

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Chinese experts complete inspecting quake-affected ancient buildings

The cultural heritage preservation team from China has conducted inspection over ancient buildings damaged by the Mandalay earthquake in Mandalay Region, according to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar. The Chinese team inspected and evaluated quake-affected ancient buildings in Mandalay and Sagaing regions from 10 to 20 June. Officials from the Chinese team inspected renowned ancient buildings at the Mandalay Royal Palace, Mahamuni Buddha Image, ancient Amarapura city and ancient Inwa city to evaluate damage to these buildings. They also held discussions related to these buildings with Myanmar officials over preservation of My-

anmar cultural heritage. At the discussions, both sides exchanged views on emergency renovation of damaged heritages, repair processes and long-term plans. The cultural heritage preservation team from China comprises experts from National Cultural Heritage Administration, Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Heritage Administration, Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics Protection and Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Protection Engineering Company. Those experts from the team have experienced the renovation process of ancient buildings including Thatbyinnyu Pagoda in Bagan. — ASH/TTA



Chinese experts are seen inspecting and evaluating the quake-affected ancient buildings in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Technology distribution planned for cultivation of lowland coffee varieties

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation has announced that technology will be provided to families interested in growing coffee, either at a manageable scale for families or for commercial purposes, in areas where the lowland coffee variety is predominantly cultivated.



This photo showcases lowland coffee beans that can be grown on a manageable scale.

Five lowland coffee varieties with a maturity of one year and eight months and five with a maturity of 10 months, all successfully grown in the lowland, are being experimentally cultivated in Nay Pyi Taw. The ministry announced a production chain development plan to promote organic coffee production, highlighting its suitability for cultivation on a manageable scale in family patches. Those interested in cultivating these lowland coffee varieties, either for family or commercial purposes, can contact the Coffee and Seasonal Crops Division of the Department of Agriculture for seeking technology and assistance. In Myanmar, coffee is cultivated in two distinct ways, depending on the altitude above sea level. Highland coffee primarily consists of *C. arabica*, while lowland coffee is mainly *C. robusta* and *C. liberica*. The most common lowland coffee varieties are *C. robusta* and *C. liberica*. Highland coffee varieties are grown at elevations between 2,700 and 5,400 feet above sea level, while lowland coffee varieties are cultivated at elevations from 0 to 2,700 feet. In Myanmar, highland coffee is grown in Shan, Chin, Kayah, and Kachin states, as well as the Mandalay Region, whereas lowland coffee is cultivated in Kayin and Mon states, along with the Sagaing and Taninthayi regions. — ASH/TH

Article

The Power of Nouns in Writing and Communication

By Mingalajii

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MGE grants 5,687 licences to gem businesses

NATIONAL

Promotion of sports must be recognized as national duty

IF we regard the promotion of sports as a noble endeavour and a vital national responsibility, we can cultivate well-disciplined, healthy, and united human resources capable of contributing to the country's progress ...

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the 5th National Sports Festival 2024 on 9 December 2024)

Global aid pours into Myanmar as quake toll hits 3,758

AS of 22 June, a total of 3,758 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 48 remain missing across six regions and states in Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, in collaboration with local and international rescue organizations, have been conducting emergency operations in the

affected areas without delay. Thus far, 653 individuals have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 836 deceased persons have been recovered.

Updates regarding monetary and material donations from both local and foreign donors to support the affected people will continue to be provided. — MNA/KZL

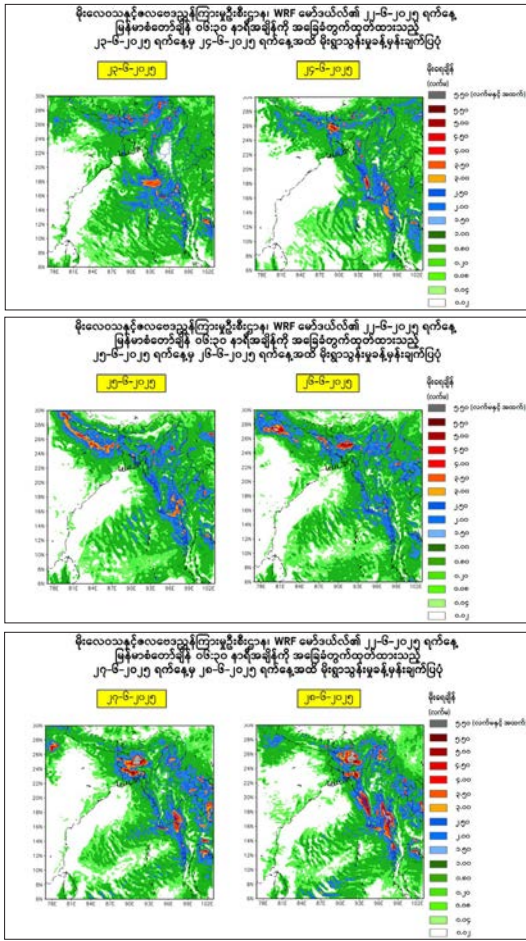
Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 22 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the easterly waves and westerly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during tonight to 28 June 2025. Occassional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-13 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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



The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 22 June 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 23 June 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon 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: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour (mph). Wave height will be about 11-13 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increases of rain in Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 June 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 June 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 June 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Gold Market Rate as of 22 June 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.

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.

(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)

Mandalay Region Chief Minister receives UN Under-Secretary-General

MANDALAY Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung received United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director from UN Office for Project Services-UNOPS Mr Jorge Manuel Lopes Moreira Da Silva at the Regional Government Office in Mandalay yesterday.

During the meeting, both

sides cordially discussed current cooperation between Myanmar and the UN, the support provided with fund managed by UNOPS and further plans. Also, present at the meeting were regional ministers, the deputy director-general of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and officials. — MNA/KZL



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung presents a gift to United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director from UN Office for Project Services - UNOPS Mr Jorge Manuel Lopes Moreira Da Silva at the Region Government Office in Mandalay yesterday.

MEVM training in Homalin aims to ensure smooth electoral process

THE opening ceremony for the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) instructor training course and practical voting was held yesterday morning at the Homalin District Office meeting hall in Homalin Township, attended by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw, officials from the Union Election Commission Office, the Minister for Ethnic Affairs of the region, departmental officials, and trainees. On the occasion, the Chief Minister of the Region highlighted the advantages of using the MEVM; Union Elec-



Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw inspects the process voting session using the machine.

tion Commission member U Myint Thein outlined the plan for holding a multiparty democratic general election; and the Assistant Director of the UEC demonstrated how to use the MEVM. Then, the Chief Minister and the attendees tested the voting process using the MEVM. Afterwards, the Chief Minister of the Region delivered a speech at a ceremony where financial assistance, along with rice and oil, was provided to 585 temporarily displaced people in the Homalin District, includ-

ing a monthly financial aid of K2,925,000. The Regional Minister for Ethnic Affairs and officials distributed rice, cooking oil, and household utensils supplied by the Disaster Management Department to the temporarily displaced people. The Chief Minister then met with the medical superintendent and staff at Homalin People's Hospital, presented honorariums and food items to the staff, and provided nutritious food to residents undergoing medical treatment. — Region IPRD/TH

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

NATIONAL

Rakhine State Chief Minister meets ethnic youth students of border area in Sittway

A meeting with students at the Border Area Ethnic Youth Development Training School (Sittway) was held yesterday morning, attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin and his wife, the Chief Justice of the State High Court, state ministers, departmental officials, the school's principal, teachers, and students.

The Chief Minister and officials first toured the student dormitories, inspected the solar power system, and overviewed vegetable cultivation within the school as part of the Rakhine State government's plan.

