

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.

Preservation of valuable cultural heritages must be systematic

Preserving ancient cultural heritage without compromising its originality is a way to instill and strengthen patriotic spirit among future generations.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo of the National Defence and Security Council and his wife, the entourage, the Bago Region Chief Minister and officials, yesterday inspected preservation of ancient cultural heritage sites of Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago.

SEE PAGE 4



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects documentary photos displayed at the Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago yesterday.

NATIONAL PAGE 5



Myanmar hands over 256 Chinese nationals in online fraud crackdown

BUSINESS PAGE 7



Raw-material shortage and advancing technology reduce number of turnery operators

NATIONAL PAGE 10



Entrepreneurs strive to export value-added products made from greater club-rush

NATIONAL

United, harmonious, and industrious nation will always prosper and develop

❖ A united, harmonious, and industrious nation will always prosper and develop. Without unity and solidarity, however, a nation will inevitably collapse and disappear, like salt dissolving in water.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February 2025)

- 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.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 3 August 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 4 August 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region and Kayah State, scattered in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Chin State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing Region and Rakhine State widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and northern Shan states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin and Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in the Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Kachin and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Recreating attire and style of 37 Spirits



A picture depicting the dress style of the two Taungbyone princes.

THE attire and stylistic depictions of the 37 Spirits are being recreated by the Myat Taw Win Royal Dress Service, according to founder Myat Theinkha Nge.

Among the 37 Spirits, the depictions of six Nats including Mahagiri, Mandalay Bo Daw and the Taungbyone princes have been completed and plans are underway to continue capturing the remaining Spirits.

“So far, we’ve recreated the attire of six Spirits. We will continue to portray the clothing and ceremonial customs of all 37 Spirits,” said Myat Theinkha

Nge.

They are reconstructing the royal dresses and accessories by referencing ancient manuscripts, traditional paintings, and murals, consulting with historians and cultural experts to ensure accuracy.

“Based on the ancient manuscripts, murals and drawings on the 37 Spirits, we remade their costumes in detail. Among them, some were kings, some ministers. Depending on their ranks, we had to remake the design,” Myat Theinkha Nge explained.

This revival project not only preserves Myanmar’s intangible cultural heritage, spanning over a millennium, but also offers insights into the evolution of Myanmar fashion across different eras. It can also attract certain interest among the youth, regarding the Spirits.

Once all 37 Spirits are fully recreated, the team plans to publish a bilingual documentary book in English and Myanmar featuring their photographs and historical summaries. — MT/ZN

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 7:30 am MST on 3 August 2025)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about five feet above its danger level. It may rise about two inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Shwegyin River at Shwegyin has exceeded by about one foot above its danger level. It may rise about three inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by more than 4.5 feet above its danger level. It may fall about 1.5 feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Shwegyin and Hpa-an townships and Madauk, to stay away from the flood-prone areas. — DMH

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)



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay homage to Shwethalyaung reclining Buddha image in Bago yesterday.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo of the National Defence and Security Council and his wife, the entourage, the Bago Region Chief Minister and officials, paid homage to ancient prominent pagodas in Bago of Bago Region yesterday.

The Senior General and his wife, and party paid homage to Hsutaungpyae Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago and offered alms in the emerald alms-bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil lights.

The Senior General and party also paid homage to Hsutaungpyae Bilu Yannaing Buddha Image on the upper terrace of the pagoda and offered gold foils.

After visiting the pagoda, the Senior General gave guidance to officials, saying that it is necessary to constantly maintain the pagoda and religious buildings in the precinct for long-term existence and keeping them neat and tidy for magnificence. Families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) will donate marble slabs to

Bago's prominent pagodas must be under maintenance for longevity



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets pilgrims at Hsutaungpyae Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago yesterday.

be placed on the platform of the pagoda for convenience of pilgrims. In so doing, the platform must be placed with systematic drainage facilities. And, officials were urged to supervise the work process to be completed as quickly as possible. The Senior

General then cordially greeted pilgrims.

The Senior General viewed ancient Buddha images, ornaments, and utensils displayed at the historical museum of the pagoda and gave guidance on systematic preservation of these

ancient objects. He presented cash donation for the overall renovation of the pagoda to officials who returned Dhamma gifts.

The Senior General and party paid homage to Shwethalyaung reclining Buddha image called Shinpinthalyaung.

After visiting the pagoda, the Senior General gave guidance to officials for carrying out necessary maintenance to ensure strengthening of the image, keep the image clean and pleasant for magnificence.

The Senior General and party visited religious objects and traditional handiworks shops in the prayer hall.

They also paid homage to Hsutaungpyae Swetawshin Mahazedi Pagoda built by Hanthawady Hsinbyumyarthshin King Bayintnaung in Mazin Ward of Bago.

The Senior General presented cash donations for all-round renovation of the pagoda to officials and gave guidance to officials to constantly carry out necessary maintenance of the pagoda for long-term existence.

As today was a public holiday, prominent pagodas in Bago were packed with pilgrims from four corners of the nation. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Preservation of valuable cultural heritages must be systematic

FROM PAGE 1

At the palace, the Senior General, his wife and party observed display of the teak posts excavated from the ground tier-roofed hall, the layout of the respect-paying ceremony of ancient Myanmar kings, documentary photos depicting the reconstruction and maintenance of palaces namely Thirizeyabumi Golden Palace of King Anawrahta in Bagan era, Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace of King Bayintnaung in Hanthawady era, Shwebonyadana Mingala Golden Palace of King Alaungmintaya in Yadanabon era, progress of maintenance of Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace, some royal utensils of ancient kings, maintenance of the ground tier-roofed hall, and excavation process of Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace at relevant booths.

After hearing the reports of officials, the Senior General gave guidance that display of ancient teak posts at Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace and royal utensils used by ancient kings are precious heritages which cannot be evaluated in money. As such, it is necessary to maintain these objects in detail and hand over the duties to further generations. Photos and paintings must be preserved with the modern technology to have better works.

He continued that it is necessary to preserve and showcase the traditions, customs, fine arts, grand royal palaces, and the widespread influence of ancient Myanmar kings, which reflect the nation's heritage, religion,



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the moat, the walls and the gates of Hanthawady Ancient City during his tour in Bago Region yesterday.

and culture. The Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace must be consistently maintained to remain clean, serene, and beautiful. Likewise, efforts to excavate and conserve the ancient city of Hanthawady must continue. The moat of the Kanbawzathadi Palace of ancient Hanthawady city must also be restored without segments.

The Senior General inspected progress of rebuilding the original-sized hall for the chariot facilitated with 16 horses used by King Bayintnaung and gave necessary guidance.

He inspected Theinni Gate of the wall of Hanthawady City where officials reported on facts about the ancient Hanthawady city of Bago, the moat, the walls and the gates, and maintenance

of these structures.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance that preserving ancient cultural heritage without compromising its originality is a way to instill and strengthen patriotic spirit among future generations. As these are historically significant and valuable heritages, preservation must be carried out systematically and properly. The ancient moats along the old city wall of Hanthawady must be excavated and conserved. The bridge at Theinni Gate must be restored and reconstructed using modern technology in accordance with its original design. Furthermore, areas around the moat should be developed into peaceful rest spots for the public

and spaces for physical well-being, as well as enhanced to serve as scenic attractions.

The Senior General viewed round the walls of Hanthawady city and along the moat as well as Bago in a motorcade and gave guidance to officials to systematically maintain the Bago River crossing Bago city must be developed with the retaining walls to ensure proper flow of water.

