

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

- 1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
- 2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
- 3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
- 4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

Hpa-an, Pindaya and Kalaw Shine at ASEAN Tourism Awards 2026

In 2025, southern Shan State also secured two ASEAN awards, with Sikyainnn Village CBT in Pindaya Township winning the ASEAN Community-Based Tourism Award and the public restrooms at Culamuni Lokachantha Pagoda in Taunggyi receiving the ASEAN Public Toilet Award.

Hpa-an, capital of Kayin State, and Pindaya have won the ASEAN Clean Tourist City Award 2026, while Kalaw has received the ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Award 2026. Hpa-an, which secured the ASEAN Clean Tourist City Award 2026, had earlier won the sixth ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award 2025, according to reports.

Similarly, Kalaw, located in southern Shan State, received the ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Award 2026. In addition, locations in Myanmar that won ASEAN Tourism Standard Awards 2026 include Pindaya, which received the ASEAN Clean Tourist City Award; the Kalaw Heritage Hotel in Kalaw and the Hotel SS-Aungban in Aungban, which won the ASEAN Green Hotel Award; and the Merry-Go-Round Meeting Room at the Merriment Hotel in Kalaw, which received the ASEAN MICE Venue (Meeting Room) Award. Moreover, Kalaw, in Shan State, also won the ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Award under the Urban Sustainable Tourism Product category.

In the previous year, southern Shan State also secured two ASEAN awards, with Sikyainnn Village CBT in Pindaya Township winning the ASEAN Community-Based Tourism Award, while the public restrooms at the Culamuni Lokachantha Pagoda in Taunggyi received the ASEAN Public Toilet Award. — ASH/KZL



Farming flourishes in Kalaw’s ladder-type agricultural system, Shan State.

**ARTICLE**

International Day of Education:  
**A Path to Peace and Progress**

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MRAC Dy Minister attends 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Buddhist Summit in India

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42,000+ tours Bagan Museum in 9 months, earning nearly K45 mln

# NATIONAL



## National Objectives for 79<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2026

1. To work together among all ethnic nationals to achieve the country’s prosperity and food security, the national goal of the country.
2. To cooperate hand-in-hand with the government, Tatmadaw and all ethnic nationals in successfully implementing the measures for stability and rule of law.
3. To strive together with ethnic armed groups to establish a lasting peace, while propagating justice, freedom and equality within the country.
4. To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, practising a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system through the friendship, trust, unity and collaboration of ethnic people.
5. To cooperate, ensuring the development of education, health and socioeconomic status of ethnic nationals and the emergence of a developing country.

- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

## Mottos for 79<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2026

1. Unity is strength, Unity is power,  
Peace is beauty.
2. Let’s build lasting peace  
for the Union’s development
3. National brethren, let’s unite  
and join hands for the Union
4. Unity boosts friendship  
Harmony brings peace

### Myanmar Gazette

## Heads of Service Organizations transferred; Appointment of Heads of Service Organization confirmed

1. The National Defence and Security Council has transferred and appointed the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations, shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Kyi Zin Tun Managing-Director Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank Ministry of Finance and Revenue	Director-General Union Minister’s Office Ministry of Finance and Revenue
(b) U Kyaw Kyaw Naing Director-General Legal Advice Department Ministry of Legal Affairs	Director-General Prosecution Department Ministry of Legal Affairs
(c) Dr Kyi Kyi Than Aung Director-General Legislative Vetting Department Ministry of Legal Affairs	Director-General Legal Advice Department Ministry of Legal Affairs

2. The National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations, shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) Professor Dr Ye Myint Professor Dr Ye Myint	Director-General Department of Food and Drug Administration Ministry of Health
(b) Professor Dr Khin Saw Oo Professor Dr Khin Saw Oo	Rector University of Medical Technology (Yangon) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health

## Pyapon district hospitals receive mobile oxygen concentrators



Dr Bhaddanta Nimmala hands over the donations of eight mobile oxygen concentrators and two laptops to officials from hospitals in Pyapon District.

THE mobile oxygen concentrator donation ceremony organized by the Metta Paramishin Foundation was held for hospitals in Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region, at 10 am yesterday in the meeting room of Pyapon General Hospital.

The event was attended by the presiding Sayadaw Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja, Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja, Aggamaha Kammathanacariya Dr Bhaddanta Nimmala of the Metta Paramishin Foundation, in Ngahtetgyi North Ward, Bahan Township. Explanations on the donation were given by representatives of Nanda Aung Myay Monastery.

Afterwards, Dr Bhaddanta Nimmala presented eight mobile oxygen concentrators and two laptops to public and district hospitals in Pyapon

District – Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Daye, Bogalay and Kani – to the respective township medical superintendents.

The ceremony was attended by Dr Bhaddanta Nimmala of the Metta Paramishin Foundation, Chairperson U Zaw Lwin Oo and members of the Pyapon District Management and Administration Committee, chairpersons and members of the four Township Management and Administration Committees in Pyapon District, medical superintendents of the four township hospitals, invitees, and health workers from Pyapon General Hospital. The Metta Paramishin Foundation Sayadaw donated eight mobile oxygen concentrators and two laptops valued at more than K50 million. — Bala /MKKS

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
National Defence and Security Council

Second Amendment to the Law Relating to Emoluments and Allowances of Representatives of the  
Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw and Members of the  
Leading Body of the Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone

National Defence and Security Council Law 2/2026

11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1387 ME  
28 January 2026

THE National Defence and Security Council has enacted this law, exercising Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called Second Amendment to the Law Relating to Emoluments and Allowances of Representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw and Members of the Leading Body of the Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone.
  2. In Section 6 of the law, the expression “five thousand kyats as the allowance for accommodation” shall be substituted with the following: “eight thousand kyats as the allowance for accommodation”, and the expression “five thousand kyats for other expenses” shall be substituted with the following: “seven thousand kyats for other expenses”.
  3. In Section 8 of the law, the expression “ten thousand kyats” shall be substituted with the following: “twenty thousand kyats”.
- I hereby sign under Article 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Acting President

MRAC Dy Minister attends 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Buddhist Summit in India

A Myanmar delegation led by Daw Nu Mra Zan, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, returned to Myanmar from India by air on 26 January after attending the Second Global Buddhist Summit, which was held in New Delhi, India, from 24 to 25 January.

The conference was attended by ministers for religious affairs and culture, deputy ministers, Supreme Sayadaws, monks, nuns, rectors, pro-rectors, professors and representatives of Buddhist organizations from more than 40 countries around the world. It was held under the theme “Collective Wisdom, United Voice and Mutual Co-existence”.

The Myanmar delegation, led by the deputy minister, arrived in New Delhi on 23 January. Upon arrival, the Deputy Minister met Mr Mo-

hijit Halder, Director-General of the International Buddhist Confederation, in the afternoon and discussed socio-cultural issues relating to the Buddhist Dhamma.

On 24 January, the opening ceremony of the Second Global Buddhist Summit was held at Bharat Mandapan in New Delhi. The Secretary-General of the International Buddhist Confederation, Venerable Shri Gajendra Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden, first led an opening prayer. This was followed by a welcome address delivered by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Culture and Tourism of India.

Music expert Dr Aditi Sharma Garg then performed religious music on the traditional Indian lute, after which Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs of India, de-



Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan joins the discussion on “Collective Wisdom and United Voice for Social Harmony” at the Second Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi, India, from 24 to 25 January.

livered a speech. The Lada-kh State Cultural Group also presented a traditional dance performance.

The deputy minister then took part in a discussion on the topic “Collective Wisdom and United Voice for Social Harmony”. Participants in the discussion were presented with Second Global Buddhist Summit commemorative

trophies by the International Buddhist Confederation, and monks from various Buddhist countries attending the conference were also awarded commemorative trophies.

After the first day of the summit, the deputy minister visited the summit exhibition together with the Myanmar Ambassador to India.

