

**Classroom Key to Shaping the Future of the Nation**

Nation-building and development require many dedicated and capable teachers who possess sound values, beliefs and attitudes while upholding professional teaching ethics.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark World Teachers’ Day 2026, which falls on 5 October 2026. The full text of the translated message is as follows:

**Esteemed teachers,**  
On the auspicious occasion of World Teachers’ Day, which falls on 5 October 2026, I would first like to extend my best wishes to all teachers across Myanmar for good physical and mental well-being. Today, 5 October, is World Teachers’ Day, a special and auspicious occasion observed worldwide to honour and celebrate the noble and distinguished virtues of teachers, including their moral integrity, dedication and knowledge.

**SEE PAGE 3**

**Tatmadaw Naval Vessels Repatriate 1,476 Myanmar Citizens, Warmly Welcomed Home**

THE government deeply values, aids, and protects its citizens abroad whenever they face hardships, under any circumstances. Furthermore, through Myanmar embassies and consulates-general overseas, the relevant authorities consistently prioritize coordinating with the host governments to provide necessary rescue and repatriation assistance to Myanmar citizens experiencing difficulties abroad for various reasons.



Officials and family members welcome Myanmar citizens who faced difficulties returning home from Malaysia upon their arrival at No 3 Jetty (Thilawa) in Yangon yesterday.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, officials from the Tatmadaw and relevant ministries coordinated to repatriate 1,476 Myanmar citizens who had completed sentences for unlawful residency and other

immigration offenses in Malaysia, were detained in immigration depots, and faced difficulties returning home. The Myanmar Navy vessels UMS Mottama, sea-going hospital ship UMS Thanl-

win, and UMS Sinphyushin departed Yangon on 24 September to retrieve them. The naval vessels arrived at Lumut Port in Malaysia on the morning of 28 September. **SEE PAGE 6**

**Press Release**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitates repatriation of Myanmar nationals facing difficulties abroad**

UNDER the guidance of the Government of Myanmar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has placed great emphasis on providing necessary consular assistance through Myanmar Embassies and Consulates-General to assist in the rescue and repatriation of Myanmar nationals facing difficulties abroad for various reasons.

In this regard, the Government of Myanmar, in close coordination with the Government of Malaysia repatriated 1,086 verified Myanmar nationals who had been detained at the Malaysian Immigration detention camps and faced difficulties following the completion of their respective sentences due to their illegal stay and violation of the immigration regulations. The repatriation was carried out by Myanmar Navy vessels on humanitarian grounds on 23 February 2021.

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Future Bagan Accelerates Conservation of Ancient Pagodas in Bagan

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Hot-air balloon season kicks off, starting from 15 Oct

**4<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Korea International Water Forum held in Seoul**

THE 4<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Korea International Water Forum was held at The Westin Chosun Seoul hotel in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, yesterday morning.

The Myanmar delegation, led by U Myo Myint Maung, Chargé d’Affaires/ Ambassador of the Em-

bassy of Myanmar in the Republic of Korea, and U Kyaw Swe Lin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, attended the forum.

This year’s forum was held under the theme “Climate Resilience through

Digital Water Management in the Mekong Region”.

At the high-level dialogue, U Kyaw Swe Lin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, participated as a panellist.

The Mekong-Korea

Water Resources Forum, which was launched in 2022, serves as a key platform for discussions on water management cooperation between the Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea, as well as sustainable development. — TWA/KNN



The 4<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Korea International Water Forum in progress.

# NATIONAL

## Objectives of 27<sup>th</sup> 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

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 5 October 2026)

**BAY INFERENCE:** The monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea, the South Bay, the Westcentral Bay and the Northwest Bay of Bengal. The weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and a few clouds over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 5 OCTOBER 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and (Southern and Eastern) Shan states, isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Sagaing regions and Mon and northern Shan states. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. The weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** The sea will be moderate in the Myanmar waters. The wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, lower Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon and (Southern and Eastern) Shan states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 OCTOBER 2026:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 OCTOBER 2026:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 OCTOBER 2026:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. — DMH

## Press Release Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitates repatriation of Myanmar nationals facing difficulties abroad

### FROM PAGE 1

Moreover, through close coordination between the two Governments, 70 Myanmar fishermen who had been detained in Port Blair, India, for illegally entering Indian territorial waters were repatriated to Myanmar on 11 March 2021 aboard the Myanmar Navy vessel UMS Tabinshwehti.

From January to September 2026, a total of 1,905 Myanmar nationals who encountered difficulties in Cambodia, were repatriated to Myanmar through various means of transportation including, Tatmadaw aircraft, chartered flights operated by MAI and AirAsia. In addition, a total of 26 Myanmar fishermen, who were detained in Port Blair in India for illegally entering Indian territorial waters were repatriated to Myanmar by Myanmar Airways International (MAI) on 23 July 2026.

The necessary national verification process for Myanmar nationals was conducted in close coordination with relevant Ministries for those who had completed their sentences due to their illegal stay and violation of immigration regulations but remained in the immigration detention camps. Following the verification process, 8,041 Myanmar nationals were repatriated to Myanmar by air on a weekly basis. Moreover, 1,476 verified Myanmar nationals who could not afford airfare were repatriated aboard Myanmar Navy vessels, namely UMS Mottama, UMS Thanlwin and UMS Sinphyushin, and they arrived safely in Myanmar today.

As the Government is currently making efforts to create new employment opportunities within the country, Myanmar nationals will have greater opportunities to contribute to enhancing national productivity by engaging in various economic sectors such as agriculture, livestock and breeding, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), thereby enabling them to achieve dignified, safe and secure livelihood.

Therefore, Myanmar nationals who wish to seek employment abroad are advised to exercise caution and not be easily persuaded by the inducements and promises of the human traffickers. They are also urged to avoid leaving the country illegally through unauthorized border crossing and to remain vigilant against the risks of human trafficking.

Regardless of the circumstances, the Government has demonstrated its profound concern for the well-being of Myanmar nationals residing abroad and provided them with necessary assistance whenever they encounter difficulties.

Therefore, Myanmar nationals residing abroad who encounter any difficulties are encouraged to contact Myanmar Embassies and Consulates-General. Necessary arrangements will be made, in coordination with the authorities of the respective countries, to facilitate their safe return to Myanmar at the earliest possible opportunity.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nay Pyi Taw  
Dated: 4 October 2026

## Farmer awareness seminar on cotton production held in Yenangyoung

A farmer awareness seminar was held at the office of Township Agriculture Department in Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region, yesterday, with the aim of developing cotton cultivation and production, increasing yields and improving farmers' agricultural knowledge and techniques.

At the seminar, Township Agriculture Department Head U Yin Min Soe and staff explained agricultural practices to be followed to improve cotton production, the selection and cultivation of quality cotton varieties, and methods for preventing and controlling pests and diseases. The Township Agriculture Department also provided compound fertilizer and natural pesticides to seed-producing farmers from three village tracts engaged in cotton cultivation.

The participating cotton



Farm workers pick cotton wool on the plantation.

farmers then raised questions and discussed agricultural difficulties they had encountered and pest and disease outbreaks. It was reported that Agriculture Department staff and farmers would work together to further improve cotton cultivation and production in the township. — Ko Soe Gyi (IPRD)/KNN

# NATIONAL

## Classroom Key to Shaping the Future of the Nation

**FROM PAGE 1**

World Teachers’ Day has been celebrated worldwide every year on 5 October since 1994, and it has now been 33 years of honouring and paying tribute to the noble contributions of teachers. In Myanmar, World Teachers’ Day has also been observed since 5 October 2002, marking 24 years this year. Teachers are continuously nurturing the educated human resources that are essential for the development of the country. I pay deep respect and honour the abilities and contributions of teachers in serving the interests of the country and its people through education across successive generations.

A noble teacher is one capable of bringing the light of wisdom to others and guiding them away from greed, teaching them to overcome anger and cultivating patience and forgiveness, and dispelling the darkness of ignorance, guiding and directing them towards the right path. Teachers are benefactors of the teacher lineage who possess the six qualities of a mentor: encouraging, awakening, showing compassion, exercising patience, providing guidance and offering thoughtful advice, and upholding the five teacherly duties: **imparting knowledge and skills, giving guidance, teaching all techniques without withholding anything, protecting students from dangers and harm, and assigning them to suitable responsibilities.** In addition, they possess such admirable qualities as broad knowledge and learning, proficiency in their respective fields, good moral character, and the ability to speak only what is truthful and beneficial.

The noble virtues of teachers are praised in the

Magha Deva poem as follows: **“A teacher is one who, with upholding loving-kindness and compassion, points out faults whenever they are seen, keeps nothing hidden in the heart, speaks the truth, and offers guidance with the sincere wish for the student’s improvement.”** As an integral part of Myanmar’s cultural heritage, teachers and benefactors of the noble lineage of teachers have long been revered, respected and honoured in accordance with the traditions of paying homage and showing humility. This longstanding tradition of respect and paying tribute to teachers has been firmly upheld for generations.

The term “teacher” is derived from the Pali word “**Saya**”, meaning **“a shelter that provides safety and cool shade”**. The Myanmar Dictionary also defines a teacher as “one who imparts knowledge, instructs, disciplines and guides others”. Since people acquire various forms of knowledge and skills that contribute to their worldly and spiritual well-being from teachers, no one in this world can be said to be without a teacher or to have never had a teacher.

Teachers, in keeping with the principle of “teaching lessons while also shaping character”, nurture their students like their own children, without discrimination or favouritism. They strive not only to help students excel academically but also to equip them with knowledge and practical skills. They also instil in students the traditional Myanmar values of “respecting elders, showing consideration to peers and caring for the younger”. Teachers guide students so that they can build successful and meaningful futures and become responsible individuals

who contribute positively to society. Teachers nurture the younger generation to become capable and outstanding individuals, to develop socially and morally with a proper balance between self-interest and concern for others, and to cultivate students with the five forms of strength. As such, teachers are truly “the heart of education, the steerspersons of the future, and a cornerstone of the nation”.

Classrooms are places where the future of the nation is shaped, while teachers serve as pioneers and guides who educate and nurture future national leaders, intellectuals, professionals and skilled workers. Therefore, nation-building and development require many good and dedicated teachers who possess sound values, beliefs and attitudes and uphold professional teaching ethics.