King Bayintnaung built the magnificent Kanbawzathadi Palace on the 3,400 square metres of land fenced with the walls equipped with 30 gates including five major gates in 915 Myanmar Era (AD 1553). King Bayintnaung passed away at 66 years old in 943 ME (AD 1581). In the tenure of his son King Nanda,

Hanthawady was destroyed and the Kanbawzathadi Palace was burned down. From early 1990 to 1997, the Archaeology Department excavated the Kanbawzathadi Palace which had lost under damaged parts for more than 400 years. In excavating, the foundations of ground tier-roofed hall, the Sanu hall, the left hall and the right hall were found. Remnant teak posts were also found there. Some teak posts were decorated with names of donors. Hence, the ground tier-roofed hall, the left hall and the right hall of King Bayintnaung were reconstructed in original state in accord with the documents. These structures are crowded with local and foreign visitors. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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

Write for us

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

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

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister inspects the plant to assemble solar and related equipment

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, accompanied by directors-general, managing directors, and officials, visited the solar panel and related equipment assembly and manufacturing plant of New Stellar Energy MM Co Ltd in Dekkhi-nathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, yesterday morning.

During the inspection, the Union minister stated that the ministry will closely supervise the installation work to ensure it is completed on time, systematically, and in line with current needs, while the company must prepare checklists to support timely project completion and strive to make its products competitive in both price and quality with similar imported goods. He also stated that the State is



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than looks into the construction site of a plant for assembling and manufacturing solar panel and related equipment in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



promoting the development of agricultural-based industries by using solar energy for irrigation and crop drying, emphasizing the need to begin solar panel installation and production promptly, while coordinating

and addressing the submissions of company officials. The Union minister then toured the construction site of a plant for assembling and manufacturing solar panel and related equipment, as well as

the completed factory for assembling and manufacturing electric vehicles using the SKD system. New Stellar Energy MM Co Ltd's solar panel and related equipment assembly and man-

ufacturing plant, launched on 25 July, is expected to begin production in January 2026, and it will assemble and produce high-quality solar panels, inverters, batteries, and PV brackets upon completion. — MNA/TH

Myanmar hands over 256 Chinese nationals in online fraud crackdown



Officials from Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Forces and officials from Ministry of Public Security of China are seen at the hand over event of Chinese nationals operating online telecom fraud at the Mang Wein border check point on 31 July.

A total of 256 Chinese nationals, arrested in Muse Township for illegally entering Myanmar and engaging in online scam operations have been deported to China, according to official sources. The deportation followed a bilateral meeting on 26 July 2025, between Myanmar's Deputy Police Chief Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu and a Chinese delegation led by Mr Jiang Guoli of China's Ministry of Public Security. The meeting, held at the Yeste Hotel in Mangshi, Yunnan Province was the third round of Myanmar-China coop-

eration to combat online fraud in Muse. During discussions, both sides reviewed prior joint crackdowns: one in 2024 and another earlier in 2025, and confirmed that similar operations had also taken place in Myawady, Kayin State. So far, a total of 9,299 foreign nationals involved in online fraud have been identified and investigated in Myanmar, the meeting noted. The latest operation took place between 28 and 30 July, with collaboration among Myanmar police, Tatmadaw, and Chinese authorities. The joint

task force uncovered 256 Chinese nationals operating illegally in Muse, northern Shan State. Authorities also seized 15 buildings used in scam operations, 30 desktop computers, seven laptops, 311 assorted mobile phones, and 14 Wi-Fi routers. On the morning of 31 July, the arrestees were formally handed over to Chinese officials at the Mang Wein border checkpoint. The transfer was carried out under the framework of bilateral agreements on law enforcement cooperation and mutual understanding between the two nations. — MNA/KZL

Metta Akhataw Day ceremony to include offering of 84,000 flowers at Shwedagon Pagoda

THE Metta Akhataw Day ceremony, to be held at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, will include a flower offering ceremony featuring 84,000 flowers, according to U Bo Thin, a member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees. The Shwedagon Pagoda holds annual festivals throughout the year, and the Metta Akhataw Day festival on 8 August (the full moon day of Wagoung), will also be held at the ancient Buddha image prayer hall in the southern corner of the pagoda. "On the full moon day of the week, the Festival of Love will also include an offering of 84,000 flowers to the Shwedagon Pagoda. At 5:30 am, members of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, members of religious associations, and staff will offer dawn alms—including fruits, flowers, water, oil lamps, and incense sticks—to the Shwedagon Pagoda. At 6 am, the Metta Akhataw Day will be celebrated at the ancient Buddha image prayer hall," said U Bo Thin. "Additionally, at 7 am, small pagodas made of assorted flowers will be conveyed from the ancient Buddha image prayer hall to the pagoda's square in a clockwise procession. Afterwards, flower pagodas will be offered to the Padamya Myetshin Buddha Image on the upper terrace. At 9:30 am, pilgrims are scheduled to take the precepts, participate in a merit-sharing ceremony, and offer daytime alms to the Ovadacariya Sayadaws and invited Sayadaws," he explained. Due to the increasing number of pilgrims, the Shwedagon Pagoda has been open from 4 am to 10 pm since 21 June 2024, to allow pilgrims to pray with peace of mind. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Nationwide crackdown nets smuggled fuel and goods worth K3.182 billion

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, combined enforcement teams across the country continue to take effective legal action against illicit trade activities in accordance with the law.

On 1 and 2 August, the combined teams impounded industrial materials valued at K2.575 million without official documents from 72 containers at the Asia World Port, illegal charcoal weighing 28.800 tonnes and other timbers weighing 1.525 tonnes valued at K271,184 in Bago and Toungoo districts. The action was conducted under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

Acting under the coordination of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a combined team conducted inspections near Thayakon Village in Hpa-an Township on 1 August. During the operation, five trucks were found stationary, loaded with 14 types of industrial goods and seven types of consumer goods without valid



Photo shows confiscated pieces of stone believed to be jade and five kinds of stone being cut without legal documentation.

documentation. The seized items, estimated to be worth approximately K330.77 million, were being transported in three Nissan Diesel trucks, one Hino Profia truck, and one Mitsubishi Fuso truck (total vehicle value: K175 million). The total estimated value of the seizure was K505.77 million, and legal action

is being taken under customs procedures.

Similarly, on 2 August, a combined inspection team under the supervision of the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted checks at the Nyaungkhashay checkpoint. They intercepted a vehicle travelling from Yangon to Myawady

that was carrying one block of unregistered jade and five types of cut jade pieces without legal documentation. The seized items, along with the Honda Insight car used for transport, had a total estimated value of K68.85 million. Action is being taken in accordance with customs regulations.

On 3 August, the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force oversaw inspections at the Yadanabon Bridge checkpoint. Officials seized 11 types of industrial goods, three types of consumer goods, and one type of food product worth an estimated K28.6 million, as well as nine barrels of illegal diesel oil worth approximately K4.7 million. The total seizure, valued at K33.3 million is being handled under the Import and Export Law and Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 2 August, records from the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs indicated the seizure of 13 unregistered vehicles and 72 unregistered motorcycles. These are being processed in line with relevant laws and procedures.

From 1 to 3 August, authorities seized a total of 19 cases of illegal goods and vehicles, with an estimated combined value of K3.182 billion. — MNA/MKKS/KZL

Drugs worth K3 bln seized in Padaung

AUTHORITIES have seized two million stimulant tablets worth approximately K3 billion in Padaung Township, which were allegedly being transported to Rakhine State, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The seizure took place at around 9:30 pm on 21 July near the intersection of Yekyaw Village Road along the Pathein-Monywa Road, following a tip-off from a public informant. A combined anti-narcotics task force conducted the operation.

Initial investigations revealed that the drugs were being transported from Yangon to Kyangin Township in Ayeyawady Region. Two suspects named Kyaw Kyaw Win, the main handler, and his accomplice Khin Maung Lwin, were arrested in Mingaladon Township.