On the second day, 25

January, the deputy minister continued to participate in the discussions. The Second Global Buddhist Summit is an important international Buddhist conference attended by monks, nuns and lay representatives from countries around the world, and plays a significant role in the development and dissemination of Buddhism.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation, led by Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan, together with representatives from various countries, visited a special exhibition of the Piprahwa Relics of the Buddha at the Qila Rai Pithora Cultural Complex in New Delhi. Officials from the Ministry of Culture of India and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) welcomed the delegation, accompanied them on a tour and presented commemorative gifts. — MNA/MKKS

# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 24/2026

11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe, 1387 ME  
28 January 2026

### List of Elected Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives

ACCORDING to the announcements issued by the respective Region/State Subcommission Offices under Section 49 (b) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, the following individuals have been elected as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives for the respective Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies in the Multiparty General Election held in phases starting 28 December 2025:

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
Kachin State				
1	U Kyaw Lin	1/BaMaNa(C)009709	Bhamo	Union Solidarity and Development Party
2	U Thet Paing Htoo	8/PaPhNa(C)145406	Hpakant	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Kayin State				
3	Daw Khin Ni Ni Aung	12/RaKaNa(C)002575	Kawkareik	Union Solidarity and Development Party
4	U Myint Tun	3/KaSaKa(C)012613	Kya-in-Seikkyi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Taninthayi Region				
5	U Ye Tun Win	6/HtaWaNa(C)078795	Thayetchaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
6	U Soe Tin	10/PaMaNa(C)110234	Palaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Bago Region				
7	U Han Tha Win	7/KaKaNa(C)036404	Kyaukkyi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
8	U Kyaw San Oo	7/KaTaKha(C)003698	Kyauktaga	Union Solidarity and Development Party
9	U Myint Zaw Lin	7/PhaMaNa(C)121864	Pyu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
10	U Win Myint	7/AhTaNa(C)028063	Ottwin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
11	Daw Ohnma Moet Moet Zaw	7/ThaKaNa(C)000303	Thaegon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
12	U Aung Naing	7/WaMaNa(C)006508	Waw	Union Solidarity and Development Party
13	Daw Thandar Aung	7/KaPaKa(C)062640	Gyopingauk	Union Solidarity and Development Party
14	U Tin Htwe	7/AhPhaNa(C)044867	Okpho	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Mandalay Region				
15	U Hsan Myint	9/MaThaNa(C)083011	Myittha	Union Solidarity and Development Party
16	U Ko Ko Oo	9/MaRaTa(C)093801	Chanmyathazi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
17	U Aung Kyaw Thu	9/MaLaNa(C)000717	Mahline	Union Solidarity and Development Party
18	U Toe Win	9/TaThaNa(C)096895	Taungtha	Union Solidarity and Development Party
19	Daw Pyone Kyi	9/MaKhaNa(C)134976	Myingyan	Union Solidarity and Development Party
20	U Hla Min	11/SaTaNa(C)007578	Ngazun	Union Solidarity and Development Party
21	Daw Aye Mya Mya Soe	9/ThaPaKa(C)034174	Thabeikkyin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
22	U Win Naing	9/PaThaKa(C)004418	Patheingyi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Yangon Region				
23	Dr Nanda Kyaw Swa	12/DaGaNa(C)021441	Dagon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
24	U Yan Myo Aung Thein	12/DaGaNa(C)007466	Lanmadaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party
25	Dr Tun Tun Win	12/ThaKhaNa(C)079080	Seikkyi/Khanaungto	Union Solidarity and Development Party
26	U Tin Myint	12/TaTaNa(C)025070	Dala	Union Solidarity and Development Party
27	Dr Shwe Pyi Soe	12/PaBaTa(C)017455	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)	Union Solidarity and Development Party
28	Daw Aye Aye Myint	12/MaGaTa(C)052762	Dagon Myothit (East)	Union Solidarity and Development Party
29	U Sai Lin Lin Htun	12/MaGaTa(C)084219	Mingala Taungnyunt	Union Solidarity and Development Party
30	Daw Aye Mya Mya Kyaing	12/ThaKaTa(C)149195	Thakayta	Union Solidarity and Development Party
31	U Nay Lin Aung	12/UKaMa(C)179000	North Okkalapa	Union Solidarity and Development Party
32	U Tun Ohn	7/PhaMaNa(C)003797	Tamway	Union Solidarity and Development Party
33	U Tin Moe Aung (a) Nay Shine	7/DaUNa(C)024919	Yankin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
34	U Naing Win	12/KaTaNa(C)001190	Kyauktan	Union Solidarity and Development Party
35	U Win Swe	12/KhaRaNa(C)006646	Khayan	Union Solidarity and Development Party
36	U Aung Kyaw Min	12/ThaKhaNa(C)038263	Thongwa	Union Solidarity and Development Party
37	U Myo Thant	12/SaKhaNa(C)045528	Sangyoung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
38	U Aung Kyaw Hoe	14/DhaNaPha(C)003513	Hlinethaya (West)	Union Solidarity and Development Party
39	U Aye Chan	12/RaKaNa(C)000365	Hlinethaya (East)	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Shan State				
40	Nan Yi Yi Win	13/TaKaNa(C)137116	Pinlaung	Pa-O National Organization (PNO)
41	Dr Ye Myint Soe	12/PaBaTa(C)028598	Nyaungshwe	Inn National League Party
42	Daw Nan Tin Oo	13/KaThaNa(C)000595	Keshi	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (White Tiger Party)

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No	Name	CSC	Representative No	Representing Party/Independent
43	U Sai Kan	5/SaKaNa(C)009581	Mongshu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
44	U Kaung Thet San	12/DaPaNa(C)065449	Hsipaw	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (White Tiger Party)
45	U Aye Htun	12/DaGaNa(C)010540	Kyaukme	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Ayeyawady Region				
46	Daw Ei Ei Chaw	14/RaKaNa(C)092741	Yekyi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
47	Daw Khin Than Myint	14/NgPaTa(C)007825	Ngaputaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party
48	U Aung Than Myint	12/LaMaNa(C)036135	Dedaye	Union Solidarity and Development Party
49	U Aung Mya Than	14/NyaTaNa(C)004445	Nyaungdon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
50	U Naing Win	14/DhaNaPha(C)011578	Danubyu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
51	Dr Htay Win	14/AhGaPa(C)117401	Ingapu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
52	U Khin Maung Win	14/MaMaKa(C)002506	Mawlamyinekyun	Union Solidarity and Development Party
53	U Hla Khine	14/ZaLaNa(C)042842	Zalun	Union Solidarity and Development Party
54	U Myint Soe	9/KaHsaNa(C)015969	Laymyethna	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sd/ Than Soe  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

Modern People Party  
Statement

- At present, the oral hearing related to the case between Myanmar and The Gambia is currently held at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 12 to 29 January. A delegation led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Attorney-General Daw Thida Oo is attending the hearings, and they have presented oral arguments twice.
- The Gambia is a small country located in West Africa, thousands of miles away from Myanmar. Despite this distance, The Gambia has filed a case against Myanmar, an Asian country, at the International Court of Justice. Myanmar is a country that has consistently upheld and adhered to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in the international community.
- Social science teaches that as long as people are living in real life, social problems are unavoidable when seeking the truth. The key issue is not the problems that exist, but whether they are resolved correctly.

Therefore, special recognition is hereby expressed for the delegation led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Attorney-General Daw Thida Oo, who are representing the integrity of the nation and its people for the truth at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Chairman  
On behalf of the Central Executive Committee  
Modern People Party

Russia-Myanmar visa-free travel  
takes effect on 27 Jan

THE agreement signed between the Russian government and the Myanmar government for the abolition of visa requirements for citizens of both countries has been effective from 27 January, the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Myanmar announced. Citizens of the two countries are allowed up to 30 days visa-free travel without purposes of per-

manent residency, studying or working, said the embassy. The total length of their stay shall not exceed 90 days in a calendar year, said the embassy. Foreign Affairs Ministers of the two countries signed the agreement on mutual exemption of entry visa for ordinary passport holders on 28 October 2025. — MT/ZS

Repatriated Myanmar nationals  
from Cambodia transferred to  
Yangon by naval vessel



Returnees from Cambodian are seen embarking onboard the naval vessel to head for Yangon.

