Anthropic and OpenAI. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

US regulator launches investigation into Anthropic, OpenAI

THE US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has launched a broad investigation into artificial intelligence (AI) safety practices at Anthropic and OpenAI, the Washington Post reported Wednesday, citing a senior agency official.

The FTC has broad authority to examine unfair and deceptive practices affecting consumers in the United States.

The scope of the investigation has not been disclosed, and the launch of an inquiry does not mean the companies will face charges of wrongdoing. The probe comes amid heightened concerns about AI safety. Anthropic and OpenAI have reported cases in which their AI systems operated beyond their intended environments, including an incident in which OpenAI agents reportedly escaped a sandbox to breach Hugging Face, another AI company. — Xinhua

Thais hail teen rocker Nene for 'America's Got Talent' win

Nene Royal won "America's Got Talent" and the $1 million prize.

A 16-year-old Thai rock singer and guitarist who has performed with the prime minister and Linkin Park has become the first Thai national to win the US television talent show "America's Got Talent", earning a $1 million prize and sparking celebrations across Thailand. Nene Royal, whose real name is Rattikarn Amloy, collapsed on stage in California after being announced as the champion, while classmates and teachers cheered her victory at a watch party in Phuket.

Nene Royal took home the $1 million prize as winner of "America's Got Talent", after wowing judges and viewers with blistering guitar solos and rock ballad shrieks.

The teen from the island of Phuket has become a national figure in Thailand since entering the competition and played alongside Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul in July.

As Nene's final performance aired on television, her schoolmates and teachers back home rooted for her at a watch party.

The moment she was crowned champion — the first Thai national to win the hit TV show — was "electric", school principal Gareth Eynon told AFP.

Thai teenager Nene Royal won America's Got Talent and one million dollars. **PHOTO: INSTAGRAM**

"Literally everyone from age two to 18 was there cheering her on" at Kajonkiet International School Phuket, he said.

"She's so talented, yet she's so humble," Eynon added.

Nene, who says she started playing guitar at age seven, collapsed to the stage floor in California when her victory was announced. — AFP

Asian univ eclipses mainland Europe's best for 1st time in Times ranking

AN Asian university placed higher than continental Europe's leading institution for the first time in the latest annual global ranking released Wednesday by British magazine Times Higher Education, reflecting what it called a shift of academic power from West to East.

In the World University Rankings 2027, China's Tsinghua University overtook the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich to rank 11th. The other Asian universities to make the top 15 were Peking University in 13th place and the National University of Singapore in 15th, bringing the total to three for the first time.

A view of Tsingyane Electronics, a national high-tech enterprise incubated by Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen, in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The magazine evaluates university performance across areas including education, research environment and international outlook.

Among Japanese institutions, the University of Tokyo fell from 26th place last year to 27th, while Kyoto University dropped from 61st to 62nd.

With 2,297 global institutions ranked, Japan had the fourth largest number at 112, although the number was down from 115 last year.

"It is now clear that the tectonic plates of global higher education are shifting permanently," Phil Baty, Times Higher Education's global affairs officer, said.

"We are witnessing a historic realignment of academic power from West to East."

The top 10 continued to be dominated by British and American institutions, with the University of Oxford ranking first for the 11th consecutive year, followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in second, and Princeton University and Stanford University in joint third.

Meanwhile, the number of US institutions in the top 500 was the lowest on record at 96. — Kyodo

TikTok and Singapore partner to train media professionals

SINGAPORE'S Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and TikTok Singapore on Thursday launched a programme to train media professionals in producing microdramas, including live-action and artificial intelligence (AI)-animated formats.

The programme will equip professionals with the skills and tools to produce 50 to 100 episodes, each running one to three minutes, the two parties said in a statement.

The first cohort will comprise professionals from 20 companies, with the programme potentially expanding in the future.