The State is promoting the role and rights of teachers on an equal basis so that the country can keep pace with today’s global landscape, marked by growing competition in science and technology in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century knowledge era, and develop an education system capable of competing at the international level. Enhancing education lays a firm foundation for national development, peace, stability and prosperity. Therefore, the government continues to pay close attention to the voices of teachers and make sustained efforts to improve their social well-being and enhance their professional capabilities. In particular, support is being provided in various areas to strengthen teachers’ digital skills, proficiency in research-based teaching methods, and higher-order thinking and analytical abilities.

**SEE PAGE 4**

## Myanmar delegation attends INNOPROM Belarus industrial exhibition in Minsk

AT the invitation of Belarusian Minister of Industry Mr Andrei Kuznetsov, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe and Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than attended the second international industrial exhibition (INNOPROM. Belarus), held in Minsk, the Republic of Belarus, from 30 September to 2 October.

During his stay in Minsk, Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe met Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and Co-Chairman of the Myanmar-Belarus Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation on the morning of 30 September. They discussed holding the third



Union ministers U Aung Kyaw Hoe and Dr Charlie Than visit the Minsk Plant of Technological Metal Structures.

meeting of the Joint Committee in Myanmar, implementing the roadmap, and promoting bilateral trade and investment. Meanwhile, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than held separate talks with Belarusian Minister of Industry Mr Andrei Kuznetsov on opportunities for bilateral cooperation in promoting industrial production, technology exchange, and the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation, led by the Union ministers, met Ms Nadezhda Lazarevich, Chairperson of the Belarusian state-owned light industry concern “Bellegprom”, to discuss detailed coordination on promoting investment and trade in small and medium-sized industries between the two countries. The delegation then toured the exhibition booths at the second international industrial exhibition.

On 1 October, the Union ministers attended business programmes and plenary sessions of the second international industrial exhibition (INNOPROM. Belarus) and visited Minsk Techno Park, where officials briefed them on the facility’s operations.

On 2 October, the Myanmar delegation, led by the Union ministers, observed automated machinery manufacturing and assembly processes at the Minsk Automatic Lines Plant and toured the high-tech metal manufacturing processes and technological applications at the Minsk Plant of Technological Metal Structures. They also discussed bilateral cooperation and investment opportunities before returning to Myanmar yesterday evening, according to reports. — MNA/TH

## Comprehensive digital platform to facilitate agricultural loan disbursement

ACCORDING to discussions at a coordination meeting between the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Myanmar Banks Association, a comprehensive digital platform will be established to facilitate the disbursement of agricultural loans to the farming sector.

The discussions focused on supporting agricultural and livestock development through the financial sector, issuing relevant directives on agricultural and livestock loan requirements, providing financial support, establishing an agriculture-based blended finance framework, developing a comprehensive digital platform for the seamless disbursement of agricultural loans, and

advancing digital payment systems.

Furthermore, the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Myanmar Banks Association discussed the five-year implementation plans covering the 2026-2027 financial year through the 2030-2031 financial year, including annual implementation targets, financing and funding arrangements, performance indicators and responsible organizations.

The coordination meeting was attended by Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Dr Khin Naing Oo, deputy governors and directors-general, as well as the Chairman of the Myanmar Banks Association and representatives from member banks. — ASH/TH

# NATIONAL

## Classroom Key to Shaping the Future of the Nation

### FROM PAGE 3

In line with the motto “Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation”, the State is placing particular emphasis on increasing investment in the education sector through the national budget and promoting balanced development across various areas, including basic education, higher education, vocational education and research. To ensure that citizens can fully enjoy their inherent right to education without interruption throughout the country, a free education system is being developed in the basic education sector. Regarding students and young people as invaluable human resources, efforts will be made to transform basic education schools into Smart Schools and to promote universities and colleges as quality learning environments in accordance with international standards.

In addition to salaries, teachers are being provided with additional benefits based on their educational qualifications, uniform allowances, housing allowances, and increased opportunities for domestic and overseas education. Annual awards are also presented to outstanding and high-achieving children of members of the education community. In recognition of teachers’ dignity, competence and dedication to their duties, honorary award recipients and outstanding teachers are selected and honoured annually. Furthermore, efforts will continue to improve teachers’ working conditions, ensuring their psychological and physical safety and enabling them to uphold the dignity and professional standards of the teaching profession.

As efforts are being accelerated to achieve the two priority objectives of “forging peace and stability in the country” and “promoting national development”, teachers and students who possess sound knowledge, rationality and a basic understanding of peace serve as a vital source of strength for the nation. As the main pillars of the national education system, teachers have a responsibility to understand and comply with the Constitution, existing laws, rules and regulations prescribed

by the State, and to pass on and disseminate knowledge to the younger generation. In line with the educational objective of “morale, discipline and knowledge”, they should also nurture their students to become responsible citizens who maintain good discipline and respect and abide by the law. It is important for teachers to always place the national interest first and faithfully fulfil their responsibilities to the country and the education sector.

Teachers must have a thorough knowledge of the provisions of the National Education Law and strictly comply with educational directives, procedures and regulations when carrying out educational activities. In addition, teachers have to nurture students and young people so that they can understand, practise and comply with democratic principles and practices, in addition to practising such principles themselves. Teachers must have the capability to manage their time and continuously study and learn to enhance their professional knowledge and teaching skills. They should participate actively in quality-enhancement training courses and seminars and make concerted efforts to contribute to the development of the education sector. I would also like to emphasize that teachers themselves need to read widely and continuously acquire knowledge so that they can impart guidance, moral instruction and knowledge to students and young people, enabling them in the future to contribute to the development of the national economy and to respect and abide by the law.

I would like to urge all teachers to steadfastly serve their duties as much as they can because the education department is directly concerned with chances of all school-age children to attend schools, reduction of school dropout rate, measures to enable all citizens to complete at least KG+9 education, arrangements for those attending higher education to complete their studies, and plans to enjoy opportunities to pursue vocational techniques to develop the education sector.

The State has revised the formation of the Ministry of Industry, Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise

Development to promote the industrial sector based on agriculture and livestock farming. As such, it is important to continuously encourage the production of large numbers of excellent intellectuals and intelligentsia. All teachers, parents and officials have to join hands in harmony to ensure equitable development of the entire nation through concerted efforts of experts and scholars.

Teachers deeply understand and accept the genuine essence of wisdom, upholding the tradition “The livelihoods with education are the best”. They need to uplift their capabilities to be the teachers who guide and advise their pupils with genuine goodwill, loving-kindness, empathy and compassion to become educated, polite individuals. On the occasion of World Teachers’ Day, I earnestly urge the teachers to cultivate in their hearts the innate knowledge, wisdom and awareness that enable them to think broadly and envision the future, so that these qualities may flourish perpetually for the benefit of the nation’s future generations.

In conclusion, I extend my best wishes: -

- May all the teachers become gardeners who can create the garden of knowledge to enable a diverse array of beautiful flowers to bloom peacefully in full splendour.
- May they be able to produce many well-educated, virtuous, and capable individuals who take delight in learning within the shelter of knowledge.
- May they develop profound knowledge and wisdom, and contribute to enhancing the image of the nation and advancing the education sector through their good reputation.
- May all teachers enjoy good health and well-being, successfully fulfil their educational duties, and be blessed with every kind of prosperity and success.

Agga Maha Thray Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri  
Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing  
President, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Agricultural, Infrastructure, and Research Projects inspected in PutaO

KACHIN State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan conducted a field inspection tour in northern Myanmar’s PutaO District yesterday to support local food security, regional development, and agriculture.

In PutaO’s Panhlaing Ward, the Chief Minister visited a commercial fish farm operating across more than three acres. Supported by K60 million from the State

Economic Promotion Fund, the project features nine ponds raising over 2,000 fish across several species. He coordinated plans with fishery officials to expand pond capacity and encourage more local entrepreneurs to take up commercial aquaculture. He then inspected the Shwe Taung noodle industry, which used fund loans to upgrade machinery for instant rice noodle

production, and coordinated with department officials to facilitate market access.

Later in the afternoon, the Chief Minister met with local farmers and department officials near Sangaung Village to address flood and erosion damage caused by the Pateik stream. To safeguard more than 900 acres of rain-fed paddy fields and the PutaO-Upper Sangaung

roadway, they coordinated plans to repair the Sangaung and Nankanto diversion weirs using local traditional methods and reviewed the Department of Highways’ plan to construct a 580-foot retaining wall. Concluding the tour, he inspected cold-water fish breeding, conservation, and research activities at the PutaO Livestock Research Camp. — State IPRD/ST



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan observes the noodle-making process at the Shwe Taung noodle industry in PutaO yesterday.

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

NATIONAL



A Future Bagan member injects chemicals to remove plants growing on an ancient pagoda in Bagan.

Future Bagan Accelerates Conservation of Ancient Pagodas in Bagan

FUTURE Bagan is accelerating conservation efforts at ancient pagodas and temples in the Bagan ancient cultural zone to prevent deterioration and ensure the long-term preservation of the cultural heritage sites.

During 2026, the Future Bagan group has carried out conservation work at around 20 ancient pagodas in the Bagan area, including injecting chemicals to remove trees growing on the structures, filling gaps between ancient bricks to prevent rainwater from penetrating damaged areas caused by plant roots, and applying mortar where necessary.

The group has also undertaken additional measures to protect mural paintings inside the ancient temples. Metal grilles have been installed at entrances to prevent bats and birds from entering and damaging the murals. Roller blinds have also been fitted over windows and doors to

control the amount of light entering the temples and reduce the fading of mural paintings.

“Future Bagan is a group formed by local residents and is registered as an association with the relevant ministry. We are working to preserve Bagan’s ancient cultural heritage as much as we can. We have to take special care to ensure that our work does not damage the heritage sites, and we report the completed work back to the relevant department,” said Ko Naing of Future Bagan.

“We cover the costs of tree removal, brick-gap filling, installation of metal grilles and other conservation work using the association’s own funds,” he added.

