

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Bagan Conservation Drive Continues with Ongoing Plant Clearance

**A**s part of preserving the ancient Bagan cultural heritage, the removal of plants growing on pagodas and temples has been carried out on a regular basis, according to the Bagan Heritage Trust.

Priority is given to pagodas and temples which are of cultural and historical importance. The BHT has collaborated with the Archaeology and National Museum Department in Bagan in the implementation of this project, and they cleared plants growing on the East Phetleik Temple and the West Phetleik Temple, where votive tablets carved 550 Buddhist stories (Jataka tales) are present, located at Thiri Pyitsaya ward on 25 April.

From 26 July to 11 August 2025, more than 290 plants, including bayans, were killed with chemical solutions, on pagodas No 1969, No 1152, No 1468 and No 1469. — MT/ZS

Plants are being cleared from ancient pagodas housing unique artefacts.



## Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) reopens to 45-tonne traffic after repairs



This image shows a general view of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) after completion of reinforcement and repair work.

THE Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) in Mandalay Region has completed reinforcement and repair work, and cargo vehicles are now permitted to cross the bridge with loads of up to 45 tonnes, according to the Bridges Department under the Ministry of Construction.

Due to the major Mandalay earthquake, parts of the bridge, including gusset plates

on the piers, inclined members of the steel truss, and bearings, were damaged. Initially, the bridge was only allowed to carry vehicles and cargo weighing up to 15 more tonnes.

As part of the first phase of repairs, steel truss members and gusset plates were replaced. Following load testing, the allowable load was increased to 25 tonnes in November 2025. At present, the second phase

of reinforcement work has been completed, and after further load testing, the permitted load has been increased to 45 tonnes for vehicles and cargo crossing the bridge.

As a result, heavy cargo trucks and fuel tankers no longer need to use ferries to cross the river and can now travel directly over the bridge. This will reduce both travel time and transport costs, and will also facilitate faster and more efficient movement of goods. Efforts will continue to repair earthquake-related damage to restore the original permitted load capacity of 60 tonnes.

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) was constructed by the Ministry of Construction's Public Works. The bridge has a total length of 5,614 feet (1,711 metres) and a width of 49 feet (15 metres), comprising a four-lane roadway and pedestrian walkways six feet (1.8 metres) wide on both sides. Its original load-bearing capacity is 60 tonnes.

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is an important bridge spanning the Ayeyawady River, connecting Mandalay Region with Sagaing Region. — ASH/KNN

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# NATIONAL

## UCC Member receives Qatar's Former Deputy PM and Defence Minister



Union Consultative Council Member U Than Swe meets Dr Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs of the State of Qatar, yesterday.

UNION Consultative Council Member U Than Swe received Dr Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs of the State of Qatar, at the Jasmine Naypyitaw Hotel yesterday. They cordially exchanged views on matters of promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Qatar. — MNA

### Myanmar Gazette

## Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar approved the transfer and appointment of the following individuals as Heads of the Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Tun Min Rector (Senior Medical Superintendent/Medical Services) Yangon General Hospital Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health	Director-General Department of Traditional Medicine
(2) Daw Thanda Lay Director-General Department of Technological Development and Training Office of the Auditor-General of the Union	Director-General Staff Office of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union Office of the Auditor-General of the Union

## 4 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay and judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: Daw Thin Thin Nwet, U Win Myint, Daw Soe Khet Khet and Daw Thin Thin Cho was convened yesterday at the Zeyathiri District Court in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, and a total of four special civil appeal cases: Nos 2/2026 (Mon), 3/2036 (Yangon), 4/2026 (Ayeyawady) and 5/2026 (Yangon) were heard. — MNA

## WEATHER NEWS

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Monday 27 April 2026)

**BAY INFERENCE:** The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Bay of Bengal and a few clouds over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 28 April 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Kachin, Chin and Shan states and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

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

**STATE OF THE SEA:** The sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states.

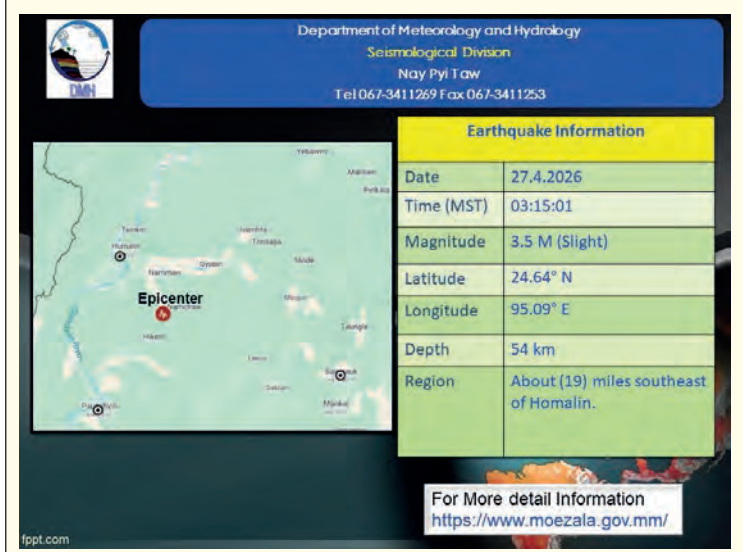
**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 April 2026:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 April 2026:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 April 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