The Chief Minister then met with students in the dining hall, delivered a speech, and formally handed over additional food al-



lowances provided by the Rakhine State government. The Chief Minister's wife contributed raincoats and other items for distribution to the students. The Chief Justice of the State High Court allocated cash assistance for high school students, while the Minister of State Security and Border Affairs designated financial aid for middle school students. Officials received these items and funds on behalf of the students, and one student expressed gratitude on behalf of all recipients.

— Tin Tun (IPRD)/TH

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin hands over additional food allowances provided by the Rakhine State government in Sittway yesterday.
PHOTO: WIN MIN SOE

Students urged to keep pace with rapid developments in digital transformation and IT

DEPUTY Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya visited the Technological University (Meiktila) on the afternoon of 20 June. During the visit, he inspected ongoing repair works and instructed that rehabilitation efforts be carried out diligently in line with the directives.

Following this, the Deputy Minister toured buildings that had either not sustained damage or had only suffered minor impact from the recent Mandalay earthquake. He observed that training courses were continuing according to the academic calendar, with students attending regularly and engaging in practical exercises. He encouraged students to strive to become competent young engineers whom the nation and its people

can truly rely on.

He also emphasized the importance of conducting practical research to support the development needs of local economic zones and MSMEs. He urged that modern technologies relevant to the current demands be applied effectively.

The Deputy Minister then proceeded to visit the University of Computer Studies (Meiktila), where he carried out inspections and issued necessary instructions. He observed that the university was conducting its training programmes according to the academic calendar. Students were attending regularly and actively practising in labs using computers. He warmly greeted the students and encouraged them to keep pace with the rapid



Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya meets students actively practising in labs using computers in the Technological University, Meiktila on 20 June 2025.

developments in digital transformation and IT.

He further stressed that ef-

orts be made to nurture highly capable and well-rounded young IT professionals who are both

exceptional in their skills and able to contribute to the country's development. — MNA/KNN

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

Rehabilitation operations beefed up in quake-affected areas

MEMBERS of various organizations and residents are actively participating in the rehabilitation operations being conducted in the Mandalay earthquake-affected areas.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) inspected renovation of a quake-affected Buddha image at Shwekyetkya Pagoda and repair of roofs at the Gandakuti Chamber in Amarapura Township.

He instructed officials to repair ancient pagodas in original state and coordinated the reports of officials.

He observed removal of sangeroud buildings in Kinsanamahi and Pyigy Myetshin wards of Chanayethazan Township with the use of heavy machinery and gave instructions on workplace safety, and he fulfilled the needs of officials.

— MNA/TTA



Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing observes the rubble removal using heavy machinery at a dangerous building in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region.

Illegal consumer goods, timbers and unregistered vehicles seized

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 18 and 20 June, the combined teams impounded industrial materials worth K9.31 million without official documents from two Myanmar nationals who arrived from Thailand to Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport, industrial materials valued at K58.8 million without official documents from a container at the Asia World Port and industrial materials worth K1.4 million that were submitted to abandon by owner at the Yangon International Airport (warehouse). The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On 19 and 20 June, the combined on-duty teams seized a Dongfeng truck (approximately K50 million), travelling from Muse to Lashio, carrying consumer goods and foodstuffs valued at K112.073 million without official documents at the Yepusan junction combined checkpoint in Lashio, an Isuzu truck (estimated value of K25 million), travelling from Thamanya to Mawlamyine, carrying foodstuffs worth K22 million without official documents at the Zathapyin combined checkpoint in Hpa-an Township, a Kia

Pregio (estimated value of K20 million), travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon, carrying foodstuff and consumer goods valued at K15.3 million without official documents at the Thanlwin bridge combined checkpoint on Tayokhla bank. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined teams seized a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (approximately K50 million) carrying foodstuffs valued



at K16.29 million without official documents at the Thanlwin bridge (Mawlamyine) combined checkpoint and another volume of foodstuffs worth K600,000 without official documents at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint. The action was carried out following Customs procedures.

On 20 June, a combined inspection team under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication

Task Force conducted checks and seized 16 tonnes of illegally charcoal (estimated value K250,000) from a truck on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway between mileposts 335/5 and 335/6 in TadaU Township. The Isuzu truck carrying the goods (estimated value K60 million) was also confiscated, bringing the total estimated value of the seizure to K60.25 million. Action is taken under the Forest Law.

In another case managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a inspection team seized a type of consumer goods without official documentation (estimated value K6.48 million) and an Amandla mini bus (estimated value K40 million) transporting them near the Shwe Thanlwin Tollgate in

Bago on 21 June. The items were seized under customs procedures. On 22 June, additional inspections in Toungoo and Nyaunglebin districts led to the confiscation of 0.696 tonne of illegal teak and 0.880 tonne of other wood (estimated value K719,364), with action taken under the Forest Law. The total value of seizures in this region amounted to K47.2 million.

A total of 21 unregistered vehicles and 113 unregistered motorcycles were seized on 20 and 21 June. The action was taken under the law.

Between 18 and 22 June 2025, a total of 28 cases involving illegal trade were recorded, with seized items valued at approximately K487 million. — MNA/MKKS/KZL



Photos show confiscated illegal items and vehicle across regions and states.

NATIONAL

Hundreds receive Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines in Yangon, Taninthayi regions

THE Township Public Health Departments in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions have actively administered Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines to hundreds of residents, officials, and workers in recent days, targeting individuals over 18 who are either unvaccinated or due for a booster dose.

In Yankin Township, Yangon Region, the Township Public Health Department administered the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination at its office on the morning of 18 June. A total of 642 people, including 42 departmental personnel and 600 civilians, were vaccinated in the township. The vaccinations were given to individuals over the age of 18 who had never received a COVID vaccine and to those whose



A nurse injects COVID-19 vaccine to a civilian.

last vaccination was six months ago.

In Kyweku Village in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, 300 residents and shipyard workers were vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine by staff from the Township Public Health Department on 22 June at the shipyard hall.

In Myeik Township, COVID-19 vaccinations have been provided since 16 June to employees and their family members aged 18 and above, monks, and residents of the wards and villages. Those who have already been vaccinated will also receive additional doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. — Hla Hla Htwe (IPRD)/Myint Oo (Myeik)/TH

YBS 75 bus route expanded for commuters

THE YBS 75 bus route has been expanded for commuters, according to the Khit Thit Bayintnaung Public Co, Ltd.

The YBS 75 bus line was extended on 20 June with its starting stop at (Panglong Housing) in Dagon Myothit (North) Township and running to Kyimyindine Railway Station-Kyimyindine (night market). The current route is Panglong Housing in Dagon Myothit (North) Township-Bayintnaung Road-Panglong City Mall-Saya San Road-Panglong Hospital-Tada Hteik (Pyidaungsu Road)-South/North Junction-Nga-

moeyeik (Kargyigate)-Dental University-Thuwanna Junction Chicken/duck Market-Athawka-Tamway Roundabout-Shwegondaing-Myaynigon-Bargayar Road-Kyimyindine Railway Station-Kyimyindine (Night Market).

"The extension of the route to Panglong Housing has made it more convenient for commuters on that side. We are happy and welcome it," said a YBS passenger.

The YBS 75 bus line was extended on 20 June and previously its route started at Ngamoeyeik (Kargyigate). — MT/ZN



A mini-bus from YBS 75 bus line is seen operating the extended route.

Injured elephant Kyaw Pearl moves around Wingabaw camp in a wheelchair

WINGABAW Elephant Camp has arranged for injured public favourite Kyaw Pearl, a male elephant, to be able to move around comfortably in a wheelchair.

At the camp, a female elephant named Pearl Sanda gave birth to twins and Kyaw Pearl, a male elephant is now unable to move his back part after being accidentally hit by his mother's leg, causing a spinal cord injury.