Future Bagan will continue carrying out conservation activities with local experts and volunteers, using its own funds, to ensure the long-term preservation of Bagan’s ancient cultural heritage, according to the group. — TWA/ST

Announcement on Plan for Rotational Power Distribution to the Public

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 October

THE monsoon season has now receded, marking the beginning of the dry season. Furthermore, due to the effects of severe El Niño conditions, temperatures across the country have risen significantly, resulting in increased electricity consumption and growing demand for power.

Anticipating more significant depletion of water levels in reservoirs at hydropower plants during the coming dry season, plans have already been put in place to regulate water storage levels in dams and continue generating electricity through the upcoming 2026 monsoon season.

In addition, efforts are underway to generate additional electricity, including from new solar and hydropower projects, in time for this summer season, while work is also being carried out to restore damaged power supply systems.

When temperatures rise due to severe El Niño conditions and electricity demand surges, an imbalance between power generation and consumption could cause power plants within the system to shut down suddenly or result in faults in the main transmission grids, potentially leading to a nationwide power system breakdown.

Therefore, to balance electricity consumption with available generation capacity during this period, load management and rotational power distribution will be implemented to the minimum extent necessary.

Consequently, the public and electricity consumers are hereby informed that the rotational load-management power distribution plan will begin on 5 October 2026.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

MRF warns rice traders to ensure price stability and avoid irregular trading practices

ON 3 October, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) issued a public statement urging rice traders to strictly comply with regulations set by the State and relevant organizations, including those prohibiting transactions through multiple layers of rice brokerage channels inside or outside designated rice wholesale centres and irregular trading practices intended to drive up prices.

The federation also issued four mandatory guidelines for rice traders to ensure the stability of Myanmar



This photo features a retail shop in the rice market.

Pawson rice prices and promote increased export volumes. The statement stipulates that rice traders operating within wholesale centres must systematically maintain records of incoming and outgoing rice in the prescribed format and submit them daily to the respective wholesale

centres.

Furthermore, member rice traders across Myanmar are urged to register their warehouses on the Myanmar Rice Online (MyRo) registration system and update their rice inventory volumes in a timely manner in accordance with the established rules and regulations.

The MRF also reminded all rice traders to fully cooperate with and comply with rice pricing guidelines and regulations issued by the relevant departments and organizations. — TWA/TH

Wazira Theatre to stage “Yanaung Maung Maung Tote” opera

THE “Yanaung Maung Maung Tote” opera, along with Myanmar theatrical performances, will be staged at the Wazira Theatre in Yangon, according to theatrical actor Tin Maung San Min Win.

“The ‘Tin Maung San Min Win Theatrical Festival’ will soon be held for theatrical

performance-loving audiences. Many artistes will join me in the festival, which will feature traditional the ‘Yanaung Maung Maung Tote’ opera, the ‘Thadingyut Phu Sar’ play and various theatrical programmes on the stage of the Wazira Theatre. I would like to invite everyone to come

and enjoy the performances,” said Tin Maung San Min Win.

The “Tin Maung San Min Win Theatrical Festival”, led by Tin Maung San Min Win, will feature not only theatrical performances but also the participation of numerous artistes from the Thabin, film and music industries. The festival will

be staged at the Wazira Theatre in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, on 17 and 18 October. — ASH/KZL

A poster of the “Tin Maung San Min Win Theatrical Festival” to be staged at Wazira Theatre.



# NATIONAL

## Tatmadaw Naval Vessels Repatriate 1,476 ...

### FROM PAGE 1

After systematically receiving the detained Myanmar citizens from Malaysian authorities, the ships departed on the evening of 29 September. They docked at No 3 Jetty (Thilawa) in Yangon at around 7:35 am yesterday, completing a smooth and successful repatriation to the motherland.

During the voyage, vessel personnel warmly welcomed the citizens, provided orderly accommodation, delivered necessary health-care, and prepared daily meals. The servicemen on board and ministry officials also organized recreational activities—including games, movie screenings, and group physical fitness exercises—while supplying clothing and essential personal care items.

Moreover, on the morning of 1 October, as the vessels crossed into Myanmar territorial waters, the returning citizens—who had been away from their homeland for an extended period—applauded and celebrated with joy upon receiving a warm welcome message from the Head of State, greeting them as siblings and family. They expressed heartfelt gratitude for the Head of State's goodwill and compassion in arranging their return, as well as for the dedicated assistance rendered by all involved officials.

When naval vessels arrived at No 3 Thilawa Jetty in Yangon, officials from relevant ministries, members of the Regional Government, and family members extended a warm

and joyous welcome. The returnees were treated to lunch—including chicken rice, snacks, and refreshments—and boarded arranged vehicles heading to pre-designated gathering centres for temporary rest. Relevant authorities conducted verification and screening before systematically transferring them to representatives of Region/State governments, while officials from the Ministry of Immigration and Population issued Unique Identification (UID) cards by region and state. Necessary arrangements are continuing to facilitate their swift reunion with relatives and family members, ensuring their safe return to their respective hometowns.

The government maintains a strong focus on rescuing and repatriating citizens experiencing hardships abroad. In 2026, from January to September, 1,905 stranded Myanmar citizens were repatriated from Cambodia via military and chartered flights; on 23 July 2026, 26 Myanmar fishermen detained in Port Blair for illegally entering Indian waters were brought back aboard Myanmar Airways International (MAI); and on 23 February 2021, 1,086 citizens stranded in Malaysia after serving sentences for immigration violations were returned aboard Tatmadaw naval vessels. Additionally, 8,041 citizens were repatriated by air between January and the end of August 2026. The current mission successfully brought home the remaining 1,476 citizens from Malaysia aboard My-

anmar Navy vessels on humanitarian grounds following bilateral governmental coordination.

Driven by the parental benevolence of the Head of State, the steadfast efforts of the Tatmadaw, and the goodwill and cooperation of departmental agencies, the journey home has been accomplished for overseas Myanmar citizens who had endured hardship far from their motherland. As they prepare to reunite with their families, returnees expressed profound relief and joy, shed tears of emotion, and shared their happiness.

Currently, the government is actively driving socioeconomic development initiatives to foster comprehensive national progress and ensure that all citizens can live and work safely. It is emphasized that by recognizing the government's sincere goodwill and engaging diligently in agriculture, livestock breeding, and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) domestically, citizens can enhance national productivity while securing dignified and safe livelihoods.

Consequently, Myanmar citizens intending to work abroad are urged not to fall prey to the allurements and persuasion of human trafficking brokers, to refrain from leaving the country illegally through border areas, and to exercise caution against peer pressure to prevent falling victim to human trafficking. Citizens abroad who encounter difficulties are advised to contact Myanmar embassies and con-

sulates-general; arrangements will be coordinated with the respective host governments to ensure their safe and peaceful return to the motherland.

The following are the joyous expressions and sentiments shared by the returnees from Malaysia and the mission officials upon their smooth return to Myanmar:

### Interview 1



A call came from the Malaysian embassy saying my husband was on board the ship. On 9 January, that was the first time I heard his voice again. After that, he told a young navy officer, and that officer contacted me to say, "We are bringing him home." Coming to welcome him back, I don't even know how to describe what I felt. But I really kept looking over and over at the number from the phone where I heard his voice. I also want to tell him words of encouragement. He took the risk to go work over there because of our little daughter's health. Now that he is returning, he knows nothing about how our daughter was hospitalized while he was away. I struggled all alone with our two children. In my heart, I just want to give my husband words of comfort and strength. I am always praying and wishing well for the people who rescued them like this. To tell the

truth, since we had been out of touch for so long and had no contacts, I even thought I might never see him again. Whenever the kids went to bed, they would ask, "When is Daddy coming home?" That was the hardest question for me to answer. Now, I can finally answer it. Since he is back, mother and children, father and children are reunited. That is why I am grateful to all the responsible authorities and leaders who brought them home. I thank everyone—regardless of rank, high or low—who helped bring them back so our families could reunite happily like this. The fact that I am crying right now—these are tears of joy. Just as I am overjoyed to see my husband again, may other families experience this joy too. I sincerely thank everyone, wish them well, and hope all the families are as happy as we are.

### Interview 2



During the time I spent in prison, no one ever came to check on me. Not a single person turned their head to look. My siblings didn't, and not one of my friends came either. When it came to food, it was just plain boiled meals. Everything was watery; there was not a single drop of oil. I was held in there for seven whole months, and nobody came to see me. When no one showed up, I was going through immense pain, thinking, "I guess

we'll never get to go home. Will we have to stay here forever? Will our lives end right here?" Right at that moment, when they called out my name, my tears just poured down. It had been so long since I tasted Myanmar food—almost an entire year. Comparing being inside prison to being here, eating Myanmar meals again made me feel overwhelmed with joy. When I got off the vehicle and saw those big ships coming over, I realized, "This isn't a dream; it's real." In that moment, I felt like the happiest person in the whole world.

### Interview 3



I am overjoyed, beyond words in my heart. We have longed to return to Myanmar for such a long time. When we first arrived here, we came to earn money to make a living. But we ran into hardships, and as our living situation became suffocating and desperate, we missed our beloved golden land of Myanmar so much and desperately wanted to go back. Just seeing the Myanmar national flag, I couldn't even put into words how happy I felt—it brought such deep warmth and peace to my heart. I pray from the bottom of my heart that the Head of State and all the people of Myanmar who came to welcome and bring us back are blessed with health of mind and peace of body. — 100/ST

## Authorities to take action against those subletting staff housing units

ACTION will be taken by a newly formed committee against individuals residing in staff housing who breach contractual rules by subletting their units rather than occupying them themselves, stated Mandalay's minister for Electricity,

Energy, Industry and Transport, U Kyaw Moe Thet.

The minister spoke in response to a question raised by U Tin Htun, a Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative for Pyigyida-gun Constituency 2, during the seventh day meeting of

the fourth regular session on 2 October.

Due to a shortage of official housing for civil servants, the Mandalay Region Department of Urban and Housing Development constructed a total of 1,566 rental housing units,

currently accommodating approximately 11,150 residents, including dependent family members.

Tenants were charged a highly subsidized rental rate prior to September 2022. However, starting 20 September 2022, active civil

servants have been allowed to reside free of charge up to the present day.