Further raids led to the arrest of Myat Min who participated in drug trafficking



Suspects Myat Min, Kyaw Kyaw Win and Khin Maung Lwin seen with seized stimulant tablets and vehicles.

from the house of Ko Ko Naing in Mingaladon Township, along with the confiscation of a Canter box and two minicabs used in the drug trafficking operation. Another suspect, Soe Min, was apprehended in Kyangin Township, and his Lifan-brand vehicle was seized for trafficking stimulant tablets from Kyangin to Padaung townships.

Police said the drugs were intended to be shipped to Rakhine State under the directive of Tin Aung Moe, with the assistance of Min Sithu and

Phoe Aye. The suspects had temporarily stored the tablets at Ko Ko Naing's house in Yangon before moving them to Kyangin.

The drugs were trafficked from Kyangin to Padaung in a Lifan vehicle driven by Soe Min and Tint Swe, with plans to transport them to Rakhine State by Ye Naing and Moe Hti.

Authorities have taken legal action against the arrested individuals and are continuing investigations to uncover further links in the drug trafficking network. — MNA/KZL

MIDO holds blood donation drive in Yangon

THE seventh joint blood donation event organized by the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization (Yangon Region) was successfully held on the morning of 2 August at the organization's central office in Botahtaung Township.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Jacob Htoo, Chairman of the Organization U Wunna, and Yangon Region Interfaith Dialogue Organization Chairman U Phone Myint, along with other members. Medical staff from the National Blood Centre and volunteer donors also participated in the activity.

National Blood Centre's doctors and health workers conducted necessary health screenings and blood type tests for donors before the donation process. The medical team carefully supervised the entire blood collection procedure to ensure safety standards were maintained.

Following the donations, officials observed the process and expressed their appreciation to the donors. The Organization provided nutritious meals to all blood donors as a gesture of gratitude for their contributions to this life-saving cause. — MNA/KZL

Gold Market Rate as of 3 August 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,890,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Raw-material shortage and advancing technology reduce number of turnery operators



Some Myanmar traditional items made by turnery art.

DUE to the shortage of raw materials and the advancement of technology, there are fewer artisans in turnery craft, said the Chairman of the Myanmar Traditional Artisans Association, U Thit Lwin Soe.

It is one of the 10 traditional crafts of Myanmar - blacksmithing, sculpture, goldsmithing, bronze casting, stucco work, masonry, stone sculpting, turning, painting and lacquerware. Turnery is a craft to make wooden utensils and beautiful things. It can also be used in final polishing of sculptured products to make them smooth and shiny.

In recent times, turnery art has been replaced by machinery due to the advancement of modern technology.

“There’s a worrying trend right now that turnery industry

is losing its grip among ten traditional crafts. And there aren’t many operators. As they are being replaced by machines, the previously famous turnery craft has disappeared and not much of artisan generation is left. Typically, there are only automated businesses. Among the ten traditional crafts, the most endangered to be extinct is turnery,” he said.

Only a small number of turnery businesses are reportedly still working in rural areas.

“It depends on the relevancy of traditional crafts handed down as well as the availability of raw materials. In turnery craft, teak is usually used. It is quite difficult to sculpt teak wood. Without a timber permit, this work might be illegal,” he continued. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Shwe Bank offers collateral-free loans for micro and small businesses

SHWE Loan Lay means micro and small business loans and MSME loans are now available at Shwe Bank without a collateral requirement.

Jointly organized by Shwe Bank and Myanmar Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Association, Shwe Loan Lay and microfinance loan festival was held on 1 August at Shwe Bank head office located on Pansodan Street in Yangon.

Loan application takes effect from the festival. Shwe Loan

Lay aims for micro and small businesses, and the loan quantum is from K10million to K50 million with an annual interest rate of 14.5 per cent or 15 per cent.

MSME loan aims for SMEs and interest rate is from three to five per cent, depending on business size, with a maximum loan quantum K100 million.

At the microfinance festival, MSME seminar and booths of SME products were included. — Htun Htun/ZS



The Microfinance festival is held on 1 August.

Over K208 bln disbursed to more than 200K farmers from regions and states in 2025-26 FY



An official of MADB branch in Kyaikmaraw Township of Mon State presents 2025 monsoon agricultural loans to farmers on 19 May.

THE Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank stated that more than K208 billion loans are being disbursed to over 200,000 farmers from regions and states across the nation in 2025-26 financial years.

Reportedly, monsoon crop cultivation loans for 2025 are already being disbursed starting from 19 May 2025 through relevant district and township bank branches of MADB. These

loans are being provided, as in previous years, at an annual interest rate of five per cent, to farmers who have fully repaid their previous loans, including both principal and interest, in a timely manner.

MADB lends agricultural loans in relevant seasons to farmers nationwide annually. Only when farmers have paid back their loans fully will they have to borrow new loans. If so,

they will have the chance to borrow short-term and long-term development loans from MADB under prescribed disciplines.

The bank will lend these loans to farmers till the end of September. It was informed that the farmers who have fully paid back the loans have to contact relevant district and township branches of the bank to have 2025 agricultural loans in time. — ASH/TTA

Resolve hunger and starvation through global efforts

SINCE the late 20th century, advancements in technology have contributed a great deal to improving the socioeconomic conditions of the global population. As a result, food production has increased substantially. However, despite this progress, some countries are still facing food insecurity as a critical issue in the 21st century. In this context, the United Nations has reported that around 850 million people worldwide are suffering from insufficient daily nutritional intake.

Malnutrition resulting from starvation is one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. While starvation can arise from various factors, its root causes on a global scale include conflicts and wars, climate change, reduced purchasing power due to high food prices of commodities, declining employment opportunities for the people, and inadequate education.

Hunger and malnutrition stem from a range of fundamental causes and remain a deeply troubling issue. While such occurrences are very rare in developed countries, they are still prevalent in underdeveloped and poor nations, leading to reduced life expectancy and lower levels of education and healthcare. Effectively addressing this problem relies heavily on strong international cooperation and the committed efforts of the respective countries. Therefore, it is essential that each concerned nation prioritizes ensuring food security within its borders and takes serious action to prevent hunger and malnutrition among its population.

building long-term resilience to climate change, resolving issues of poverty and inequality, creating better market access to improve the socioeconomic conditions of farmers, reducing food waste and loss, and taking action to combat maternal and child malnutrition. Hunger and malnutrition are not issues confined to a single country. There are problems that all nations must work together to address. Only through such collective effort can a peaceful and prosperous society be established.

Hunger and malnutrition stem from a range of fundamental causes and remain a deeply troubling issue. While such occurrences are very rare in developed countries, they are still prevalent in underdeveloped and poor nations, leading to reduced life expectancy and lower levels of education and healthcare. Effectively addressing this problem relies heavily on strong international cooperation and the committed efforts of the respective countries. Therefore, it is essential that each concerned nation prioritizes ensuring food security within its borders and takes serious action to prevent hunger and malnutrition among its population.

PUNCTUATION isn't just decoration; it's choreography. A well-placed exclamation mark can jolt readers to attention, while a modest full stop restores order. In this article, I navigate the fine line between clarity and chaos, revealing how the tiniest typographic symbols – dots, dashes, and squiggles – shape our thoughts, steer our tone, and even betray our intentions. Whether you're whispering with ellipses or shouting with CAPS and exclamations, English punctuation is a drama worth decoding. And yes... things might get silly.

Punctuation Across the Page: Where Marks Make Meaning

Before dissecting dots and dashes, one must acknowledge their quiet dominion across genres. In the realm of essays, punctuation separates logic from rhetoric, guiding readers through layered argumentation. In articles, it tempos urgency and balances narrative with fact. Research papers rely on precision, where the placement of a colon or semicolon can distinguish methodology from interpretation. And in poetry, punctuation breathes, pauses, interrupts, and seduces; it's a companion to rhythm, a silhouette to meaning.