Over six to nine months, participants will take part in mentorships, workshops and masterclasses led by TikTok and its partners. Training will cover storytelling techniques such as designing cliffhangers, as well as the responsible use of technology, including AI. — Xinhua

PHOTO: BRITANNICA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan sharply raises residency fees for foreign nationals

JAPAN on Thursday sharply raised the fees foreign nationals must pay to change or renew their residency status.

Previously, non-permanent residency applicants who filed in person paid 6,000 yen (around US$38) to either change their residency status or extend their period of stay, while those seeking permanent residency paid 10,000 yen. – Xinhua

Sperm whale sinks yacht in South Pacific

A sperm whale cracked the hull of a yacht sailing in the remote South Pacific, forcing four sailors into a day-and-night fight for survival on the high seas.

Crew members on the 16-metre (52-foot) Tai Tam told AFP on Thursday of their weekend encounter with a pod of sperm whales 250 nautical miles north of tiny Norfolk Island. "There was sort of a loud thud. The whole boat was pushed sideways," said Australian Jemma Cooper, who was thrown from the steering wheel by the force of the blow. – AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Saudi crown prince says world faces energy crisis with uncertain outcomes

The kingdom maintains global energy security despite ongoing regional security escalations.

SAUDI Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud said Wednesday that the world faces "an energy crisis with uncertain outcomes".

In his annual royal address inaugurating the third year of the Shura Council's ninth session on behalf of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the crown prince noted that Saudi Arabia has helped safeguard global energy security by maintaining oil supplies to international markets despite regional escalation, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman addressed the Shura Council, warning of an ongoing global energy crisis with uncertain outcomes. **PHOTO: ARAMCO**

He said the kingdom had also taken the initiative to establish the Multinational Maritime Defense Alliance to enhance maritime security, protect shared interests in international sea lanes, and prevent the use of those lanes as tools of political or economic pressure.

Saudi Arabia, the crown prince added, is working with partners to strengthen international cooperation, reduce escalation, and defuse tensions in pursuit of regional and international stability.

He called on the international community to swiftly fulfil its responsibilities to ensure the safe flow of essential goods and humanitarian assistance.

On Gulf security, the crown prince said attacks targeting Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states showed that Gulf security and stability are indivisible, stressing the importance of collective action, strategic cooperation, and economic integration among GCC states. — Xinhua

Italy seeks greater EU budget flexibility amid rising inflation

ITALY is seeking greater flexibility under European Union budget rules to cope with the impact of rising inflation driven by energy costs, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said Wednesday.

Speaking at an event organized by Italian newspaper Il Gazzettino, Meloni said she would write to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to raise the issue at upcoming EU meetings.

Meloni said Italy plans to spend 14 billion euros (US$16 billion) over two years to reduce energy costs for businesses, using the EU's national escape clause from fiscal rules. She called for taking into account higher inflation when calculating parameters for permitted budget deficits, saying the issue would be discussed at EU finance ministers' and leaders' meetings in October. — Xinhua

Gasoline and diesel prices are displayed near a gas station in Rome, Italy, 23 June 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

S Korea's exports hit record high in Sept on record-breaking AI chip demand

SOUTH Korea's exports hit a record high in September, topping US$120 billion for the first time thanks to a record-breaking global demand for artificial intelligence (AI) semiconductors, government data showed Thursday.

The outbound shipments, which account for about half of the export-led economy, soared 83.5 per cent from a year earlier to $120.94 billion in September, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources.

For the first nine months of this year, cumulative exports reached $814.5 billion, overtaking last year's record-setting annual performance of $709.3 billion.

The daily average exports spiked 105 per cent to $5.63 billion, surpassing $5 billion for the first time.

Imports grew 26.0 per cent to $71.09 billion last month, sending the trade surplus to an all-time high of $49.85 billion.