THE Myanmar government is taking its national responsibility to combat online fraud and online gambling, both of which pose a threat to the international community, seriously. It is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries, as well as international organizations, to identify, arrest, and take effective and severe action against those involved in online scam centre operations and the foreign individuals behind them. In addition, foreigners who have entered Myanmar for various reasons are being investigated in accordance with the law, with due consideration for humanitarian concerns and friendly relations between countries, and those found to be

involved are being repatriated to their respective countries. The police of Cambodia and relevant departments transferred the Myanmar nationals who were suspected of being involved in online fraud and gambling in Cambodia to the Myanmar Embassy to Cambodia. To date, the Myanmar government repatriated 729 nationals by MAI and Tatmadaw aircraft. Of the returnees from Cambodia, 543 citizens repatriated by Tatmadaw aircraft to Myeik boarded Tatmadaw vessels from Seiknaga jetty in Myeik. They were then transferred to Tatmadaw vessel (Mottama) waiting near Mawtongyi village in Kyunsu

Township. Commander of the Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, along with officials and departmental representatives from Myeik district and township levels, observed the repatriation processes. Tatmadaw vessel (Mottama) left Myeik for Yangon on 27 January night, and the returnees were provided with personal items, healthcare and food on the ship. The ship arrived at No 3 jetty in Yangon yesterday morning, and officials from the Ministry of Immigration and Population, with the supervision of Thanlyin District Administrative and Management Committee, checked the numbers of returnees while the Thanlyin District Health Department provided healthcare services, and the relevant officials also presented food to them. They were then transferred to the designated point by the vehicles arranged by the Yangon Region government. The government has taken back 729 citizens from Cambodia to date – 136 by MAI on 23 January, 50 by MAI and 380 by Tatmadaw aircraft on 25 January and 163 by Tatmadaw aircraft on 26 January. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## 42,000+ tours Bagan Museum in 9 months, earning nearly K45 mln

DURING the nine months from April to December in the 2025-2026 financial year, the Bagan Archaeological Museum received 42,193 domestic and international travellers, generating over K44.6 million in revenue, a museum official told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Revenue includes K41,923,000 from 41,923 locals and K2,700,000 from 270 foreigners.

"There were 42,193 local and foreign visitors in nine months. The number peaked in April, a steady flow during the rainy season, and it began to rise again in October, November, and December," he said.

Monthly performance data indicate K7,887,000 (7,887 locals) and K300,000 (30 foreigners) in October, K8,500,000 (8,500 locals)

and K580,000 (58 foreigners) in November, and K12,622,000 (12,622 locals) and K670,000 (67 foreigners) in December. While domestic tourism is currently steady in January, international arrivals are increasing. Officials expect a surge in domestic travellers during the February holidays.

"We plan to open the museum on 14 and 15 February, which are public holidays. We hope for high traffic after exams in March and throughout April," GNLM quoted him as saying.

It is open from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm daily, except Mondays and public holidays, with entrance fees of K1,000 (locals), K10,000 (foreigners) and exemptions for children under 12, students with recommendation letters, monks and nuns. — MT/ZN



This image depicts the Bagan Archaeological Museum.

## Ministry to issue Nipah virus health advisory for Myanmar and Indian tourists



Images reveal a bat that the Nipah virus outbreak originated (L) and a positive Nipah virus test result (R).



THE Ministry of Health has announced that it will issue health advisories regarding the Nipah virus for Myanmar tourists visiting India and Indian tourists visiting Myanmar.

The Ministry of Health is also working to ensure that citizens do not travel unnecessarily to areas where the Nipah virus is currently spreading, advising Myanmar citizens currently in affected areas to avoid hospitals or places with large numbers of sick people and instructing those who have travelled to such areas to immediately report any suspected symptoms, such as severe fever, headache, cough, difficulty breathing, confusion, or drowsiness, upon returning to the country to the airport health department or to health workers at border entry and

exit points.

In addition, the ministry plans to advise individuals who experience any suspicious symptoms within 14 days of returning from an affected area to immediately contact the nearest health center, inform the doctor of their travel history, and receive the necessary tests and treatment promptly, and to urge the public to promptly notify the nearest health center if family members returning from affected countries show suspicious symptoms or if unusual deaths of animals such as pigs or bats are observed in their living environment.

To date, no cases of the Nipah virus have been detected in Myanmar, and special emphasis is being placed on Nipah virus surveillance, as the region is home to a large pop-

ulation of the primary host bat species, fruit bats, and borders countries in the region where infections are common.

The Ministry of Health is continuously monitoring the situation of Nipah virus disease and other infectious diseases in neighbouring countries and across the region, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) on the exchange of information on infectious diseases among World Health Organization Member States.

Special attention is reportedly paid to intensified surveillance activities to prevent the disease from entering the country through returnees from India, especially from West Bengal, which is currently the epicentre of the outbreak. — ASH/TH

## Tender invites for CCTV installation project at Sittway Airport

FOR the CCTV installation project at Sittway Airport in Rakhine State, an unrestricted tender is invited by the tender committee of the Rakhine State government office.

This project will be implemented by the state government's approved capital fund in the financial year of 2025-2026. Tender forms will be sold at the State Government

Office in Sittway starting from 27 January, and the submission deadline is 4 pm on 9 February, said the committee.

For more details, enquiries can be made through the following contact numbers: 09 427714041 and 09 36570111, Deputy Director U Aung Kyin San of the Rakhine State government office. — MT/ZS



This photo captures the Sittway Airport.

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09 454237515**

Both residents and authorities responsible for region's development

- ❖ Both the residents and those in leadership positions have responsibilities for the development of a region.
- ❖ Therefore, within the areas where they serve, they must do their utmost to implement development activities at the district and township levels.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials in Aunglan on 20 August 2025 to talk about regional development measures)

Mayor's Cup horticulture show returns to Mandalay, 12-14 Feb

THE 22<sup>nd</sup> Mayor's Cup Vegetable, Fruit and Horticulture Exhibition and Competition will be held on 12-14 February at the Myamala Garden in the east of Sinphyu Lake compound in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, on a grand scale, organized by the Mandalay City Development Committee.

In addition to the Mayor's Cup Vegetable, Fruit and Horticulture Exhibition, there will be eye-catching, three vibrant circular flower beds and photo-spots for visitors.

The exhibition will feature 16 booths from departments concerned, seven sales booths and 18 seedling shops. Moreover, there will be programmes

to hand out seedlings to visitors as presents.

The Mayor's Cup Vegetable, Fruit and Horticulture Exhibition is an annual event held with five objectives, with vegetable, fruit and horticulture entrepreneurs from regions and states participating.

Vegetable, Fruit and Horticulture Competition will be held in categories. Contestants need to submit their entries between 9 am and 5 pm on 10 and 11 February in the Myamala garden. The winners will receive prizes respectively. Individuals can enquire about details at the Garden and Playground Department via 09 2019395. — NN/KK

Tenders invited for street vending, public restroom licences

NAY Pyi Taw Development Committee's Administration Department opened competitive bidding for street vending licences and public restroom licences to render service in Nay Pyi Taw.

Licence for street vendors in Pyinmana, Lewe, Tatkon and Pobba Thiri towns and public restroom licence to operate service at Mingala Shankan in Pyinmana Town and Mingala Kantaw in Zamuthiri Town between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027 will be auctioned through a competitive system, according to bidding notification 1/2026 issued by the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee's Administration Department.

Deposits for a one-year street vending licence vary at

K18.3 million in Pyinmana Town, K3.225 million in Lewe Town, K2.665 million in Tatkon and K7.53 million in Pobbathiri, while public restroom licence seekers need to pay K52,000.

Bidding will be held at the meeting hall of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee at 10 am on 19 February 2026.

Those who seek permits need to make deposit payments at Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank by 6 February 2026.

Auction applications and regulations are available at the department. The deadline for submission is 1 pm on 6 February 2026. Individuals can enquire about details through 067 3414617 and 067 8108242. — NN/KK

Melon, muskmelon prices surge ahead of Chinese New Year

WHEN the Chinese New Year approaches, melon and muskmelon prices have started getting high, according to border fruit traders.

Melons and muskmelons grown in Myanmar are being exported to China through the Mongla border trading route, and the fruit market has been slow due to competitive selling. At present, the Chinese New Year is drawing near, and the fruit trading has begun to be active again, said traders.