## EARTHQUAKE

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.5(M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 19 miles southeast of Homalin), latitude 24.64°N, longitude 95.09°E, a depth 54 kilometres, about 57 miles northeast of the Tamu Seismological observatory was recorded at 3 hours 15 minutes 1 second MST on 27 April 2026.— DMH



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# NATIONAL

## MoFA Union Minister receives delegation led by Qatar's Former Deputy PM & Defence Minister

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe received the delegation led by Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs of the State of Qatar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed expanding bilateral economic cooperation between Myanmar and Qatar, focusing on investment in Myanmar's agriculture, mining, electricity and energy sectors.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



Qatari Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah calls on Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Tin Maung Swe yesterday.

## ASEAN Energy Ministers Convene Special Meeting on Energy Security

A special meeting of ASEAN Energy Ministers was held yesterday afternoon via videoconferencing, chaired by the Secretary of Energy of the Philippines, the current rotating chair of ASEAN energy cooperation programmes. The meeting focused on the latest developments affecting energy security in the ASEAN region as a result of ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, along with the permanent secretary, directors-general and relevant officials, attended the meeting.

During the discussion, Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin stated



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin joins the special meeting of ASEAN Energy Ministers via videoconferencing yesterday.

that the conflicts in the Middle East have had an impact on do-

mestic fuel distribution in Myanmar. Although the country, which

relies heavily on fuel imports, has faced various challenges, it has been systematically implementing emergency response measures. He added that both short-term and long-term plans are being made to meet the nation's energy needs. Drawing lessons from the current situation, Myanmar will continue to cooperate with ASEAN member states, regional countries and the international community in its efforts to strengthen energy security. He also noted that the country will pursue research, development and innovation aimed at transitioning to renewable energy and other alternative energy sources.

At the meeting, ASEAN Energy Ministers, together with the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Centre for Energy, held open and constructive discussions on the impact of the Middle East conflicts on regional countries, strategies to ensure energy security, the current global energy markets and supply chains, and coordinated efforts to maintain sufficient supplies of oil and natural gas within the ASEAN region. It was reported that strong cooperation and real-time coordination with dialogue partners through ASEAN-led mechanisms will be pursued to safeguard regional energy security. — MNA/MKKS

## Myanmar to align food safety system with ASEAN standards



The 9<sup>th</sup> Global Dairy Innovation Congress Asia 2026 held in Singapore.

MYANMAR will develop its food safety system into a rapid-response network by integrating science-based digital technologies to align with ASEAN standards, according to discussions at the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Dairy Innovation Congress Asia 2026.

The Ministry of Health announced on 27 March that Professor Dr Ye Myint, Director-General of the Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA), served as a speaker at the congress held in Singapore.

During the discussions, he highlighted the following statistics and plans: target population — about five million primary school children (ages five to nine) in Myanmar, accounting for about nine per cent of the population; budget allocation—6.92 per cent to educational development, which will be increased to 20 per cent

within the next five years, including plans for school milk programmes.

The FDA is currently implementing food safety reforms in Myanmar, focusing on utilizing Minimum Compliance Points (MCP) and Risk-Based Inspection (RBI) to prioritize high-risk foods, such as dairy products, allocating resources more effectively, welcoming foreign investment, and encouraging partnerships to improve local capacity and nutritional sufficiency.

The long-term vision involves building a systematic framework to trace every food product throughout the supply chain, to respond rapidly to hazard warnings, and to execute immediate recalls when necessary, being expected to protect public health and increase public participation in food safety. — MT/ZN

# NATIONAL

## MNPIFER Union Minister receives Thai delegation

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received Mr Yordying Supasri, Charge'd Affaires ad interim, at the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

They frankly discussed issues related to promoting economic cooperation, increasing

investment of Thai businesses in Myanmar and improving bilateral trade relations between Myanmar and Thailand.

Directors-general from the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and senior officers and representatives of the Thai Embassy, as well as the Chairman of the Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM). — MNA



Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe holds talks with the Thai delegation led by Charge'd Affaires ad interim Mr Yordying Supasri.

## Union Minister discusses measures to promote MSMEs



Union Minister for Industry and for MSME Development Dr Charlie Than meets the chairperson and officials of the Nay Pyi Taw MSME Association.

UNION Minister for Industry and for MSME Development Dr Charlie Than received the chairman and relevant officials from the Nay Pyi Taw MSME Association yesterday.

The Union minister and participants discussed supporting the development of the full production value chain from cotton to cotton wool, yarn and textiles, in line with the guidance of the President, providing technological assistance for small-scale production of bamboo pulp and consumer goods, facilitating faster access to loans for MSMEs, organizing awareness workshops for wider use of digital systems, encouraging business registration to access government support, promoting the production and sale of value-added

products, fostering entrepreneurship, strengthening MSME groups, and advancing agro-based industries.