Of the country's 20 major export items, 11 products saw growth in outbound shipments. — Xinhua

This photo taken on 23 August 2025 shows the Ulsan Bridge, a landmark in Ulsan, South Korea. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Brazil, US agree to form working group on tariffs

BRAZIL and the United States have agreed to form a working group to discuss US tariffs on Brazilian goods and other bilateral trade issues, Brazil's Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services said Wednesday.

The agreement followed talks between Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, Development, Industry, Trade and Services Minister Marcio Elias Rosa and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in Milwaukee in the US state of Wisconsin.

They met on the sidelines of a meeting of trade ministers from the Group of 20, which comprises 19 countries, the European Union and the African Union. — Xinhua

Japan panel asks for targeted budget allocation

A key government panel on Wednesday called for more targeted budget allocation amid concerns over Japan's fiscal health under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

As one option, participants in a Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy meeting suggested scaling back price-relief measures that are considered less effective.

At the first meeting since Takaichi reshuffled her Cabinet on 17 September, participants discussed ways to maintain market confidence as her government pursues what it calls a "responsible and proactive" fiscal policy. — Kyodo

China's newly opened high-speed rail lines to boost holiday tourism

CHINA'S newly opened high-speed railway sections are expected to boost tourism, especially during holidays such as the ongoing National Day holiday, industry experts and local officials said.

On Monday, China opened four major high-speed railway sections to traffic, spanning northern, northwestern, central and northeastern China, which are expected to draw more tourists to iconic attractions just ahead of the seven-day holiday.

The first train of Yichang-Xingshan high-speed railway, G6888, is pictured ahead of its departure from Xingshan Railway Station in Xingshan County, central China's Hubei Province, 28 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The new lines will bring residents of major cities closer to diverse cultural and natural destinations, from the Three Gorges Dam in central China's Hubei Province to the emerald forests of Yichun in the country's far northeast.

The Yichang-Xingshan section effectively links high-quality cultural and tourism resources, while the Harbin-Yichun section creates conditions for developing tourism and ecological resources along the routes, said Yuan Baohua, deputy director of the construction department of China State Railway Group Co Ltd (China Railway). — Xinhua

Flags and pho on show as jeweller opens huge Vietnam plant

THE world's largest jewellery brand showed off bracelet charms featuring Vietnam's national flag and a bowl of pho noodle soup as it opened a manufacturing centre in the country on Thursday, its first outside Thailand.

Danish company Pandora said the $150 million plant outside Ho Chi Minh City would create 7,000 local jobs and become the world's largest crafting facility for fine jewellery.

The site will be able to produce up to 60 million pieces each year — increasing the company's capacity by 50 per cent, Pandora said. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SERENA VOY.NO. (636W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SERENA VOY.NO. (636W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GLS HAIPONG VOY.NO. (009N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPONG VOY.NO. (009N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-10-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

TRADEMARK CAUTION

CHAN PROJECTS COMPANY LIMITED (the "**Company**"), a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Myanmar and having its registered office at No. 42/D, Pantra Street, Phayargyi Ward, Dagon Township, Yangon, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

SCHOLASTIC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MYANMAR

Used in respect of "Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions." **in Class 35** and "Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities" **in Class 41**.

The Company had submitted an application for registration of mark to Intellectual Property Department in accordance with The Trademark Law, 2019 (Application No. T/2026/004406) and obtained necessary licenses from relevant authorities to render such services under the above trademark. Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of this trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

CHAN PROJECTS COMPANY LIMITED
No. 42/D, Pantra Street, Phayargyi Ward,
Dagon Township, Yangon
Email Address: yinmony5@gmail.com
Telephone: 095016961, 09754747161

Invitation to Submit Tender Proposal for the Second Stage Tender for the Implementation of an Urban Development Project at Yin Pyan Railway Station Yard