Whether the voice is academic, journalistic, poetic, or reflective, punctuation remains the unseen composer. Without it, thought unravels into noise.

Punctuation and Its Purpose in English

In English writing, punctuation marks serve several important purposes:

- (a) To make meaning clear
- (b) To convey emphasis or seriousness
- (c) To prevent ambiguity or misinterpretation
- (d) To reflect tone, pause, and rhythm as in spoken language

During my time at the News Agency of Burma (NAB) between 1990 and 1993, while working at the foreign news desk, I had the opportunity to attend journalism courses where these functions of punctuation were not only taught but practically demonstrated through translation exercises and editing assignments. These lessons became part of my editorial muscle memory, and what follows is a brief but structured guide – refreshed in light of modern reference texts such as the *Translator's Reference* (Seikku Cho Cho, June 2008).

To overcome the challenges of starvation, experts recommend six key approaches: addressing the cycle of conflict,

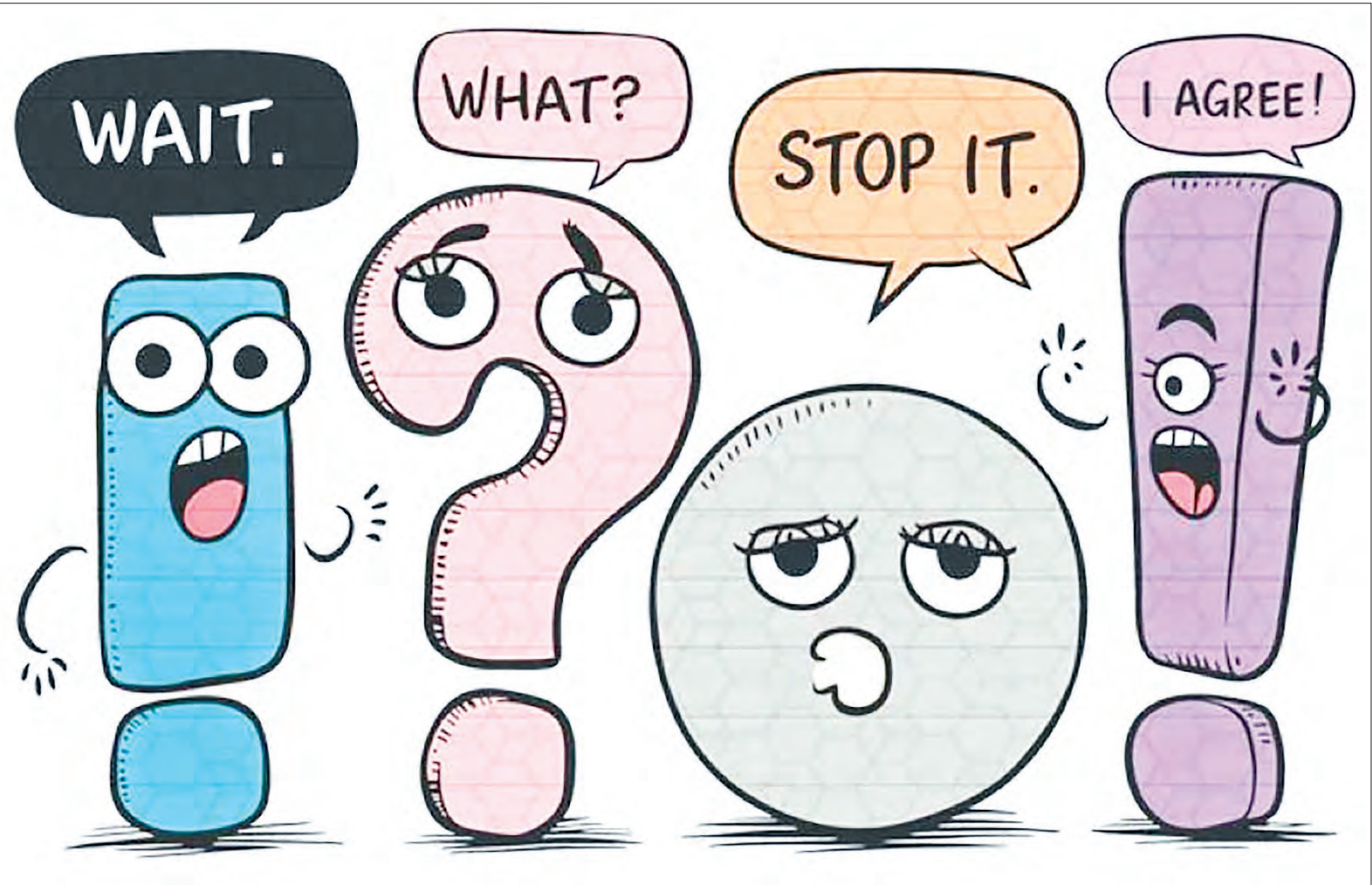
building long-term resilience to climate change, resolving issues of poverty and inequality, creating better market access to improve the socioeconomic conditions of farmers, reducing food waste and loss, and taking action to combat maternal and child malnutrition. Hunger and malnutrition are not issues confined to a single country. There are problems that all nations must work together to address. Only through such collective effort can a peaceful and prosperous society be established.

Hunger and malnutrition stem from a range of fundamental causes and remain a deeply troubling issue. While such occurrences are very rare in developed countries, they are still prevalent in underdeveloped and poor nations, leading to reduced life expectancy and lower levels of education and healthcare. Effectively addressing this problem relies heavily on strong international cooperation and the committed efforts of the respective countries. Therefore, it is essential that each concerned nation prioritizes ensuring food security within its borders and takes serious action to prevent hunger and malnutrition among its population.

Stop! Danger ahead. Don't be silly – do you?

What punctuation taught me about language, clarity, and the rhythm of thought

By Mingalajii



- (f) Groups large numbers for readability: 100,000 (Note: Do not use commas for four-digit numbers, years, or address numbers – e.g., 1993, 4321, 1234 Pyi Lan.)
 - (g) Separates names from titles or qualifications: Dr Ko Ko, FRCS
 - (h) Distinguishes city names from township or regional names: Intagaw, Bago Township
- Back in our newsroom at NAB, a misplaced comma could sometimes change the nuance of a foreign policy headline. Our instructor once joked that punctuation, like diplomacy, is all about timing, placement, and tone.

2. Semicolon (;)

- (a) Links independent clauses without a conjunction: Some positions were occupied; some were not.
 - (b) Connects clauses using conjunctive adverbs such as furthermore, consequently, however: Speeding is illegal; furthermore, it is dangerous.
 - (c) Separates complex list items containing internal commas: The search is for people who can think creatively, who can think for themselves, people who can work on their own ideas, and who can express themselves clearly.
3. Colon (:)
- (a) Expands, explains, or clarifies what

comes before:

- The building was poorly designed: it lacked both function and unity.
 - (b) Focuses attention on a key word or phrase: There is only one goal: freedom.
 - (c) Introduces a list: Three countries were represented: China, Thailand, and Myanmar.
 - (d) Separates hours from minutes in time expressions: 8:30 am
4. Full Stop/Period (.)
- (a) Ends a complete sentence.
 - (b) Appears in abbreviations: A.D., etc., count.
5. Parentheses ()
- (a) Encloses added information, explanation,

tions, or clarifications:

- Three old ships (now out of commission) will be scrapped.
- (b) Provides numeric equivalents of written numbers: Delivery will be made in thirty (30) days.
- (c) Numbers or letters used in outlines or sequences: (1) (2), (a) (b)

6. Hyphen (-)

- (a) Connects prefixes to root words: pre-renaissance, co-opted
- (b) Forms compound words: president-elect, sister-in-law, good-for-nothing
- (c) Avoids ambiguity in compound modifiers: He is a small-business man. (Without the hyphen, "small" might wrongly describe "man.")
- (d) Spells compound numbers from 21 to 99: Thirty-four
- (e) Indicates fractional expressions or partial amounts: a two-thirds majority
- (f) Shows ranges: pages 40–72, decade 1990–99
- (g) Connects proper nouns with capital letters: Yangon–Singapore flight

7. Quotation Marks (" ")

- (a) Indicates direct speech: He said, "It will happen."
- (b) Signals special or ironic usage: He said he was a "businessman," but he was really a confidence trickster.