Moreover, the Union minister emphasized that MSME entrepreneurs should register their businesses at the start of operations, produce and sell the value-added products rather than selling raw materials, increase the production of quality goods that meet established standards, and actively encourage the emergence of entrepreneurs, and also highlighted the importance of strengthening both individual businesses and MSME associations, and working collaboratively across sectors to support the State economic development. — MNA/KTZH

## 7 K200 stamps to be introduced hailing 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sixth Buddhist Council

IN commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council known as the Chattha Sangayana, seven new K200 special postage stamps will be sold, according to the Myanmar Post under the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications.

Designed by U Aung Zaw Myat (Kyawt Thiha), the seven new postage stamps will be printed with the approval of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The new stamps will be sold on 30 April, Kason Full Moon Day, at the souvenir shop in the pagoda complex of the Thiri Mingala

Kaba Aye Pagoda, the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon Post Office, and the Mandalay Post Office, starting from 9:30 am.

As a special programme, the date logo will be affixed to stamps and first-day covers for customers on 30 April.

Stamps and first-day covers have already been distributed to regional and state post offices, and the following phone numbers can be contacted to purchase them: 09 448000096 for Nay Pyi Taw, 09 424000458 for Yangon and 09 424000515 for Mandalay. — MT/ZS



Seven new postage stamps are printed in commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Council.



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# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister inspects affiliated departments

UNION Minister for Information U Htein Lin yesterday inspected the Pyinmana-Thabyay-taung MRTV retransmission station, IPRD offices in Pyinmana and Lewe townships to ensure the timely broadcasting of accurate information to the public.

During the meeting with the staff of Pyinmana-Thabyay-taung MRTV retransmission station, he highlighted the need to effectively disseminate the government's objectives, activities, and 100-day plans of the new government to the public promptly through media channels, improve the broadcasting quality, and discuss matters related to video production and broadcasting.

He then inspected the uplink operations used to transmit video news reports produced by various ministries for inclusion in Myanmar Radio and Television (Tatkon), and the DVB-T2



Union Minister U Htein Lin is pictured during his inspection tours of departments concerned under the Ministry of Information yesterday.

broadcasting system, FM transmission equipment, and facilities, including the station cafeteria, staff housing, dormitories, and transmission towers.

On arrival at the IPRD offices in Pyinmana and Lewe

townships, he observed the arrangement of children's reading corners, preparations for mobile bus services to lend books, systematic management of books and publications for public access, and reading circle discus-

sions organized by Book Club members. He also provided food to staff and children.

He also met staff members and urged the district and township level offices to implement plans that would bring

significant improvements within the new government's first 100 days. He emphasized the importance of delivering information related to agriculture, livestock, education, healthcare, and social affairs to rural areas.

He encouraged efforts to enhance youth critical thinking and proper mindset through reading, including organizing mobile libraries and literary events. He instructed that public services should be delivered efficiently without delays, whereas the libraries should offer educational and skill-based training, such as computer courses, and reading promotion activities should be accelerated. He stressed the importance of widely disseminating government activities to the public, responding effectively to misinformation and fake news, and ensuring that accurate information reaches the public on time. — MNA/KTZH

### Public Notice for Filing Complaints

1. If a citizen's fundamental rights and legal rights enshrined in the Constitution, or the human rights provided under international and regional human rights treaties to which the State is a party, are violated, he or she may file a complaint with the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) under Section 30 of the MNHRC Law whether on their own behalf, on behalf of another person, or on behalf of a group of persons.
2. Complaints can be submitted by addressing the Chairperson, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, 27, 6½ Mile, Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon or to any of the Commission's branch offices located in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sittway, and Patheingyi, either by post, in person, via fax at 01 8654678 or through the Commission's email [info@mnhrc.org.mm](mailto:info@mnhrc.org.mm).
3. The following particulars must be clearly included in the complaint:
  - (a) Full name of the complainant; permanent address, and full contact details (telephone number, fax, and email if available);
  - (b) A detailed description of how the complainant's human rights were violated and what harm or loss was suffered, including supporting documents or photographic evidence, if available;
  - (c) A copy of the complainant's Citizenship Scrutiny Card must be attached;
  - (d) The complaint must be signed by the complainant to certify the correctness of the particulars of the complaint.
4. The Commission will review complaints and conduct investigations in accordance with the Commission's law and its procedures, and will coordinate with the relevant departments and organizations accordingly.



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

### Myanmar to compete in Mister Cosmo and Miss Cosmo International

MISTER Cosmo and Miss Cosmo competitions will feature Myanmar representatives, with male model Henry San and beauty queen Thae Su Nyein set to take part, according to Miss Thae Su Nyein.



Henry San, who will represent Myanmar in the Mister Cosmo competition, is the titleholder of Mister Cosmo Myanmar 2026, while Thae Su Nyein, who will compete in Miss Cosmo, is the winner of Miss Cosmo Myanmar 2026.

Henry San and Miss Thae Su Nyein, who will represent Myanmar at the Mister Cosmo and Miss Cosmo international competitions.

"I am very happy that both Henry San and I will be competing on the international stage. It is also a special coincidence that a film in which we both acted together is currently showing in cinemas, which makes the experience even more memorable. We will do our best together to achieve success," said Thae Su Nyein.