The minister stated that strict supervision is being carried out to ensure tenants adhere to their lease agreements. Furthermore, tenants who violate

lease terms will be evicted in accordance with the Government Premises (Eviction) Act of 1955. It was also noted that once the Housing and Building Law is enacted in the future, it will include cognizable police offenses in addition to civil service regulations, allowing for legal action involving fines and imprisonment. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

Hot-air balloon season kicks off, starting from 15 Oct

BALLOONS flying over Bagan ancient cultural zone in Mandalay Region’s NyaungU Township will be resumed starting from 15 October, according to the Balloons Over Bagan and STT Balloon officials.

Balloon rides can offer an astonished view of Bagan’s ancient temples and beautiful landscapes and this year’s balloon season is going to kick off for local and foreign tourists.

Balloon rides provided by the Balloons Over Bagan will be available starting from 15 October while

STT Balloon will offer the service in November first week. Fee for a person is US\$165 (K643,500) and a balloon can carry 16 persons, according to the Ballons Over Bagan.

Riding balloon over Bagan can give a perspective of incredible archaeological landscapes- ancient buildings, flora, the Ayeyawady River, Natthamee riverbank and Kondawgyi Temple and Tuyin Hill.

— TWA/ZS

Visitors are riding in a balloon.



Shwedagon Pagoda holds Buddhist precepts ceremony



Waso robes and offertories donated to the Ovadacariya Sayadaw of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

THE Buddhist precepts ceremony for 1388 ME Lent was held at the Ancient Buddha Images Hall on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda at 9:30 am on 4 October, organized by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Members of the Board of Trustees, office staff, members of religious associations, donors and yogis attended the ceremony and received the Nine Precepts from State Ovadacariya and Ovadacariya of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees Tipitaka Ovadacariya Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Aggamaha Ganthavacka Pandita Bhaddanta

Naradabhivamsa. Afterwards, members of the Board of Trustees, staff, Buddhist associations and donors respectfully offered Waso robes to the venerable Ovadacariya Sayadaw and the invited Sangha with devotion.

The congregation listened to the venerable Sayadaw’s sermon and shared the merits of the donations.

Following the ceremony, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered meals to the venerable Ovadacariya Sayadaw and members of the Sangha and hosted the yogis who observed the Sabbath precepts with lunch. — TWA/KZL

Rescue efforts stepped up in flood-hit Taninthayi

HEAVY and continuous rainfall triggered by a land depression that crossed Myanmar has caused flooding in some townships in Taninthayi Region since the evening of 26 September. Several sections of the Dawei-Launglon-Kyauknimaw-Shinmaw road were also inundated, blocked by landslides and obstructed by debris at bridges.

A rescue team comprising Tatmadaw personnel from the Coastal Region Command, Myanmar Police Force members, officials from regional government departments, social welfare and charitable organiza-



Heavy machinery in use to remove and clean the landslide area in Taninthayi Region.

tions and ethnic residents left Launglon Township yesterday morning to clear landslides and provide assistance to flood-affected people along the road. The team reached

Kadet Ngehtein Village, which suffered significant impacts from the natural disaster in the afternoon and is carrying out rescue and relief activities.

The team has distrib-

uted drinking water to 310 households in five wards of Launglon Township using a water tanker, provided healthcare services to local residents, cleared landslides along the Launglon-Kadet Ngehtein road using machinery, levelled and repaired roads and removed debris blocking bridges.

Officials from the Taninthayi Region Government and the Coastal Region Command have inspected the rescue and flood prevention activities and are coordinating necessary measures, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

District-Level Project Review Workshop Held in Chauk

A district-level review workshop for the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project, Model Village Establishment Project, and Village Development Plan (VDP) was held on the morning of 2 October at the meeting hall of the Chauk District Department of Rural Development, Magway Region.

MP U Win Naing Oo from Magway Region Hluttaw Constituency 1

and MP U Than Hlaing from the Constituency 2 delivered opening remarks.

Daw May Thet Naing, Head of the Chauk District Department of Rural Development, explained the objectives, benefits, and implementation progress of the project activities for holding the district-level review workshop.

It is reported that in Chauk District, up to the



A district-level review workshop for the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project, Model Village Establishment Project, and Village Development Plan (VDP) in progress in Chauk, Magway Region, on 2 October.

2025-2026 financial year, the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project is being implemented in 76 village units, the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project (Oilcrops) in 12 village units, the Model Village Establishment Project in one village, and local development activities have been carried out in 199 villages under the Village Development Plan (VDP). — Naw Lu

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 1 am MST)

A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.0 (M) with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 23 miles east-northeast of MraukU), latitude 20.67°N, longitude 93.53°E, depth 10 kilometres, about 56 miles northeast of the Sittway Seismological Observatory was recorded at 00 hour 42 minute 47 second MST on 4 October 2026. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 1 pm MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 27 miles south of Matupi), latitude 21.20°N, longitude 93.42°E, depth 10 kilometres, about 95 miles west of the NyaungU Seismological Observatory was recorded at 12 hour 25 minute 09 second MST on 4 October 2026. — DMH

OPINION

Paying deep respect to teachers forever

Teachers are guides, role models and facilitators of change. They nurture students’ curiosity, help instil a sense of values, and inspire students to realize their full potential. From the time students enter school, teachers play an important role in the intellectual and emotional development of young people.

Teachers are the architects of the future State and the lives of young people. They provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to adapt to the rapidly changing world. By fostering critical thinking and encouraging creativity, teachers lay the educational foundation for a better and more informed society.

In recognition of the noble contributions of teachers around the world, 5 October has been designated and commemorated as World Teachers’ Day. The day commemorates 5 October 1966, when the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. Since 1994, 5 October has been observed annually as World Teachers’ Day. The World Teachers’ Day theme for 2026 is “Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures.”

The objectives of observing World Teachers’ Day are to highlight the invaluable role of teachers in nurturing human resources, which are fundamental to the development and progress of countries around the world; to recognize and honour the qualifications, professional ethics, dignity and contributions of teachers; and to promote the emergence of good and dedicated teachers around the world who can shape future generations of outstanding citizens needed by society in the present and future.

Teachers play a very important role in educating and training the younger generation who will shape and build the nation’s future. They are responsible for nurturing in young people a love for their country and a sense of patriotism; encouraging them to respect and comply with social ethics, laws, rules and regulations; helping them develop good moral character and become honest and upright individuals; and fostering a spirit of contributing to the well-being of society.

The objectives of observing World Teachers’ Day are to highlight the invaluable role of teachers in nurturing human resources, which are fundamental to the development and progress of countries around the world; to recognize and honour the qualifications, professional ethics, dignity and contributions of teachers; and to promote the emergence of good and dedicated teachers around the world who can shape future generations of outstanding citizens needed by society in the present and future.

A child may forget a lesson. A student may forget a homework assignment. Years later, the pages of a school notebook may disappear into a drawer, and the details of an ordinary school day may become a distant memory. But some things stay. A teacher’s encouraging words. A patient explanation. A smile after a wrong answer. A quiet “Try again”. And, most importantly, the feeling of being believed in.

On 5 October, World Teachers’ Day, the world pauses to recognize the people who dedicate their lives to education. Yet, behind the celebration lies something deeper. Teaching is not simply the act of standing in front of a classroom and explaining a lesson. It is the quiet work of helping another human being discover confidence, curiosity and possibility.

A teacher does not simply prepare students for an examination. A teacher helps prepare them for life.

More Than Words on a Blackboard

Every school day begins with something ordinary: a teacher entering a classroom. Perhaps the teacher has prepared a lesson, checked homework, arranged activities and thought about how to explain a difficult topic. From the outside, it may look like a routine.

But teaching is rarely routine. One student understands immediately. Another needs the explanation several times. One child eagerly raises a hand. Another avoids eye contact because they are afraid of making a mistake.

Some Lessons Never End



A teacher must notice these differences. A good lesson is not always the one that goes exactly according to plan. Sometimes the most meaningful teaching happens when a teacher stops, listens and finds another way to explain.

That flexibility is one of the quiet skills of teaching. Every Student Carries a Different Story

No two students are exactly alike. One may dream of becoming a doctor. Another may want to become an artist. Someone else may dream of travelling, building

businesses, writing books or simply finding a peaceful and meaningful life.

Some students are naturally confident. Others need time. Some enjoy speaking. Others express themselves better through writing, drawing or careful observation. Teachers meet all of these personalities in one classroom.

Their responsibility is not to turn every student into the same kind of learner. It is to help each student discover their own strengths. A quiet child may need a little encouragement before

speaking. A struggling student may need someone to say, “Let’s try it one more time.” A talented student may need someone to challenge them instead of allowing them to remain comfortable.

Sometimes, a teacher sees potential in a student long before the student sees it in themselves. That can change a life.

The Power of “Try Again”

Perhaps one of the most important things a teacher can teach is that getting something wrong is not the end. A student writes the wrong answer. A pres-

entation does not go as planned. A difficult word is pronounced incorrectly. A mathematics problem refuses to make sense. The natural reaction may be disappointment. Then comes the teacher: “Try again.”

Two simple words. Yet they carry an important message. You are not your mistake. You can learn. You can improve. You can begin again.

Education becomes more meaningful when students learn not only how to find the right answer, but also how to respond when they do not know the answer. That lesson can stay with them long after school ends.

The Invisible Work Behind Every Lesson

Students see the classroom. They may not see the preparation behind it. They may not see the lesson plans written after a long day. They may not see the homework being checked. They may not see the resources being prepared or the next day’s activities being organized. They may not notice a teacher thinking about how to help a particular student understand something difficult. Teaching requires time beyond the classroom.

It requires patience beyond the lesson. It requires emotional energy that cannot be measured on a timetable. And yet, teachers return the next day and begin again. That quiet consistency deserves recognition.

When Technology Changes

the Classroom

Education is changing rapidly. Students can now access information within seconds. Digital platforms, online resources and artificial intelligence are creating new opportunities for learning. These tools can make education more flexible and accessible. But education has never been only about information.

A student may find an answer online, but a teacher can ask, “Do you understand why?” A digital resource can provide an exercise, but a teacher can notice when a student has lost confidence.