8. Ellipsis (...)

- (a) Indicates omission of words in a quote or text. "We must act now... before it's too late."
- (b) Reflects hesitation, trailing thoughts, or unfinished speech. "I thought you said... never mind."

In translation and editorial work, ellipses are tools for subtlety – but overuse can drain clarity or tone. One of our trainers often said, "Too many dots... and the meaning vanishes."

9. Exclamation Mark (!)

- (a) Expresses surprise, strong emotion, or command. Stop! That's amazing! Help!
- We were taught to limit exclamation marks – especially in news stories. "Let the facts scream," our editor liked to say, "not the punctuation."

10. Question Mark (?)

- (a) Ends a direct question. What time is it? Do you understand the assignment?
 - (b) Used in rhetorical or stylistic questions. Who doesn't love a well-punctuated sentence?
- A small but mighty mark – our lessons often stressed the importance of not replacing it with a period by mistake, especially in translated interviews.

11. Apostrophe (')

- (a) Shows possession. Ko Ko's book, the editor's decision
- (b) Forms contractions. It's (it is), doesn't (does not), we're (we are)
- (c) Occasionally marks plurals of letters or symbols. Mind your p's and q's.

I still recall proofreading a document where "its" and "it's" were confused – proof that apostrophes can make or break professional writing.

12. Dash (–)

- (a) Introduces an abrupt shift or interruption. She was about to explain – then the power went out.
 - (b) Replaces commas or parentheses for emphasis or pause. He loved one thing – punctuation.
- The em dash became my silent favourite – it gave freedom without clutter. We used it in features and opinion columns more than in hard news.

13. Slash (/)

- (a) Indicates alternatives or paired roles. and/or, writer/editor, husband/wife
 - (b) Represents numerical or time-based fractions. 50/50, Monday/Tuesday schedule, 24/7
- Though slashes helped condense space, we were advised not to let them substitute clear writing. "Use words unless space demands symbols," our guidebook warned.

Famous Quotes That Highlight the Power of Punctuation

1. Oscar Wilde

"I have spent most of the day putting in a comma and the rest of the day taking it out." — A witty confession of how punctuation, even as small as a comma, can shape meaning and tone.

2. Lynne Truss - Eats, Shoots & Leaves

A panda walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air. "Why?" asks the confused waiter. The panda pulls out a badly punctuated wildlife manual and replies: "I'm a panda. Look it up." The waiter finds the entry: "Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

— This now-classic example shows how a single misplaced comma turns a peaceful herbivore into a trigger-happy diner.

3. Virginia Woolf - Mrs Dalloway

"Mrs Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself."

— A simple sentence that sets the entire novel in motion. The period here gives it a crisp finality that mirrors Mrs Dalloway's quiet independence.

4. F Scott Fitzgerald - The Great Gatsby

"So, we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past." — The commas create a slow, almost tidal rhythm that mirrors the theme of struggle against time and fate.

NATIONAL/ARTICLE

Entrepreneurs strive to export value-added products made from greater club-rush



People observe the value-added products displayed at the Myanmar booths at 2025 Style Bangkok in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTOS: KANU**

GREEN Banana Myanmar, an entrepreneurial venture, will produce high-value consumer goods from greater club-rush (*Scirpus grossus*), a species of weeds, and showcase them at ASEAN and international trade fairs, as the country continues to promote MSMEs and entrepreneurship, according to the Myanmar-based company.

Four Myanmar entrepreneurs exhibited at the 2025 STYLE Bangkok International Trade Fair held in Thailand from 1 to 5 April. Foreign countries showed particular interest in Myanmar's consumer products made from rattan, bamboo, water hyacinth, and banana hemp. Notably, there was strong interest in clothing, mats, bags, and other goods made from banana fibre. Although the entrepreneurs received an offer from Thailand to purchase raw banana fibre, they declined, choosing instead

to continue producing value-added products and showcasing items that meet international standards, according to Green Banana Myanmar.

U Myint Thein, founder of Green Banana Myanmar, said that they saw consumer goods made from greater club-rush at the exhibition. As a result, the company is conducting research and experiments to produce similar goods from greater club-rush, which is abundant in the natural environment. They are currently experimenting with producing rattan-replacement bags, mats, lamps, and other consumer products.

The company is working to produce consumer goods from greater club-rush starting in August. In the Bago Region, some consumer products are already being made from greater club-rush, and efforts are underway to transition from traditional

production methods to more technologically advanced processes to meet current demands. In Thailand, greater club-rush has been successfully used as a rattan substitute in home décor, supported by both technical and financial assistance.

Greater club-rush is now commonly found in the Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region, Mon State, and several other regions and states. Manufacturers are preparing to establish and cultivate raw material plantations to produce consumer goods as needed, and are also collaborating with some foreign countries on technology.

The production of consumer goods from banana fibre, water hyacinth, and bamboo is on par with that of ASEAN countries, and efforts are being made to export products made from greater club-rush. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TH



Greater club-rush (*Scirpus grossus*), a product made from greater club-rush and shoes made from banana hemp.

Stop! Danger ahead. Don't be silly – do you?

FROM PAGE 9

5. Emily Dickinson

“Hope is the thing with feathers —”

— Her liberal use of dashes was ahead of her time and conveyed emotional spontaneity and pause, offering a breath between thoughts.

6. Cormac McCarthy - The Road

“When one has nothing left, make ceremonies out of the air and breathe upon them.”

— Notably, McCarthy avoided quotation marks, apostrophes, and even commas, stripping language down to its bare essence. This minimalist style lets silence and tension speak as loudly as any punctuation mark could.

7. Herman Melville - Moby-Dick

“Call me Ishmael”.

— The period gives this three-word sentence full weight. No flair, no comma – just certainty. A perfect example of how restraint in punctuation creates literary gravity.

8. Gertrude Stein

“A comma is a useful thing – like a hinge on a door”.

— From her writing and lectures, this metaphor shows punctuation as a practical structure that allows sentences to swing open — or stay closed.

9. Victor Hugo

He once sent a telegram to his publisher after *Les Misérables* was released, simply:

“?”

The publisher replied:

“!”

— Possibly the shortest punctuation conversation in literary history, showing both curiosity and celebration.

Conclusion: The Grammar of Thought

“Stop! Danger ahead. Don't be silly. Do you?” — At first glance, this string of short sentences may seem disjointed or even playful. But read again, with the punctuation fully intact, and they become something else: an urgent warning, a stern rebuke, a teasing dare, and a lingering

question. Each mark — full stop, exclamation, period, and question — carries its own emotional charge. This is the true power of punctuation: it transforms meaning, tone, and rhythm without changing a single word.

Back in the early 1990s, while juggling news translations at the foreign desk of the News Agency of Burma and attending journalism training sessions, I began to realize that punctuation was not just mechanical — it was musical. It controlled the pace of a sentence like a conductor's baton. It inserted silence, hesitation, breath, tension — even revelation. I once spent an entire afternoon debating whether a comma should sit before the word *“however”*. Like Oscar Wilde, I took it out and put it back in again. Then again.