The eight-month-old little elephant has been treated with anti-inflammatory drugs, painkillers, injections and antibiotics, but it has not been able to move since the backbone was twisted. Moreover, blood and serum samples were sent to the laboratories for testing to provide necessary supportive treatment.

The elephant is being treated in consultation with local veteran veterinarians, and the Myanma Timber Enterprise is arranging for the case report to consult with foreign



Kyaw Pearl is being treated near his mother elephant.

elephant doctors.

It is believed that only after the pinched nerves are detached with a surgery, Kyaw Pearl will be able to move again. However, as it is not still suitable for major surgery due to the elephant's age and endurance, officials continue providing necessary care and treatment.

Currently, the elephant is

being cared for under the close supervision of Dr Zaw Min Oo, a veterinarian. Myanmar has experience in performing surgeries such as caesarean section and hysterectomy, but has not yet operated on the backbone and a wheelchair has been arranged for young Kyaw Pearl to move around comfortably as the first stage. — MT/ZN

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MGE grants 5,687 licences to gem businesses

MYANMA Gems Enterprise (MGE) has granted licences to 5,687 gem businesses. Those who want to execute gem and jewellery trading can seek a licence at the respective office of MGE in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina and Mongshu cities.

“There are 5,687 valid licence holders. Those who are 18 years old can seek gem licences related to their businesses,” said an official of the MGE.

There are three types of gem licences issued by the MGE: gems and jewellery trading licences for gem shops, manufacturing licences for fin-



A set of jewellery products at a gem shop.



ished gems and carvings and rough gemstone and finished products trading licences. Each licence is valid for one year. They are required to proceed to the renewal process three months before the expiry date. — ASH/KK

Shan ethnic singers to stage “Nostalgic Memory” concert



This photo showcases an advert poster for the music concert.

A ‘Nostalgic Memory of Shan State’ music concert will be held by Shan ethnic singers on 28 June at Dragon 9-K Unplugged & DJ Bar in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, the bar announced.

Prominent Shan ethnic singers Sai Aung Htee Kham, Sai Lon Wan, Inn Fung, Nan Kain Kham, and Lao Num Hom will present songs in the Shan and Myanmar languages at the concert.

“Most of the songs are written by Sai Aung Htee Kham and Sai Htee Seng, as well as songs composed by Sayar Sai Kham Leik. These songs are well-known to the audience and almost memorized by them. Some songs will also be sung in the Shan language,” said an organizer of the music concert.

The Shan ethnic singers will perform along with the Universe band and DJs. The music concert will start at 7 pm on 28 June. — ASH/MKKS

“Pan Nu Thway Doh Diary” television series set to air soon

THE Myanmar television series titled “Pan Nu Thway Doh Diary” is scheduled for imminent broadcast, according to actress Ella Shwe Sin, who features in the programme.

The series was written, scripted, and directed by Thet Oo Maung for Bo Bo Film Production.

Ella Shwe Sin shared, “In this show, Ma Htet and all the other young ladies portray a lovely sisterhood. I play a character named Nway Nway. While it has an interesting theme of two same-sex lovers, all the girls in the story are actually in love with their boy-friends but end up heartbroken and abandoned because of them. This show is a charming one, with all the sisters and young women vibrantly participating. I’d like to ask everyone to support us when it airs”.

The cast of “Pan Nu Thway Doh Diary” includes Ma Htet (Pop Soul), Kaing, Aung Lwin Moe, Paing Eain Kha, Sett Htoo Thit, Ella Shwe Sin, Saw La Pyae Wunn, and Myat Noe Pwint, among others. — ASH/ KNN



Some of the cast members from “Pan Nu Thway Doh Diary” seen on a poster.

Zaw Paing and Chaw Su Khin to perform live music show on 26 June

VOCALISTS Zaw Paing and Chaw Su Khin will perform a live music show at The Radio – Music Republic Bar in Yankin Township, Yangon Region at 7 pm on 26 June, according to sources close to the event.

“It has been a long time since we last performed together. We are now ready to deliver a heartfelt performance. We will

revisit many of our fan-favourite duets from the past that are still loved today. It will be a night where we share one heartbeat with our fans,” said Zaw Paing.

The show will feature performances by both artistes, backed by the Lucky Hand Music Band, which will provide instrumental support for the evening. — ASH/KZL



A promotional image for the upcoming live show by Zaw Paing and Chaw Su Khin.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Office of the State Administration Council https://sacoffice.gov.mm	
2. Ministry of Defence https://www.mod.gov.mm	3. Ministry of Legal Affairs https://www.mlis.gov.mm
4. Ministry of Information https://www.moi.gov.mm	5. Myawady Webportal https://myawady.net.mm
6. Myanmar National Portal https://myanmar.gov.mm	

OPINION

Beef up iron and steel production to improve construction projects

FOLLOWING the major earthquake that occurred in Mandalay on 28 March 2025, various recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts have emerged gradually. As a result, the demand for iron and steel materials in the construction sector has been increasing day by day. To meet the increasing demand for iron and steel, production is being supplemented not only through imports but also by maximizing outputs from both state-owned and privately owned iron and steel factories.

Across the country, various construction sectors are active, with major projects such as large bridges and buildings being implemented with great effort. Since steel and iron materials are essential for constructing roads, bridges, and buildings, both the

government and private sectors are striving to ensure a balance between production and consumption. Moreover, efforts are underway to promptly complete the repairs of buildings and bridges that were damaged by the major Mandalay earthquake, leading to an increasing demand for steel and iron.

The steel production industry is an essential sector for the nation, and as a factory, it is necessary to continue systematically producing items such as tower poles and bridge steel frames. Since deformed bars are especially needed for construction projects, efforts must be made to ensure sufficient domestic production. If construction steel continues to be imported annually, it will lead to significant financial expenditures for the country. Therefore, it is important to systematically extract and utilize the available domestic iron resources to achieve self-sufficiency in production.

To promote the development of the iron and steel production industries and to meet the domestic demand for steel in the construction sector, it is necessary to support local steel manufacturing businesses. It is essential not only to meet the required quantity but also to ensure quality standards. Therefore, efforts must be made to encourage and assist entrepreneurs to invest in the iron and steel production industry by joining hands with the government to enhance production capacity.

As such, it is necessary to produce steel billets, which will then enable the production of deformed bars for use in the construction industry. It is also necessary to continue efforts to upgrade the existing domestic steel factories. During inspections of buildings that collapsed or were damaged during the recent major earthquake in Mandalay, it was found that some of the steel used in construction did not meet quality standards. This serves as an important lesson for the construction sector. Therefore, it is essential to produce high-quality construction-grade steel to ensure strong and durable structures.

IN THE vast landscape of language, **nouns** serve as the foundation of sentence construction, shaping meaning and coherence in every form of writing. Whether crafting an essay, composing a news report, or structuring a research paper, the careful selection and placement of nouns determine the clarity and impact of communication. As the **building blocks of expression**, nouns identify people, places, objects, and abstract concepts, allowing writers to convey ideas with precision.

Yet, the role of nouns extends beyond mere identification. In journalism, for instance, a well-chosen noun can **anchor a news story**, providing specificity and credibility. In academic writing, nouns **define key concepts**, ensuring logical progression and argumentation. Even in creative prose, nouns **shape imagery**, guiding readers through vivid descriptions and compelling narratives. The meticulous handling of nouns is not just a grammatical necessity – it is a **strategic tool** that enhances readability, accuracy, and engagement.