1. Myanma Railways invited tenders from local and foreign companies and organizations for the implementation of an Urban Development Project under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system on a 7.5143 acres plot of land located within the Yin Pyan Railway Station Yard, Kankauk Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Maha Aung Myay District, Mandalay Region. In the first stage of the tender process, **MoNo Co., Ltd**. and **Shwemanmarlar Co., Ltd**., which submitted their Expressions of Interest (EOI), were shortlisted by the Tender Invitation and Evaluation Committee and permitted to participate in the second stage of the tender.
2. The shortlisted companies, **MoNo Co., Ltd.** And **Shwemanmarlar Co., Ltd.,** may purchase the Instruction to Tenderer (ITT) and Request for Proposal (RFP) Forms at a price of MMK 1,000,000 (Myanmar Kyats One Million Only) per set from the office of the General Manager (Upper Myanmar), Myanma Railways, Mandalay Railway Station, Third Floor, during office hours from 1 October 2026 to 14 October 2026. The Tender Proposal, consisting of one (1) original set, two (2) copy sets, and two (2) soft-copy sets, must be submitted in person to the above-mentioned office no later than 14:00 hours on 1 December 2026.
3. For further information and detailed inquiries, interested parties may contact the Commercial Department, Myanma Railways (Head Office), Nay Pyi Taw, in person or by telephone at 09-891750134.

Tender Invitation and Evaluation Committee
Mandalay Region Government

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Notice of Change of Pesticide Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer AgriGate CropSciences Pte. Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered with the Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, changing their trade names.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Bento 480 SL	For One 480 SL	Bentazone 48% SL	Provisional	P2026-6928

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to the Joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, in case of any objection in respect of the said change in the trading name of the herbicide.
Address- Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd. No. (95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Musk returns to US govt for Pentagon war study

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth announced Project Meridian led by top innovators.

TECH billionaire Elon Musk will make a return to officially advising US President Donald Trump's government by co-leading what the Pentagon called a study on the future of war.

Musk served as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) before departing in May 2025, having publicly fallen out with Trump.

In a speech at the Quantico military base, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth said "Project Meridian" will be "an effort led by America's best minds to study the future of warfare". "We are leveraging a unique source of American advantage, one our adversaries do not have: our innovators, our senior leaders and our technologists," Hegseth said.

Technology billionaire Elon Musk. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Musk will be a co-leader of Project Meridian alongside Palmer Luckey, the 34-year-old co-founder of defense technology company Anduril Industries, and Newt Gingrich, the 83-year-old Republican former House speaker. Musk threw his support behind Trump and helped his return to the White House, but the men later had a high-profile blow-up over the president's spending legislation.

He later resumed giving to Republican causes, including multimillion-dollar donations to individual candidates and conservative political groups.

Hegseth said the project's purpose is to "creatively look to the future and identify the domains that we must conquer and capabilities we must master". — AFP

Stabbed Indian pilot airlifted to Abu Dhabi for care

CAPTAIN Smit Machchhar, an Indian pilot operating flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv, is being airlifted to Abu Dhabi for advanced medical care after suffering stab wounds during a violent mid-air cockpit attack by his co-pilot.

The attack unfolded en route to Tel Aviv when the co-pilot stabbed Captain Machchhar and attempted to seize control of the Boeing 737. Despite being gravely injured, the seasoned aviator showed extraordinary presence of mind, unlocking the cockpit door while fighting for his life. This allowed crew and passengers to intervene, disarm the attacker, and ensure crew access to the flight deck before deteriorating health necessitated an emergency diversion and safe landing of the aircraft at Tabuk Airport in Saudi Arabia, saving all 174 lives on board. Following initial stabilization at a local hospital, arrangements were made to airlift him to Abu Dhabi for further specialised treatment.

Machchhar brings over 13 years of commercial aviation experience to the cockpit. **PHOTO: ANI**

Machchhar brings over 13 years of commercial aviation experience to the cockpit, with nearly 9,750 total flying hours, primarily on Boeing 737 aircraft, and previously served 11 years as a Line Training Captain at SpiceJet. In recognition of his valour, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced that the state government will confer the prestigious 'Visisht Gujarat Garima Award' upon Captain Machchhar. Patel noted that Machchhar's quick thinking and selflessness brought immense pride to the state and the nation. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy extends border checks with Spain

ITALY has extended for another 15 days the checks at its air and maritime borders with Spain due to the continuing situation in Ceuta, local media reported Wednesday.

