

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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.

Surveillance at Yangon and Mandalay airports eases Nipah concerns

The Ministry of Health has announced that surveillance and screening measures for infectious diseases that could give rise to public health emergencies, including Nipah virus, are currently being carried out at Yangon International Airport.

At Yangon International Airport, health screening of passengers arriving from abroad is being conducted in accordance with prescribed guidelines. In view of the ongoing outbreak of the infectious disease of Nipah virus in West Bengal State, India, surveillance of passengers arriving from India has been intensified, with particular attention paid to fever and other symptoms suggestive of Nipah virus infection.

In addition, as part of health education activities related to the infectious disease of Nipah

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Surveillance and screening for infectious diseases that could lead to public health emergencies, including the infectious disease of Nipah virus, being conducted at Yangon International Airport.

To date, surveillance and screening of passengers travelling on the regularly scheduled MAI flights from Kolkata, West Bengal State, India, to Yangon, Myanmar have revealed no suspected cases.



MCITP signs MOUs with business associations in China and Myanmar

THE Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP) has signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with business associations in Tianjin, Chengdu, and

Nanning in China, as well as Yangon in Myanmar, according to the association's official launch ceremony.

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NATIONAL

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Foreign tourist visits to Bagan Archaeological Museum rise

NATIONAL



National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

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

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

Mottos for 79th Union Day 2026

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

Surveillance stepped up at Yangon and ...

FROM PAGE 1

virus, informational leaflets are being distributed to travellers and posters are being displayed. Disease prevention and control measures are also being taken in coordination with other relevant departments operating at the airport.

It has further been announced that, to date, surveillance and screening of passengers travelling on the regularly scheduled MAI flights from Kolkata, West Bengal State, India, to Yangon, Myanmar have revealed no suspected cases.

Similarly, intensified surveillance and screening activities for Nipah disease are also being carried out at Mandalay International Airport. — ASH/KNN

Gold Market Rate as of 1 February 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,900,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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.

MCITP signs MOUs with business associations in China and Myanmar



This photo captures the official launch ceremony of the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP).

FROM PAGE 1

It is also reported that the MCITP is currently operating with 547 Myanmar-Chinese businesspeople as members.

The MCITP aims to attract about US\$500 billion in foreign investment from China to Myanmar and to increase China-Myanmar trade volume to approximately US\$100 billion between 2026 and 2030.

In addition, MCITP will continue to invest with Chinese companies in logistics, agriculture,

livestock, fisheries, and mining in Myanmar; and will transfer technology and expertise to enable Myanmar products to be used domestically and exported as value-added goods.

Similarly, MCITP will provide business solutions, facilitate business partnership searches, offer policy advice, and promote digital and financial cooperation between Myanmar and Chinese companies. Based on Myanmar-China friendship, MCITP, a specialized economic association,

was established on 31 January in accordance with national plans and guidance, with the aim of promoting investment and trade.

The MCITP was formed to accelerate cooperation between businesspeople from both countries and to expedite project implementation, following meetings between the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar during his visit to China and 278 businesspeople from 217 Chinese companies in Tianjin and Chengdu. — ASH/TH

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)

Myanmar delegation returns to Yangon following ICJ hearings on Gambia-Myanmar case

THE Myanmar delegation, which submitted a response at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, in defence of the dignity and right to a fair trial of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, returned to Myanmar on 31 January. They arrived back at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning, being warmly welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, departmental staff, civil society organizations, monks, artists, and students, who held vinyl posters and waved miniature State flags.

A welcoming ceremony for the Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, was held at Yangon International Airport, where attendees saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and sang the national anthem in chorus.

On the occasion, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing, stating that the hearing represented the final and most important stage of the two-party proceedings and emphasizing the significance of the matter, noted that in a trial there are no draws or



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo are seen being heartily welcomed in Yangon on 1 February 2026.

joint champions — only victory or defeat — and that Myanmar should not be defeated, with the multi-ministerial task force, accompanied by the Ambassador of the Myanmar Embassy in Brussels, embassy staff, and international counsels, having travelled from Myanmar to handle the proceedings, undertaking intensive work over 20 days, often day and night, following nearly five years of preparation during which the team faced numerous challenges, and ultimately fulfilling its efforts in

the final hearing by presenting a complete, solid, and timely submission addressing both legal and informational requirements.

The Union minister said that, first, special gratitude was expressed to the Head of State and all those who entrusted the team with responsibility from the beginning and supported the fulfilment of all requirements related to the case.

He also expressed gratitude to the team at the ICJ, which worked tirelessly and with great dedication throughout the five

years of the case and during the final 20 days of proceedings, to the international counsels who understood the situation and defended the country with full dedication and commitment, and, in addition, to the Myanmar Embassy in Brussels for providing all necessary support to ensure smooth proceedings at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, to the embassy staff who assisted at transit airports, to the ministries and media that supplied complete information from Myanmar to support the

legal efforts, and to all others who participated in the process.

He also stated that, in particular, the team expressed lasting gratitude to the people of Myanmar for their wholehearted support of the country's delegation at the ICJ, noting that this support served as an invaluable source of strength, that, as the saying goes, "The party supported by the people wins the victory," that if the government and the people continue to work together in unity and solidarity any difficulties and challenges can be successfully overcome, and that continued collective effort is called for toward a golden future in building the new nation hoped for by all, with an appeal to the people to show their love for the country by saluting the national flag and actively singing the national anthem, aiming to achieve long-term, sustainable, and peaceful development in Myanmar.

As the Myanmar delegation, led by Union Ministers U Ko Ko Hlaing and Dr Thida Oo, departed Yangon International Airport in a motorcade, departmental staff, civil society organizations, monks, the public, and students displayed vinyl posters and waved miniature national flags, demonstrating strong public support. — MNA/TH

Bago Region Chief Minister inspects development undertakings in Pyay

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win yesterday afternoon oversaw efforts to upgrade Pyay into a multi-faceted tourist destination.

He inspected the widening and upgrading of North Zaung-tan Street in Santaw Ward and the Yangon-Pyay highway section in Pyay, as well as plat-

form reconstruction works. He instructed responsible officials to clearly mark road areas for public awareness, relocate electricity and telephone poles in advance, and prevent any encroachment along the roads.

The Chief Minister also visited a recently reconstructed Thonpanhla brick monastery in

Pyay Township that had been damaged by an earthquake, and provided guidance to officials on necessary improvements.

In Ngaywa Village-tract, he observed the successful pilot cultivation of sunflowers and black gram using foliar fertilizer, met with local farmers, and coordinated with officials to ex-

pand cattle breeding through artificial insemination.

He further visited Myaywa Village-tract to observe farmers receiving training in sugarcane cultivation using specialised tools, emphasizing the importance of proper planting, maintenance and harvesting techniques to increase crop yields.

Lastly, he visited the Sun Power juice production facility in Nawin Ward, encouraging officials and staff to enhance operations, adopt innovative processing methods using natural fruits, and improve packaging standards to achieve export-quality levels. — Bago Region IPRD/KZL

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 28/2026

15th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1387 ME
1 February 2026

Announcement of Elected Representatives of Region or State Hluttaw

ACCORDING to the announcements issued by the respective Region and State Subcommissions in accordance with Section 49 (b) of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law, the following persons have been duly elected as Region or State Hluttaw representatives in the multiparty democratic general election conducted in phases starting from 28 December 2025.