Technology can support learning, but human connection gives learning meaning. A teacher knows that sometimes a student needs another explanation. Sometimes they need encouragement. Sometimes they simply need someone to believe they can do it. The future classroom may look different from the classroom of the past, but the importance of human guidance remains.

The Teacher We Remember

Ask adults about their school days, and many will remember a particular teacher. Perhaps it was the teacher who made them laugh. Perhaps it was the teacher who encouraged their writing. Perhaps it was someone who noticed their potential. Perhaps it was a teacher who offered kindness during a difficult period.

Often, people cannot remember every lesson they were taught. But they remember how a teacher

made them feel. They remember being encouraged. They remember being respected. They remember being given another chance.

That is the part of education that cannot easily be measured. A student’s grade can be written on paper. A teacher’s influence is written in a person’s life.

A Thank You That Sometimes Comes Late

When we are young, we do not always understand the value of our teachers. Homework can feel like a burden. Corrections can feel frustrating. Extra practice can seem unnecessary. Only later do we sometimes realize what those moments were teaching us.

The teacher who corrected our writing was helping us communicate. The teacher who asked us to practise was helping us improve. The teacher who expected more from us was reminding us that we were capable of more. Growing older often changes the way we see our school years.

What once felt ordinary can become meaningful. And sometimes, years later, a former student returns with only three words: “Thank you, teacher.” For a teacher, those words may be worth more than any award.

The Legacy of a Teacher

World Teachers’ Day is more than a date to celebrate a profession. It is a chance to recognize the people who help shape future generations. Teachers help children discover knowledge, but they also help them discover themselves.

They teach students to ask questions. To listen. To think. To communicate. To respect differ-

ences. To accept mistakes. To keep learning. And perhaps most importantly, they teach us that growth takes time.

A teacher may never know the full story of the lives they have influenced. They may never see every dream that grew from their classroom. But that does not make their contribution smaller. It makes it quietly extraordinary.

Some Lessons Last Forever

The classroom eventually becomes empty. The school bell rings for the final time. Students grow older and begin new chapters. Teachers welcome new students and start again. The cycle continues. Yet somewhere in the world, an adult may still remember the teacher who once believed in them.

A teacher may think they are simply explaining a subject, while a student is learning courage. They may think they are correcting an essay, while a student is learning to trust their own voice. They may think they are saying, “Try again,” while a student is learning how to face every difficult moment that comes later.

That is the quiet beauty of teaching. Teachers may not walk with us through every chapter of our lives, but their words can travel with us.

Long after the classroom is empty, their lessons can remain. Long after the school bell stops ringing, their encouragement can still be heard. And long after we have forgotten what was written on the blackboard, we may still remember the person who stood beside us and said: “You can do it. Try again.” That is why some lessons never end.

Robotics to expand beyond surgery into diagnostics and multiple medical specialities

Robotics is set to expand beyond surgical procedures and become an increasingly important tool across different medical specialities, including diagnostics, treatment and therapy, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said on Friday.

Addressing the inaugural session of the International Conference of the Society of Robotic Surgery, Singh said robotics, along with AI and nanoscience, would create a larger ecosystem

for precision health delivery and precision medicine. He said robotics should not be viewed as a technology limited to surgery and would increasingly find applications across different branches of medicine.

“It’s a tool. It will happen everywhere,” Singh said, adding that while the current focus is on robotic surgery, the future could see the emergence of robotic medicine, robotic endocrinology and robotic cardiology, similar to the expanding use of AI across

medical specialities. The Minister said medicine is entering a new phase driven by technologies such as AI, biotechnology, nuclear medicine, quantum technologies, nanomedicine and robotics.

He said precision medicine would increasingly require treatment to be tailored to individual patients, even when they are diagnosed with the same disease. Genetic profile, environmental conditions, lifestyle and dietary patterns could increasingly influence medical decision-making, he

added. Referring to the Genome India Programme, Singh said 10,000 individuals have already been sequenced and expressed hope that India could eventually move towards gene sequencing for every newborn.

He said carrying out genetic sequencing on a population of 1.4 billion would require the optimal use of AI and robotics. Singh also highlighted the potential of nanomedicine in addressing healthcare challenges.

Referring to efforts towards

developing oral insulin, he said advances at the nano level could help overcome some limitations associated with conventional drug delivery and create new possibilities for treatment.

The Minister also highlighted the potential of tele-robotics in improving access to specialist healthcare, particularly in a country as geographically diverse as India. Sharing his experience with robotic ultrasonography, Singh said he had performed an ultrasound on a person located 10,000 kilometres away in Antarctica, demonstrating the possibilities of remotely enabled medical technologies. “Instead of the patient being referred to the doctor, it will

be the doctor being referred to the patient,” he said.

Singh said tele-robotics could allow specialist expertise to reach patients across geographical boundaries, reducing the need for patients to travel to specialists for advanced medical care. He also pointed to India’s changing disease profile, where infectious diseases continue to coexist with metabolic and lifestyle-related disorders. Diseases traditionally associated with later stages of life are increasingly being seen among younger people, he said.

The Minister said India’s scale and diversity make technologies such as AI, robotics and

tele-robotics particularly relevant for healthcare delivery and could support the transition towards

more precise and personalized medicine.

SOURCE: ANI



Advanced robotics and artificial intelligence are transforming modern medical practice. PHOTO: PUSEN MEDICAL ON UNSPLASH



**VITAL ARTERY**  
PINGLU CANAL OPENS  
NEW TRADE ROUTE, P2

# CHINA WATCH

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW  
CHINA DAILY 中国日报



**AGE-OLD WISDOM**  
PRACTICES AND VALUES  
BENEFIT RURAL AREAS, P3

This supplement, prepared by China Daily, People's Republic of China, did not involve the news or editorial departments of The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The value of bilateral trade last year exceeded \$1 trillion for the first time.

**Ren Qi, Zhang Li and Zhong Nan** report

## Deeper ties promise tangible benefits

China's continued effort to advance high-standard opening-up and deepen cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will inject fresh momentum into regional economic integration and create broader development opportunities for businesses across the region, officials and business executives say.

Their comments came as the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit were held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

The China-ASEAN comprehensive strategic partnership was established five years ago, and this year is seen as critical for accelerating the implementation of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on September 17, China's Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang called for comprehensively elevating the level of regional openness and accelerating the building of an open, inclusive and rules-based integrated regional market. Ding, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, called for efforts to upgrade trade



The Malaysia exhibition area at the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. ZHANG WEI / CHINA DAILY

and investment cooperation to jointly safeguard the stability of regional and global industrial and supply chains.

More should be done to solidify collaboration in emerging sectors, including the digital economy and artificial intelligence, he said.

He also called for coordinated efforts to advance the construction of infrastructure, including railways, highways, ports and airports.

The expo and summit, from September 17 to 21, attracted more than 3,400 companies from around 70 countries and regions. The number of participating companies increased 5.3 percent compared with the previous edition.

China has been ASEAN's largest trading partner for the past 17 years, and ASEAN has been China's largest trading partner for the past six years.

Last year the value of bilateral trade exceeded \$1 trillion for the first time.

Vice-Minister of Commerce Yan Dong, who also attended the opening ceremony, said China will promote the early implementation of CAFTA 3.0 to deliver more equitable benefits. The Commerce Ministry is willing to work with ASEAN members to enlarge the pie of economic and trade cooperation, he said.

Kao Kim Hourn, secretary-general of ASEAN, said it is important to ensure that all companies, especially micro, small and medium-sized ones, can see tangible benefits offered in the upgraded protocol and take part more broadly in regional supply chains.

This year's expo featured several new initiatives to boost practical collaboration. Timor-Leste took part in the expo for the first time as a co-host, bringing all 11 ASEAN member states together in Nanning.

Chen Gang, Party secretary of Guangxi, said a new exhibition model had been introduced this year, allowing large companies to lead and support smaller ones in their participation. He also highlighted the debut of a future space and technology companies empowerment exhibition zone.

For businesses, deepening China-ASEAN ties are already creating tangible opportunities.

Zheng Jin, chairman of Guangxi Liugong Group Co, a construction machinery manufacturer, said working with ASEAN is shifting from product sales to collaborative development across industrial, service and innovation chains.

"We are accelerating our transition from exporting products to exporting entire industries," Zheng said, adding that the company is building a green, smart factory in Indonesia to further localize manufacturing, services and parts supply.

Deng Caidie, president of Maiyue Tech, an IT services provider, said ASEAN members are accelerating their digital transformation. "This is exactly where our market opportunity lies," she said.

## AI is the buzzword at regional expo

By MENG WENJIE

For Lalupu Chuque Claudia Celeste from Peru, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region had long felt familiar. After living there for three years, she thought she had already seen much of what the region had to offer. But her first visit to the exhibition halls of the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo revealed a different side of Guangxi.

"It's impressive to see how quickly China is developing, especially in AI technology here in Nanning," she said.

Artificial intelligence was one of the expo's major highlights. A dedicated AI exhibition area displayed more than 500 products, including AI-powered glasses and other wearable devices, showing how intelligent technologies are increasingly finding their way into everyday life.

Beyond the exhibition halls, young participants were also exploring how AI could be applied to challenges in their own communities. More than 50 youth projects participated in the Acceleration Week for China-ASEAN



Youth participants explore AI tools during the Acceleration Week for China-ASEAN Youth Development Programs in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, on September 19. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Youth Development Programs, an initiative held in connection with the expo.

Among the participants was Guilhermino Da Cruz, 29, from Timor-Leste. Cruz presented a project developed by his youth center in Bobonaro, Timor-Leste, which uses AI tools to help young people, especially women, build digital skills and explore solutions in education, work, creativity and community development.

"In Timor-Leste, many women in rural areas still lack access to information," Cruz said. "That's why I want to use technology to help them obtain accurate and safe basic information."

An Indonesian entrepreneur, 26-year-old Nidya Anifa, presented Bright-Her-HerLens, an AI-powered initiative for early cervical cancer screening.

The program helps midwives and doctors improve screening services

in underserved communities in Indonesia. It has already reached more than 7,600 beneficiaries, trained over 80 healthcare workers and been introduced at eight grassroots medical institutions.