The Miss Cosmo 2026 competition, in which Thae Su Nyein will participate, will be held for the third time and, as in previous years, is expected to be hosted by Vietnam. The Mister Cosmo 2026 competition will be the first-ever male pageant organized by the Miss Cosmo organization.

The Mister Cosmo 2026 competition is scheduled to take place in September 2026 in Nha Trang, Vietnam. — ASH/MKKS

# NATIONAL

## People's Military Service Training 24 opens at commands across regions/states



The opening ceremony of the 24<sup>th</sup> People's Military Service Training is underway in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

TO serve national defence and security duties, eligible and capable citizens selected to attend People's Military Service Training Batch 24 have arrived at

their respective training depots located within various command areas and have carried out the necessary preparatory arrangements.

Yesterday morning, the opening ceremonies for People's Military Service Training 24 were held at the various training depots. At the ceremonies, the com-

mandants of the training depots delivered opening remarks.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, chief ministers of regions and states, commanders

and officials attended the ceremonies. They met with the trainees of Batch 24, presented them with honorary cash awards, food items and essential supplies, and offered words of encouragement.

As every citizen has a responsibility to safeguard our three national causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty – the People's Military Service Law was enacted on 10 February 2024 to enable citizens to receive military training and to undertake national defence duties. Accordingly, People's Military Service training programmes have been conducted.

Graduates of these People's Military Service training courses are now serving diligently in their assigned battalions and units, fulfilling their duties in national defence and security. — MNA/MKKS

## People welcome frontline Tatmadaw members



Triumphant troops are being welcomed back at the Triangle Region Command Headquarters yesterday.

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw personnel who carried out security operations for State stability and local peace around the Muse area in Shan State (North) were warmly welcomed back at a ceremony held at a local battalion in Mongtwan, Shan State (East), yesterday afternoon.

The event was attended by Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Myat Htut, along with officials, officers, soldiers, family members, members of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, departmental personnel and local ethnic residents.

The commander and party welcomed back the victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia. The event included traditional dance and music performances. The commander also presented cash prizes and commodities to the returnees. — MNA/KTZH

## 52 arrested in Tachilek telecom fraud, online gambling crackdown

THE government regards the fight against online fraud and illegal online gambling — which pose threats internationally and globally — as a national responsibility. It is actively taking coordinated measures, not only with domestic agencies but also in cooperation with neighbouring countries, to ensure that such activities cannot operate within Myanmar.

In carrying out these efforts, a joint task force comprising security personnel conducted inspections in Tachilek Township, Shan State (East), following reports of online fraud and gambling operations. At approximately 11:50 am today, near Loma Hotel in the Weinkyauk Ward of Tachilek, the team arrested three Chinese male nationals and six Myanmar female nationals engaged in online fraud and gambling activities. Seized items included three all-in-one computers, 13 laptops, 320 mobile phones, 108 tablets,

one printer, six Wi-Fi routers and related equipment.

Further searches were carried out by the joint task force. At around 2:10 pm, in a house within the same ward, eight Chinese male nationals, one Chinese Taiwan female national, 27 Myanmar male nationals and seven Myanmar female nationals were arrested for involvement in online fraud and gambling operations. Additional items seized included 23 all-in-one computers, one monitor, one system unit, 52 mobile phones and related equipment. In total, 52 individuals involved in online fraud and gambling activities, along with operational equipment, were detained.

Those arrested will be dealt with effectively in accordance with the law. Investigations will continue to identify and take action against those behind the operations. The seized equipment

**SEE PAGE 10**

# NATIONAL



Images depict ongoing conservation efforts for star tortoises and roofed turtles, along with a group of star tortoises (below). **PHOTO: KANU**

## Myanmar Safeguards Star Tortoise, Roofed Turtle as National Treasures

**A**MONG the 11 tortoise species found only in Myanmar, two globally endangered endemic species, such as the Burmese Star Tortoise and the Burmese Roofed Turtle, are being conserved as national biological treasures.

Myanmar, one of the countries rich in biodiversity, has abundant rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands that support both land and aquatic wildlife. The endangered Burmese Star Tortoise is mainly conserved in the Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions. This species typically mates between June and September and lays eggs from May to September, up to four times a year, with more than 15 eggs per clutch. Depending on natural habitat conditions, it can live for over 50 years.

Before 1999, the Burmese

Star Tortoise was on the verge of extinction. It was rediscovered in protected natural areas, and conservation efforts were initiated to prevent its extinction and promote breeding in the Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary, Shwesehtaw Wildlife Sanctuary, and Minnsontaung Wildlife Sanctuary. The population has grown to around 10,000 individuals. Authorities continue to prevent threats such as extreme heat, food scarcity, forest fires, habitat loss, and illegal trade.