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/ Independent
Yangon Region (FPTP)				
1	Dr May Than Nwe	12/TaMaNa(C)041396	Dagon Township Rep (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party
2	U Nyi Nyi Thwe	12/LaMaTa(C)000307	Lanmadaw Township Rep (1)	USDP
3	Daw Aye Aye Myint	12/HsaKaKha(C)015982	Seikkyi/Khanaungto Township Rep (1)	USDP
4	Daw Swe Swe Win	12/DaLaNa(C)009157	Dala Township Rep (1)	USDP
5	U Zwe Yan Naing (a) U Ko Ko Zaw	12/DaGaMa(C)009286	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Rep (1)	USDP
6	U Thein Kyaw	12/KaTaTa(C)021980	Dagon Myothit (East) Township Rep (1)	USDP
7	U Tin Shein	12/MaGaTa(C)004883	Mingala Taungnyunt Township Rep (1)	USDP
8	U Htay Aung	5/KaThaNa(C)024628	Thakayta Township Rep (1)	USDP
9	Daw Win Win Aung	12/UKaMa(C)016313	North Okkalapa Township Rep (1)	USDP
10	Dr Htoo Maung	5/RaUNa(C)017739	Tamway Township Rep (1)	USDP
11	U Chit Ko Ko	12/DaGaNa(C)002225	Yankin Township Rep (1)	USDP
12	Daw Aye Min Moe	12/KaTaNa(C)000311	Kyauktan Township Rep (1)	USDP
13	U Aye Thein	12/KhaRaNa (C) 007169	Kayan Township Rep (1)	USDP
14	Daw Khin Myat Su	12/ThaKhaNa(C)038251	Thongwa Township Rep (1)	USDP
15	U Myo Myint	12/SaKhaNa(C)004775	Sangyoung Township Rep (1)	USDP
16	U Min Min	12/KhaRaNa(C)073141	Hlinethaya (West) Township Rep (1)	USDP
17	U Kyi Soe	12/ThaKhaNa(C)026664	Hlinethaya (East) Township Rep (1)	USDP
Yangon Region PR System Constituency (1)				
18	U Kyaw Kyaw Soe	8/NgaPhaNa(C)011799	North Okkalapa Township Rep (2)	USDP
19	U Htin Kyaw Thu	12/LaKaNa(C)022202	Mayangon Township Rep (2)	USDP
20	U San Kyaw	12/HsaKaNa(C)000843	Hline Township Rep (2)	USDP
21	Daw Thin Thin Moe	12/MaBaNa(C)021904	Kyimyindine Township Rep (2)	USDP
22	U Htin Lin Kyaw	12/ThaGhaKa(C)161001	Sangyoung Township Rep (2)	USDP
23	Daw Khaing Hsu Yi Zaw	12/SaKhaNa(C)065412	Bahan Township Rep(2)	USDP
24	U Kyaw Lin	12/LaMaTa(C)016652	Kamayut Township Rep (2)	People's Party
25	U Aung Khaing Oo	5/KaBaLa(C)006563	Ahlon Township Rep (2)	People's Party
26	Daw Saw Saw Oo	12/LaThaNa(C)003941	Lanmadaw Township Rep (2)	National Unity Party
27	U Than Htwe	12/PaBaTa (C) 008627	Pabedan Township Rep (2)	NUP
28	U Kyaw Min Htet	8/ThaRaNa(C)098512	Kyauktada Township Rep (2)	People's Pioneer Party
29	Dr Tin Aung Khaing	12/TaMaNa(C)017020	Dagon Township Rep (2)	PPP
30	Daw Aye Mya Thae Phyu	14/PhaPaNa(C)094853	Latha Township Rep (2)	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party
Yangon Region PR System Constituency (2)				
31	U Zaw Moe Htet	10/KaHtaNa (C) 067709	Dagon Myothit (South) Township Rep (2)	USDP
32	Daw San San Win	12/ThaGhaKa (C) 015559	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Rep (2)	USDP
33	Daw Ohnma Aung (a) Ja Tawng	12/DaGaNa (C) 029184	Thingangyun Township Rep (2)	USDP
34	U Thawta	12/ThaGhaKa (C) 075857	Dagon Myothit (East) Township Rep (2)	People's Party
35	U Win Htein	12/TaMaNa (C) 060193	Dagon Myothit (North) Township Rep (2)	NUP
36	Daw Moe Thuza	7/PaKhaNa (C) 244058	South Okkalapa Township Rep (2)	PPP
37	U Nyan Htet Khaing	12/KaMaTa (C) 064831	Tamway Township Rep (2)	SNDP
38	U Zaw Tin	12/BaTaHta (C) 009691	Yankin Township Rep (2)	Myanmar Farmers' Development Party
Yangon Region PR System Constituency (3)				
39	U Thant Sin Kyaw	13/LaRaNa(C)104370	Hlinethaya (East) Township Rep (2)	USDP
40	U Nay Lin Tun	12/KaTaNa(C)067026	Hlinethaya (West) Township Rep (2)	USDP
41	U Win Tun Naing (a) Shwe Baw	12/KaMaNa(C)066210	Insein Township Rep (2)	USDP
42	Daw Su Su Min	12/HsaKaKha(C)009585	Twantay Township Rep (2)	USDP
43	U Than Oo	7/ThaKaNa(C)000078	Dala Township Rep (2)	88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party
44	U Lay Soe	12/BaTaHta(C)020912	Kawhmu Township Rep (2)	88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party

NATIONAL

Citizens urged to build intellect, skills, and wider knowledge

- ❖ “Every individual in the nation needs to be equipped with intellect, skills, and a wider scope of knowledge for the country’s development and lasting peace and stability.”
- ❖ “Especially at a time when the country is transitioning to a democratic system, it is important for all ethnic nationalities to be able to think critically, distinguish right from wrong, and contribute to the interests of the nation and the people.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to award outstanding students at the city hall in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on 18 September 2025)

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45	Daw Sanda Win	12/PaZaTa(C)002207	Kungyangon Township Rep (2)	People’s Party
46	U Win Kyaw Oo	10/MaLaMa(C) 141329	Seikkyi/Khanaungto Township Rep (2)	PPP
Yangon Region PR System Constituency (4)				
47	U Myo Thaw	12/BaTaHta (C) 032376	Thanlyin Township Rep (2)	USDP
48	U Aung Naing	12/KaKaKa (C) 000661	Cocokyun Township Rep (2)	USDP
49	U Hla Win Maung	9/MaNaMa (C) 089424	Thakayta Township Rep (2)	USDP
50	U Myo Myint	12/KaTaNa (C) 017073	Kyauktan Township Rep (2)	USDP
51	U Bo Bo Khin Maung Tint	12/MaGaTa (C) 086200	Kayan Township Rep (2)	USDP
52	U Hla Htay	12/MaGaTa (C) 047942	Thongwa Township Rep (2)	People’s Party
53	U Wai Yan Paing	12/ThaLaNa (C) 128384	Mingala Taungnyunt Township Rep (2)	People’s Party
54	U Soe Oo	12/LaKaNa (C) 035428	Dawbon Township Rep (2)	NUP
55	U Soe Myint	5/KaBaLa (C) 096840	Pazundaung Township Rep (2)	PPP
56	U Sai Aung Myint Khine	13/LaKhaTa (C) 004689	Botahaung Township Rep (2)	SNDP

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

MoEP Union Minister meets YESC officials, inspects power line relocation works

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun attended a meeting with district and township electrical managers, engineers and treasurers of the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) at the meeting hall of the YESC head office in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning.

The Director-General of the Union Minister’s Office, the Chair of the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation and Directors-General and Managing Directors from relevant departments and enterprises presented sector-wise presentations.

Regarding the presentations, the Union Minister said that, to meet the country’s growing electricity demand, the Ministry has implemented various measures, including the use of renewable energy, to increase power generation. As a result, the 500-megawatt LNG power plant project has been successfully constructed, enabling the supply of 500 megawatts of electricity from the plant starting 14 January 2026. Consequently, total daily electricity generation has now



Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun inspects the ongoing pole installation for tower erection.

reached up to 3,400 megawatts (60,000 megawatt-hours). With this improvement, load-sharing and rotational power supplies have been suspended, and efforts are being made to distribute electricity on a full-time basis as far as possible.

He stressed that all those concerned need to work together in unity to ensure a stable and sufficient power transmission and distribution system that develops in a balanced and system-

atic manner. He also emphasized the need to scrutinize and use allocated funds systematically and to prioritize the completion of designated projects within the financial year.

On electricity tariff adjustments, the Union Minister clarified that household electricity meter bill rates used by the public remain unchanged and continue at the previous rates, while electricity previously used by the industrial sector can now

be made available for greater public use. He further underscored the importance of ensuring that State revenues from electricity bill collection are fully secured without losses, preventing misuse, and achieving 100 per cent collection of outstanding electricity bill arrears.