Before coming to Guangxi, Anifa had also used technology to familiarize herself with Nanning. She watched videos about Nanning on YouTube and used ChatGPT to learn more about it.

"AI can help us discover other cultures and languages, or simply provide an introduction," she said. "And then we can deepen that understanding through conversations and real-life experiences."

"After all, we don't want to focus only on AI. We want to build real connections with people," she added.



Vessels depart from the Madao navigation hub during the opening of Pinglu Canal on September 16 in Qinzhou, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. XIE FEIYU / FOR CHINA DAILY

# Pinglu Canal unlocks trade opportunities

Key artery reshapes regional logistics, opens direct sea route to ASEAN markets. **Ren Qi** reports

The newly opened Pinglu Canal in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region is reshaping regional logistics and reducing transport costs by providing southwestern China with its first direct waterway to the sea and closer access to Southeast Asian markets.

Opened to navigation on September 16, the 134.2-kilometer waterway connects the Xijiang River system in the county-level city of Hengzhou in the north to Qinzhou Port in the Beibu Gulf in the south. Despite Beibu Gulf being southwestern China's closest maritime outlet, geographical barriers historically prevented a direct north-south connection. It is the first waterway built in the country to connect a river system directly to the sea since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Previously, waterborne freight between the region and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations had to detour extensively eastward along the Xijiang River before reaching the

ocean. The canal now creates a second navigable route to the sea for the Pearl River-Xijiang system, offering the inland region a direct southern path to global markets.

The canal's immediate impact on corporate logistics is already visible. Recently, a batch of auto parts from SAIC-GM-Wuling Automobile began its journey from Liuzhou, Guangxi. The cargo was transported by road to the Liujing port area in Nanning, where it was loaded onto ships. It then traveled south via the Pinglu Canal to the Beibu Gulf, and eventually arrived in Vietnam.

Wei Qingfu, a logistics manager at the automaker, noted that the canal provides a new maritime route for industries like automobiles, construction machinery and new energy batteries, helping enterprises improve delivery efficiency and lower comprehensive logistics costs.

For companies highly dependent on bulk water transport, the canal enhances supply chain stability. At the Liujing Industrial Park in

Nanning, located about 50 km from the canal's starting point, French company SNF Group is accelerating the construction of a paper chemical project with an annual capacity of 370,000 metric tons. The enterprise was drawn to the area by the logistics convenience brought by the canal and Nanning's strategic location facing ASEAN, aiming to further expand its overseas market presence.

Expectations are also high for the agricultural sector. Zheng Yunliang, general manager of Nanning Puleng International Logistics Co, who recently expanded his cold chain business in Guangxi, pointed out that as port and storage facilities improve, fresh fruits and other agricultural products will likely utilize the new waterway.

Zheng said that in the long run this will lower costs, facilitating the entry of more ASEAN agricultural goods into China and helping southwestern Chinese specialty products reach Southeast Asia more easily.

## COMMENT

# Asia chooses self-reliance and shared advantages

By **PITI SRISANGNAM**

Across the global landscape, rising protectionism, tariff barriers and trade tensions threaten to fragment international commerce. Certain countries are increasingly weaponizing trade. Yet, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have chosen a different destiny. They are deepening free trade, reinforcing regional resilience, and defending the collective dignity of our continent.

China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol, awaiting ratification by signatory economies, represents more than just a technical upgrade of commercial terms. It signals a profound declaration of regional self-reliance and shared strength.

Today, integration encompasses cutting-edge digital trade networks, green energy transitions, unbreakable supply chain connectivity, and cross-border service ecosystems designed by China and ASEAN for the long-term prosperity of their peoples.

China and ASEAN are indispensable, interconnected engines of global value chains. Every nation within this vibrant matrix brings distinct comparative advantages and sovereign dignity, while bravely overcoming structural challenges.

China anchors the matrix as an industrial powerhouse and innovation driver, supported by a massive domestic market, state-of-the-art technological infrastructure, and deep manufacturing ecosystems.

Singapore functions as a premier global financial, logistical, and technology node.

Thailand and Vietnam are vital manufacturing arteries in high-tech electronics, automotive assembly, and advanced agriculture.

Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei possess vast natural wealth, strategic maritime passages, critical green-transition minerals such as nickel and can channel dynamic youth capital into high-value downstream processing.

By unlocking crucial land-linked logistics corridors, exemplified by the

Laos-China Railway, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar turn geography into industrial strength and bridge development gaps across the Mekong region.

Upgrading the economic architecture through CAFTA 3.0 promises transformative outcomes for the region. First, it safeguards the sovereignty of regional states through trade and investment. Second, it fosters knowledge and technology sovereignty. Third, it deepens the civilizational bonds and people-to-people trust between China and Southeast Asia.

Commerce fuels human connections. As educational exchanges, cultural tourism and joint ventures flourish, the historical bonds between ASEAN nations and China grow resilient against external divide-and-rule tactics.

Finally, it promotes sustainable growth on our own terms.

Integrating green standards and cross-border digital frameworks ensures that economic growth preserves regional ecosystems while raising the living standards of future generations.

In an era where extra-regional powers construct walls, China and ASEAN are building bridges. By anchoring their future in shared value chains and regional solidarity, they have ensured that the destiny of the region remains firmly in the hands of their own peoples.

*The author is the executive director of the ASEAN Foundation in Indonesia and an associate professor of economics at Chulalongkorn University. This is an abridged version of an article that appeared in China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.*



SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

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# Ancient wisdom nurtures rural growth

As China pushes to modernize its countryside, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has turned to thousand-year-old farming traditions to spearhead rural vitalization.

According to research unveiled by the ministry during a national conference on rural civilization in Linyi, Shandong province, in July, four ancient concepts — agriculture (*nong*), people (*min*), timeliness (*shi*) and harmony (*he*) — account for over 80 percent of China's core agricultural heritage values.

These four concepts have been summarized as the core spirit of China's agricultural cultural heritage: valuing agriculture, putting people at the center, following seasonal farming cycles, and upholding harmony and unity.

Experts and local leadership across the country are proving that ancient ecological wisdom and traditional craft can serve as active economic engines for contemporary rural development.

In a willow-weaving workshop in Linshu county, Shandong, 70-year-old Yang Jinbang twists pliable willow twigs into a small gourd, his hands never pausing as he speaks.

"This variety of willow is planted at the Spring Equinox and harvested at the Minor Heat. This seasonal rule is the most basic experience summed up by our ancestors from agriculture, and we are still benefiting from it," he told a group of tourists.

Yang practices twist weaving, an

Age-old agricultural values and lifestyles in step with the seasons bring prosperity to nation's countryside. **Zhao Ruixue** reports



Visitors walk on the ridges of terraced fields during a tour in Yuanyang county, Yunnan province.

LI XIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY



A worker makes a willow-woven basket in Linshu county, Shandong province, in June.

LIANG BEN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

ancient local technique historically tied to rural production.

"We have woven agricultural utensils for more than a thousand years, including baskets for storing hay and harvesting grain," Yang said.

"The weaving skills serving agricultural work gradually formed an agricultural heritage, and we kept upgrading products to fit modern life," he said.

Today, local producers make dozens

of categories of products, from baskets and furniture to garden decor.

Yang's workshop is a prime example of the national effort to position agricultural heritage not as a museum display, but as a wellspring for modern livelihoods.

In Yuanyang county, Yunnan province, ancient landscape management is yielding massive economic returns. "Agricultural culture is not frozen in time. It is the living source of rural vitalization," said Pu Rong, deputy head of Yuanyang in the Honghe Hani and Yi autonomous prefecture.

For over 1,300 years, local people have carved terraced rice fields into the mountainsides, creating a unique

agricultural ecosystem integrating forests, villages, terraces and waterways.

Yuanyang's Hani terraces hold three international titles — a UNESCO World Heritage listing, a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems designation, and World Heritage Irrigation Structures recognition.

Pu said villagers have kept alive traditional agricultural practices such as water diversion and distribution with slotted timber, regular ditch patrols and sustainable forest management.

This eco-friendly agricultural model has brought concrete economic benefits to local people. Li Wenliang, a local farmer, has experienced this transformation personally.

"In the past, I only grew rice, and life was difficult," he said.

Today, his fields support a rice-fish-duck integrated farming system. This model now spans about 6,700 hectares across the county.

The local government has also transformed traditional agricultural celebrations such as harvest festivals into cultural tourism attractions, boosting rural incomes.

Pu said: "We are not only protecting the natural environment and scenery. We are keeping this living landscape alive, which in turn sustains our people."

Cao Xingsui, deputy director of the national expert committee on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, said Yuanyang is a global model of agricultural civilization and proof that ecological integrity and human prosperity can reinforce each other.

## Young agronomists sow seeds of change

By **LI YUCHE** and **LIU KUN**

In Xingguang village, Shishou, Hubei province, grows a special black rice that is sweeter and chewier than ordinary rice. Every time Xie Meiqi tastes it, she remembers the days she spent nurturing the rice in the village's fields.

Xie is a student at Huazhong Agricultural University. Over the past six years, she has made annual two-month trips to the village, helping refine the cultivation of black rice. At the heart of her research is the very farming system that nurtures the crop — the "rice-duck-crayfish" model.

Each March, crayfish are introduced into the paddies, where their waste enriches the soil. Rice seedlings are planted in June as the cray-

fish are harvested, giving farmers their first income of the season.

As the rice grows, farmers release ducks into the paddies to feed on weeds and insects, while their droppings provide additional nutrients until the October harvest.

"Behind this model lies the Chinese agricultural wisdom of living in harmony with nature," Xie said.

Xie went from house to house talking with farmers and joined them in the fields. But the deeper she looked, the more she realized that pest infestations posed a serious threat to the "rice-duck-crayfish" model.

"What makes pest control in Xingguang village tricky is the mix of pest species, whose patterns shift with the weather and are hard to predict," she said. Unable to forecast these pest patterns, local villagers had

tended to go to two extremes: they either used less pesticide to protect the crayfish, at the expense of rice quality, or over-sprayed in the hope of wiping out pests completely.

Xie said she wanted to introduce the villagers to "greener agriculture". She took a sweep net into the fields and showed farmers what she collected. The net contained not only crop pests, but also natural predators such as spiders.