“The original habitats of the Burmese Star Tortoise are the Minnsontaung Wildlife Sanctuary in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, and the Shwesehtaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu, Magway Region. They are also found at Myaleik Hill in PyinOoLwin. Before 1999, an

American student discovered information about the species in a museum and came to Myanmar to conduct research in Shwesehtaw. This brought global attention to the Burmese Star Tortoise. As an endemic species, it is essential for everyone to help conserve it,” said an official of Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Burmese Roofed Turtle inhabits the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary and sandbanks along the upper Chindwin River. It was first bred at Lawkananda Sanctuary in 2001. As an endemic species found only in Myanmar and the second rarest turtle species in the world, it is being conserved to prevent extinction, support research, and allow the public to study through collaboration efforts between the Forest Department



and local communities.

Tortoises play an important ecological role by dispersing seeds and aiding plant and fungal reproduction, and transporting pollen and insects, thereby benefiting ecosystems and humans. Aquatic turtles help maintain water quality by consuming pollutants, algae, and aquatic insects, preserving ecosystems.

There are 31 species of tortoises in Myanmar, including five species of sea turtle, 22

species of freshwater turtles and four species of land turtles. Among the 11 tortoise species, the Burmese Star Tortoise and Burmese Roofed Turtle are endangered. Moreover, three new species, such as the leaf turtle, Burmese peacock softshell turtle, and Burmese softshell turtle, have been recorded. Due to illegal hunting and trade, these endemic species remain at risk of extinction, and conservation efforts are ongoing. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

## Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 27 April 2026

THE number of foreign currencies traded in the Foreign Exchange market was used for the imports of edible oil, fuel oil, industrial raw materials, auto/motorcycle spare parts, pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical raw materials, fertilizers, and animal feed.

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,648.00~3,669.00	557.00~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	18,368,060.08	1,906,016.00	2,937,576.82	1,420,000.00
The amount sold by CBM to the market			2,239,345.16	

The CMP sector contributed US\$4.61 million to the edible oil sector, US\$0.01 million to the

CMP sector, and the Central Bank of Myanmar contributed 2.24 million baht to the auto/

motorcycle spare parts sector, industrial raw materials sector, agricultural equipment

sector, and non-trade sector. — MNA

# OPINION

## Save the children from diseases through regular immunizations

**W**ORLD Immunization Week, celebrated in the last week of April, aims to highlight the collective action needed and to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease, according to the World Health Organization.

WHO works with countries across the globe to raise awareness of the value of vaccines and immunization and ensures that governments obtain the necessary guidance and technical support to implement high-quality immunisation programmes. The ultimate goal of World Immunization Week is for more people, including their communities, to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

In looking back at the history of the world, the real-time vaccination and immunisation have saved a large number of people from different pandemics and outbreaks. Moreover, the systematic and timely immunizations could reduce the fatality rate of patients from dreadful diseases.

The government also supports immunization efforts by financing the procurement of vaccines and related supplies through two approaches: full funding from the State budget through the way of self-financing and shared contributions between the government and GAVI through the co-financing system. Within seven days after the major Mandalay earthquake that occurred on 28 March 2025, tetanus vaccinations were administered to injured persons, rescue workers, and pregnant women. In addition, oral vaccines to prevent severe diarrheal diseases were also provided as a preventive measure.

The government also supports immunization efforts by financing the procurement of vaccines and related supplies through two approaches: full funding from the State budget through the way of self-financing and shared contributions between the government and GAVI through the co-financing system. Within seven days after the major Mandalay earthquake that occurred on 28 March 2025, tetanus vaccinations were administered to injured persons, rescue workers, and pregnant women. In addition, oral vaccines to prevent severe diarrheal diseases were also provided as a preventive measure.

The vaccination program is included in the President's 100-day plan, and immunization activities must be prioritized for implementation. Each year, approximately US\$10 million in State foreign exchange is spent on these efforts, demonstrating continued support for vaccination and immunization programmes. As such, it is necessary to implement the "For every generation, vaccines work" designated as the theme for World Immunization Week 2026 (24-30 April) to ensure equitable access to life-saving immunizations across all ages.

According to records, vaccination programmes in Myanmar began in 1889. At present, vaccines protecting against 13 diseases are being expanded and administered, in line with other countries worldwide, protecting every generation. A review of Myanmar's immunization coverage shows that the vaccination coverage fell to below 50 per cent in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the coverage of such activities had risen to over 80 per cent by 2025, indicating a recovery and improvement in immunization coverage rates.

In Myanmar, vaccination activities are being carried out with strong momentum through close cooperation among healthcare workers, volunteers, relevant departments, and people. Thanks to their efforts, there have been no outbreak-like clusters of vaccine-preventable diseases in the country.

# Towards Lasting Peace in Myanmar: A Path Built on Goodwill, Trust, and Shared Responsibility

By Junior Thin



The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) Workshop on Building Peaceful Future of Myanmar is held in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 October 2025.

**F**OR many decades, Myanmar has endured prolonged armed conflicts that have deeply affected the lives of its people and hindered national development. These conflicts, rooted in historical, political, and ethnic complexities, have created divisions that continue to challenge the country's journey towards unity. Yet, despite these difficulties, there remains a strong and enduring hope among the people for lasting peace – a peace

that is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice, trust, and mutual respect.