In the morning, the Union Minister, together with the YESC Chair and relevant officials, arrived in Shwepyitha Township to inspect the relocation of power

lines that encroached on the road area during the upgrading and expansion of No 4 Highway into an eight-lane highway. He also inspected the completion status of the relocation works, the final-stage construction of the 66-kV Hlawga-Ywama power line relocation near Kanthaya Junction, the installation of streetlight poles on traffic islands to enable street lighting along No 4 Highway, and the ongoing work to install the remaining streetlight poles.

In Toungoo, Bago Region, the Union minister inspected the completed foundation works for tower construction required to relocate the 230-kV Biluchaung (2)-Toungoo power line, which was not clear of the alignment of the new Toungoo bypass railway. They also inspected the ongoing pole installation for tower erection.

The 230 kV Biluchaung (2)-Toungoo power line crossing the new Toungoo bypass railway is reportedly being relocated using nine towers, and the overall progress of the project has currently reached 50 per cent completion. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister inspects preparations for Union-level MSME expo

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than met yesterday with heads of regional and state industrial supervisory and inspection departments at the temporary coordination office in Nay Pyi Taw, where the Union-level MSME Product Exhibition and Fair will be held.

During the meeting, the Union Minister emphasized that the Ministry of Industry is responsible for fostering MSME development by facilitating access to financial resources, technology, human resource development, and market opportunities. The exhibition and fair aim to raise public awareness of MSME products, promote knowledge exchange among entrepreneurs, and provide access to new technologies. The government also supports MSME development through policies



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than and officials from region and state industrial supervisory and inspection departments discuss the preparation of Union-level MSME Product Exhibition and Fair in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

established by the Head of State.

The upcoming MSME exhibition and fair is a national-level event showcasing poli-

cy implementation rather than ordinary sales. Regional and state directors must ensure timely preparation of exhibition

booths, organize products by type—export-ready, import-substitute, and agricultural base products—and systematical-

ly record product values and changes along the production chain.

After the exhibition, efforts will continue to connect MSME products with buyers for sales. The Union Minister also stressed the need to enhance the skills and performance of staff involved in MSME development, learn from previous shortcomings, reinforce strengths, and ensure coordination across the national-level event.

Finally, the director-general of the Industrial Supervisory and Inspection Department and officials presented the status of preparations for the national-level MSME exhibition and fair, including arrangements for regional and state-level participation, before the Union Minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KZL

MRCS, IFRC hold joint meeting on earthquake response and rehabilitation

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) held a joint meeting on earthquake response and rehabilitation on the morning of 30 January at the MRCS Yangon office.

The meeting focused on joint response and rehabilitation efforts in earthquake-affected areas, the support provided to affected communities, and plans for cooperation.

Attendees included MRCS President Dr Myo Nyunt, Country Representa-



This photo captures a discussion on earthquake response and rehabilitation work.

tive of the IFRC to Myanmar Ms Nadia Khoury, Executive of the MRCS Professor Dr Mya Thu, the Deputy Secre-

tary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General of MRCS, and officials from the IFRC. — ASH/MKKS

MCEF to conduct free masonry training course in Mandalay in Feb

LED by the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF), Mandalay Region Construction Entrepreneurs Association will organize a free training course on masonry for building repair in Mandalay and its surrounding area.

The training has been scheduled to start in the third week of February, with one month duration and 100 trainees will be accepted.

It is aimed to share the construction techniques and planned to conduct in five locations and each 20 trainees per class will be lectured. Anyone able to do basic masonry can join at nearby training classes, said MCEF.

Registration can be made at



Masonry training course on building repair.

telephone numbers of the MCEF Mandalay branch-09400449944 and 092029035. During the training, daily wage K25,000 per day will be supported for each trainee, with free lunch, it said. — MT/ZS

“The Best of Saw Khu Hser” concert to be held in Mandalay on 10 Feb

A music concert entitled “The Best of Saw Khu Hser”, featuring the best songs composed by song composer Saw Khu Hser and performed by ten singers, will be held at Old Version Live Music & Restaurant in Mandalay at 5.30 pm on 10 February, according

to singer Aung Htet, who will be performing at the event.

He said, “the concert “The Best of Saw Khu Hser” has been organized so that lovers of classic songs can enjoy the very best melodies, and it will be held on 10 February at Old Version in Man-

dalay. Only the finest selections from among the many songs composed by Saw Khu Hser will be chosen for performance. In addition, the accompanying band will be Rock Star Band, a group well known and familiar to the people of Mandalay. As this will

be a rare opportunity, we would like to invite everyone not to miss this special event”.

It is also reported that the concert will feature performances of the most popular and successful songs composed by singer-cum-song composer Saw

Khu Hser, to be performed by Saw Khu Hser himself as well as fellow singers Sithu Lwin, Phyo Gyi, Wai La, Aung Htet, Nay Min Eain, Haymar Nay Win, Sung Tin Par, Leimaw Thee, and Chan Myae Maung Cho. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary deploys camera traps to monitor rare species

THE Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary, covering an area of 531,456 acres and located in Hkamti Township and Homalin Township in Sagaing Region, has begun installing camera traps to monitor the survival of rare species such as the Bengal tiger, the Malayan bear, and other uncommon wildlife, according to the administrative office of the sanctuary.

To protect the species and their ecosystems in the sanctuary, camera traps are normally installed every year in October and November every year and removed in February to monitor rare species and their populations. However, this year, camera traps were installed in January due to battery problems.

“Last year, camera traps were set up in one area, and this year, the effort has expanded to three areas. The main purpose is to monitor rare species such as the Bengal tiger, the Malayan bear, and other wildlife. Outposts have been established within the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary, and patrols are ongoing to ensure the area remains secure and

free from illegal activities. The number of cameras installed will be confirmed when the teams return. It is a matter of pride for the country, particularly to witness the rare Bengal tiger grazing,” said U Zaw Naing Tun, a ranger of the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary.

There are nine species of tigers in the world, six of which are

currently extant, with two—the Bengal tiger and the Sumatran tiger—found in Myanmar’s Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary and Taninthayi Wildlife Sanctuary. The endangered Bengal tiger occurs in 13 Asian countries, and national efforts are underway to prevent population decline due to poaching, with Myanmar having fully banned the hunting

of tigers.

The Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary stretches from the Nwe Tamein mountain range in the east to the Chindwin Valley in the west, encompassing numerous lakes, streams, and waterfalls, and is home to 57 species of mammals, 332 species of birds, 67 species of fish, 77 species of amphibians, 432 species of

plants—including 19 species of medicinal plants, 14 species of bamboo, eight species of rattan, 23 species of aquatic plants, 18 species of grasses, and 16 species of orchids—reflecting a rich and diverse ecosystem.

Last year, 24 camera traps were installed in the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary to monitor the movement of wild animals, successfully recording Bengal tigers, Malayan and Himalayan bears, elephants, and 25 other rare species. This year, camera traps continue to be used to document the distribution of rare species while supporting the conservation of their migration routes, ecosystems, and food chains.

The Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary, home to numerous rare species of wildlife, birds, and plants, was established as a wildlife sanctuary in May 1974. An administrative office was established in Homalin on 1 September 1994, to oversee conservation activities, and the sanctuary was designated an ASEAN Heritage Park on 8 October 2019. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TH



Camera trap footage captures wardens installing devices in the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary. **PHOTOS: HTAMATHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**



A trap camera captures a rare glimpse of one of the world’s most critically endangered Bengal tiger species and the Malayan bear in the wild.

Foreign tourist visits to Bagan Archaeological Museum rise

THE number of international travellers visiting the Bagan Archaeological Museum is increasing alongside a general rise in foreign arrivals to the Bagan region, according to locals and museum officials.

On average, five to six foreign visitors tour the museum daily, with numbers rising to about 10 visitors during public holidays.

“We are seeing an increase in foreign tourists entering the Bagan region. Many prioritize

visiting the ancient pagodas. Hotel registries likely show even higher numbers. Museum attendance is definitely up. We used to see only one or two foreigners a day; now it’s consistently five, six, or even 10 people. It is busy, particularly on weekends. We’ve observed this upward trend specifically during the current cold season,” said a museum official.

According to museum records, visitors have arrived from a diverse range of countries, in-

cluding China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Germany, Spain, Russia, the USA, and Canada.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, except on Mondays and public holidays. The entry fee for foreign visitors is set at K10,000 per person. Travel industry sources also indicate that with the steady growth of international arrivals, many travellers are currently making arrangements to visit Bagan during the upcoming holidays in February. — MT/ZN



The Bagan Archaeological Museum.