As this article unfolds, we will explore the **nuances of noun usage**, examining their significance in different writing contexts. To illustrate their real-world impact, a **news story from a major agency** such as AP, Reuters, or AFP, as well as **from other news sources**, will serve as a practical example, demonstrating how nouns frame events and influence perception.

Planet Football:

Marcus Rashford's next club: 5 potential destinations for unwanted Man Utd star
Story by Michael Lee

Marcus Rashford is up for sale this summer – and there are plenty of potential destinations for the Manchester United and England star.

Rashford was cast aside by United manager Ruben Amorim last season, spending the second half of 2024-25 on loan at Aston Villa.

With United needing to recoup money and cut their wage bill, Rashford is available for the right price. But where will the forward end up, if human and AI football predictions are to be considered?

The Power of Nouns in Writing and Communication

Barcelona

Along with Liverpool's Luis Diaz, Rashford was recently name-checked by Barca manager Hansi Flick as a player they admire.

"I don't

want to speak about players who are not in my team, but of course, Luis Diaz and Marcus Rashford are fantastic players," Flick said.

"I like them, and we'll see what happens."

It's been widely reported that Rashford has ambitions of one day playing at Camp Nou.

But Spanish outlet Mundo Deportivo recently claimed that the forward's representatives told Barcelona officials he would be willing to lower his wages, to try and earn a move to the La Liga giants.

Barca have a stacked forward line, but Rashford could provide them with a strong alternative from the bench.

Aston Villa

Rashford contributed four goals and six assists in 17 Villa appearances last season.

He made several contributions, including his brace of assists in Villa's 2-1 victory over Chelsea, as well as his impressive display against PSG in the Champions League quarterfinals.

Under Unai Emery, Rashford looked sharp, hungry, focused and clinical.



Rashford's pace and eye for goal seems tailor-made for Spurs and would be a big middle finger to defeated Europa League finalists United. Make it happen.

AC Milan

Rashford has seen the likes of Tammy Abraham, Fikayo Tomori and Ruben Loftus-Cheek move to Milan and enjoy their football.

A space could soon open up at the club, with Rafael Leao stating he wants to leave the San Siro this summer.

Milan endured a difficult campaign this year, registering a disappointing eighth-place finish.

New energy and a new attitude may be required to jumpstart the European giants, who won Serie A in 2022 and a liberated Rashford could provide that spark.

But Villa already have the sixth-highest wage bill in the Premier League and may not be able to accommodate the £325,000-per-week Rashford is believed to be earning at Old Trafford.

It makes sense from a football perspective, but with a £40-million buy option on top of a huge salary, the financial implications could be too steep for Villa.

Tottenham

Rashford has previously stated that he's not open to a London move, but Spurs are an instantly more attractive proposition after securing Champions League football.

They'll also have a new manager desperate for fresh impetus to revitalize a squad which finished 17th in the league last season.

By Mingalajii

Napoli

Or maybe he fancies a slice of Naples after watching former team-mate Scott McTominay's heroics this season?

We know manager Antonio Conte loves a Premier League signing and Napoli is back in next season's Champions League.

It makes sense on several levels.

(A sports news item from Planet Football).

The Role of Nouns in Sports Journalism: A Case Study from Planet Football

In news writing, particularly in sports journalism, nouns serve as the backbone of clear, direct

communication. They provide essential details, shaping reader comprehension and anchoring sentences in a concrete reality. In the sample *Planet Football* news piece, nouns are used strategically to convey information succinctly while ensuring readability and engagement.

Types of Nouns in News Writing

The article exemplifies various types of nouns, each playing a distinct role in sentence construction:

Proper Nouns: These identify specific people, places, teams, and entities. For instance, *Marcus Rashford*, *Manchester United*, *Barcelona*, and *Camp Nou* provide specificity. Proper nouns establish credibility and situate the reader within the context of global football transfers.

Common Nouns: Words such as *club*, *star*, *manager*, and

squad generalize key aspects of the story. These nouns allow a broad discussion of player movements and managerial strategies without limiting the scope to one individual.

Collective Nouns: Terms like *team*, *squad*, and *line* refer to groups and are often used to describe player dynamics within clubs.

Abstract Nouns: Words like *ambition*, *perspective*, and *alternative* bring depth to the discussion, highlighting intangible elements such as player motivations and team strategies.

Noun Usage for Clarity and Impact

Sports writing depends on brevity and precision. In the news item, nouns are not cluttered with excessive adjectives or adverbs. Instead, they serve as powerful anchors:

"Rashford contributed *four goals and six assists* in 17 *Villa appearances* last season." → Here, *goals*, *assists*, and *appearances* quantify Rashford's impact. The numbers enhance clarity, reinforcing factual accuracy.

"*Villa already have the sixth-highest wage bill* in the Premier League." → The noun *wage bill* succinctly conveys financial constraints without un-

necessary elaboration.

The Practical Implications of Nouns Across Writing Forms

While sports journalism relies heavily on action-driven nouns, their effective use translates into other writing domains:

Essays and Articles: Nouns serve to ground arguments, offering clarity in analytical discussions.

Surveys and Reports: Precise nouns ensure objective data presentation and reinforce factual accuracy.

Research Studies: The strategic choice of nouns aids in structuring hypotheses and conveying complex ideas.

By analyzing this *Planet Football* report, we see how nouns shape narratives with precision, accessibility, and engagement – core principles for impactful writing in journalism and beyond.

Countable and Uncountable Nouns: A Precision Tool for Editors

In journalism, news writing, and editorial writing, accuracy in noun selection is more than a technicality—it is essential for maintaining clarity and credibility. A frequent challenge among editors, both junior and senior, is distinguishing between count-

able and uncountable nouns. This distinction directly affects grammatical correctness and the precision of expression.

Understanding the Difference

Countable nouns refer to entities that can be individually counted (*club*, *goal*, *player*), while uncountable nouns denote concepts or materials that cannot be quantified in discrete units (*assistance*, *heritage*, *information*). In *Planet Football*'s report, the proper use of countable and uncountable nouns reinforces clarity:

"*Rashford contributed four goals and six assists* in 17 *Villa appearances*." → Here, *goals* and *assists* are countable, as they refer to specific, measurable instances.

"*Barcelona have expressed interest* in Rashford's potential transfer." → *Interest* is uncountable, as it represents a general concept rather than discrete units.

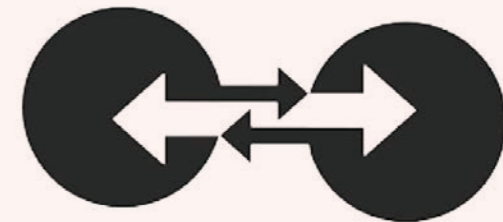
Common Mistakes and Editorial Precision

Errors in noun classification often stem from misapplying plural forms or attempting to quantify inherently uncountable nouns. Examples include:

SEE PAGE 10

The Ceasefire Illusion: When Silence Precedes the Next Storm

By Khin Maung Myint



HISTORY teaches us that wars rarely end when treaties are signed. Like embers buried in ash, conflict often lies in wait – quiet, but far from extinguished. The current Iran-Israel clash is no exception. Though missiles may momentarily fall silent and leaders call for calm, the rhythm of revenge beats on, as if violence is the only remaining dialect.

This brutal exchange is not mere retaliation – it is a relentless duet of destruction, each strike deepening scars rather than closing wounds. Peace talks, however sincere, feel like whispers in a hurricane when grief and fury

remain unresolved. The mounting death toll is not just a number – it is a cry echoing through generations.

Without reckoning, without justice, and without the courage to uproot old hatreds, diplomacy risks becoming a mask for delay, not a path to healing. As the proverb warns, "You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist." Unless fists open and hearts follow, the so-called ceasefire may only be the stillness before the next storm.

ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON:
WORLD

World Bank and IMF climate snub ‘worrying’, says COP29 presidency



Developing nations will need substantial outside investment to transition to renewable energy and build climate resilience. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Trump administration has cut foreign aid and discouraged US-based development lenders, like the World Bank and IMF, from prioritizing climate finance.

The hosts of the most recent UN climate talks are retreating from their commitments to help boost funding for developing countries’ response to global warming.

Major development banks have agreed to boost climate spending and are seen as crucial in the effort to dramatically increase finance to help

poorer countries build resilience to impacts and invest in renewable energy.

But anxiety has grown as the Trump administration has slashed foreign aid and discouraged US-based development lenders such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund from focussing on climate finance.

Developing nations, excluding China, will need an estimated \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 in financial assistance to transition to renewable energy and climate-proof their economies from increasing

weather extremes.

Nowhere near this amount has been committed.

At last year’s UN COP29 summit in Azerbaijan, rich nations agreed to increase climate finance to \$300 billion a year by 2035, an amount decried as woefully inadequate.

Azerbaijan and Brazil, which is hosting this year’s COP30 conference, have launched an initiative to reduce the shortfall, with the expectation of “significant” contributions from international lenders. — AFP

Mexican authorities rescue 3,400 trafficked baby turtles

MEXICAN environmental officials intercepted over 3,400 baby turtles being smuggled in overcrowded boxes, arresting one suspect on wildlife trafficking charges.

Mexican authorities said Friday they had rescued over 3,400 protected baby turtles stuffed into cardboard boxes set to be trafficked.

During a roadblock in the

southern state of Chiapas, agents found the critters “in overcrowded conditions” in boxes in a vehicle whose driver was arrested on wildlife trafficking charges, the environmental protection prosecutor’s office said in a statement. The baby animals were freshwater Meso-American sliders, native to Mexico, Central America and Colombia.

They are protected in Mexi-

co against overexploitation.

“The specimens were transported without documentation proving their legal origin, which constitutes a violation of environmental regulations,” the prosecutor’s office said.

The turtles were taken to a specialized unit for rehabilitation and to determine whether they can be released back into the wild. — AFP

The Power of Nouns in Writing and ...

FROM PAGE 9

- **Incorrect:** *assistances* → **Correct:** *assistance*
- **Incorrect:** *heritages* → **Correct:** *heritage*
- **Incorrect:** *informations* → **Correct:** *information*

To further clarify, here are some **commonly mistaken uncountable nouns** that editors often misuse:

Advice (not *advices*), **Aid** (not *aids*), **Assistance** (not *assistances*), **Equipment** (not *equipments*), **Evidence** (not *evidences*), **Furniture** (not *furnitures*), **Heritage** (unless referring to different types of heritage, e.g. *Jewish and Palestinian heritages*), **Housing** (not *housings*), **Knowledge** (not *knowledges*), **Luggage** (not *luggages*), **Progress** (not *progresses*), **Traffic** (not *traffics*), **Weather** (not *weathers*), **Behaviour** (not *behaviours*, unless discussing distinct types of behaviour), **Research** (not *researches*, unless referring to multiple studies), **Accommodation** (not *accommodations*, unless referring to multiple places to stay), **Advertising** (not *advertisings*), **Damage** (not *damages*, unless referring to specific legal claims), **Bread** (not *breads*, unless discussing different types of bread), **Employment** (not *employments*), **Luck** (not *lucks*), **Labour** (unless referring to specific tasks or periods of work, as in *the day’s labours* or *the fruits of their labours*), **Machinery** (not *machineries*), **Education** (not *educations*), **Justice** (not *justices*, unless referring to judges), **Support** (not *supports*), **Happi-**

ness (not *happinesses*), **Patience** (not *patiences*), **Love** (not *loves* except for literary works), **Courage** (not *courages*), **Gold** (not *golds* unless referring to types/varieties, shades, or medals, but not metal in bulk – similar to *silver, bronze, etc.*), **Wood** (not *woods* unless referring to types/varieties, poetic/literary expressions, regional), **Plastic** (not *plastics* unless referring to types/varieties, and slang but informal for credit cards), **Air** (not *airs* except for an old-fashioned idiomatic phrase – ... *put on airs*, meaning pretentious behaviour), **Snow** (not *snows* except for artistic creations and repeated snowfall events), **Lightning** (not *lightnings* but use three lightning **strikes**), and **Work** (not *works* unless referring to literary/artistic creations and engineering/industrial projects, using public works or construction works).

(These are some of the most commonly confused nouns the editorial team might encounter – the author)

The Practical Implications

Beyond journalism, mastery of countable and uncountable nouns enhances clarity in essays, surveys, research reports, and studies. Writers and editors who develop an intuitive understanding of noun classification ensure their communication remains precise, impactful, and grammatically sound.

By applying these principles, editorial teams can avoid frequent pitfalls, producing polished and authoritative content that resonates with readers.



The freshwater Meso-American slider turtles are protected in Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP**

J K Rowling confirms close partnership with writers for new ‘Harry Potter’ series

HBO executives, including Chairman Casey Bloys, have stated that Rowling’s personal views will not influence the show’s direction.

JK Rowling continues to support the upcoming Harry Potter HBO series, set to premiere in 2026, despite facing backlash for her anti-transgender views. The author has expressed enthusiasm for the project, stating she has collaborated closely with the writers to ensure the series captures the essence of her beloved books. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), she praised the first two episodes, calling them “SO, SO, SO GOOD!”

While Rowling is not writing the scripts, she will serve as an executive producer through her production company, Bronte

Film and TV, and was involved in the initial pitch process. HBO executives, including Chairman Casey Bloys, have emphasized that Rowling’s personal views will not influence the show’s direction, focusing instead on the core themes of love, self-acceptance, and friendship inherent in the Harry Potter universe. The controversy surrounding Rowling’s statements on transgender issues has led to calls for boycotts of the series, with over 400 individuals from the entertainment industry signing a letter urging action against her. — ANI



Arabella Stanton, Dominic McLaughlin, and Alastair Stout are young actors cast in the upcoming HBO series adaptation of Harry Potter. **PHOTO: AIDAN MONAGHAN/HBO**

BRIEF: LIFESTYLE

Joseph Kosinski explains why Simone Ashley’s role was cut from ‘F1: The Movie’

JOSEPH Kosinski, the director of ‘F1: The Movie,’ has opened up about why actress Simone Ashley’s role was removed from the film. Ashley, widely known for her role in ‘Bridgerton,’ was initially announced as part of the film’s cast last year. However, fans noticed she barely appeared in the final version of the movie.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Kosinski, while speaking to People magazine, said, “It happens on every film, where you have to shoot more than you can use. There were two or three storylines that ultimately didn’t make it into the final cut.”

Kosinski went on to praise Ashley’s talent, saying, “But Simone, she’s an incredible talent, incredible actress, incredible singer, and I would love to work with her again.” — ANI

Hailey Bieber shares adorable throwback pic of her baby bump; says her newborn is now “10 months old”

NEW MOM Hailey Bieber took a trip down memory lane as her newborn turns 10 months old.

The model took to her Instagram Stories to share a beautiful throwback picture from her pregnancy days.

In the picture, Hailey is seen standing beside a pink cabinet, wearing a soft blush-pink, body-hugging gown that highlights her baby bump. She is glowing with a soft smile and gently cradling her stomach, looking peaceful and happy.

Along with the picture, Hailey added a caption that read, “22 June 2024 now my baby is 10 months old.” — ANI

Last member of K-pop megaband BTS to finish military service

SUGA, a member of the K-pop megaband BTS, will officially complete his mandatory military service on Saturday, marking the full return of all seven members of the global supergroup from duty.