The foundation for such peace must begin with a sincere commitment to resolving issues through political means rather than violence. Dialogue, understanding, and compromise are essential tools in addressing long-standing grievances. Throughout Myanmar's history, successive governments have attempted to engage ethnic armed

organizations through peace talks, ceasefire agreements, and various negotiation efforts. While these initiatives have had mixed results, they reflect an important recognition: that sustainable peace can only be achieved through inclusive political solutions.

At present, renewed efforts are being made to strengthen the peace process under national leadership. The emphasis on holding open, free, and un-

conditional dialogue meetings is a positive step forward. Such platforms provide opportunities for all stakeholders – government representatives, ethnic armed organizations, civil society groups, and community leaders – to express their concerns, aspirations, and ideas. For these discussions to be meaningful, they must be conducted in a spirit of sincerity, transparency, and mutual respect. Trust cannot be built overnight, but it can grow steadily through consistent and honest engagement.

A key component of Myanmar's peace process is the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). For those ethnic armed organizations that have already signed the NCA, there is both an opportunity and a responsibility to continue implementing its provisions with integrity. Responsibility, accountability, and transparency must guide every step of this process. By honouring commitments and working collaboratively, these groups can help build confidence and demonstrate that peaceful cooperation is possible.

At the same time, it is important to recognize the concerns of those organizations that have

not yet signed the NCA. Their hesitation may stem from unresolved issues, lack of trust, or differing perspectives on political arrangements. Rather than viewing these differences as obstacles, they should be seen as opportunities for deeper dialogue. Inviting these groups to participate in discussions, acknowledging their viewpoints, and working towards mutually acceptable solutions are essential steps in creating an inclusive peace process.

Equally important is the need to re-engage with groups that may have deviated from the peace process. Conflict dynamics are complex, and setbacks are not uncommon. However, the door to dialogue should always remain open. Encouraging renewed participation through constructive and respectful engagement can help bring all parties back to the negotiating table. Peace is not a linear journey, but a continuous effort that requires patience, resilience, and goodwill.

Beyond formal negotiations, the role of the broader society cannot be overlooked. Peace is not solely the responsibility of governments or armed groups; it is a collective endeavour that involves every citizen. Civil society

organizations, community leaders, youth groups, and religious institutions all have important roles to play in promoting understanding, reconciliation, and social harmony. By fostering a culture of peace at the grassroots level, they can help bridge divides and strengthen the foundations of national unity.

Moreover, it is crucial to address the underlying causes of conflict, including inequality, lack of development, and limited access to resources and opportunities. Peace cannot flourish in conditions of poverty and marginalization. Therefore, efforts to promote economic development, improve infrastructure, expand education, and ensure equitable distribution of resources are integral to the peace process. When communities see tangible improvements in their lives, they are more likely to support and sustain peaceful initiatives.

Another important aspect of building lasting peace is acknowledging the suffering that has been endured by countless individuals and communities. Years of conflict have resulted in displacement, loss of livelihoods, and deep emotional wounds. Healing these wounds requires compassion,

empathy, and a commitment to justice. Creating spaces for dialogue, remembrance, and reconciliation can help individuals and communities move forward while honouring their experiences.

At the same time, it is necessary to recognize that there are individuals and groups who may benefit from the continuation of conflict. These actors, driven by personal or economic interests, may seek to undermine peace efforts. Addressing this challenge requires vigilance, strong institutions, and a shared commitment among all stakeholders to prioritize the well-being of the nation over narrow interests. Transparency and accountability are essential in ensuring that the peace process remains focused on the common good.

The role of stakeholders, both within Myanmar and in the international community, is also significant. Cooperation, support, and constructive engagement can help strengthen peace initiatives and provide valuable resources and expertise. However, such support must always respect Myanmar's sovereignty and be guided by the needs and aspirations of its people.

Ultimately, achieving last-

ing peace in Myanmar requires a shared vision – a vision of a nation where diversity is celebrated, where all communities feel valued and respected, and where differences are resolved through dialogue rather than conflict. This vision must be supported by concrete actions, sustained commitment, and a genuine desire for reconciliation.

The path to peace is undoubtedly challenging, but it is not impossible. With goodwill, patience, and collective effort, Myanmar can move beyond its history of conflict and build a future defined by harmony and progress. Every step taken toward dialogue, every effort to build trust, and every act of compassion bring the nation closer to this goal.

In brief, the pursuit of lasting peace in Myanmar is a journey that requires the participation and dedication of all. By embracing political solutions, fostering inclusive dialogue, addressing underlying challenges, and promoting a culture of understanding and respect, Myanmar can create a foundation for enduring peace. It is a responsibility shared by all – leaders and citizens alike – to work together with sincerity and determination to turn this hope into reality.

# Getting Lost for Words at a Fragile Time

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

**S**OMETIMES we get lost for words even at the time when we must speak out. This is unbelievable, of course. Even though we have the ability to speak effectively and efficiently as well as subject matter to talk to an adequate amount, we can be lost for words all of a sudden. Those people will involve judges in singing contests in particular and also interviewees in the world of art, then, humourously, me sometimes. At such times, most of us tend to speak about anything

on our mind's eye, but to little or no purpose. If so, many words of ours usually go wrong, especially due to deliberate personal attacks, even if we cannot say that these are not right at all. But on the other hand, we must not stay in the presence of others without speaking as a public speaker or adjudicator. However, we cannot see hide nor hair of words to say at these times.