OPINION

Conserve wetlands for long-term existence

WETLANDS are ecosystems in which water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life. Wetlands are home to different species of biodiversity, which mostly rely on water and related areas for their life. Reciprocally, the coexistence of those living beings helps form a society of biodiversity.

Wetlands are locations of both freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystems, such as all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fishponds, paddy fields, reservoirs and salt pans.

Both the government and relevant organizations are emphasizing wetland conservation activities across Myanmar. Three major wetlands—Inlay Lake, Indawgyi Lake, and Moeyungyi Lake—are among the most valuable habitats for migratory birds, resident waterbirds, and diverse aquatic species. Moreover, Myanmar's coastal areas, including prominent beaches, are under conservation, while the government is establishing and expanding mangrove forests in various areas along creeks, rivers, and coastal zones.

In these areas, the coexistence of living organisms creates wetland ecosystems. Moreover, these wetlands provide livelihood opportunities for human communities. Therefore, governments and regional authorities in relevant countries need to raise public awareness about the important role wetlands play in society. By doing so, future generations will understand the value of wetlands and how they should conserve them, as well as other related areas, for the benefit of human society in addition to the preservation of biodiversity.

These lands are critical to people and nature, given the intrinsic value of these ecosystems, and their benefits and services, including their environmental, climate, ecological, social, economic,

scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic contributions to sustainable development and human wellbeing.

Although they cover only around six per cent of the Earth's land surface, 40 per cent of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands. Wetland biodiversity matters for our health, our food supply, for tourism and for jobs. The theme for World Wetlands Day 2026, celebrated on 2 February, is "Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage," focusing on the deep, historical connections between wetlands, indigenous communities, and cultural practices, highlighting how traditional knowledge is crucial for wetland conservation and sustainable water management.

Both the government and relevant organizations are emphasizing wetland conservation activities across Myanmar. Three major wetlands—Inlay Lake, Indawgyi Lake, and Moeyungyi Lake—are among the most valuable habitats for migratory birds, resident waterbirds, and diverse aquatic species. Moreover, Myanmar's coastal areas, including prominent beaches, are under conservation, while the government is establishing and expanding mangrove forests in various areas along creeks, rivers, and coastal zones.

As such, everyone has a duty to conserve wetlands to prevent their loss. Another goal is to help improve the climatic conditions of the affected areas. These activities need to be carried out not only in individual countries but across the entire world.

Voting is one of the most important ways that citizens can participate in shaping the future of their country. Yet, some people decide not to vote because they think their one vote will not matter, while others are simply not interested in politics. Some feel they do not know enough about politics or politicians and do not have the time to learn before an election. Finally, some citizens choose not to vote because they do not like any of the candidates. These reasons may seem personal and harmless, but in reality, the absence of voting represents a significant loss of chances for both the individual and the society they live in.

When a citizen does not vote, they lose the opportunity to have their voice heard in decisions that directly affect their lives. Policies on education, healthcare, employment, and civil rights are shaped by elected leaders, and abstaining from voting means surrendering influence over these critical areas. Even if one vote seems small, elections are often decided by narrow margins, and the collective power of many individuals who think their vote does not matter can change the outcome. By not voting, citizens allow others to decide for them, weakening their

The Loss of Chances of a Citizen Owing to Non-Voting

By Junior Thin



own agency and representation.

The absence of voting also erodes collective power. Democracy depends on participation, and when large numbers of citizens abstain, the balance of representation shifts toward groups that consistently vote. This often results in policies that favour cer-

tain demographics while ignoring others. For example, younger citizens who fail to vote may find their concerns about education or employment overlooked, while older generations who vote regularly see their priorities reflected in government decisions. Thus, non-voting contributes to inequal-

ity in representation and strengthens entrenched elites who benefit from low participation.

Beyond personal and collective losses, not voting reflects a weakening of civic responsibility. Voting is not only a right but also a duty that sustains democratic culture. When citizens abstain,

leaders are less accountable, and democratic institutions lose legitimacy. This opens the door to authoritarian tendencies, corruption, and policies that serve narrow interests rather than the public good. The absence of voting also leads to stagnation, as governments face less pressure to innovate or address pressing issues. Citizens who do not vote miss the chance to demand change, leaving outdated policies in place.

There are also psychological and social consequences of non-voting. Citizens who abstain often feel alienated from their communities and governments, reinforcing cycles of disengagement. They lose the sense of empowerment that comes from participating in democracy and may begin to believe that politics is irrelevant to their lives. This alienation weakens solidarity within communities, as voting is a collective act that affirms shared values and responsibilities. Moreover, when parents abstain, they often model disengagement for their children, perpetuating cycles of non-participation across

generations.

History teaches us that widespread non-voting can have grave consequences. In societies where citizens disengage, authoritarian leaders often exploit the vacuum, consolidating power without resistance. The absence of voting undermines freedoms and disregards the sacrifices made by those who fought for the right to vote. It diminishes a nation's moral authority and weakens its voice on the global stage, as policies shaped by disengaged electorates lack legitimacy. In many countries, hard-won rights to vote were achieved through struggle, protest, and sacrifice. To abstain from voting is to ignore these struggles and to waste the opportunities they created.

The reasons people give for not voting — whether believing their vote does not matter, disinterest in politics, lack of knowledge, or dissatisfaction with candidates — are understandable but ultimately harmful. Each reason represents a missed opportunity to influence the future. Citizens who abstain lose the chance to

be part of change, to hold leaders accountable, and to affirm their place in the democratic community. The absence of voting is therefore not just a personal choice but a collective loss that weakens democracy itself.

Reclaiming the duty to vote is essential. Citizens must recognize that voting is both a right and a responsibility. Governments and civil society should invest in civic education to address ignorance and apathy, while making voting more accessible through technology and inclusive policies. Most importantly, societies must cultivate a culture where voting is valued as a shared duty, reinforcing its importance across generations. By embracing this duty, citizens can reclaim their lost chances, strengthen democracy, and ensure that their voices contribute to shaping a future that reflects the will of the people.

Ultimately, the absence of voting is not only about missing a single election. It is about missing the chance to be part of history, to influence the direction of society, and to stand alongside fellow

citizens in shaping a collective destiny. Each ballot cast is a statement of belonging, a declaration that one's voice matters, and a contribution to the ongoing story of democracy. When citizens abstain, they silence themselves, leaving gaps in the narrative of their nation. The loss of chances is therefore profound: it is the loss of agency, of representation, of solidarity, and of the opportunity to shape a better future.

By choosing to vote, citizens affirm their role in democracy and reclaim the opportunities that are lost when they abstain. Voting is not perfect, nor is it the only form of civic engagement, but it remains the most direct and powerful tool citizens possess to shape their future. To abstain is to relinquish this tool, to forfeit the chance to be heard, and to weaken the democratic fabric that binds societies together. The duty to vote is, therefore, not only a personal responsibility but also a collective necessity. By embracing it, citizens reclaim their lost chances and strengthen the promise of democracy for generations to come.



This is a statue of the Toungoo prince and poet Nat Shin Naung and the noted poet princess Yaza Datu Kalaya. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

As far back as many moons ago, literature has been expressed in two main forms until now. They are nothing but in verse and in prose. It can be generally estimated that prose writing would have been by far earlier than poetry writing in the world of literature. Nonetheless, lots of ancient literature was found to be full of rhyme and rhythm firmly related to the nature and beauty of poetry to some extent. Thus, poetry writing must not be neglected in the field of linguistic studies by any means. But poetry and prose are complete opposites to each other, especially in a contextual and structural organization. In the main, strict rules can be distinctively seen in poetry, except for many modern and post-modern poems, while prose can be written quite freely and easily. Nevertheless, most poetry offers a traditionally accepted format for the publication of short but independent literary works of narration, description, or reflection.