"We expect the prices get high when the new year is right around the corner. They compete to buy when there are a few trucks or adjust their purchase when there are more than 25 trucks. The muskmelon price has now started getting active, and so has the watermelon price. Prices vary depending on col-



This image shows a truck ferrying melons to China. PHOTO: XINHUA

our, packaging and quality," said a fruit trader.

The quality watermelon receives above 50,000 yuan for a truckload, but if the quality is low and the size is small, the price is between 40,000 and 48,000 yuan. The price of muskmelon per kilogramme is between 3.5 and four yuan, and above four yuan if the fruit quality is better.

Only good-looking and large-sized fruits can fetch a higher price, said traders. — MT/ZS

CBM boosts dollar supply for edible oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$3.3 million to edible oil-importing companies on 27 January again, in addition to an injection of \$430,000, 137,970 yuan and over 2.47 million baht into the market.

CBM sold over \$3.29 million to edible oil-importing companies on 26 January, along with selling over 565,900 baht.

CBM sold over \$1.96 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$3.45 to fuel oil-importing companies on 23 January, after pumping over 4.88 million baht into the market.

CBM sold over \$1.09 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$452,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 22 January, in addition to an injection of over 292,000 yuan and over 4.5 million baht into the market on that day.

CBM announced on 21 January that it would sell \$25 million to those engaged in the fuel oil sector. CBM continued injecting 3.95 million baht into the foreign exchange market after selling over \$649,000 to the edible oil-importing companies on 21 January.

CBM pumped \$34 million, 11 million baht and



Greenbacks are seen at the exchangecounter.

300,000 yuan into the market in December 2025.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

OPINION

ARTICLE

Zero Tolerance policy towards drug eradication

SUCCESSIVE governments have treated the fight against drugs as a national responsibility in Myanmar. However, challenges remain due to widespread poppy cultivation and heroin production, the manufacturing and trafficking of synthetic drugs based on chemical substances, and the cross-border smuggling of chemicals used in drug production. Moreover, the inability to fully control border areas, particularly along regions adjoining neighbouring countries, continues to pose significant challenges to drug eradication efforts.

On the other hand, there are numerous armed groups operating under ethnic identities, for whom drug production and trafficking remain a major source of income. As a result, in areas controlled or influenced by these groups, poppy cultivation, heroin production, and the manufacturing of synthetic drugs continue to persist despite efforts to suppress and eradicate them.

The government will implement a strict “Zero Tolerance” policy towards drug eradication and will continue to suppress and eliminate drugs until complete success is achieved. Citizens are also encouraged and urged to cooperate by promptly reporting any information they observe regarding drug production, storage, transport, or trafficking to the relevant authorities.

standing. Members of Tatmadaw security forces uncovered and seized three drug production sites within Hsipaw and Mongyai townships in Shan State (North), on 9, 10, and 11 January. This represents the largest seizure of its kind in the country’s history, highlighting that these locations are key centres for drug production in Myanmar. Furthermore, evidence indicates that one-third of the drugs seized in 2025 were produced at these sites. Following further aerial surveillance and ground investigations, 14 additional suspicious locations linked to drug production were uncovered. From 10 to 24 January, the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force discovered and dismantled 12 drug production sites. The quantities of materials and their estimated value were extremely large, and evidence showed that machinery was being expanded and installed to increase drug production. The large-scale production of drugs occurred within areas controlled or influenced by the SSA (Shan State Army), and the group’s involvement in these activities was also confirmed. The government will implement a strict “Zero Tolerance” policy towards drug eradication and will continue to suppress and eliminate drugs until complete success is achieved. Citizens are also encouraged and urged to cooperate by promptly reporting any information they observe regarding drug production, storage, transport, or trafficking to the relevant authorities.

EDUCATION is often described as the key to the future. It opens doors to opportunities, builds character, and helps societies grow in harmony. Recognizing this truth, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared 24 January as the *International Day of Education* in 2018. Since then, people around the world have celebrated this day every year, reflecting on the importance of learning and the role it plays in building a better world.

One can explore the background of the International Day of Education, its goals, the challenges that remain, and why it matters for young people and communities everywhere. I will also share some ideas on how we can celebrate this day meaningfully, especially in countries like Myanmar, where education is both a challenge and a hope for the future.

The Origin of the International Day of Education

The International Day of Education was established through a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. Nigeria, together with 58 other member states, proposed the idea. The resolution was adopted in December 2018, and the first celebration took place on 24 January 2019.

The purpose of this day is clear: to highlight education as a fundamental human right and a public good. It reminds governments, communities, and individuals that education is not a privilege for a few but a necessity for

International Day of Education: A Path to Peace and Progress

By Min Min Zan



all. Without education, societies cannot achieve peace, equality, or sustainable development.

Why Education Matters

Education is more than learning how to read or write. It is about developing skills, values, and knowledge that allow people to live with dignity and contribute to society.

- **Education as a human right:** Every child, regardless of background, has the right to go to school and learn.
- **Education for peace:** Schools teach respect, tolerance, and cooperation, which are essential for peaceful societies.
- **Education for progress:** Knowledge and skills help people find jobs, innovate, and improve their communities.
- **Education for equality:** When girls and boys have equal access to education, societies become fairer and stronger. Unfortunately, millions of

Young people are at the centre of the International Day of Education. They are not only learners but also future

people still lack access to quality education. According to UNESCO, more than 250 million children and youth are out of school, and over 763 million adults cannot read or write. These numbers show that the world still has a long way to go.

Challenges in Education Today

Even though education is recognized as a right, many barriers remain.

- **Poverty:** Families who struggle financially often cannot afford school fees, uniforms, or books.
  - **Conflict and crisis:** Wars and natural disasters destroy schools and force children to stop learning.
  - **Gender inequality:** In some places, girls are discouraged or even prevented from attending school.
  - **Quality of education:** Even when children go to school, the teaching may not be effective, leaving them without real skills.
- In Myanmar, for example, many rural areas face difficulties with school infrastructure, teacher training, and access to modern learning materials. Yet, communities continue to value

education highly, seeing it as the path to a brighter future.

The Role of Youth

Young people are at the centre of the International Day of Education. They are not only learners but also future leaders, innovators, and citizens. With more than half of the world’s population under the age of 30, the energy and creativity of youth are powerful forces for change.

When young people receive quality education, they can:

- Participate in civic life and strengthen democracy.
- Create businesses and contribute to economic growth.
- Promote cultural understanding and respect for diversity.
- Protect the environment and work for sustainable development.

This is why investing in education is also an investment in youth and in the future of humanity.

How to Celebrate International Day of Education

Celebrating this day does not require grand ceremonies. It can be meaningful even in small actions.

- **Classroom discussions:** Teachers can organize debates or essays about the importance of education.
- **Community events:** Local groups can hold talks or exhibitions about education and its impact.

- **Media campaigns:** Newspapers, radio, and social media can spread awareness about the day.
- **Personal reflection:** Individuals can take time to appreciate their own learning journey and encourage others to keep studying.

In Myanmar, schools could use this day to highlight the achievements of students, honour teachers, and discuss ways to improve education in the community. It could also be a chance to connect traditional wisdom with modern knowledge, showing that both are valuable.

Education and Sustainable Development Goals

The International Day of Education is closely linked to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 4 of the SDGs is to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

This goal emphasizes that education should be:

- **Inclusive:** No one should be left behind, including marginalized groups.
- **Equitable:** Boys and girls should have equal opportunities.
- **Quality:** Learning should be effective and meaningful.
- **Lifelong:** Education should continue beyond school, throughout life.

By celebrating International Day of Education, we remind our-

selves of this global commitment.

As I think about the International Day of Education, I realize how lucky I am to have access to learning. Education has shaped my identity, given me opportunities, and allowed me to dream of a better future. But I also see the struggles of others who do not have the same chance.

This day is not only about celebration but also about responsibility. Each of us has a role to play in promoting education. Teachers inspire students, parents support learning at home, governments provide resources, and communities encourage participation. Together, we can make education a reality for everyone.

The International Day of Education, celebrated every January 24, is more than a symbolic date. It is a reminder that education is the foundation of peace, progress, and equality. While challenges remain, the commitment of governments, communities, and individuals can make a difference.