South Korea’s most lucrative musical act has been on a self-described “hiatus” since 2022 as its members undertook the mandatory service required of all South Korean men under 30 due to tensions with the nuclear-armed North. — AFP

In New York, Vermeer show reveals art of the love letter

IN a special exhibit featuring just three paintings, the Frick Collection in New York is inviting viewers to contemplate the age and the art of seduction by the written word.



A woman views ‘Mistress and Maid’ by Johannes Vermeer at the Frick Collection in New York. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

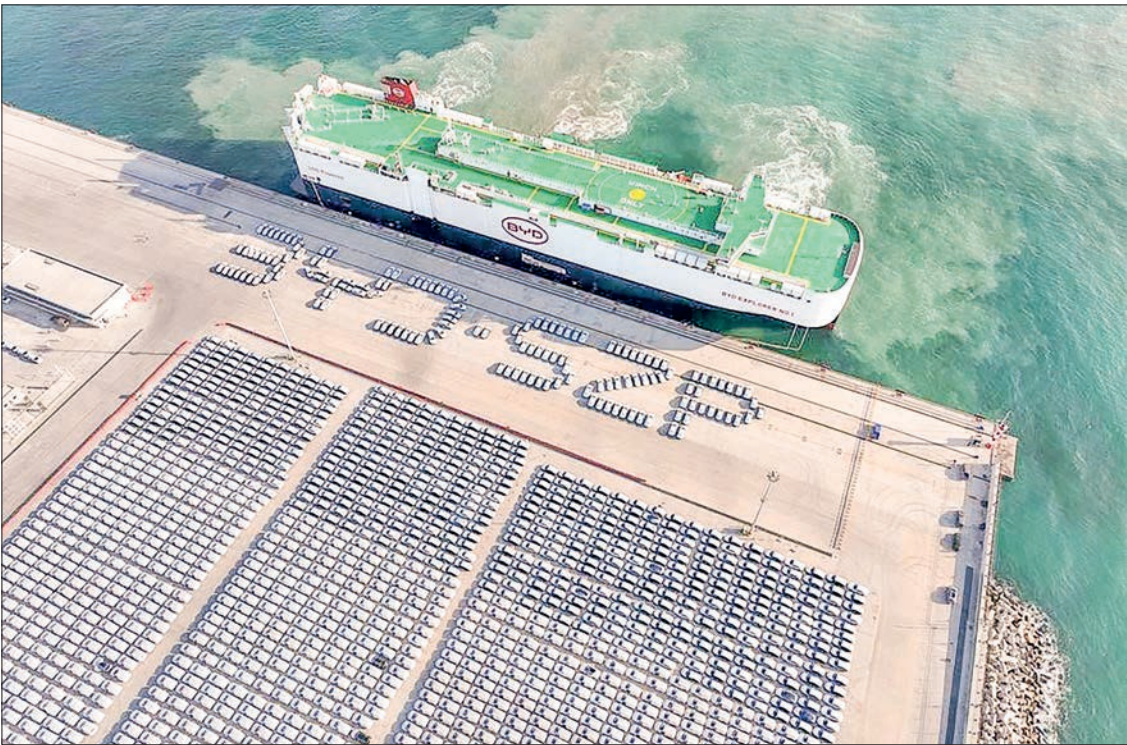
The show brings together a trio of paintings by 17th century Dutch master Johannes Vermeer: the Frick’s own “Mistress and Maid,” “The Love Letter” on loan from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, and “Woman Writing a Letter with her Maid” from the National Gallery of Ireland.

They are three of six paintings by Vermeer (1632-1675) that focus on the reading and writing of letters. They also depict interactions between women of different classes. — AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD

BYD expands EV export capacity with fifth car carrier delivery



Vehicle carrier vessel “BYD EXPLORER NO 1” arrives at Xiaomo International Logistics Port in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province, 14 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The vessel has a loading capacity of 9,200 vehicles and a service speed of 19 knots.

CHINESE leading electric vehicle manufacturer BYD announced on Saturday the official delivery of its fifth vehicle carrier, the BYD XI’AN, in the city of Yizheng, east China’s Jiangsu Province, marking another significant advancement in its global sales and supply chain layout.

With 16 vehicle decks, the 219.9-metre-long, 37.7-metre-wide BYD XI’AN features a service speed of 19 knots and a loading capacity of 9,200 vehicles, according to BYD, based in the tech hub of Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province.

It utilizes cutting-edge LNG

dual-fuel clean propulsion technology, significantly enhancing the vessel’s energy efficiency and emission reduction performance.

Previously, BYD has already deployed four vehicle carriers into operation, transporting China’s new energy vehicles to global markets.

The deployment of these vessels has significantly enhanced the company’s overseas delivery efficiency, reduced logistics costs and transport cycles, and accelerated BYD’s global expansion strategy, the company said. — Xinhua

Japanese restaurants, food companies switching to noodles from rice



Photo taken on 5 June 2025, shows a ramen noodle dish offered at an eatery newly opened by Antworks Co in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

AS cost-sensitive consumers are steering clear of rice after a price surge to record highs, restaurant chains and food companies are turning to noodles.

Antworks Co, operator of Densetsu no Sutadonya eateries offering pork rice bowls, opened its first ramen noodle restaurant in Tokyo in May and plans another three by next February to diversify its operations. “We have touted our (pork bowl) business as a large portion of

our business portfolio but rice prices are now more than three times higher than those several years ago,” a spokesperson at the Tokyo-based restaurant chain operator said.

A pork rice bowl set meal with miso soup and raw egg is now priced at 890 yen (\$6), compared with 630 yen in 2021. The spokesperson said consumers would likely stay away if the price were raised to over 1,000 yen.— Kyodo

India’s agrochemicals market eyes \$14.5 billion by 2028 with 9% CAGR: Report

INDIA’S agrochemicals industry remains resilient and is projected to grow to US\$14.5 billion by 2027-28, with a CAGR of 9 per cent, despite global headwinds, according to a report by Rubix Data Sciences — a leading provider of risk management and monitoring solutions.

CAGR is Compound Annual Growth Rate.

According to the report,

India’s agrochemical industry is valued at US\$11.2 billion in 2024-25, having grown 8.7 per cent year-on-year despite a challenging global environment.

Exports saw a sharp 22 per cent decline in 2023-24, driven by global inventory destocking, aggressive price competition from China, and weak demand in major markets. — ANI



India’s agrochemicals market eyes \$14.5 billion by 2028 with 9 per cent CAGR: Report. **PHOTO: ANI**

Bank of England may cut interest rates by another 50 basis points

THE Bank of England (BoE) announced on Thursday that it will keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4.25 per cent, a decision that was highly consistent with market expectations.

On one hand, inflation

in Britain remains above the BoE’s 2 per cent target. According to data released by Britain’s Office for National Statistics, the CPI for May was 3.4 per cent. The BoE predicted that the CPI could rise further to 3.7 per cent by September.

On the other hand, intensified regional conflicts — including those involving Israel and Iran — could disrupt global supply chains, potentially triggering upward pressure on British domestic inflation. — Xinhua

India PM Modi eyes visit to Japan in August for bullet train deal

THE Japanese and Indian governments are arranging for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Japan in late August for talks with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The two leaders are expected to agree on India's adoption of a next-generation shinkansen bullet train being developed by East Japan Railway Co for a high-speed rail project under-way in western India, the sources

said. The visit would be Modi's first since May 2023, when he attended the Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima, western Japan.