Firstly, poetry is often separated into lines based on the number of metrical feet or a rhyming pattern at the end of each line. In a poem, a line is just a word or row of words which may or may not form a complete sentence. Different lines can express diverse, compared, or contrary thoughts or highlight a change in tone. And again, lines of a poem are organized into stanzas, where these lines may or may not relate to one another in accordance with rhyme and rhythm. Hence, a collection of two lines is a couplet or distich, three lines a triplet or tercet, four lines a quatrain, five lines a cinquain, six lines a sestet, seven lines a septet, and eight lines an octet, respectively. Exceptionally, a blank verse is written in unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter, which is a rhythm pattern with five units or feet, each of which has an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed one.

As in prose, poetry consists of structure, theme, tone, understatement, word choice, metonymy,

Poetic Language in Writing

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

my, synecdoche, and atmosphere. A poem is usually composed of images, ideas, words, rhythms, rhymes, repetitions, lines, and stanzas, as mentioned above. As always, poetry has a theme that is not subject matter only, but an insight into life or human nature in particular. Such is the theme in poetry that is commonly described indirectly rather than literally and explicitly, as the implied expression of a poem through the use of viewpoints, figures of speech, or symbolism. And tone, which herein means a reflection of the writer's attitude towards poetry, may be communicated through words and details that show particular emotions and evoke an emotional response to the poem's audience. Strangely enough, understatement is also applied in poetry; that is, it is language that makes something seem less

important than it really is. Most importantly, the choice of words is the life of a poem simply because it conveys meaning, suggests attitude, and creates images, as well as some words used in great poems are so pretty that they cannot be substituted by other words at all. Moreover, metonymy is something associated with an object or idea that replaces what is actually meant, e.g., "the Blue House for the Korean president" instead of "the presidential palace". Similarly, synecdoche is a way of referring to something by which a part simplifies the whole or, conversely, the whole signifies a part, e.g., "There are some new faces in the meeting" instead of "There are some new people in the meeting". Lastly, atmosphere means the mood or emotional quality of a poem, often created with all about people and setting

to the letter.

In addition, poetic imagery is "word pictures" appealing to five senses — sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. Figurative language is writing for descriptive effect, often to imply ideas indirectly, including hyperbole and metaphor. And sound devices are elements of an appeal to the ear, including consonance and alliteration.

After all, a poet is not a commonplace little man but a gifted person. Some writers from every corner of the globe were born to be great poets. Not all writers who compose poems are poets. Additionally, every poem writer or any person who can write poems very well will not become a poet to the core. A poet is a person in a million. Only poets with good poetic chemistry are able to write poems. In actual fact, poetic chemistry is the

ability to write a poem to the extent that the poem can be written orally off the cuff or even sung like a song, grounded on something worth writing as a poem. Not every piece of poetry writing is a poem, even if it is a so-called "poem", especially when real bards and poem-lovers want none of it. Till nowadays, some of the most acknowledged poet laureates in Myanmar are Shin Maha Rahtathara, Nat Shin Naung, Salay U Pone Nya, Zaw Gyi, Min Thu Wun, Ngwe Ta Yi, Daung Nwe Swe, Aung Chaint, and Mg Chaw Nwe. Throughout the history of world literature, the golden ages of poetry have passed through successfully in many parts of literate nations one after another. For the time being, so-called "modern" and "post-modern" poems are still winning popularity among young readers. Long live poets and poems!

DELICACY

IN the *Traditional Myanmar Cuisine* section, we have previously featured regional delicacies from across the country, including **Mandalay Htoe Mont** and **Pathein Halawa**. This week, we would like to introduce a traditional dish from Myanmar's upland region – **Shan State**.

Among Shan traditional foods, there is a dish that is both flavourful and versatile, suitable for breakfast, lunch, or even as a light snack during leisure time. That dish is **Fish Rice Salad (Nga Htamin Nè)**. Below is a simple and delicious recipe for preparing this traditional Shan dish.

Fish Rice Salad (Nga Htamin Nè)

To prepare a good plate of Fish Rice Salad, there are three key components:

Required ingredients

Step-by-step preparation

Final arrangement and serving

Ingredients

Shan rice – 4 cups (measuring cup)

Rohu fish or river carp – 30 kyattha

(use a meaty fish)

Salt – 1 teaspoon

Seasoning powder – a small amount

Tomatoes – 5 (boiled)

Oil – 2 tablespoons

Turmeric – a small amount

Garlic – 5 cloves

Coriander root – a small amount

Fried peanuts – a small amount

Fried dried chilli – a small amount

Oil – 6 tablespoons (for garlic oil)

Garlic – 1 bulb (finely chopped)

Shan bean crackers – 5 pieces

Method

- Wash the Shan rice thor-

Traditional Myanmar Cuisine

oughly and cook it as you would normal rice. Set aside while still warm.

- Boil the fish and remove all bones, flaking the flesh finely.
- Peel the boiled tomatoes and blend them until smooth.

Cook the blended tomatoes over

medium heat until thickened, then transfer to a bowl.

- To make garlic oil, heat oil in a pan. Once hot, add finely chopped

garlic and stir until lightly golden, then remove from the heat.

- Heat the oil again in a pan. When hot, add turmeric and garlic and fry gently. Add the flaked fish and stir well.

- In a large bowl, combine the cooked rice, salt, seasoning powder, and garlic oil. Mix thoroughly until well combined.

- Once the rice becomes smooth and cohesive, add the tomato paste and half of the cooked fish, mixing well. Lightly oil your hands and shape the rice mixture into medium-sized portions.

- Serve the rice topped with generous amounts of fish and aromatic garlic oil. Garnish with fried peanuts, coriander root, Shan bean crackers, and fried chillies to enjoy the authentic taste of Shan traditional cuisine.

Serving Suggestions

- This dish pairs especially well with **roasted Shan tea leaves** and a cup of **lightly salted green tea**.

- Depending on regional preference, Fish Rice Salad can also be enjoyed with **fried eggs**, **fried chicken**, or **fried pork ribs** for added flavour. — Moon



Different dishes of fish rice salad bear delicacy to consumers with wonderful taste of traditional Myanmar Cuisine.

ARTICLE

Small words, big impact: Show *a*, *an*, and *the* the shape meaning in English.

Introduction

In English grammar, the words *a*, *an*, and *the* are known as **articles**, and they function as determiners placed before nouns to clarify meaning. From a **local learning perspective**, especially in Myanmar, where English is studied as a second language, articles are often understood as small helper words that show whether a noun is general or specific. English-Myanmar dictionaries commonly explain articles as words used to indicate *one*, *any*, or *a particular* person or thing, helping learners distinguish between something newly mentioned and something already known. This local explanation emphasizes **practical usage** over grammatical terminology, making articles easier for everyday learners to grasp.

From a **global academic perspective**, the *Oxford English Dictionary* defines articles as grammatical words used to limit or define nouns, indicating whether the reference is definite or indefinite. According to Oxford-based grammar descriptions, *a* and *an* are classified as **indefinite articles**, while *the* is identified as the **definite article**, a distinction that plays a crucial role in meaning and sentence clarity. Oxford also highlights that article usage depends not only on grammar rules but on **context and shared knowledge** between speaker and listener.

Similarly, **Merriam-Webster** describes articles as function words that specify the definiteness of a noun. In Webster's approach, articles are viewed as essential structural elements that help readers and listeners understand whether a noun refers to something general, previously unknown, or already identified. Webster's explanation places strong emphasis on **usage in communication**, showing how articles guide interpretation in both spoken and written English.

Taken together, local dictionary explanations and global authoritative references agree on one essential point: although *a*, *an*, and *the* are among the shortest words in English, they carry significant grammatical and semantic weight. Understanding their definitions—both from local learning traditions and internationally recognized dictionaries

Mastering English Articles: Understanding A, An, and The

A Guide for Myanmar Learners from First Introduction to Fluent Usage

By Mingalajii

— provides a solid foundation for mastering accurate and meaningful English expression.

Understanding A and An: The Indefinite Articles

The articles *a* and *an* are known as **indefinite articles** because they refer to a noun in a **general or non-specific sense**. When a speaker or writer uses *a* or *an*, the listener or reader does not know exactly which person or thing is being mentioned. In everyday usage, these articles often introduce a noun **for the first time**, signalling that it is new information.

From a functional point of view, *a* is used before words that begin with a **consonant sound**, while *an* is used before words that begin with a **vowel sound**. This rule is based on pronunciation rather than spelling, which explains why we say *a university* but *an hour*. Such sound-based usage is often highlighted in both Oxford and Webster explanations, as it reflects natural spoken English rather than rigid written rules.