For countries like Myanmar, this day offers hope and motivation to continue improving schools and supporting students. For the world, it is a call to action: to ensure that every child, youth, and adult has the chance to learn, grow, and contribute to society.

Education is not just about the classroom. It is about building a world where knowledge, respect, and opportunity are shared by all. That is why the International Day of Education is so important, and why we should celebrate it with passion and purpose.

Error Analysis in the Use of the Eight Parts of Speech

By Maung Maung Aye

Introduction

English occupies a unique position globally, varying from a primary language in nations like the United States and Australia to a second language in countries such as India and Singapore. In contexts like Myanmar, it is taught as a foreign language, meaning it is distant from daily communication. This distance presents distinct challenges for learners, often manifesting as systematic grammatical errors. This article analyzes these errors, specifically those related to the eight parts of speech, to illuminate their causes and forms. An error is defined as a grammatically incorrect, systematic deviation

from the standard norms of the target language.

Theoretical Framework: Causes and classification of errors

Errors generally stem from two sources:

- Interlingual Causes: These result from mother tongue interference, where learners transfer structures from their first language to English. This leads to “language transfer errors”, especially when the languages are structurally different. Example: “I go to school with foot every day.” (Mother tongue influence on preposition use)
- Intralingual Causes: These originate from the

complexities of English itself and include:

- Cross-association: Confusion between two similar English structures.
- False Analogy: Incorrectly applying a learned rule to a new, dissimilar situation.
- Incomplete Application of Rules: Failing to fully implement a grammatical rule.
- Overgeneralization: Extending a rule beyond its correct boundaries.

Errors can also be categorized by their form (omission, addition, substitution, mis-ordering) and their linguistic level (phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactic).

Error Analysis by parts of speech

Regarding nouns, mistakes frequently involve countability, pluralization, and

article usage.

e.g. (1) I have many homeworks to do.  
(Correct: I have a lot of homework to do)

e.g. (2) She is a honest woman.  
(Correct: She is an honest woman.)

For instance, the sentence “I have many homeworks to do” demonstrates overgeneralization through the addition of “-s” to the uncountable noun “homework”, resulting in a morphological error. Meanwhile, “She is a honest woman” shows an incomplete application of rules; the focus on the consonant ‘h’ leads to the substitution of “a” for “an”, which is required before the vowel sound /ɒ/, constituting another morphological error.

In the category of pronouns, common mistakes include incorrect case and possessive forms.

SEE PAGE 10



# ARTICLE/SCI/TECH: WORLD

## Error Analysis in the Use of the Eight Parts of Speech

FROM PAGE 9

e.g. (1) Me and my friend went to the cinema.  
(Correct: My friend and I went to the cinema)

e.g. (2) Is this book your?  
Correct: Is this book yours?)

The example “Me and my friend went to the cinema” arises from a false analogy with informal spoken English, where the object pronoun “me” is incorrectly substituted for the subject pronoun “I”, making it a syntactic error. Another error, “Is this book your?”, stems from overgeneralization, where the possessive adjective “your” is used instead of the possessive pronoun “yours”; this omission of ‘-s’ is a morphological error.

Verbs are a major source of error, covering tense, aspect, agreement, and form.

e.g. (1) He go to school every day.  
(Correct: He goes to school every day)

e.g. (2) “She has buy a new car.”  
(Correct: She has bought a new car.)

e.g. (3) I am agree with you.  
(Correct: I agree with you)

The sentence “He go to school every day” results from overgeneralization and the omission of the third-person ‘-s’, a morphological error. “She has buy a new car” illustrates an incomplete application

of rules, where the base form “buy” is substituted for the required past participle “bought”, leading to a syntactic error. Additionally, “I am agree with you” is caused by interlingual transfer from languages like Spanish or French, where the addition of “am” creates a syntactic error.

Errors with adjectives often involve comparative/superlative formation and word order.

e.g. (1) This is the most big city.  
(Correct: This is the biggest city.)

e.g. (2) They live in a red big car.  
(Correct: They live in a big red car.)

“This is the most big city” shows overgeneralization through the incorrect addition of “most” and omission of the superlative suffix “-est” for the monosyllabic adjective “big”, a morphological error. “They live in a red big car” demonstrates interlingual transfer, where the native language’s adjective order causes a mis-ordering, which is a syntactic error.

e.g. You must drive careful.  
(Correct: You must drive carefully.)

For adverbs, a typical mistake is using an adjective form where an adverb is required, as seen in “You must drive careful”. This stems from a false analogy with adjective patterns and involves the omission of the ‘-ly’ suffix, making it a

morphological error.

Prepositions, as highly idiomatic elements, are a frequent and complex source of error. Common issues include using prepositions unnecessarily (e.g., “Come to here”), adding them after transitive verbs (e.g., “visited to the pagoda”), or substituting incorrect ones. For example, “They left to Yangon” should be “left for Yangon,” a substitution error caused by interlingual transfer. Similarly, “She quarrels against her friends” results from a false analogy with other verb-preposition patterns, substituting “against” for the correct “with”.

Errors with conjunctions involve using words that express incorrect logical relationships.

e.g., I was tired, but I went to bed early.  
(Correct: I was tired, so I went to bed early.)

In “I was tired, but I went to bed early,” the conjunction “but” is substituted for “so” due to cross-association, confusing contrast with result, which is a syntactic error.

Errors with interjections involve culturally inappropriate expressions.

e.g. Saying “Congrats!” in response to a sneeze.  
(Correct: Bless you!)

For instance, saying “Congrats!” in response to a sneeze, instead of “Bless you!”, is a substitution based on a false analogy and is classified as a pragmatic error.

**Key remedial strategies to overcome the grammatical errors:**

1. Use Contrastive Analysis:

Explicitly compare English and Myanmar grammar to predict and prevent transfer errors (e.g., with prepositions, articles, verb forms).

2. Teach “Chunks”: Present prepositions and verb forms as fixed phrases (e.g., listen to, has gone) rather than isolated words.
3. Employ Visual Aids: Use timelines for tenses, charts for adjective order, and real objects for spatial prepositions.
4. Focus on Rules and Practice: Give clear, contextualized rules followed by structured practice – from controlled drills (fill-in-the-blanks) to communicative tasks.
5. Promote Self-Monitoring: Encourage learners to keep personal error logs to track and correct recurring mistakes by part of speech.

In conclusion, analyzing grammatical errors through the framework of the eight parts of speech reveals systematic, traceable patterns stemming from interlingual transfer and intralingual complexities, which in turn provides educators with a diagnostic blueprint for targeted remediation; by understanding the specific causes and forms of errors in nouns, verbs, prepositions, and other categories, teachers can implement focused strategies like contrastive analysis and chunk learning, thereby transforming mistakes from signs of failure into essential, instructive steps in the language acquisition process.

## CERN chief upbeat on funding for new particle collider

Mark Thomson, who became the Director-General of CERN on 1 January, expressed strong optimism regarding the funding of the Future Circular Collider (FCC).

MARK Thomson, the new head of Europe's physics laboratory CERN, voiced confidence Tuesday about raising the billions of dollars needed to build by far the world's biggest particle accelerator.

Planned as a 91-kilometre ring buried 200 metres underground, the FCC aims to probe the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy, which together make up 95 per cent of the universe but remain unobserved. Thomson noted that half the funding will come from CERN's existing budget, while the rest must be raised externally.



Mark Thomson is the new director-general at the European Organization for Nuclear Research. PHOTO: AFP

Encouragingly, private donors pledged \$1 billion in December, a first for the laboratory. CERN's council, representing 25 member states, will decide in 2028 whether to proceed, with operations expected to begin in the late 2040s. — AFP

## Russian volcano puts on display in latest eruption

A volcano in Russia's far east on Wednesday spewed ash several kilometres into the sky, authorities said, putting on a spectacular display in its latest eruption.

The Shiveluch volcano is one the largest and most active volcanoes on Russia's remote Kamchatka Peninsula, one of the most intense volcanic regions in the world.

Its latest eruption produced an ash column reaching nearly 9,000 metres (29,500 feet) above sea level, the local branch of Russia's Academy of Sciences wrote on Telegram, accompanied by a video.