As professionals, we need to talk about what we have to say

at any time, especially at a fragile time, which means that we like to commit a personal attack very quickly, but not purposely at the time. In actual fact, most such an intelligent audience can decide if the words are correct or not. Being only their fans, the audience may or may not dislike them, mainly thanks to their attractive magic of art. Professionals have certainly got to talk about their respective fields of study in the end.

low and accept them like a knife through butter to the letter; to say the least. In other words, the audience may imitate their words from A to Z, whether they are gentle or even harsh. Despite this, such an intelligent audience can decide if the words are correct or not. Being only their fans, the audience may or may not dislike them, mainly thanks to their attractive magic of art. Professionals have certainly got to talk about their respective fields of study in the end.

I strongly think that there may be several reasons for speaking in a subconscious way as a professional that will lead to defamation for a well-known person, for sure. The first reason is that unless a professional speaks out even a little at the time when he must say something, he will certainly lose face in public. Additionally, his clamming up in front of others at the time of compulsory speaking could vilify him as a less-educated person. The second reason is that some professionals might have the irritating innate

habit of burbling about others' mistakes, faults, weaknesses and failures. Apparently enough, their inferiority complex due to low self-esteem, self-doubt and insecurity will breed the envy of professionals, mostly because of their latent jealousy, which should cause taking it personally. The third reason is that since a professional is just a person among people in the world, it is only natural that he or she talks more than needed; that is to say, some professionals are very talkative. Actually, the more we talk about something worth saying, the more we will probably do wrong with our words – we can speak out of turn. And the last reason may be that we must not give our turns

to speak to the others under the same roof. Skipping one's turns on purpose means a kind of breaking one's professional ethics to some extent, I believe.

As much as possible, it would be best if we do not utter a word when we have nothing to say in a while at a fragile time. Nevertheless, in the main, we cannot avoid speaking at a time when, at least, we should say something, such as making a sound judgement and getting interviewed. At such a time, as a tip, the best thing is that we must be aware of not saying as many words as possible. As the Myanmar saying goes, the words that a person utters quite often can show his manner; that is, whether he is a well-be-

haved or badly-behaved person. Sometimes, a great person gets personally attacked by anyone based on their highly subjective point of view, in most cases. At that time, nothing surely happens to the great person on account of his fame, which will hardly fade away in the future, whereas the critic's existence will go to the dogs for certain or even be sued for defamation. Silence is golden, as the saying goes. Nonetheless, there may arise some situations in which we must not dodge speaking out among others, even though we are speechless with quite a shock in a moment. Most importantly, at the time, speak less than we can and then watch our mouths.

# NATIONAL

## Maritime, Aviation Youth Courses Roll Out Across Townships

TO help students and youth develop their knowledge and skills during the summer holidays, and to cultivate a new generation of maritime and aviation profession for the country, the Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) conducted basic and advanced youth training courses in relevant townships yesterday.

The basic maritime youth course 1/2026 and advanced maritime youth course 1/2026 will feature both theoretical and practical instruction in subjects including the history of the Myanmar Navy, the struggles for regaining independence, and Tatmadaw history, basic military drill and fundamental naval training, basic principles of navigation, applied navigation and astronomy, maritime transportation including GPS, basic naval signalling and communications, and basic swimming and rowing techniques.

In the fourth week of training, trainees from 13 training camps will gather in Yangon to participate in a combined camp meeting and subject-based skill competitions.

Moreover, the study tours will be organized to visit prominent pagodas and landmarks in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area and Yangon, and to observe military aircraft and naval vessels. Trainees will also be taken on study trips along the Yangon River aboard naval vessels.

The opening ceremonies of the training courses were held at maritime youth camps in various regions, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council area, Mandalay Re-



The Commander-in-Chief (Air) joins the group photo session at the opening of the 10<sup>th</sup> basic aviation youth training course.



Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han views around the training exhibits at the basic and advanced maritime youth training course 1/2026.

gion, Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Mon State, Taninthayi Region, Kayin State and Shan State, with a total of 800 trainees.

The basic and advanced maritime youth courses 1/2026 will be conducted for five weeks from today until 29 May. These courses have been held since 1959, and up to 2024, a total of

6,550 trainees have completed the maritime youth basic and advanced training programmes.

Similarly, basic aviation youth course 10 and advanced aviation youth course 9 were also launched at 20 camps, including Nay Pyi Taw camp, yesterday.