For learners in Myanmar, English-Myanmar dictionaries typically describe *a* and *an* as words meaning “*one*” or “*any one*” of something. This interpretation helps learners understand that indefinite articles do not point to a particular object but to **one among many**. For example, *a teacher* does not refer to a specific teacher, but to any person who belongs to that profession.

Understanding The: The Definite Article

Unlike *a* and *an*, the article *the* is called the **definite article**. It is used when the noun being mentioned is **specific, identifiable, or already known** to both the speaker and the listener. Once a noun has been introduced with *a* or *an*, it is usually referred to again with *the*, showing that it has now become definite.

Oxford-based grammar descriptions explain that *the* signals shared knowledge. This means the speaker assumes the listener knows exactly which person, place, or thing is being discussed. For instance, when someone says

the building, the context makes clear which building is meant. Webster similarly emphasizes that *the* narrows meaning and removes ambiguity.

English-Myanmar dictionaries often explain *the* as a word indicating “*that particular one*”. This local explanation is especially helpful for learners, as it connects grammar with meaning rather than memorization. In practical terms, *the* is widely used with unique objects, such as *the sun*, with superlative forms like *the best*, and with specific geographical features such as *the Ayeyawady River*.

Situations Where Articles Are Not Used

Equally important is knowing when **no article is required**. In English, articles are usually omitted when speaking about things in a **general sense**, especially with plural nouns and uncountable nouns. For example, *Children need care*, and *Water is essential for life* do not require articles because the meaning is broad and universal.

In addition, articles are not normally used before proper nouns such as personal names, country names, and most place names. English-Myanmar dictionaries often point this out by showing names standing alone without modifiers. However, learners must be cautious, as exceptions exist, such as *the United States* or *the Netherlands*, where *the* forms part of the accepted name.

The Importance of Articles in Meaning and Style

Though articles may seem minor, their correct use greatly affects **clarity and tone**. The difference between *a leader* and *the leader* is not grammatical alone; it is semantic. One suggests membership in a group; the other suggests uniqueness or authority. In news writing, academic essays, and formal communication, such distinctions are critical.

For Myanmar learners of English, article usage often presents challenges because equivalent structures do not always exist in the Myanmar language.

However, understanding articles through both **local explanations** and **global dictionary standards** makes learning more intuitive. Articles are not merely rules to memorize; they are tools that guide meaning.

Common Usage Patterns and Practical Examples

Understanding articles becomes easier when rules are seen in real contexts. One common pattern is the **first mention and the second mention**. When a noun appears for the first time, it usually takes a *or an*. When the same noun is mentioned again, it takes *the*. For example, *A man entered the room. The man sat near the door.* Here, the first sentence introduces the man as new information, while the second sentence refers to a known individual.

Another common pattern appears in general versus specific meaning. Compare the following sentences: *Teachers play an important role in society. The teachers at this school are highly experienced.* In the first sentence, teachers refer to the profession in general, so no article is used. In the second sentence, the teachers refer to a specific group, requiring the definite article.

Articles also affect meaning when used with **countable nouns**. Saying *I need a pen* suggests any pen will do, while *I need the pen* suggests a particular pen already known to both speaker and listener. Such distinctions are especially important in instructions, reports, and news writing, where clarity is essential.

Typical Difficulties for Myanmar Learners

For many Myanmar learners, articles present difficulty because the Myanmar language does not use articles in the same way English does. As a result, learners may omit articles entirely or use them inconsistently. This often leads to sentences that are understandable but grammatically incomplete in formal English.

English-Myanmar dictionaries often bridge this gap by explaining articles in terms of

meaning rather than form, such as “*one*”, “*any*”, or “*that particular one*”. While this approach is helpful, learners must also learn how articles function in sentences, especially in written English. Over time, exposure to correct usage through reading newspapers, essays, and textbooks helps develop a natural sense of article placement.

Tips for Correct Article Usage

One effective way to improve article usage is to ask two simple questions before choosing an article: *Is the noun specific or general? Is it being mentioned for the first time or already known?*

If the noun is general or newly introduced, *a* or *an* is usually appropriate. If it is specific or already identified, *the* is often required. If the noun is plural or uncountable and used generally, no article may be needed.

Another useful habit is to read sentences aloud. Because article usage often follows natural speech patterns, listening to how a sentence sounds can help learners detect missing or incorrect articles.

Conclusion

The English articles *a*, *an*, and *the* may appear small, but they play a vital role in shaping meaning and precision. Definitions provided by English-Myanmar dictionaries, the Oxford tradition, and Webster's approach all point to the same conclusion: articles help speakers and writers guide readers toward clarity, whether the reference is general or specific, new or familiar.

For learners and writers alike, mastering articles is not about memorizing rules alone, but about understanding context, intention, and audience. In careful writing, especially in education, journalism, and formal communications, correct article usage reflects both accuracy and confidence. In English, meaning often begins with the smallest words.

Accuracy begins with the smallest details — start with *a*, *an*, and *the*.

(About the Author: Mingalajii is an editor with a passion for English and a keen eye for language. He is neither a teacher nor a scholar, but through years of learning and experience, he enjoys sharing practical insights and tips to help others navigate the English language. His writing focuses on clarity, understanding, and the small details that make communications meaningful.)

ECONOMY WORLD

Oil-rich Venezuela agrees to energy cooperation with India

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez of Venezuela announced a new roadmap for energy cooperation with India.

INTERIM president Delcy Rodríguez of oil-rich Venezuela said Friday she had agreed on energy cooperation with India, a day after Caracas opened its hydrocarbons sector to private companies.

Since the 3 January ouster of leader Nicolas Maduro in a US military operation, Venezuela has been working to reset ties as it seeks to revive its battered economy.

In a telephone call with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "we addressed strategic cooperation in energy," said Rod-

riñez, who assumed power with US President Donald Trump's consent after Maduro's toppling.

She wrote on Telegram they also discussed partnerships in the fields of agriculture, science and technology, mining and tourism as well as the pharmaceutical and automotive industries.

Modi said on X that he and Rodríguez "agreed to further deepen and expand our bilateral partnership in all areas, with a shared vision of taking India-Venezuela relations to new heights in the years ahead". — AFP



This handout picture released by the Venezuelan Presidency on 30 January 2026 shows Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodríguez during the opening ceremony of the judicial year at the headquarters of the Supreme Court of Justice in Caracas. **PHOTO: AFP**

South Korea posts record January exports on AI chip boom



The Pyeongtaek-Dangjin Port is a major, rapidly growing international trade hub located in Asan Bay on South Korea's west coast. **PHOTO: SHIN YONG-JU/AFP**

SOUTH Korea posted its highest-ever exports for the month of January, official data showed on Sunday, fuelled by a global AI boom heavily reliant on chips made in the country.

The total value of Janu-

ary's exports was \$65.8 billion, a 33.9 per cent rise on-year, according to a trade ministry statement, marking the first time they surpassed a \$60 billion threshold for the month.

Home to the world's lead-

ing memory chip makers, South Korean products have become crucial to AI infrastructure.

Technology giants Samsung and SK both posted record quarterly operating profits in the October-December period.

"Semiconductor exports came in at \$20.5 billion, a 102.7 per cent increase," the ministry said, the second-highest monthly chips exports.

The record was set a month earlier, when the country exported chips worth \$20.8 billion.

Automobile exports increased 21.7 per cent on-year to \$6 billion thanks to the strong performance of hybrid and electric cars, it said. — AFP

Rice policy rekindled ahead of Japan election as PM Takaichi shifts course

JAPAN'S 8 February general election has put rice policy back in the spotlight after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reversed a push toward expanded production and exports, returning to a demand-based output strategy as prices remain high, putting a strain on consumers.

Retail rice prices are hovering above 4,000 yen (\$26) per five kilogrammes on average nationwide. In recent years, the surge has been so sharp that it has been dubbed the "Reiwa rice crisis," referring to Japan's current imperial era.