According to Corriere della Sera, Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi decided to extend the checks after a meeting of the Committee for the Analysis of Immigration and Border Security.

The decision was prompted by the current situation in Ceuta, a Spanish enclave on the North African coast, and the persistence of previously identified security and migration concerns, the report said. The Italian Interior Ministry has notified the European Commission and interior ministers of other European Union members of the measure, according to the report.

It is the third extension introduced by the Italian Interior Ministry since the migrant emergency emerged in Ceuta, Corriere della Sera said. The temporary suspension of Schengen rules means checks remain in place at Italy's air and maritime borders with Spain. – Xinhua

New Zealand parliament dissolved ahead of November election

New Zealand's parliament was formally dissolved on Thursday following its final sitting on 23 September ushering in the official campaign period for the 7 November general election.

The ruling National Party and opposition Labour Party officially launched their election campaigns in separate Auckland events on Sunday, kicking off a six-week campaign.

The launches are typically designed to rally supporters and provide an opportunity for parties to unveil new policies addressing New Zealanders' top five concerns, namely cost of living, healthcare, economy, unemployment and housing, according to the latest Ipsos Issues Monitor, a public opinion survey conducted by market research firm Ipsos.

A 1News-Verian poll released this week projected Labour, the Greens, the Maori party and the Opportunity Party to win a combined 65 seats, compared with 59 for the incumbent coalition of the National Party, ACT and New Zealand First. – Xinhua

Somali forces rescue hijacked oil tanker

MARITIME forces from Somalia's Puntland State have rescued the Palau-flagged oil tanker MT Honour (Honour 25) off the coast of Bandarbeyla in northeastern Somalia.

In a statement released Tuesday evening, the Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF) confirmed that the vessel and its 17 crew members were safe.

Held since 21 April, the ship was freed in an operation that resulted in the arrest of 16 Somali pirates, while five crew members were killed by the hijackers before the rescue operation.

"The vessel is now safe and under Puntland government control. During the operation, 16 suspected pirates were apprehended, while operations to locate the remaining members continue," the security force said in a statement. – Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar U17 to face India U17 in friendlies

THE Myanmar U17 men's selected football team will play two international friendly matches against the India U17 men's football team in Yangon as part of their preparations for the 2027 AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers.

The match schedule for the friendly fixtures between the Myanmar U17 and India U17 men's teams.

The two friendly matches will be played at Star City Football Ground in Thanlyin Township at 3:30 pm on 4 and 7 October.

Both the Myanmar and India U17 teams are preparing for the 2027 AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers, which are scheduled to take place in November. Myanmar have been drawn in Group A alongside Indonesia, Afghanistan, the Philippines and Cambodia and will host the group-stage matches. India is in Group E with Malaysia, Palestine, Singapore and Guam.

The current Myanmar U17 squad comprises 29 preliminary players selected from States and Regions, as well as Myanmar football academies. The team is coached by Japanese head coach Keisuke Amano. To give the players more competitive experience, the squad is also competing in this year's Myanmar National League U20 tournament under the name Galaxy FC. — TWA/KZL

Asian Games: China advances to men's volleyball semifinal

CHINA swept Thailand 3-0 in the men's volleyball quarterfinal at the 2026 Asian Games on Thursday, setting up a semifinal showdown with Japan. With little separating the two sides in the opening set, China maintained a narrow lead for much of the contest before closing it out 25-23. China used its blocking advantage to race to a 4-0 lead at the start of the second set. Thailand responded with two scoring runs midway through the set to close the gap before China increased its serving pressure. The teams traded points from 17-17 to 22-22 before China took the final three points to win the set 25-22. — Xinhua

Myanmar esports team wins historic MLBB gold

Myanmar's Team Zanaka won the gold medal in the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB) esports event at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Japan after defeating Indonesia 4-0 in the final on 1 October.