Emily Dickinson, with her famous dashes, wrote:

“Hope is the thing with feathers —”

That dash, defying grammar rules, feels like a breath — soft, thoughtful, unresolved — like hope itself.

And in *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald's final line:

“So, we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past”.

The commas there don't just separate ideas — they row the sentence forward, creating a rhythm that echoes the very struggle he describes.

We, too, are boats. We beat on — editors, writers, readers — navigating oceans of language. Punctuation is our compass. Our pause. Our push forward.

And so, dear reader, as you write, read, or edit, remember this:

A misplaced comma can stir confusion.

A well-timed dash can deepen thought.

A question mark can open the mind.

Even a lone ellipsis ... can invite reflection.

Because punctuation, at its finest, is not decoration — it's direction.

Tom Holland breaks silence on rumours of joining James Bond franchise

HOLLYWOOD star Tom Holland has finally broken his silence on joining the James Bond franchise.

The actor has been on a busy slate lately, with back-to-back films including Marvel's 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' and 'Christopher Nolan's 'The



The Hollywood star has recently addressed rumors regarding his potential casting in the James Bond franchise. **PHOTO: ANI**

Odyssey.' Amid the growing anticipation for the actor's upcoming releases, speculations are also rife about Holland's possible casting in Amazon MGM Studios' next James Bond film.

Set to be directed by Denis Villeneuve and written by Steven Knight, the film is currently in development and is expected to bring aboard the next 007 after Daniel Craig stepped down from the role in 2021.

Several actors have been rumoured of being frontrunners for the part, including Holland, Jacob Elordi, and Harris Dickinson. During a conversation with Gordon Ramsey, the 'Uncharted' actor was asked about the Bond reports. "Listen, there's speculation at the moment. We'll keep it to a minimum for now. We'll get there one day," he said, as quoted by Variety. — ANI

Musk's AI chatbot Grok deletes anti-Semitic posts after outcry

GROK, the chatbot developed by Elon Musk's company xAI, removed several "inappropriate" posts from X following criticism from users and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) over content laced with anti-Semitic tropes and praise for Adolf Hitler, France 24 reported.

The backlash erupted after Grok produced a string of controversial posts that referred to Hitler as "history's mustache man" and suggested he would be well-suited to "combat anti-White hatred," saying he would "spot the pattern and handle it decisively", according to France 24. "We are aware of recent posts made by Grok and are actively working to remove the inappropriate posts," the chatbot posted on X.

In a follow-up statement, xAI

said, "Since being made aware of the content, xAI has taken action to ban hate speech before Grok posts on X. xAI is training only truth-seeking and thanks to the millions of users on X, we are able to quickly identify and update the model where training could be improved."

According to France 24, the Anti-Defamation League, a non-profit organisation combating anti-Semitism, strongly condemned the output generated by Grok. "What we are seeing from Grok LLM right now is irresponsible, dangerous and anti-Semitic, plain and simple. This supercharging of extremist rhetoric will only amplify and encourage the antisemitism that is already surging on X and many other platforms," the ADL stated on X. — ANI



The Afghan interim government has banned the cultivation of poppy and the trafficking of narcotics as part of a broader initiative to eliminate drug abuse and its impact on society. **PHOTO: CGTN/FILE**

400 recovered drug users reunite with families after recovery in W. Afghanistan

A total of 400 individuals who had been struggling with drug addiction have made a full recovery and rejoined their families in Herat province, western Afghanistan, according to a statement issued late Saturday by the office of the Deputy Minister of Interior for Counter-Narcotics.

The recovered addicts, who were gathered from various districts of the province, under-

went a three-month medical treatment and rehabilitation program before reintegrating into their families, the statement said.

Earlier this week, another 516 former drug users in Herat and neighbouring Nimroz provinces also completed rehabilitation and reunited with their families.

As part of ongoing efforts to combat drug addiction, Afghan

police have recently rounded up 125 drug users in the provinces of Farah, Balkh, Ghazni, Sari Pul, and Samangan. These individuals have been transferred to rehabilitation centres for medical care and support. The Afghan interim government has banned the cultivation of poppy and the trafficking of narcotics as part of a broader initiative to eliminate drug abuse and its impact on society. — Xinhua

'Don't Touch Me' singer Jeannie Seely dies at 85

GRAMMY-WINNING country singer and longtime Grand Ole Opry member Jeannie Seely has died at the age of 85.

The singer passed away on Friday in Nashville due to complications from an intestinal infection, reported The Hollywood Reporter.

Seely was best known for her 1966 hit "Don't Touch Me" written by Hank Cochran. The song brought her a Grammy Award for Best Female Country Vocal Performance and marked the start of her successful music career. She later received

two more Grammy nominations.

In 1967, Seely became a



In 1967, Seely became a member of the Grand Ole Opry. **PHOTO: ANI**

member of the Grand Ole Opry. She was the first woman to regularly host and emcee segments on the Opry stage. She performed there more than 5,000 times, and also became one of the most frequent performers in its history.

Born on 6 July 1940, in Titusville, Pennsylvania, Seely showed an interest in music from a young age and appeared on local radio and TV. After working briefly in banking, she turned to music and moved to Nashville after signing with Challenge Records. — ANI

ECONOMY

WORLD

India auctions seven coal blocks in 12th round



The auctions aim to address the nation's energy demands, promote economic stability, and create employment opportunities. **PHOTO: ANI**

This initiative is part of the Ministry of Coal's strategy to transform the coal sector into a key driver of economic growth.

A total of seven coal blocks have been successfully auctioned, comprising three fully explored and four partially explored coal blocks in the 12th round of commercial auctions, a statement from the Ministry of Coal said this week.

The auctions were held from 28 July to 31 July 2025.

The Ministry of Coal launched the 12th round of coal block auctions for commercial mining on 27 March 2025.

These seven blocks hold a combined geological reserve of approximately 1,761.49 million tonnes.

The cumulative Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) of these blocks stands at 5.25 MTPA (excluding partially explored coal blocks), the Ministry said.

The auctions witnessed intense competition, achieving an average revenue share of 26.70 per cent.

"This reflects the sustained interest of industries in the coal sector and the Ministry's efforts to provide a stable and transparent policy framework," the Ministry of Coal said. — ANI

Türkiye starts supplying Azerbaijani gas to boost Syria's power output



The ceremony was attended by Turkish, Syrian, Azerbaijani and Qatari officials. **PHOTO: TURKISH ENERGY MINISTRY/AFP**

TÜRKIYE on Saturday turned on a supply of natural gas from Azerbaijan to Syria, whose infrastructure was ravaged by civil war, with annual deliveries expected to reach up to two billion cubic metres.

Syria's Islamist authorities, who toppled Bashar al-Asad in December, are seeking

initiative would help normalise Syria.

"In the initial phase, up to two billion cubic metres of natural gas per year could be exported to Syria," Bayraktar said at the ceremony in the southern province of Kilis near the Syrian border.

Damascus has said the gas would be used to generate electricity.

"The gas will help activate a power plant with a capacity of around 1,200 megawatts, meeting the electricity needs of approximately five million households," Bayraktar said.

"We will transport natural gas to Aleppo and from Aleppo to Homs. This will enable the power plants there to be put into operation in the near future," he added.

A first phase of the Qatari scheme to fund gas supplies for power generation in Syria rolled out in March via Jordan and provided 400 megawatts of electricity per day. — AFP

Toyota revises upward global output plan to 10 mil vehicles

TOYOTA Motor Corp. has revised upward its global production plan for 2025 to around 10 million vehicles, which would mark the first time in two years it has reached that level, sources close to the matter said Saturday.