An orange aviation alert — one below the maximum red — has been issued for the area near

the volcano, the Kamchatka Volcanic Eruption Response Team (KVERT) said on Telegram.

With a height of 3,300 metres, Shiveluch is located some 450 kilometres (280 miles) north of the port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the peninsula's main city.

It's estimated to be between 60,000-70,000 years old.

The volcanoes of Kamchatka have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996, with the organization calling the peninsula "one of the most outstanding volcanic regions in the world" where the "interplay of active volcanoes and glaciers forms a dynamic landscape of great beauty". — AFP



People visit the Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul, South Korea, on 24 May 2024. PHOTO: YAO QILIN/XINHUA/FILE

## S Korea’s births grow for 17<sup>th</sup> month in Nov

*A stable population requires a TFR of 2.1 births per woman.*

SOUTH Korea’s births grew for the 17<sup>th</sup> successive month amid higher marriages, statistical ministry data showed Wednesday.

The number of newborn babies gained 3.1 per cent from a year earlier to 20,710 in November 2025, continu-

ing to go up since July 2024, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

The total fertility rate, or the number of children a woman is expected to bear during life, added 0.02 to 0.79 in the cited month, but it stayed far below the replace-

ment rate of 2.1 births per woman to maintain a stable population.

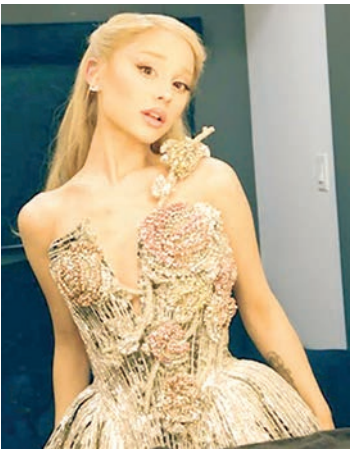
The number of marriages climbed 2.7 per cent to 19,079 in November on a yearly basis, while the number of divorces dipped 9.8 per cent to 6,890. — Xinhua

## Ariana Grande found comfort in oversized hoodies

ACTOR-SINGER Ariana Grande looked back at a phase in her life when her fashion choices were closely tied to how she was feeling inside.

The singer and actress recently opened up about why she often wore ‘oversized’ hoodies and tall boots in 2018.

According to PEOPLE, in a recent episode of Vogue’s Life in Looks series, Grande revisited some of her most talked-about outfits. When shown a photo of herself from 2018 wearing an oversized sweatshirt and high boots,



The singer and actress recently opened up about why she often wore ‘oversized’ hoodies and tall boots in 2018. PHOTO: ANI

she said it was from a very “strange time” in her life.

Grande spoke about how she was going through a lot emotionally and did not have the “mental energy” to think about style or trends. She also mentioned that, during that time, she just wanted to feel safe and comfortable in what she wore.

“This was a very strange time in my life. I was processing a lot, and I always wanted to hide away in something really cozy,” she explained. — ANI

## Vietnamese spend US\$2.1 bln on online food delivery in 2025

VIETNAMESE consumers spent about US\$2.1 billion ordering food online in 2025, up 19 per cent year on year, local media VnExpress reported

Wednesday, citing a report from Singapore-based venture outfit Momentum Works. Food delivery apps ShopeeFood and GrabFood dominated with a

combined 96 per cent market share in Vietnam, according to the “Food Delivery Platforms in Southeast Asia” report. — Xinhua

## Amy Madigan joins thriller series All The Sinners Bleed

THE Oscar-nominated star Amy Madigan is set to guest star as Scarlett Cunningham in the limited series ‘All The Sinners Bleed’, Netflix’s series adaptation of SA Cosby’s novel of the same name, reported Deadline.

The series is currently in production in Atlanta, Georgia.

According to the outlet, ‘All The Sinners Bleed’ follows Titus Crown (Sope Dirisu), the first Black sheriff in a small Bible Belt county. Haunted by his devout mother’s untimely death, he must lead the hunt for a serial

killer who has been preying on his Black community for years in the name of God. The previously announced lead cast also includes John Douglas Thompson, Nicole Beharie, Daniel Ezra, Andrea Cortes, Murray Bartlett, and Leila George; with Giancarlo Esposito, David Lyons, Donald Elise Watkins, Mackenzie Astin, Jordan M Cox, Cullen Moss, Angus O’Brien, Cranston Johnson, Christopher Matthew Cook, Christopher Thornton, and Bill Oberst Jr set in recurring roles. — ANI



Oscar-nominated actress Amy Madigan will appear as a guest star in the upcoming series All The Sinners Bleed. PHOTO: ANI

## Sri Lanka mulls restricting social media access for minors

THE Sri Lankan government is considering restricting social media access for underage children amid growing concerns about the harmful effects of online content, local media reported on Wednesday, citing a senior official.

Deputy Minister of the Digital Economy Eranga Weeraratne said discussions are underway to explore possible limits on social media use by students and minors following a rise in incidents linked to digital platforms.

He said the decision on whether to introduce restrictions would fall under the Ministry of Mass Media or the Ministry of Education. Once a policy is

finalized, authorities will provide the necessary technical support for implementation.

However, the government has not yet reached a final decision, but the country must address the damage caused to the minds of underage children by social media content, Weeraratne said.

He added that social media companies could work with local telecommunications providers to enforce controls, noting that similar measures have already been adopted in several countries. The required technical capability already exists and could be applied in Sri Lanka, he said.— Xinhua

ECONOMY  
WORLD

India-EU FTA to level textile playing field with Bangladesh, Pakistan as tariffs fall: Jefferies

*In return, India will gradually reduce tariffs on 97 per cent of EU exports over five to ten years, potentially saving European exporters over \$4 billion annually.*

INDIA'S textile and apparel sector is poised for a significant boost following the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union, which will eliminate import duties on Indian textile exports to the bloc, according to a Jefferies equity research report.

The agreement is expected to provide a major boost to India's textile and apparel sector, which currently faces tariffs of up to 12% in the EU, compared with zero duties for competitors such as Pakistan, Bangladesh

and Turkiye. Similar benefits are expected for exports of chemicals, leather products and footwear. EU imports nearly US\$125 billion worth of textiles and apparel annually, making it one of the world's largest markets for clothing and fabric.

Jefferies analysts note that India has secured preferential access across 97 per cent of EU tariff lines, covering nearly 99.5 per cent of trade value. As a result, around 91 per cent of Indian exports to the EU will face no import duties from the effective date of the agreement. — ANI



The India-EU Free Trade Agreement grants India preferential access across 97 per cent of EU tariff lines, covering nearly 99.5 per cent of trade value, resulting in 91 per cent of Indian exports facing no import duties from the agreement's effective date. **PHOTO: ANI**

Hybrid cars top choice for consumers in Europe in 2025: data

HYBRID-ELECTRIC vehicles dethroned purely petrol-powered cars as the top power option among consumers in Europe last year, data showed Tuesday.

Some 10.8 million new vehicles were registered in 2025 in the European Union, an increase of 1.8 per cent from the previous year, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA).

New car sales "remain well below pre-pandemic levels", however, the trade association said in a statement.

Despite the only modest



New car sales "remain well below pre-pandemic levels". **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

overall sales growth, consumers continued to shift towards hybrid and battery-electric vehicles. — AFP

Japan town to cast votes for most popular seafood on same day as election

AS Japan gears up for an election that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi hopes will give her a public mandate, a town on the northernmost main island of Hokkaido is set to decide the slippery issue of its most popular seafood.

The online "kaisan" election in Toyoura, a play on the words for "dissolution" and "seafood" in Japanese that are pronounced the same but written with different Chinese characters, will take place on 8 February, the same day as the snap election for the

lower house called by Takaichi last week.

It will be the fourth seafood popularity contest in the town famous for scallops and is part of the local tourism association's drive to encourage people to vote in elections and revitalize the town. A total of eight candidates are vying to land the most votes, including herring, mackerel and trout. Around 26,000 people voted in the previous contest in 2024, with scallops, unsurprisingly, triumphing for a third time. — Kyodo



Posters for candidates in a vote for the most popular seafood to be held in Toyoura, Hokkaido, northern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Australia's inflation rises to 3.8% in Dec

AUSTRALIA'S annual rate of inflation increased to 3.8 per cent in December, according to official figures released on Wednesday, exceeding economists' expectations.