This image shows the scoreboard indicating Myanmar as the gold medallist and, in the inset, the Myanmar esports team receiving their gold medals. **PHOTO: MESF**

Competing at the Asian Games for the first time, Team Zanaka topped Group A after defeating Uzbekistan and Hong Kong SAR 2-0. The team then beat Cambodia 2-1 in the quarter-final and Malaysia 2-0 in the semi-final to reach the final.

In the final, Team Zanaka dominated Indonesia, which had advanced past the Philippines, Mongolia and Hong Kong SAR, securing a comprehensive 4-0 victory and Myanmar's first-ever Asian Games MLBB gold medal.

The victory also marks Myanmar's first Asian Games gold medal in esports and adds to the country's overall Asian Games medal tally of 17 gold, 28 silver and 57 bronze medals, totalling 102 medals since the 1951 New Delhi Asian Games.

MESF Chairman Dr Kaung Myat San expressed his pride in the historic achievement, saying that the gold medal represented not only the success of Team Zanaka but also a milestone for Myanmar's esports community. He also thanked supporters, fans, sponsors and the athletes' families for their encouragement.

The achievement marks Myanmar's first participation in MLBB at the Asian Games and a significant milestone for the country's esports sector as it seeks to advance from the Asian level to the global stage. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

Asian Games: Japan surpasses Hangzhou gold tally with cycling, judo wins

JAPAN won gold medals in cycling track, judo and other sports at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Thursday, pushing its tally to 60 and beyond the total it achieved at the previous games in Hangzhou in 2023.

Kaiya Ota defended his title in the men's sprint, while Tsuyaka Uchino and Maho Kakita retained their women's madison crown in track cycling. "I had a lot of support from staff members, and I was able to win the gold medal this time against really strong rivals, so I'm really feeling proud of that," Ota said at a news conference. Kanta Umezawa won gold in the men's omnium at the Izu Velodrome in Shizuoka Prefecture. Japan claimed three judo gold medals, led by Sotaro Fujiwara in the men's 81-kilogramme class at IG Arena in Nagoya. In wrestling, Nonoka Ozaki claimed gold in the women's 62-kilogramme class, while Yuri Nakazato won the men's Greco-Roman 97-kilogramme title. — Kyodo

Japan's Kurumi Ito competes in the canoe slalom women's kayak single final at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, on 1 October 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage of Sri Lanka wins the men's javelin throw gold medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Nagoya on 28 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Asian Games: Ex-cricketer Pathirage wins Sri Lanka's 1st gold in javelin

FORMER cricketer Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage delivered Sri Lanka's first gold medal of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games by winning the men's javelin throw earlier this week.

"This year is a very good season," Pathirage said after winning with a commanding throw of 88.55 metres to add the Asian Games title to victories at the elite Diamond League Final and the inaugural Ultimate Championship.

A former cricket player whose powerful arm once produced deliveries of more than 130 kilometres per hour, Pathirage took up the javelin inspired by his father. Skills developed through cricket helped accelerate his development, he said. — Kyodo

Musk returns to US govt for Pentagon war study

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WORLD

S Korea's elderly population reaches 21.6%

SOUTH Korea's elderly population reached 21.6 per cent of the total population amid rapid population aging, statistical ministry data showed Thursday. The number of people aged 65 and older totalled 11.125 million in 2026, accounting for 21.6 per cent of the country's total population, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

After officially becoming a super-aged society last year when the proportion crossed 20 per cent to hit 20.3 per cent, the graying of the nation continued to intensify.