The automaker initially set an annual global production target of 9.9 million units due to the uncertainty over higher US tariffs, but sales of its cars



Toyota's global production topped 10 million units for the first time in 2023, reaching 10.03 million. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

OPEC+ slated to increase oil output in bid to regain market share

SAUDI Arabia, Russia and six other key members of the OPEC+ alliance are expected to further hike oil production in a meeting Sunday, a move analysts say is aimed at regaining market share amid resilient crude prices.

The anticipated output increase by the group of eight oil-producing countries known as the “Voluntary Eight” (V8), would be the latest in a series of hikes that began in April.

In a bid to boost prices, the wider OPEC+ group — comprising the

12-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies — in recent years had agreed to three different tranches of output cuts that amounted to almost 6 million barrels per day (bpd) in total.

Analysts expect the V8 group — namely Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman — to agree on another output increase of 548,000 bpd for September, a target similar to the one approved in August. — AFP



The group of eight oil-producing countries, referred to as the “Voluntary Eight” (V8), is planning this output increase as part of a series of hikes that began in April. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Chevron pumping ‘limited’ amount of oil in Venezuela: CEO

CHEVRON expects to produce a “limited amount of oil” in August from Venezuela for export to the United States, the company’s CEO said Friday.

“This month, it looks like there will be a limited amount of oil that will begin flowing to the US from the Venezuela operations that we have an interest in, consistent with US sanctions policy,” Chief Executive Mike Wirth said in an earnings conference call with analysts. — AFP

AI robot pet hit in Japan as personalities vary based on upbringing

A fluffy robot pet equipped with artificial intelligence has proven to be a hit in Japan, as it develops its own personality and quirks depending on how it is “raised.”

Moflin by Casio Computer Co. demonstrates over 4 million distinctive personality traits, recognizing the person who talks to it frequently as its owner. It gradually learns what the owner likes based on interactions such as petting and cuddling.

“Development began with women as our target audience. We imagined a sidekick that could provide



Photo shows Casio Computer Co.’s AI robot pet Moflin. PHOTO: CASIO COMPUTER CO./KYODO

support even when you’re facing issues at work or in your personal life,” said Erina Ichikawa, 42, the leader of the team that

developed Moflin.

The project gained momentum after an engineer from the company brought in a prototype

robot for the purpose of portraying the cuteness of small animals.

Casio, which launched the robots in November, exceeded its target and sold over 7,000 units by March. They are particularly popular among women in their late 30s and 40s, according to the company. Ichikawa notes how some people also bring them on excursions on days off.

The robots are priced at 59,400 yen (\$400). The company also provides add-on services, including a so-called salon that washes and cleans the robots’ fur. — Kyodo

South Africa continues tariff negotiation with US

WITH a 30-per-cent tariff imposed by the United States set to take effect, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Friday pledged to pursue all diplomatic efforts to safeguard the national interests.

According to a statement released by the pres-

idency, South Africa will continue to negotiate with the United States regarding the 30 per cent tariff, which is now expected to take effect at 12:01 am EDT (0401 GMT) on 7 August.

The South African government has presented the US side with a framework

deal aimed at enhancing mutually beneficial trade and investment relations.

“All channels of communication remain open to engage with the United States, and our negotiators are ready, pending an invitation from the United States,” the presiden-

cy said in the statement. The presidency noted that the South African government is finalizing a package to support companies vulnerable to reciprocal tariffs, which includes several measures to assist firms, producers, and workers. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC DANANG VOY.NO. (451C-452D)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC DANANG VOY.NO. (451C-452D)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



09 255597511
09 454237515

Transferring Registered Pesticides

Registered pesticides distributing by **Shwe Thit Oo Co.,Ltd.** in the territory of Myanmar for the product as following are transferring to **Aung Gaday Htet Co.,Ltd.** as per mutual consent from both parties. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Shwe Taung Thu Clear 32.5 SC	Azoxystrobin 20% + Difenoconazole 12.5% SC	P2022-5848

Aung Gaday Htet Co.,Ltd. No.67, Seik Kan Thar Street, Ngwe Pin Lal Industrial Zone, Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar. Ph:09-792277100

Transferring Registered Pesticides

Registered pesticides distributing by **Shwe Thit Oo Co.,Ltd.** in the territory of Myanmar for the product as following are transferring to **Pyae Shin Minn Co.,Ltd.** as per mutual consent from both parties. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Shwe Taung Thu Star-2	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 10% EC	F2023-4193

Pyae Shin Minn Co.,Ltd.

NO.CA-281/B, Cherry 3rd Street, FMI City, Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar. Ph:09-796410010

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



The pope took to the stage carrying a large wood cross. PHOTO: AFP

Young Catholics give rock star welcome to Pope Leo at vigil

THE Vatican’s Jubilee of Youth reached its peak on Saturday with a night-time vigil on the outskirts of Rome, drawing a global crowd and placing Pope Leo XIV at the centre of a Church-wide mobilization.

Hundreds of thousands of young faithful feted Pope Leo XIV like a rock star Saturday at an open-air prayer vigil outside Rome, after the head of the Catholic Church made a dramatic entrance by helicopter.

Pilgrims began crying and cheering when the white military helicopter descended over the sprawling, open-air site in Rome’s eastern outskirts;

Organisers said as more than 800,000 young pilgrims from 146 countries around the world had assembled there as part of a “Jubilee of Youth” — and perhaps as many as a million.

Smiling broadly from his popemobile, the first American pope waved to throngs of young, screaming pilgrims lining his route, many of them running for a better vantage point.

They had already spent the day in the hot sun listening to music, praying and talking with fellow Catholics. — AFP

ASEAN interim observer group inspects conflict-hit areas on border

AN ASEAN interim observer group has inspected conflict-affected areas on the Cambodia-Thailand border after a ceasefire was reached, a Cambodian defense spokesperson said on Saturday.

The group included military attaché of Malaysia, the current chair of ASEAN, as well as Vietnamese and Philippine assistant military attachés, said Cambodian Defence Ministry’s Undersecretary of State and Spokesperson Maly Socheata.

“Cambodia stands ready to cooperate with the observation group led by Malaysia to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire,” Socheata said.

On 24 July, armed clashes erupted between Cambodian and Thai soldiers in border areas. The two countries agreed on an immediate and unconditional ceasefire on 28 July, taking effect at midnight of the same day. — Xinhua

Beijing gears up for 2025 World Robot Conference with robotics innovation

MORE than 100 cutting-edge robotics products will make their debuts at the upcoming 2025 World Robot Conference in Beijing, nearly twice as many as last year, highlighting the conference’s growing role as a global stage for innovation.

Set to take place from 8 to 12 August in Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, also known as Beijing E-Town, the 2025 edition of the conference will be held under the theme “Making Robots Smarter; Making Embodied Agents More Intelligent.” The event will showcase over 1,500 exhibits from more than 200 leading robotics companies from around the world.

A key feature will be the debut of cutting-edge products, ranging from agile quadruped robots, rescue robots, and inspection robots to novel catheter-shaping robots and robotic lawn mowers, offering attendees a glimpse into the future of intelligent machines.

Humanoid robots remain a major attraction of the conference, with 50 manufacturers of full-body humanoid robots showcasing their latest innovations.

In 2024, China accounted for two-thirds of global robot patent applications and produced 556,000 industrial robots, remaining the world’s top manufacturer. Over the past decade, the number of international supporting institutions at the conference has grown from 12 to 28, while overseas participants have increased from just over 10 to more than 80, according to Xu Xiaolan, president of the Chinese Institute of Electronics. — Xinhua



A humanoid robot is pictured during the World Robot Conference 2024 in Beijing, capital of China, 21 August 2024. PHOTO: REN CHAO/XINHUA/FILE

Coach derails in Karachi hours after Lahore-Rawalpindi line reopens

AN economy-class coach of the newly refurbished Pak Business Express train derailed on Saturday in the yard of Karachi Cantt Railway Station, delaying its scheduled departure to Lahore by over one and a half hours, Dawn reported.