The data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

revealed that the consumer price index (CPI) rose by 3.8 per cent in the year to December, up from 3.4 per cent in the 12 months to November.

On a quarterly basis, the CPI rose by 0.6 per cent in the final three months of 2025.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported earlier on Wednesday that economists were expecting CPI growth of 0.7 per cent for the December quarter and an annual increase of 3.5 per cent. — Xinhua

# Micron builds \$24 bln Singapore chip fab as AI demand soars

US chip firm Micron said Tuesday it was building a \$24 billion plant in Singapore to help meet soaring AI-driven demand that has caused a global shortage of memory components.

Artificial intelligence data centres worldwide are hoovering up the memory chips used in consumer electronics — a crunch threatening higher prices for phones, laptops and other devices.

Micron said it had broken ground Tuesday on an “advanced wafer fabrication facility located within the company’s existing NAND manufacturing complex in Singapore”.

NAND storage components power everyday gadgets but are also needed to help process the vast amounts of data crunched by generative AI. “This new facility represents a planned investment of approximately US\$24 billion (SG\$31 billion) over 10 years” with output scheduled for the second half of calendar 2028, Micron said. — AFP



Micron Technology has announced a massive \$24 billion investment to build a new semiconductor fabrication plant in Singapore, aimed at meeting surging global demand for memory chips driven by artificial intelligence (AI). **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# UK knocks EasyJet for ‘misleading’ baggage info

BRITAIN’S advertising regulator said Wednesday that information published by budget airline easyJet about its baggage prices was misleading after a complaint from a consumer group.

The consumer advocacy group Which alerted the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to information on easyJet’s website that said large cabin bags could be brought on board for fees starting from £5.99 (\$8.30).

The ASA said the airline responded that the webpage was for information purposes and not part of a marketing campaign, and that the price was available on a range of routes. — AFP

# Boeing reports 1<sup>st</sup> annual profit since 2018 on asset sale

BOEING reported its first annual profit since 2018 on Tuesday due to gains from an asset sale, as the company points to quality control improvements that have enabled increased plane production.

Results were boosted by a \$10.6 billion gain associated with Boeing’s sale of aviation software assets to Thoma Bravo. That lifted profits during the final quarter of 2025 to \$8.1 billion, compared with a loss of \$3.9 billion in the year-ago quarter.

Full-year 2025 profits were \$1.9 billion, Boeing reported, compared with a loss of \$11.9 billion in 2024.

Boeing boosted production in 2025 on top-selling 737 MAX and 787 Dreamliner aircraft after numerous safety and production problems in recent years. The company also pointed to progress in the certification process with US regulators for the 737-10 aircraft. On the downside, Boeing’s defence business accounted for a \$0.6 billion hit in the KC-46 military refueling aircraft “driven by higher estimated production support and supply chain costs,” the company said. — AFP



Chief Executive Kelly Ortberg said completion of the software sale and another deal to acquire Spirit AeroSystems put the company on track. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by Eastchem Co.,Ltd and distributed by Myanmar Han Yadanar Manufacturing Co.,Ltd is changing trade name as follow,

No	Previous Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No
1	Morclean 200 OD	Paung Shinn-Shal 200 OD	Bispyribac-sodium 40 g/l + Cyhalofop-butyl 160 g/l OD	P2023-5211
2	Aterkil 200 OD	Ema-Spi 200 OD	Emamectin Benzoate 40g/l + Spinosad 160g/l OD	P2024-5561

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Myanmar Han Yadanar Manufacturing Co.,Ltd  
Bld-6, Room No.(12), Ground Floor, Yankin Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (097W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (097W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2602S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2602S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC URANUS VOY.NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC URANUS VOY.NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S’PORE) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD



Kaja Kallas, the European Union’s high representative for foreign affairs, speaks at the Hudson Institute in Washington. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Europe urged to ‘step up’ on defence as Trump upends ties

*Kallas noted that Washington’s primary centre of gravity has moved away from Europe.*

EUROPE must step up efforts on defence and play a bigger role in NATO as US President Donald Trump has “shaken the transatlantic relationship to its foundation”, EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas said Wednesday.

Trump rocked European allies this month by threatening to seize Greenland from NATO and EU member Denmark — before eventually backing off.

The crisis — the latest to

buffet ties since his return to power a year ago — has reinforced calls for the continent to cut its decades-long reliance on NATO’s dominant military superpower for protection.

“Let me be clear: we want strong transatlantic ties. The US will remain Europe’s partner and ally. But Europe needs to adapt to the new realities. Europe is no longer Washington’s primary centre of gravity,”

Kallas told a defence conference in Brussels.

“This shift has been ongoing for a while. It is structural, not temporary. It means that Europe must step up — no great power in history has outsourced its survival and survived.”

Kallas remained clear-eyed that NATO remains the bedrock of European security. — AFP

Spain to regularize 500,000 undocumented migrants

SPAIN’S left-wing government approved Tuesday a plan to regularize around 500,000 undocumented migrants by decree, the country’s latest break with harsher policies elsewhere in Europe.

Migration Minister Elma Saiz the beneficiaries would be able to work “in any sector, in any part of the country”, and extolled “the positive impact” of migration.

“We are talking about estimations, probably more or less the figures may be around half

a million people,” she told public broadcaster RTVE.

Saiz said at a news conference after Tuesday’s cabinet meeting that “we are strengthening a migration model based on human rights, integration, coexistence, and compatible with economic growth and social cohesion”.

The measure will affect those living in Spain for at least five months and who applied for international protection before December 31, 2025. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korea's ex-first lady jailed for 20 months

A South Korean judge handed the country’s former first lady Kim Keon Hee 20 months in jail on Wednesday for accepting lavish gifts from a cult-like church, but acquitted her of alleged stock manipulation and other charges.

Controversy has long followed 53-year-old Kim, while accusations of graft, influence peddling and even academic fraud have dominated her husband Yoon Suk Yeol’s time in office.

Both are now in custody -- Yoon for actions taken during his disastrous declaration of martial law in December 2024 and Kim for corruption. — AFP

Death toll from snowstorm in US rises to 51

THE death toll from the snowstorm that continues to wreak havoc on the United States has risen to at least 51, the NBC broadcaster reported.

The Associated Press previously reported that 42 people died due to bad weather in the US.

Millions of residents from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast were warned of extremely low temperatures, while communities in the eastern third of the US recovered from a powerful winter storm that killed at least 51 people, the report said on Tuesday. — SPUTNIK

China’s Greater Bay Area airport cluster ranks among top aviation hubs globally in 2025

AIRPORTS in south China’s Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) reported exceptional performance in 2025, with this cluster handling over 230 million passenger trips and approximately 9.72 million tonnes of cargo and mail.

This solidified its position as one of the world’s leading aviation hub groups, according to recently released operational

data from seven major airports in the region. Experts believe that the GBA’s aviation hub cluster has significantly enhanced its capacity, becoming a key driver of China’s modernization and high-standard opening-up policies. This reflects the region’s continuous institutional innovation, improved regional coordination and growing ability to allocate global resources.