Seeing the evidence firsthand helped villagers understand that indiscriminate pesticide use could disrupt the ecological balance by killing beneficial species as well as pests.

Some began asking about more targeted pest-control methods, giving Xie the chance to recommend a "green pest control" approach — fewer pesticide applications, supplemented



Xie Meiqi inspects rice plants for pests in Xingguang village, Shishou, Hubei province.

PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

by pheromone traps and the release of natural predators. Her method allowed rice, ducks and crayfish to grow safely without harming one another, while also protecting the local environment. The approach has since been widely adopted in Xingguang.

Zhou Zhi, a fellow student at the same university, has been promoting a microbial "plant vaccine" treat-

ment in the village since 2021. Zhou explained that the new technology boosts the rice plant's own immunity.

Applying it was simple. During a demonstration for villagers, Zhou poured the liquid treatment over rice seeds and mixed them. A single treatment is designed to provide lasting protection as the seedlings grow.

It is also affordable, costing about 45 yuan (\$6.71) per hectare of rice.

But to farmers accustomed to conventional crop-protection products, a technology that was both simple and inexpensive initially sounded too good to be true.

Yang Zhengwu, head of a local cooperative, set aside about 0.3 hectares for Zhou to conduct a trial.

The rice in the test plot grew visibly greener and stronger than that in a nearby conventionally treated field. The plant vaccine has since been applied to about 13 hectares of farmland in the village.

A journey reveals the enduring legacy of China’s Long March and the modern lives it shapes.  
**Erik Nilsson** reports

Everyone within earshot was shocked when I said I knew who he was before she did. “His name is also Eric,” I said. “Right!” she gasped, wide-eyed. “How did you know?” I smiled wryly. “He’s my friend.” I was filming at the place Chairman Mao Zedong had stayed in Hadapu, Gansu province, while hosting a video for China Daily’s Tales and Trails series when a guide asked me which country I’m from. “The United States,” I said. She replied: “There was another American guy here two days ago. Snow’s relative.”

That’s when I knew it was Eric Foster, the nephew of celebrated writer Helen Snow. She was the wife of American journalist Edgar Snow, who’s a household name in China for his book *Red Star Over China*, based on his interviews with the Communist leadership in Bao’an, now part of Yan’an, Shaanxi province. It was from Snow’s book that I first learned about the Long March when I arrived in China over 20 years ago. Before and after becoming a core member of China Daily’s Edgar Snow Newsroom in 2021, I retraced Snow’s steps for thousands of kilometers to cover several segments of the Long March, including its starting point in Ruijin, Jiangxi province, and to Yan’an, Shaanxi.

And while I’d visited Gansu several times, this was my first time exploring firsthand the route the Red Army took through this picturesque yet geologically treacherous province — where desert dunes smash against loess mountains, and dire privation held sway as the Red Army clambered through its rugged terrain. To this end, I teamed up with three friends and vloggers from Russia, Ireland and England to film our discoveries. But while it took the Red Army two years to complete their trek to Huining, where three main forces came together before continuing on



The Lazikou Pass in Gansu province was one of the most dangerous chokepoints during the Long March. ERIK NILSSON / CHINA DAILY

# Retracing old trails leads to revolutionary insights



**Clockwise from top left:** Visitors listen to Red Army stories at a historical site in Zhangye, Gansu province. WANG JIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY A monument near the Luding Bridge in Luding county, Sichuan province, pays tribute to the Red Army soldiers. WANG KAIHAO / CHINA DAILY The former site that hosted the Zunyi Conference in Zunyi, Guizhou province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

to Yan’an, we completed the whole trip from Ruijin to Yan’an in under an hour on foot at the Huining Red Army Meeting Site memorial. That’s because the memorial includes a mountain-valley theme

park that renders the route in miniature. A mountain trail winds past scaled-down replicas of iconic sites: the artillery-shaped Ruijin Red Army Martyrs Memorial Tower, where the march began; a reconstruction of

the hall that hosted the Zunyi Conference, which is commemorated for correcting the Party’s course; and a swaying miniature of Sichuan’s Luding Bridge, whose daring capture became the stuff of legend.

Yet our visit to the actual Lazikou Pass — one of the campaign’s most dangerous chokepoints — served as a reminder that facsimiles, narrations, and even video fail to do justice to the perils they overcame. I tried to climb one of the perpendicular cliffs the Red Army scaled but couldn’t get a foothold. I could only pull myself up maybe a meter above the ground. While the Long March is remembered for its extremes — time, distance, suffering, casualties and improbable victories — our journey revealed smaller stories that served as fascinating anecdotes. For instance, locals at Lazikou, unfamiliar with maple trees, named one growing near the pass the “red-star tree” for its five-pointed leaves. Putting the Red Army’s time in Gansu under the microscope allows us, in turn, to zoom back out to get a telescopic view of what the Long March means for the nation today. And the legacy of their route again circles back from the bigger picture of China’s global rise to these particular destinations in Gansu, as red tourism is providing golden opportunities for these often still-remote locales.

Locals sell wild honey, apples, pears, yak jerky, and yogurt along the side of the road that now pierces the once-impenetrable Lazikou Pass. In Diebu county, Ejie’s village chief told us that young people who’d previously left to work as migrants in cities have been returning and earning many times more than before. They open homestays and sell local specialties like highland barley to tourists. In Qing-era (1644-1911) adobe buildings near Hadapu’s Long March memorial, vendors sell traditional herbs and “red army pastries” — fillings like minced nuts wrapped in discs of flaky dough that fall like confetti with each bite. Before leaving Hadapu, I sent Eric a WeChat photo of the guide and me posed just like the two of them had in front of the same building. He responded with smiling emojis, calling this chance encounter “funny.” The Long March that I first read about in *Red Star Over China* was a story of struggle and survival. The one we walked in Gansu is a living, breathing narrative of hope come true — of cliffs conquered, roads built, villages revived and people turning revolution’s legacy into livelihoods. It continues to stride across time.



Huining in Gansu province was where the Red Army’s Second and Fourth Front armies joined forces with the First Front Army, marking the end of the Long March military expedition. ZHANG WEIGUO / FOR CHINA DAILY



ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

India completes 480-metre bullet train bridge over Sabarmati River

Eight circular piers support the major structural bullet train corridor bridge.

THE bridge is located between Sabarmati and Ahmedabad Bullet Train stations, approximately 1 km from Sabarmati station and 4 kilometres from Ahmedabad station, a press release said. Standing approximately 36 metres tall, equivalent to a 12-storey building (around 118 feet), the bridge is one of the major structures of the Bullet Train corridor in Ahmedabad.

It is located adjacent to the Western Railway’s Ahmedabad-Delhi main line, which is approximately 14.8 metres above ground level.

According to a press release, the MAHSR alignment in Ahmedabad crosses multiple existing infrastructure facilities, including flyovers, bridges, railway lines and metro corridors.



The newly completed Sabarmati River bridge stands approximately 36 metres tall.

PHOTO: ANI

Considering the required vertical clearances from existing infrastructure, the piers of the Sabarmati River bridge were designed with increased height.

The bridge is supported by 08 circular piers, with diameters ranging from 6 to 6.5 metres. Of these, 04 piers are located within the riverbed, 02 are positioned on

the riverbanks 01 on each side and 02 are located outside the riverbanks.

The strategic placement of the piers has helped minimize obstruction to the river waterway. While most river bridges on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train corridor have shorter spans of around 40 metres, the Sabarmati River bridge incorporates

longer spans ranging from 50 to 76 metres, thereby reducing the number of piers required within the riverbed. The release further noted that the bridge comprises five spans of 76 metres each and two spans of 50 metres each, with each span consisting of 23 segments, which were cast in-situ at the construction site. — ANI

Cry for help as French-Swiss lake dries up



This aerial photograph shows the remaining basin in the northern part of Lake Brenets (Lac des Brenets), part of the Doubs River forming a natural border between eastern France and western Switzerland, in Les Brenets, on 1 October 2026. PHOTO: AFP

THE picturesque Lac des Brenets, situated along the France-Switzerland border, has dramatically dried up following a record-breaking summer marked by unprecedented heatwaves and below-average rainfall. The once-thriving lake bed is now choked with weeds, where locals have scratched out desperate “HELP” and “SOS” messages.

The crisis stems from a combination of severe drought, record temperatures—where June, July, and August broke historical Swiss heat records dating back to 1864—and geological fissures that drain water underground. The iconic 27-metre waterfall at the edge of the lake has completely stopped flowing, and water levels have plummeted

by over 14.66 metres, nearing the historic 1906 record drop.

This environmental catastrophe has devastated the local economy and tourism. Pleasure boat operations had to halt abruptly on 20 July during peak season, stranding pontoons and vessels on dry land. Captain Yvan Durig noted that remaining water depths have shrunk drastically, crowding surviving fish into a shrinking basin while water levels drop by 20 to 22 centimetres daily.

Residents, such as 76-year-old historian David Favre, express profound emotional devastation over losing a childhood landmark, feeling that authorities have abandoned the region. With local livelihoods tied to the lake, stakeholders are urgently demanding immediate, proactive government intervention—specifically sealing the lakebed’s fissures—warning that time is running out to save Lac des Brenets from permanent destruction. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia warns full arsenal threat response

RUSSIA will use its entire arsenal of weapons in the event of a threat to the Kaliningrad region from foreign states, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Sunday.

“They spoke about the fact that this is a Russian region, and in the event of any threat - and we have heard many statements from hotheads from Poland and other countries - Russia will use its entire available arsenal of weapons. This is not a threat at all,” Peskov told Russian media.

Earlier this week, the Russian Embassy in Belgium said that Russia had warned NATO and the Belgian Foreign Ministry that the alliance’s actions near the Kaliningrad Region’s borders increased the risk of a direct armed conflict, and declared Russia’s readiness to use all available means to protect its territory. Peskov said that no one in Russia spoke about the use of nuclear weapons as it is presented in the West. — SPUTNIK

N Korea missile launched flew 1,000 km

THE North Korean ballistic missile launched toward the Sea of Japan on Saturday flew about 1,000 kilometres, the country’s official news agency reported.