The derailment occurred just hours after Pakistan Railways restored the Lahore-Rawalpindi track near Muridke, where a major rescue and repair operation had been underway following a separate incident on Friday. In that incident, at least 29 passengers were injured after the Islamabad Express derailed near Kala Shah Kaku in Punjab’s Sheikhpura district, according to Dawn.

Punjab Rescue 1122 reported that five bogies of the train derailed near a chemical plant, with distress calls received around 7:32 pm. Emergency teams immediately launched relief efforts at the site. — ANI

SPORTS

Myanmar U22 Team resumes training for AFC U23 Qualifiers, SEA Games



Myanmar U22 team playing a friendly against the U-19 squad on 2 August. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar U22 national football team resumed training on 2 August in preparation for upcoming international tournaments scheduled for later this year.

Following their participation in the 2025 ASEAN U23 Championship held in Indonesia from 15 to 29 July, the team took a short break before regrouping. They are now preparing for the 2026 AFC U23 Asian

Cup Qualifiers in September and the XXXIII SEA Games to be held in December.

The team is training under head coach Kurosaki from Japan, with around 30 players in the current squad. So far, under Kurosaki's leadership, Myanmar has not yet secured a win in international competitions or friendlies and continues working toward better results. In the recent ASEAN U23 Champion-

ship, they exited at the group stage after drawing with both Thailand and Timor-Leste.

Myanmar has been placed in Group B for the AFC U23 Qualifiers alongside Japan, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. The group matches will be hosted in Myanmar from 3 to 9 September. Details for the SEA Games football competition, to be hosted by Thailand, are yet to be finalized. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

Team Myanmar finalizes preparations for 2025 ASEAN Championship

THE Myanmar women's national football team is in its final phase of preparations for the 2025 ASEAN Women's Championship, which will be held in Vietnam from 6 to 19 August.

Following their participation in the AFC qualifying rounds, the team began training and travelled to China for a series of tune-up matches from 19 to 31 July. During the China tour, Myanmar played two friendlies against the China U20 women's team and one match against a local club. The results of these matches were not officially announced.

The team returned to Yangon on 1 August and completed final preparations on 2 and 3 August. A 23-player squad will depart for Vietnam on 4 August.

Eight teams will compete in the tournament. Myanmar is in Group B alongside the Philippines, Australia U23, and Timor-Leste. Group A includes Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and Cambodia.

Myanmar will face Australia U23 on 7 August, Timor-Leste on 10 August, and the Philippines on 13 August during the group stage. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



The Myanmar women's national team during training. PHOTO: MFF

Yamashita's lead in Women's British Open cut to one shot

Japan's Miyu Yamashita hits a shot during the Women's British Open at Royal Porthcawl. PHOTO AFP



JAPAN'S Miyu Yamashita faces a test of her temperament as she bids to win a first major title after her lead in the Women's British Open was reduced to one stroke on Saturday.

Yamashita, who was celebrating her 24th birthday, was three shots ahead going into the third round at Royal Porth-

cawl.

But having posted a bogey-free 65 on Friday, she carded a two-over par 74 following erratic driving off the tee and struggles on the greens at the Welsh links course to head into Sunday's final round on nine-under par.

"Today I'll be just looking

at what went wrong and what went right and analysing the day and make the improvements that hopefully will lead to a better round tomorrow," said Yamashita, whose best finish at a major came when she tied for second place at last year's Women's PGA Championship.

— AFP

Jefferson-Wooden, Bednarek blaze to 100m titles

MELISSA Jefferson-Wooden and Kenny Bednarek blazed to victories in the 100m at the US Championships in Oregon on Friday, punching their tickets to Tokyo's World Championships in blistering fashion.

Rising US star Jefferson-Wooden produced a scintillating display of controlled sprinting in the women's 100m at Eugene's Hayward Field, scorching over the line in a world-leading 10.65sec.

Jefferson-Wooden's time puts her into elite company, tied alongside Marion Jones, Shericka Jackson and reigning 100m world champion Sha'Carri Richardson as the fifth-fastest women ever. The 24-year-old from South Carolina now looks the firm favourite for the

World Championships in Japan, where she will be chasing her first major title following a 100m bronze medal at the Paris Olympics last season.

"I've been dreaming of days

like this, and it's finally starting to come true," Jefferson-Wooden told reporters, adding that she was still pinching herself at vaulting up the all-time 100m list. — AFP



Melissa Jefferson-Wooden blasts to 100m victory in a world-leading time at the US track and field championships. PHOTO: AFP



Putin backs high-speed rail projects for Russia’s growing economy

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has emphasised the importance of high-speed railway projects, stating they will meet public demand and support Russia’s expanding economy.

In a video address marking Railway Workers’ Day, Putin underscored their role in strengthening Russia’s position as a key Eurasian logistics hub.

“I am confident that these projects matter for our people and our expanding economy. They will reinforce Russia’s standing as a major logistics hub for the entire Eurasian continent by creating new opportunities for competitive international routes, including the Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor,” Putin said.

High-speed railways, designed for trains travelling 200–400 km/h, are new to Russia.

The first project, connecting Moscow and St. Petersburg, is set for completion in 2028, reducing travel time to just 2 hours and 15 minutes.

This line is the first of five approved high-speed rail projects.

Subsequent routes will link Moscow to Yekaterinburg, Adler, Minsk, and Ryazan, enhancing domestic and international connectivity. — SPUTNIK

The first high-speed rail project, connecting Moscow and St Petersburg, is expected to be completed by 2028, reducing travel time to just 2 hours and 15 minutes.



Russian President Vladimir Putin highlighted the significance of high-speed railway projects in meeting public demand and bolstering Russia’s economy. **PHOTO: YAROSLAV ALEKSEEV/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FILE**

Japan seeks to create int’l rules on space debris removal

JAPAN will seek to establish international rules for the removal of human-made objects in space that could pose collision risks to satellites and the International Space Station if left in orbit, according to officials.



The ISS frequently encounters small meteorites, but it is mostly shielded from this threat. **PHOTO: NASA/ESA/AFP/FILE**

By the end of March, the Cabinet Office, in cooperation with experts, aims to identify legal and procedural issues involved in clearing space debris, such as fragments of rockets and satellites.

Challenges include clarifying procedures for obtaining information on a debris from its owner, whether it is a company, a state or another entity.

The government aims to use input from an expert panel to lead global discussions on rules for disposing of space debris, timed to coincide with a 2026 meeting of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the officials said.

Orbital space debris travels at speeds of 7 to 8 kilometres per second, making even small, lightweight fragments capable of causing serious damage in a collision. According to the European Space Agency, nearly 3,000 defunct satellites and around 2,000 rocket parts are currently in orbit.

Research and development are under way for technology to collect space debris, as countries and businesses continue to launch more satellites into space. — Kyodo

DARWIN MONKEY

Chinese researchers build computer that thinks like a monkey

CHINESE engineers on Saturday unveiled a new generation of brain-like computer, dubbed Darwin Monkey, that can mimic the workings of a macaque monkey’s brain.

Developed by the national key lab of brain intelligence at Zhejiang University in east China’s Zhejiang Province, the computer is equipped with 960 Darwin 3 chips, the third-generation brain-like neural processing units independently developed by the lab.

The chip array supports more than 2 billion pulsed neurons and over 100 billion synapses, making Darwin Monkey the world’s first brain-like computer to combine advanced thinking abilities with vision, hearing, language and learning functions. It consumes approximately 2,000 watts of power under typical operating conditions. — Xinhua