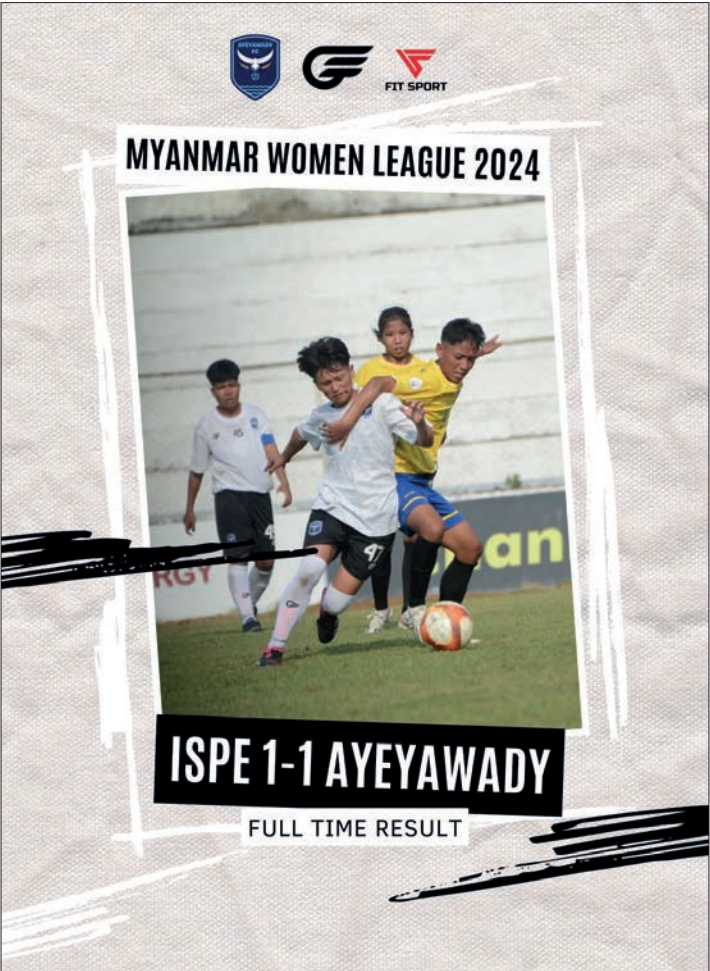
The core hubs within the cluster, namely Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, reported particularly good results last year. Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, notably, achieved a historic milestone in 2025, with passenger throughput amounting to 83.59 million trips and cargo and mail throughput totaling 2.44 million tonnes, both reaching record highs. — Xinhua



An aerial view of Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport. PHOTO: CHINA DAILY

SPORTS

ISPE and Ayeyawady set for Women’s League showdown, 31 Jan



A draw was recorded between ISPE and Ayeyawady in 2024.

ISPE and Ayeyawady are going to be intense rivals for the Myanmar Women League 2025-26

champion title at 3:30 pm on 31 January at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

Ayeyawady has been ranked at the top of the table by a margin of three points, but ISPE has the advantage in terms of goal difference, so Ayeyawady's only chance of holding the champion trophy is if they can make at least a draw.

If Ayeyawady wins or draws, it will be a new champion without defeats; similarly, ISPE will achieve a milestone as the first four-time champion in league history if it wins in this match.

This is a significant match for both teams to compete fiercely, and it is also difficult for Myanmar football fans to predict the result.

“At present, it is difficult to say which team is better, but both are at the same level. I think the skills of their coaches will decide the result, so the winning percentage is absolutely up to their coaches,” said a football fan.

The match for the champion title is expected to attract a large audience, and Myanma Radio and Television will air the event, according to initial reports. — Htun Htun/ZS

Sinner hails 'inspiration' Djokovic ahead of Australian Open blockbuster

REIGNING champion Jannik Sinner called Novak Djokovic “an inspiration” after setting up an Australian Open semifinal blockbuster against the 24-time Grand Slam winner.

Italian second seed Sinner swatted aside big-serving American Ben Shelton 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 and has dropped only one set in moving ominously into the last four.

The other semi-final at Melbourne Park is between world number one Carlos Alcaraz and third-ranked Alexander Zverev.

“We all know what a challenge I am up to”, the relentless Sinner, who is chasing a third Australian title in a row, said of facing Djokovic, 38.

“These are the moments you practise for and wake up for in the morning.

“It improves you as a player and a person, we are lucky to have Novak still here playing incredible tennis for his age.”

Sinner has a 6-4 win-loss record over the Serb, but has won their last five encounters. — AFP



Italy’s Jannik Sinner beat Ben Shelton in their Australian Open quarter-final. PHOTO: AFP

West Ham sign Fulham winger Traore

WEST Ham announced on Wednesday they had signed winger Adama Traore from Fulham for an undisclosed fee.

The 30-year-old will be reunited at the London Stadium with manager Nuno Espirito Santo, with whom he worked previously at Wolves.

The Premier League strugglers described the forward as “strong, quick and able to create and score goals”.

Traore, who has been a peripheral player for Fulham this season, came through Barcelona’s youth system before join-

ing Aston Villa in 2015. He has also played for Middlesbrough and Wolves.

The winger, who has made 262 Premier League appearances, scoring 14 goals, said he wanted to help relegation-threatened West Ham to the “maximum”.

“I love the challenges,” he said. “I think, of course, we have to go game by game. And this is what we’re going to do, trying to do our best. I think everything comes from belief. And I believe we’re going to achieve what we’re looking for”. — AFP



Winger Adama Traore has joined West Ham from Fulham. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Namibia to participate in 2026 FIFA Series

NAMIBIA'S men's national team will take part in the second edition of the FIFA Series, an invitational tournament promoted by FIFA and scheduled for March and April. Namibia will face Kuwait, Comoros and Kazakhstan in group-stage matches, all to be hosted in Kazakhstan, the Namibia Football Association announced on Wednesday.

Head coach Collin Benjamin welcomed the invitation, highlighting the chance for his players to gain international experience while contributing

to football's wider development. "The platform will provide players with valuable international match exposure as part of FIFA's broader efforts to enhance global football development," Benjamin said.

The FIFA Series features 48 teams divided into 12 groups, with all matches counting toward the FIFA World Rankings. Introduced as a competitive international friendly format, the tournament aims to provide meaningful competition while allowing coaches to assess players and refine tactics. — Xinhua



## British PM arrives in Beijing for official visit

*Under the leadership of Prime Minister Keir Starmer, the British Labour Party government is pursuing a strategic re-engagement with China, prioritizing economic stability and pragmatic cooperation.*



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrives in Beijing, capital of China, 28 January 2026. Starmer arrived here on Wednesday for an official visit to China through Saturday. **PHOTO: JIN LIANGKUAI/XINHUA**

**B**RITISH Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for an official visit to China through Saturday.

In August 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping had a phone call with Starmer at the latter's request, and in November that year, during his attendance at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Xi met Starmer, leading China-Britain relations onto a track of improvement and development.

During Starmer's visit, the first by a British prime minister in eight years, President Xi will meet him, Premier Li Qiang will hold talks with him, and China's top legislator Zhao Leji will also meet him. The two sides are expected to have in-depth exchanges on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

In addition to Beijing, Starmer will visit Shanghai.

Since taking office, the British Labor Party government has clearly expressed its willingness to develop a consistent, enduring and strategic relationship with China and actively promote dialogue and cooperation be-

tween the two countries.

Starmer is leading a delegation comprising senior executives from over 50 major British firms and representatives of British institutions. They represent Britain's leading sectors including finance, medicine, manufacturing, culture and creativity. — Xinhua

## Saudi Arabia to deny airspace for attacks against Iran: Reports

RIYADH has assured Tehran that it will not allow its airspace and territory to be used for attacks against Iran, a Saudi news agency reported.

Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman has talked to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian over the phone, SPA said on Tuesday.

The Crown Prince reiterated Saudi Arabia's stance, based on respect for the sovereignty of Iran, emphasizing that the kingdom will not allow its airspace or territory to be used for any military action against Iran.

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Oman have persuaded US President Donald Trump to avoid attacking Iran,



The snow-covered Alborz mountain range appears behind buildings in Tehran, during the cold winter season on 8 February 2025. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

News Nation reported earlier this month, citing sources. The Gulf

states urged Trump to "give Iran a chance". — SPUTNIK

## Australian astronomers discover potential Earth-like planet

ASTRONOMERS in Australia have led an international team that identified a "potentially habitable" Earth-sized planet candidate about 150 light-years from Earth.

The planet, known as HD 137010 b, orbits a Sun-like star and is about six percent larger than Earth, a research team led by Australia's University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) reported Tuesday in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

The planet candidate was described as "where Earth meets Mars" due to its Earth-like size and Mars-like distance from its Sun-like host star, according to the study by UniSQ researchers with collaborators at Harvard University and the University of Oxford.

Researchers need to observe one more transit to confirm HD 137010 b as a planet, instead of a planet candidate, the study said, adding if verified, it would be the only known rocky world in the habitable zone of a Sun-like star. — Xinhua