The administration of former Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba — Takaichi's predecessor — sought to counter rising prices by releasing government-stock-



Photo taken in August 2025 shows harvested rice in Sanjo, Niigata Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

piled rice. Prices temporarily fell to the mid-3,000 yen range per five kilogrammes, but the decline was short-lived. — Kyodo

Eurozone economy grows by 1.5% in 2025

GROSS domestic product (GDP) in the euro area grew by 1.5 per cent in 2025, while the European Union (EU) economy expanded by 1.6 per cent, according to data released on Friday by the EU's

statistical office Eurostat.

The figures are based on quarterly seasonally and calendar-adjusted data. Growth momentum moderated toward the end of the year, with seasonally

adjusted GDP in both the euro area and the EU rising 0.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter in the fourth quarter of 2025.

On a year-on-year basis, GDP expanded by 1.3 per cent

in the euro area and 1.4 per cent in the EU in the fourth quarter.

Among member states with available data for the fourth quarter, Lithuania recorded the strongest quarterly growth at 1.7

per cent, followed by Spain and Portugal at 0.8 per cent each, while Ireland was the only country to register a contraction, with GDP declining 0.6 per cent. — Xinhua

China's shipbuilding sector maintains global lead in 2025

CHINA'S shipbuilding industry maintained the world's largest market share in terms of three major indicators for the 16th consecutive year in 2025, according to data released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Sunday.

The country's shipbuilding output reached 53.69 million deadweight tonnes (DWT) in 2025, up 11.4 per cent year on year and accounting for 56.1 per cent of the global total.

New orders reached 107.82 million DWT last year, representing a 69

per cent share of the global market.

As of the end of December 2025, the sector's holding orders stood at 274.42 million DWT, up 31.5 per cent from the previous year. This volume accounted for 66.8 per cent of the global market share. — Xinhua

A drone photo shows the shipbuilding site of the subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corp Ltd in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on 20 March 2025.

PHOTO: XINHUA

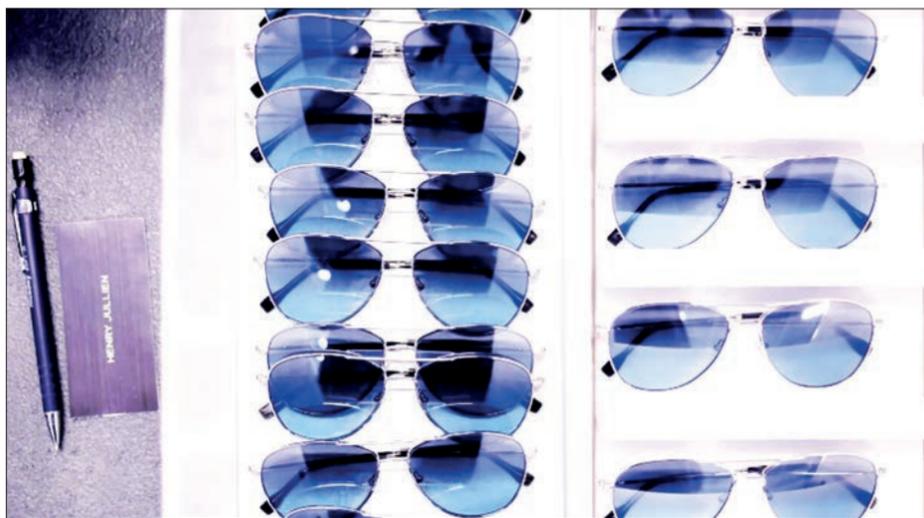


French eyewear maker in spotlight after presidential showing

THE aviator sunglasses that captured the world's attention when French President Emmanuel Macron wore a pair on stage in Davos in a faceoff with US counterpart Donald Trump have become an unexpected success for the Italian owner of the France-based manufacturer that has watched sales soar.

Despite the hype, eyewear maker Henry Jullien has struggled in a declining French industry that was established in the eastern Jura region in the late 1700s, facing competition from far cheaper Asian manufacturers.

Henry Jullien's "Top Gun"-style shades with blue lenses and a silver frame, priced at 659 euros



Henry Jullien's "Top Gun"-style shades with blue lenses and a silver frame, now feature on the French presidency's online store. **PHOTO: AFP**

(\$784), are now featured on the French presidency's online store.

Since last week's World Economic Forum in Switzerland, "we've been getting calls from all over

the world, it's given us incredible publicity," said Stefano Fulchir, CEO of the Italian company iVision Tech which owns Henry Jullien. More than 500 sunglasses have already

been sold online — a significant jump for the high-end brand that typically produces just a thousand pairs per year, including 200 of the aviator Pacific S01 model, in Jura. — AFP

India's sugar production rises 18.4%: ISMA

INDIA'S sugar output has risen to 195.03 lakh tonnes in January from 164.79 lakh tonnes during the same period of the previous season, an increase of 18.4 per cent, according to a statement by Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA). At present, 515 sugar mills are operational across the country, slightly higher than the 501 mills in operation at the same stage last year, according to the release.

According to the data released by ISMA, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh

and Karnataka are India's highest sugar producing states. All three states have witnessed a rise in production this year as compared to the last year. The sugar harvesting season begins from October.

Maharashtra is leading the surge with sugar production reaching 78.72 lakh tonnes, an improvement of nearly 42 per cent over the same period last season. The state currently has 206 mills in operation, compared to 190 mills at the same time last year. — ANI

Syrians decry soaring electricity prices

IN Damascus, soaring electricity tariffs have left residents unable to pay bills that now exceed their monthly incomes.

Retired engineer Hani Massalkhi, living on a \$70 pension, was shocked when his bill jumped from under \$2 to \$72 after the

government hiked prices by up to 6,000 per cent.

Authorities say the increase is part of reforms to sustain the electricity sector, but with most Syrians earning less than \$100 a month, many are struggling. Power cuts still last up to 20 hours daily, de-

spite promises of improved supply since Bashar al-Assad's ouster in 2024. Contracts with Turkey and Qatar aim to boost production, yet citizens see little change. Economists warn the real issue is collapsing purchasing power, not tariffs alone. Protests have

emerged in Damascus, with residents demanding electricity as a right. Activists and retirees say rationing use hasn't spared them from unaffordable bills, underscoring the widening gap between wages and living costs in post-war Syria. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (840N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (840N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-2-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

British PM highlights importance of engagement during Shanghai trip

British PM joined Chinese middle school students in an exchange, using the parable of blind men and the elephant to stress holistic understanding.

DURING a visit to Shanghai on Saturday, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer emphasized the great importance of engagement in fostering mutual trust and respect between nations.

He participated in an exchange session with Chinese middle school students, during which he cited the Chinese parable, “the blind men and the elephant”, to illustrate why it is important to understand China as a whole.

In the parable, several blind men touch different parts of the elephant, and each forms a distinct conclusion: one feels the trunk and thinks it is a snake; another touches a leg and says it is a pillar; and a third touches the belly and believes it is a wall.

On Friday afternoon, he visited the centuries-old Yuyuan Garden. At the iconic site, the prime minister was impressed by the lanterns that blend Chinese and British cultural elements in a creative way: the River Thames in



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visits Yuyuan Garden in Shanghai, east China, 30 January 2026. PHOTO: WANG XIANG/XINHUA

London and Shanghai’s Huangpu River, as well as Scottish tartan and a horse pattern for the upcoming Chinese New Year. — Xinhua

Iran’s supreme leader warns of “regional conflict” if US launches war

IRANIAN Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that if the United States starts a war against Iran, it will be regional.

He made the remarks at a meeting in Tehran as tensions remain high between Tehran and Washington following the latter’s military buildup in the West Asia region, reported the semi-official Fars news agency.

Khamenei said that Iran would not start a war and does not seek to attack any country, “but Iranian people will deliver a hard punch to those seeking

to attack and harass them.”

“The American should know that if a war is launched, this time, it will be a regional war,” he emphasized.

US President Donald Trump has said that a “massive armada”, led by the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, is heading towards Iran.

In response, Iran’s foreign minister said, “Our brave armed Forces are pre-

pared ... to immediately and powerfully respond to any aggression.”