The ministry estimated that the elderly population will top 30 per cent of the total by 2036 and 40 per cent by 2050. The old-age dependency ratio, or the proportion of the elderly population to the working-age population aged 15-64, was projected to surge from 31.3 in 2026 to 50.1 in 2036 and 100.8 in 2066. — Xinhua

Iran denies involvement in British base incident

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi rejected on Thursday the British government's claim that Iran has "played a part" in a recent incident near the Royal Air Force (RAF) Fairford, a base hosting the US Air Force in southwest England.

British police on Sunday detained five men, all in their 20s, on suspicion of "explosives and terrorism offenses" in the Gloucestershire countryside near the air base after they were informed that three vans had been seen heading to the base.

Araghchi issued the denial in a post on social media platform X Thursday, a day after British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said in an interview with BBC News, "There are strong indications that Iran played a part in what happened over the weekend at RAF Fairford, but of course it remains an ongoing, complex, and serious police investigation." — Xinhua

Global South forum calls for effective use of AI

THE 2026 Global South Modernization Forum was held in Cairo on Wednesday under the theme "The Rise of Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges for Modernization in the Global South".

More than 100 experts and scholars from nearly 30 countries and regions attended the forum.

Participants said innovation in artificial intelligence (AI) technology presents enormous opportunities while also posing governance challenges. — Xinhua

Putin congratulates Xi Jinping on 77th anniversary of founding of PRC

Putin praised China's impressive success under President Xi's leadership.

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent congratulations to Chinese President Xi Jinping on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, according to a telegram published on the Kremlin website.

Putin said that under Xi's leadership, China is achieving "impressive success" and making a significant contribution to addressing key issues on the agenda.

"Under your leadership, China is achieving impressive success in the socioeconomic, scientific, and technological spheres and making a significant contribution to addressing key regional and global issues," the message posted on the Kremlin website says.

Relations between Russia and China are at an unprecedented high, and the countries are coordinating their efforts in international affairs in the interests of a multipolar world, Putin added.

"Our countries are consistently advancing major joint projects across a wide range of areas and coordinating their efforts in international affairs to build a more just and multipolar world order," Putin said in a congratulatory message to Chinese President Xi Jinping on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. — SPUTNIK

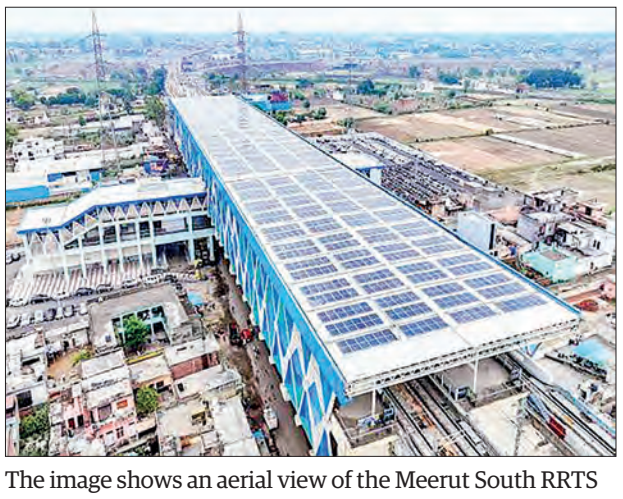
A flag-raising ceremony marking the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China is held at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, 1 October 2026.
PHOTO: XINHUA

India approves U$$19 bln for renewable energy programme

INDIAN Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) scheme. This historic initiative will strengthen India's Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS) to enable evacuation of up to 135 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy across States and Union Territories.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who briefed the media on cabinet decisions, said the scheme also provides for deployment of 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) at the Renewable Energy developer/generator end or any other location of importance for grid flexibility to address intermittency, congestion, peak-hour curtailment and meet non-solar hour demand.

In a post on X, he said the move will create more jobs in manufacturing, construction and energy storage, highlighting a "big push towards 900 GW non-fossil capacity by 2035". — ANI



The image shows an aerial view of the Meerut South RRTS station on the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor, featuring a large rooftop solar power plant.
PHOTO: ANI