The intermediate-range missile, fired from an eastern region, hit its intended target, with the test launch overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, the Korean Central News Agency said Sunday.

The Japanese Defence Ministry has said the missile detected around 6:30 am Saturday landed in waters outside Japan’s exclusive economic zone, with no damage or injuries reported.

The missile drill was intended to train military personnel operating the hypersonic strategic weapon system and evaluate the reliability and mobility of the country’s war deterrent, KCNA reported. — Kyodo

Fukushima firm develops AI decontamination robots

A Fukushima company that once had virtually no expertise in operating machinery remotely is now setting out to develop AI-powered robots for use in the high-radiation environments that remain a major challenge in decommissioning the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

BeABLE, based in Hirono, Fukushima Prefecture, hopes to draw on its experience of completing difficult decommissioning work as it moves into the development of remotely operated robots.

“We want to help move decommissioning and reconstruction forward,” the company says.

Construction is underway on a new factory in an industrial reconstruction hub in Futaba, where the Fukushima Daiichi plant is located. The facility will research and develop so-called physical AI, which enables robots to operate autonomously using artificial intelligence. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Myanmar U17 draw 1-1 with India

MYANMAR U17 and Indian U17 drew 1-1 in their first friendly match at Star City Stadium in Thanlyin, Yangon, on 4 October as both teams prepare for the 2027 AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers in November.

The match was Myanmar U17's final international friendly about a month before the qualifiers. Myanmar led 1-0 until the 70<sup>th</sup> minute before India equalised from a penalty in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute.

Both sides launched attacks from the start. In the 41<sup>st</sup> minute, Myanmar captain Aung Myat Thar made a run from the halfway line before

scoring from inside the penalty area to put Myanmar ahead. Both teams continued to attack in the second half, with India's Janti converting a penalty in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute to level the score.

The Myanmar U17 team is also competing in the domestic M-League U20 league under the name Galaxy to provide the players with more competitive experience.

The second friendly between Myanmar U17 and Indian U17 will be played at Star City Stadium in Thanlyin, Yangon, at 3:30 pm on 5 October. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar U17 and Indian U17 players in action.  
PHOTO: MFF

China sets sight on LA after record 169 golds at Asian Games

CHINA delivered an outstanding performance at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and accomplished its mission of preparing for the Los Angeles Olympics, Zhang Xin, secretary-general of the Chinese delegation, said in a statement on Sunday.

China topped both the gold and the overall medal table for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive Asian Games, winning 169 golds, 89 silvers and 83 bronzes for a total of 341 medals, a record gold-medal haul for China at an Asian Games held outside China.

Zhang noted the delegation's performance in Nagoya showed four main characteristics.

Zhang said China's leading position in Asian sport was further consolidated. The delegation competed in 369 of the Games' events across 38 sports and 59 disciplines, winning gold in 38 of those disciplines and medals in 47, despite fielding fewer athletes and entries than at the previous Games in Hangzhou and facing a reduced number of medal events to contest. — Xinhua

XX Asian Games concludes with closing ceremony

THE XX Asian Games, hosted by Japan in 2026, concluded with a closing ceremony at Paloma Mizuho Sports Park on 4 October.

The closing ceremony featured a series of entertainment programmes, while the Games flag was handed over to Qatar, which will host the XXI Asian Games in 2030.

The Asian Games were held from 14 September to 4 October, featuring 469 events across 43 sports. More than 10,700 athletes from 46 countries competed. China topped the medal table with 169 gold, 89 silver and 83 bronze medals,



The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games closing ceremony is held in Nagoya on 4 October 2026.  
PHOTO: KYODO

als, while host Japan finished second with 83 gold, 95 silver and 91 bronze medals.

The Myanmar team competed in five sports and won medals in three.

The Myanmar Teqball team won one gold, one silver and one bronze medal, the Myanmar Esports team secured one gold medal, and the Myanmar Sepak Takraw

team claimed one bronze medal. Myanmar finished 24<sup>th</sup> in the overall medal table with two gold, one silver and two bronze medals. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

Myanmar dragon boat team wins 9 medals

MYANMAR'S national dragon boat team won nine medals, comprising five silver and four bronze, at the World Dragon Boat Championships Qualifying Competition and the World Cup Dragon Boat Race in China.

At the World Dragon Boat Championships Qualifying Competition, held in Hangzhou from 30 September to 3 October, the Myanmar team put in a strong performance,



Myanmar national dragon boat team seen with the Victory Flag.

winning two silver and two bronze medals.

Meanwhile, at the World Cup Dragon Boat

Race, organized by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) in Yuanlin from 25 September to 3 October, the Myanmar team won three silver and two bronze medals, bringing its total medal tally from the two competitions to nine.

A total of 24 countries, including leading Asian and South-East Asian nations, competed in the World Cup Dragon Boat Race. — TWA/KZL

India wins multiple gold medals as Asian Games tally reaches 85

INDIA enjoyed a spectacular medal-winning day at the Asian Games on Saturday, securing gold medals in men's hockey, T20 cricket, wrestling, golf and archery as its overall medal tally climbed to 85, comprising 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze.

The men's hockey team capped the day in style, defeating Malaysia 5-1 to successfully defend their Asian Games title

and secure qualification for the 2028 Olympics.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh led India's charge with a brace as the men's hockey team defeated Malaysia 5-1 to clinch the Asian Games gold medal. Harmanpreet struck in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> minutes, while Jugraj Singh, Hardik Singh and Shilanand Lakra also got on the scoresheet.

Malaysia's lone goal came

through Shello Silverius in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute. Harmanpreet finished the tournament as the top scorer with 12 goals, while India dominated the final in terms of penalty corners, earning 14 compared to Malaysia's two.

The triumph marked India's fifth Asian Games men's hockey gold, following their previous title-winning campaigns in 1966, 1998, 2014 and 2022. — ANI

India completes 480-metre  
bullet train bridge over  
Sabarmati River  
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# WORLD

## Russian Aerospace Forces create global space control system

*The Aerospace Forces ensure global space situation awareness and readiness.*

A SYSTEM for orbital and radar control of missile-threat directions, as well as ensuring global monitoring of the situation in space, has been created in the Russian Aerospace Forces, the Russian Ministry of Defence said on Sunday.

“At the moment, the Space Forces have established and are operating an effective system for preparing the launch and controlling domestic spacecraft of various purposes, a system for orbital and radar monitoring of missile-threat directions, and a system for ensuring global monitoring of the space situation,” the ministry said in a statement.



An artistic illustration of the Russian Earth-observation satellite Canopus-B appears in orbit above the Earth. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

The ministry also outlined the primary tasks of the Space Forces, such as maintaining constant readiness to operate missile attack warning and space surveillance systems, as

well as launching and controlling spacecraft. “Mastering new types of weaponry and military hardware entering service with Space Forces units is equally important. Key

priorities also include adhering to the launch schedule for military and dual-use spacecraft, as well as for intercontinental ballistic missiles,” the statement said. — SPUTNIK

## India, Cyprus launch joint maritime talks

MARKING a significant milestone in bilateral relations, India and Cyprus held the first meeting of their Joint Maritime Committee (JMC) in Limassol, which was co-chaired by Venkatesapathy S, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, alongside Theodoulos Mesimeris, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Shipping Deputy Ministry of Cyprus, as announced by the High Commission of India in Nicosia on Saturday.

“The first India-Cyprus Joint Maritime Committee (JMC) met under the 2017 bilateral Agreement on Merchant Shipping,” the High Commission stated on X, calling it a new chapter in India-Cyprus maritime cooperation. — ANI

## Afghanistan, Tajikistan seal power deal

AFGHAN power company, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), announced on Saturday that it has signed a cooperation agreement with Tajikistan’s Pamir Energy Company to supply electricity to border districts in northern Badakhshan province.

Implementation of the agreement is expected to open avenues for expanded joint initiatives, the modernization of electricity networks, and the delivery of improved power services to communities across Badakhshan, DABS said in a statement. — Xinhua

## Hokkaido remains Japan’s top attractive prefecture

HOKKAIDO, Japan’s northernmost main island and a popular tourist destination, has again been ranked the country’s most attractive prefecture in an annual survey, retaining the top spot for the 18<sup>th</sup> straight year, a research institute said Saturday.

Hokkaido scored highly in categories such as “desire to visit as a tourist”, reflecting its enduring popularity, while Kyoto in western Japan came second and Okinawa in southern Japan third, maintaining their positions from the previous year, according to the Brand Research Institute survey.

The least attractive among the country’s 47 prefectures was Saga in southwestern Japan, which ranked 45<sup>th</sup> last year. The prefecture-based survey began in 2009.

The online survey, conducted between June and July this year, consisted of 91 questions covering areas such as visibility and drew responses from 31,666 men and women in their 20s through 70s.

Among the prefectures that improved their rankings, Nagasaki in southwestern Japan rose three places from the previous year to 8<sup>th</sup>, partly due to the impact of large-scale events such as music festivals, while Osaka in the west, which hosted the World Exposition in 2025, climbed two places to 6<sup>th</sup>. — Kyodo

## G7 to release 100M barrels of fuel reserves amid high prices

THE Group of Seven countries said Friday that they will release 100 million barrels of diesel and crude oil from emergency reserves over four months through the International Energy Agency to ease surging prices caused by the US-Israeli war with Iran.

“We have agreed on decisive, coordinated measures to stabilize immediate energy supplies, shield households and businesses from price shocks, and strengthen the long-term resilience of global energy systems,” said a joint statement released by France, which holds the rotating presidency of the group of major democracies.

The plan, including a “substantial” release of diesel reserves within the



Industrial energy storage facilities helping stabilize international fuel reserves and market prices. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

first 20 days, comes as US President Donald Trump struggles to bring down high fuel prices for American farmers, companies and households ahead of November’s midterm congressional elections.

After holding a virtual meeting, the leaders of

the G7 members — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, along with the European Union — said in the statement that the group will also discuss in the coming days the possibility of additional diesel releases within the IEA’s

framework.

At the meeting, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official read a statement on behalf of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi saying that Tokyo “will cooperate in securing resilient global energy supply”, the ministry said. — Kyodo