Separately, Ali Shamkhani, senior advisor to Iran’s top leader, said on Wednesday that any US military action “from any source and at any level will be considered the start of a war, and its response will be immediate, all-out and unprecedented”. — Xinhua



Iranians rally in front of Tehran’s Azadi Tower to mark the 44th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

NEWS In BRIEF

Japan, UK agree on mineral supply chains

THE leaders of Japan and Britain agreed Saturday on the urgent need for their countries and like-minded partners to cooperate in strengthening supply chains of critical minerals, as Tokyo seeks to align more closely with London in the face of China’s growing clout.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told a joint press event with her British counterpart Keir Starmer after their meeting in Tokyo that they affirmed the two nations will strategically promote cyber security cooperation and set up a new consultative body to advance collaboration in outer space. — Kyodo

Trump says US begins Greenland talks

US President Donald Trump stated that negotiations on US control of Greenland had begun and had already resulted in agreement on many issues.

“We have started a negotiation, and I think it’s pretty well agreed to,” Trump told reporters when asked whether he had discussed Greenland with European leaders.

The US president did not specify what agreed-upon issues he was discussing or with whom the negotiations were ongoing. “They [European authorities] want us to do it [the US to conclude a deal to purchase Greenland]. I think it is going to be a great deal for everybody, a very important deal,” Trump added. — SPUTNIK

Israel says partially reopening Gaza’s Rafah crossing

ISRAEL was partially reopening the Rafah crossing between the devastated Gaza Strip and Egypt on Sunday following months of urging from humanitarian organizations, though access is limited to the movement of people.

COGAT, the Israeli defence ministry body coordinating Palestinian civilian affairs, made no mention of allowing in a long hoped-for surge of aid, and clarified that the passage of individuals through the gateway in both directions was expected to begin Monday. — AFP

SPORTS

Konate cut short compassionate leave to ease Liverpool injury crisis



Arne Slot hailed Ibrahima Konate's commitment to his Liverpool team-mates. **PHOTO: AFP**

IBRAHIMA Konate said he returned to Liverpool ahead of schedule after the death of his father to aid the Premier League champions through a defensive injury crisis.

The French international broke down in tears after scoring late on in Saturday's 4-1 win over Newcastle.

Konate had missed Liver-

pool's three previous matches after being allowed compassionate leave. But he said he felt compelled to help his team-mates after injuries to Joe Gomez, Jeremie Frimpong and Conor Bradley left Arne Slot short on solutions at the back.

"I don't have words to describe what I feel right now be-

cause it was a very difficult moment for me and my family the last two weeks, but this is part of life. It is hard to accept that and we don't have the choice," Konate told TNT Sports.

"I know that the team had some injured players, and the manager on the call said to take my time and I don't have to rush back. — AFP

Alcaraz sweeps past Djokovic to win maiden Australian Open title

CARLOS Alcaraz swept past Novak Djokovic to win his first Australian Open on Sunday and become the youngest man to complete a career Grand Slam, denying the Serbian great an unprecedented 25th major.

The Spaniard was impressive after a slow start in dismissing the 38-year-old, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5 on Rod Laver Arena to claim a seventh Slam title and cement himself as undisputed world number one.

In doing so, he became the youngest man in the Open era to win all four majors, adding to his two titles each from Wimbledon and the French and US Opens.

At 22, he surpassed legendary countryman Rafael Nadal



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz won his first Australian Open title.

PHOTO: AFP

— in the crowd to witness the feat — who was two years older when he did the same.

A seventh Slam put him

alongside John McEnroe and Mats Wilander and one behind Andre Agassi, Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl. — AFP



American Chloe Kim is chasing a third straight snowboarding halfpipe gold medal at the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chloe Kim goes for unprecedented snowboard halfpipe Olympic treble

CHLOE Kim arrives at the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics on the brink of a historic third straight women's halfpipe gold, her decade-long snowboard dominance defined by as many twists as her gravity-defying tricks.

The latest unexpected turn came just a month before the Games, when the 25-year-old American suffered a torn labrum in one shoulder in a fall in training.

"I haven't gotten nearly the amount of reps that I would have liked, but that's OK," Kim said in announcing one week later that she was "good to go" for the

Olympics.

"It's funny I've been doing this for so long, and every season I've met different challenges," said Kim, who was making waves in the sport long before she captured her first Olympic gold, at 17, at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games.

She became the first woman to win two gold medals in halfpipe when she triumphed at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

She owns three halfpipe world titles and eight Winter X Games golds, building an imposing portfolio of tricks that has expanded the possibilities of her sport. — AFP

Volkanovski beats Lopes in rematch to defend UFC featherweight title

AUSTRALIAN Alexander Volkanovski cemented his supremacy in the UFC featherweight division on Sunday after again outlasting rival Diego Lopes in a gruelling rematch in Sydney.

In the main event of UFC 325, the 37-year-old defended his 145-pound belt with a unanimous decision (49-46, 49-46, 50-45) to prevail in a five-round slugfest.

A pumped-up Volkanovski, a former rugby league player, basked in the adoration of the febrile 20,000-person crowd at Qudos Bank Arena in his first world title defence on Australian soil.

Volkanovski (28-4) contin-

ued his dominance over 31-year-old Lopes (27-8) having also won by a unanimous decision at UFC 314 last April in Miami, a triumph he rated as one of the very best of his legendary career.

"It ain't getting any easier," Volkanovski said. "You've got a young, hungry guy like that in there and I wanted to take him out but he was strong.

"I didn't want to stand for 25 minutes, I'll be honest, but we got the job done."

Volkanovski made his ring walk to the classic Australian song "Down Under" with the partisan crowd firmly in his corner, including Australian cricket legend Steve Waugh. — AFP



Union Cabinet headed by PM Modi approves Union Budget 2026-27

India witnessed the formal presentation of its financial roadmap for 2026-27, highlighting fiscal responsibility and the vision of a developed nation.

THE Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Sunday approved the Union Budget 2026-27 following a meeting in Parliament.

Today, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her ninth consecutive Union Budget in the Lok Sabha as part of the ongoing Budget session of Parliament. Union Ministers have hailed the Budget as a document for 'Viksit Bharat'.

Sitharaman will present a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 2026-27. The Finance Minister will also lay on the table two statements under Section 3(1) of the Fiscal Responsibility and

Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003.

These include the Medium-term Fiscal Policy-cum-Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement and the Macro-Economic Framework Statement.

The List of Business further states that Sitharaman will move for leave to introduce the Finance Bill, 2026, in the Lok Sabha. The Finance Bill gives legal effect to the financial proposals of the government.

This will mark the first Union Budget after the historic Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms and Labour Codes. The government has consolidated 29 labour laws into four Labour Codes covering wages, industrial relations, social security and occupational safety. — ANI



Union Cabinet headed by PM Modi approves Union Budget 2026-27.
PHOTO: ANI

Florida meetings between US, Russia “productive and constructive”: Witkoff

US presidential special envoy Steve Witkoff said on Saturday that US and Russian delegations held “productive and constructive” meetings in Florida.



Russian presidential envoy Kirill Dmitriev (left) and US special envoy Steve Witkoff take part in Ukraine talks at the Kremlin on 2 December 2025.

PHOTO: KRISTINA KORMILITSYNA/SPUTNIK/FILE

“Today in Florida, the Russian Special Envoy Kirill Dmitriev held productive and constructive meetings as part of the US mediation effort toward advancing a peaceful resolution of the Ukrainian conflict,” Witkoff said in a post on X.

The American delegation included Witkoff, Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent, Jared Kushner, and White House Senior Advisor Josh Gruenbaum, according to the post.

“We are encouraged by this meeting that Russia is working toward securing peace in Ukraine,” said Witkoff. Meanwhile, Russian forces have taken control of the village of Toretsk in the Donetsk region and Petrovka in the Zaporizhzhia region, the Russian Defence Ministry said Saturday. — Xinhua

AI helps doctors spot breast cancer scans

A landmark Swedish trial has shown that artificial intelligence can significantly improve breast cancer detection during routine screenings. Published in *The Lancet*, the study is the first randomized controlled trial of AI-supported mammography, involving over 100,000 women screened in 2021-2022.

Participants were divided into two groups: one where a radiologist used AI assistance, and another following the standard European method requiring two radiologists.

The AI-assisted group detected 9 per cent more cancers and had a 12 per cent lower rate of interval cancers, which often pose greater risks.

Importantly, false positives were similar across both groups, and benefits were consistent regardless of age or breast density. Lead researcher Kristina Lang emphasized that AI could ease radiologist workloads while improving early detection, though careful monitoring is essential. — AFP