The high-speed rail line will connect the western Indian cities of Ahmedabad and Mumbai, covering about 500 kilometres in roughly two hours. The project is considered a symbol of Japan-India cooperation, as it will use Japan's renowned shinkansen technology. — Kyodo



JR East E5 series shinkansen set U3 approaching Omiya Station on the "Hayabusa 4" service to Tokyo. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Sri Lanka to offer 3,000 acres for tourism investment

THE Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) has outlined its process to offer approximately 3,000 acres of SLTDA-owned lands across the country to tourism investors.

During a media briefing jointly held by the SLTDA and the Ministry of Tourism on Friday, Deputy Minister of Tourism Ruwan Ranasinghe said the initiative aims to streamline investment and foster sustainable growth in the country's tourism sector, adding that investment opportunities range from star-class hotels, eco-resorts, well-

ness retreats, boutique properties, adventure lodges, and so on.

SLTDA Chairman Buddhika Hewawasam said that the selected investors will be provided with a stipulated development plan and a strict time plan, highlighting the government's commitment to supporting investors by streamlining the clearance process.

Tourism is one of Sri Lanka's main sources of foreign revenue. The country earned approximately US\$3.17 billion from tourism in 2024. — Xinhua



File photo shows tourists walking out of a cruise ship in Colombo, Sri Lanka. PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA/FILE

France arrests five over cryptocurrency kidnapping

FRENCH authorities have arrested five people on charges of kidnapping the father of an influencer and cryptocurrency entrepreneur; prosecutors said on Saturday.

In recent months France has seen several kidnappings and attempted abductions targeting cryptocurrency busi-

nesspeople and their families, and authorities have been under huge pressure to act.

On 31 December 2024, five armed people attacked a man and a woman in their home in the eastern town of Saint-Genis-Pouilly near the Swiss border. In exchange for their release, the attackers demand-

ed a ransom from their son, an influencer living in Dubai, prosecutors said at the time.

When they did not receive the ransom, they abducted the father, who was found a few hours later in the boot of a car in the department of Sarthe nearly 700 kilometres (435 miles) away. — AFP

Zimbabwe's economy continues to register positive strides

ZIMBABWEAN President Emmerson Mnangagwa said on Saturday that the country's economy continues to register positive strides.

In a post on X, the president said that economic growth

is being driven by strong performance in mining and tourism, reduced inflation and the stabilization of the local currency.

Mnangagwa's comments followed a recent statement by the International Monetary

Fund (IMF), which hailed the macroeconomic stability prevailing in Zimbabwe and the government's disciplined policies to stabilize the local currency and reduce inflation. — Xinhua

2 dead, 3 missing as tourist boat capsizes in NW Pakistan

AT least two women were killed and three others went missing after a tourist boat capsized in Pakistan's north-west Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, rescue officials

said on Sunday.

According to state-run rescue organization Rescue 1122, the incident occurred on Saturday evening in the scenic Shahi Bagh area, a re-

mote mountainous site about 2.5 hours from the main Kalam bazaar, when a recreational boat carrying men, women, and children overturned due to engine failure. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Huge fire consumes oil storage facility in Malaysia’s Johor state

A huge fire erupted at an industrial facility storing engine oil and lorries in Johor state, sending huge plumes of smoke into the air and forcing the evacuation of those living nearby, authorities said on Saturday.

Firefighters were alerted to the blaze around 12:45 local time, according to the Johor Fire and Rescue Department Operations Centre.

The firefighters found an active blaze at the lorry depot located in the city of Pasir Gudang near the state capital Johor Bahru, with flames spreading quickly due to strong winds and igniting a neighboring disused oil storage area.

No casualties have been reported and efforts to put out the fire are ongoing. The Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) reported that the fire also spread to a housing area located about 50 metres from the scene. — Xinhua

Mt Shinmoe in southwestern Japan erupts, alert level maintained

Mt Shinmoe on the southwestern Japanese island of Kyushu erupted Sunday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The 1,421-metre volcano straddling Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures erupted around 4:37 pm and spewed smoke as high as 500 metres, the agency said.

The agency kept the volcanic alert for the mountain at level 2 on a scale of 5, continuing to urge people to stay away from the crater.

Mt Shinmoe last erupted in June 2018. — Kyodo

Eight killed after hot-air balloon catches fire and crashes in Southern Brazil

At least eight people were killed on Saturday (local time) after a hot-air balloon caught fire mid-air and crashed in a tourist region of southern Brazil, the New York Times (NYT) reported, citing local authorities.

The incident occurred in the rural area of Praia Grande, located in the state of Santa Catarina, a region well known for its scenic balloon rides over stunning canyon landscapes.

According to the state’s military fire brigade, the balloon caught fire in the air and went down shortly after 8 am (local time). — ANI

Duisburg launches return leg of ASEAN Express to boost Europe-Asia trade



This photo shows the launch of the return leg of the ASEAN Express service in Duisburg, Germany, 21 June 2025. PHOTO: DU ZHEYU/XINHUA

A freight train loaded with maternal and infant products, cosmetics, and medical supplies departed Duisburg, Germany on Saturday, marking the launch of the return leg of the ASEAN (Association of South-east Asian Nations) Express service.

The departure marks the start of bidirectional operations for a new trade corridor linking Europe and Asia. The train is expected to arrive in ASEAN countries in 19 days, traveling via Chongqing, an inland municipality in southwest China.

The ASEAN Express has achieved “seamless connection” between two vital international trade routes of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the China-Europe freight train service. Its transportation efficiency has significantly improved compared with traditional sea routes.

“As the service continues to be optimized and expanded, more enterprises are expected to benefit from this efficient and reliable logistics solution, ushering in a new era of trade,” said Liu Taiping, chairman of New Land-Sea Corridor Operation Co, Ltd. — Xinhua

Bayesian superyacht lifted off seabed



The British-flagged superyacht “Bayesian,” which sank off Sicily last August, has been successfully raised from the seabed. PHOTO: AFP

A British-flagged luxury superyacht that sank off Sicily last year, killing British tech magnate Mike Lynch and six others, was lifted from the water on Saturday.

Salvage recovery crews completed the complex operation to bring the Bayesian yacht ashore for further investigation.

One of Europe’s most powerful maritime cranes hauled the 56-metre-long (184-foot) luxury yacht from beneath the waves during the day.

The salvage team, led by British company TMC Marine, pumped seawater out of the hull and the vessel was held in an elevated position, surrounded by pollution containment booms, while further checks were carried out.

The Bayesian’s upper decks appeared badly damaged while the blue hull was encrusted with mud after it had sat on the seabed at a depth of 50 metres

Three-day process to lift yacht off seabed

The vessel has been slowly raised from the seabed, 50 metres below the surface, over the past three days to allow the steel lifting straps, slings and harnesses to be secured under the keel.

Eight steel lifting straps were used to put the hull upright and to form part of a steel wire lifting system that began raising the vessel out of the water on Saturday. — ANI

SPORTS

MNL League Cup semifinals set with Rakhine-Yangon and Shan-Ayeyaya clashes



Ayeyawady United team seen qualifying for the semi-finals. PHOTO: MNL

THE 2025 MNL League Cup semifinals will take place on 23 and 24 June at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon, with Rakhine United facing Yangon United on the first day and defending champions Shan United playing Ayeyawady United on the second.

Ayeyawady United are the only new

semifinalists among the four teams, while the others are returning for the second straight year. Yangon and Rakhine United are meeting in the semifinals for the second consecutive time, with Yangon winning 3-1 in their 2024 encounter. Shan and Ayeyawady United will face each other for the first time in

this competition.

Shan United and Yangon United are considered the more prepared sides, while Rakhine and Ayeyawady United have shown unexpected strength under new coaches with domestic player lineups. The final is scheduled for 6 July.

— Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Bayern officials back expanded FIFA Club World Cup amid criticism

GERMAN football legend and Bayern Munich board member Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has voiced strong support for the newly expanded 32-team FIFA Club World Cup, calling it a necessary evolution despite skepticism surrounding the tournament's sporting value.

The 69-year-old former striker and European champion told Welt am Sonntag that the growth of the tournament was "inevitable" and praised FIFA president Gianni Infantino for "pushing it through".

"As a player, I would be happy to experience something new," said Rummenigge, who won the European Cup twice with Bayern Munich. "The tournament gains momentum when it reaches the knockout stage - that's always the case with major competitions".

Rummenigge also drew parallels with the recent revamp of the UEFA Champions League group stage, which had faced initial skepticism. "There was unprecedented excitement around the final matchdays," he said, suggesting similar enthusiasm could develop for the Club World Cup.

— Xinhua

Ill Mbappe out of second Real Madrid Club World Cup clash

ILL Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe did not travel to Charlotte for the team's Club World Cup match against Pachuca, but could be back for the final group stage game, coach Xabi Alonso said on Saturday.

The French superstar was taken to hospital on Thursday for tests and treatment after suffering gastroenteritis, before later being released.

Mbappe is improving "bit by bit" a club source told AFP, but he did not fly with his team-mates for Sunday's match against Mexican side Pachuca. Real coach Xabi Alonso addressed the striker's condition during his pre-match press conference. — AFP

Olympic Day Lethwei and SEA Games kickboxing trials held

THE Inter-Club Youth Traditional Myanmar Lethwei Tournament and women's kickboxing selection for the XXX-III SEA Games were held yesterday at the Theinbyu Lethwei Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, to mark the International Olympic Day. The Department of Sports and Physical Education, the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and Myanmar Martial Art Group (MMAG) jointly organized the events.

Matches included fighters like Pana El versus Mike Khe Lay, Min Myat Ko versus Khun Min Min, Aung Khant Min versus Min Htet Kyaw, and others. Notable wins included Aung Thike defeating Kaung Gyi by technical count, and Chit Ya Aung knocked out Thet Maung.

In the SEA Games kickboxing trials, Khin Moe Aye and May Thinzar Oo won by unanimous decisions. Winners received medals and cash awards af-



Sett Sett Naing and Khin Moe Aye scentin kickboxing trials.

ter the contest. Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Co Ltd and Yangon Region Public Co Ltd support the events monthly. — Arkar Linn/KZL



WORLD

NON-INVASIVE TESTING

Japanese startup test kit shows promise in early cancer detection

A urine-based cancer risk screening kit developed by a Japanese startup is showing promise in detecting cancer at the earliest stage using non-invasive means.

The test kit from Craif Inc, a spin-off from Nagoya University founded in 2018, can also be used to assess simultaneously whether a person is at risk from any of up to seven types of cancer. The product, which does not require a blood test, was able to detect changes in pre-malignant cells among residents of Hokkaido towns in northern Japan to whom the company distributed 100 sets of the "miSignal" test kit free of charge in the year through March 2025.

"We were able to detect and treat cancer that was difficult to find by X-ray," said Tatsuya Kato, a professor at the Hokkaido University Hospital, adding the kits would be vital in places such as Hokkaido, where medical resources are sparse. The kit can be used to detect microRNA, a biomarker known for its link to early cancer biology, in a small amount of urine and help screen the risks of cancer in the lungs, colon and pancreas, among others. — Kyodo

“Expressed deep concern”: PM Modi in phone call with Iran Prez Pezeshkian calls for de-escalation, dialogue

Speaking from the White House on Saturday (US local time), Trump declared that the United States conducted “massive precision” strikes on Iran.

FOLLOWING the strikes by the United States at Iran’s nuclear facilities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday spoke with the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, expressing deep concern at the recent escalations and called for “immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy”.

In a post on X, PM Modi wrote, “Spoke with President of Iran @drpezeshekian. We discussed in detail about the current situation. Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations,” PM Modi stated.

He emphasised the need for a peaceful resolution and added, “Reiterated our call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability.”

Speaking from the White House, Trump on Saturday (US local time) announced that America carried out “massive precision” strikes on Iran and warned the latter of further retaliation if peace was not achieved.

Iran condemned the attacks, calling them a violation of international law and vowed to continue its nuclear programme.

The conflict between Israel and Iran

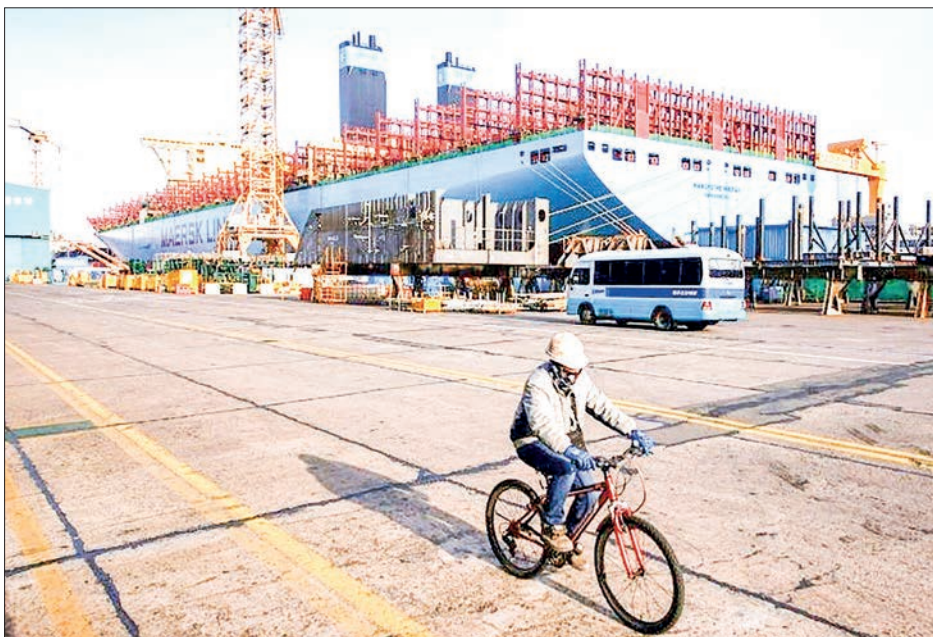


Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday spoke with the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, expressing deep concern at the recent escalations and called for “immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy”. **PHOTO: ANI**

entered its ninth day on Saturday, with the US now joining in support of Israel.

Meanwhile, India continues its evac-

uation efforts for Indian nationals in Iran, with multiple flights planned to bring back citizens from the conflict-hit region. — ANI



Shipbuilding accounted for nearly four per cent of South Korea’s exports in 2024 and directly employs around one per cent of the country’s workforce. **PHOTO: AFP**

South Korea counts on shipbuilding to ease US tariff woes

SOUTH Korea, Asia’s fourth-largest economy, is grappling with significant tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, particularly a suspended 25 per cent tariff on steel and car exports. Amid these challenges, the shipbuilding industry emerges as a potential bargaining chip in trade negotiations.

Historically, South Korea’s shipbuilding sector was bolstered by state subsidies under military leader Park Chung-hee in the 1970s, leading to the establishment of major players like Hyundai and POSCO.

Today, South Korea ranks as the world’s second-largest shipbuilding nation, following China, and the sector

accounted for nearly 4 per cent of total exports in 2024, reaching \$25.6 billion.

The industry directly employs around 120,000 workers and has secured significant contracts.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer has shown interest in enhancing South Korea-US shipbuilding cooperation.

However, South Korea’s shipbuilding industry faces challenges, including a declining market share and a need for eco-friendly vessel development. Additionally, demographic issues are impacting workforce availability, raising concerns about the sustainability of the current shipbuilding boom. — AFP