The basic training course will include subjects such as

the history of aviation, aviation youth history, basic principles of flight, RC simulator operation, RC aeroplane/helicopter flying, and basic military drill (unarmed). The advanced training course covers basic aviation knowledge, airfield procedures, RC aeroplane/helicopter operation, flight simulator training,

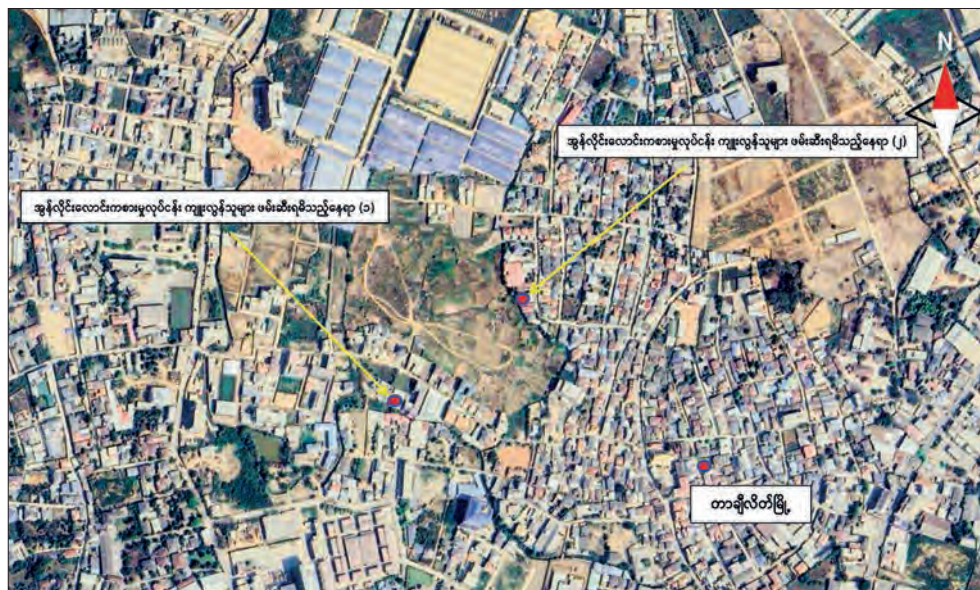
basic military drill (armed), the history of independence, and patriotism. Trainees will also have opportunities for practical field studies at maintenance workshops and operational units of Tatmadaw (Air).

Outstanding trainees from each camp will be given the opportunity to fly training aircraft or helicopters alongside instructors. During the combined camp session in Nay Pyi Taw, competitions will be held, including basic military drill (unarmed), RC simulator, and RC aircraft/helicopter flying competitions for basic trainees, and armed drill, flight simulator, and RC aircraft/helicopter competitions for advanced trainees.

During the training period, study tours will also be arranged to visit famous pagodas, notable landmarks, airbases and operational units in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. Trainees will also have opportunities to board military aircraft and naval vessels, allowing them to gain new knowledge and experiences.

The training courses were also conducted at different training units in Mandalay Region, Yangon Region, Mon State, Shan State, Bago Region, Kachin State, Kayah State, Taninthayi Region, Magway Region, Sagaing Region and Ayeyawady Region.

The basic aviation youth course 10 was established at 18 camps with 928 trainees, and the advanced aviation youth course 9 was at two camps with 116 trainees. The training courses will be conducted until 29 May. — MNA/KTZH



## 52 arrested in Tachilek telecom fraud, online gambling crackdown

FROM PAGE 6

will be investigated in accordance with the law. On humanitarian grounds and in the spirit of international friendship, they will be repatriated to their respective countries where appropriate. Key offenders will be detained and formally handed over to the relevant authorities, and effective legal action will be taken in accordance with the law. — MNA/MKKS

The government of Myanmar continues to cooperate actively in combating online fraud and illegal online gambling. Foreign nationals who have entered the country for various reasons and are found to be involved in such activities

This image reveals the crackdown locations in Tachilek.

## Rio Grande Coffee to conduct Coffee Brewing & Sensory Course on 22-24 May

RIO Grande Coffee and Flavour Speciality Coffee, a coffee roasting and education provider, will offer Coffee Brewing & Sensory Course 2026 on 22-24 May (10 am to 5 pm). The course is designed for those who need to understand green coffee bean quality assessment according to the rules and regulations of the Speciality Coffee Association (SCA) and those who need to master hand drip brewing of speciality coffee

without using coffee machines. The course will cover coffee history, general knowledge, and the concept of coffee waves. coffee plant and anatomy of a coffee cherry, green coffee processing methods – dried natural process, washed process, and honey process, green coffee defect theory and practice, green coffee storage, processing cupping, using olfactory sensor kits (Coffee Language or Olfactory 4 types), understanding the

SCA Flavour Wheel, acids of coffee, coffee cupping protocol and cupping form, evaluation criteria, hand brewing (without coffee machine), Water quality, Water temperature control, Turbulence and agitation in brewing, Grinding of coffee beans and grinders, Grind size effect on coffee and TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) calculation of extraction, by Trainers U Maung Maung Min Zin – Q Arabica Grader (CQI), Q

Processing Professional (CQI, Chairman of Yangon Cluster, Cupping Competition Judge, (Myanmar Coffee Association), and Founder (Rio Grande Coffee Roaster & Flavour Specialty Coffee).

Trainees must pass written and practical exams to receive a course completion certificate. Even after the course, participants can continue to ask questions via phone, Viber, or Mes-

senger. The number of trainees is limited, so priority will be given to those who pre-pay the course fee in cash or through digital banking.

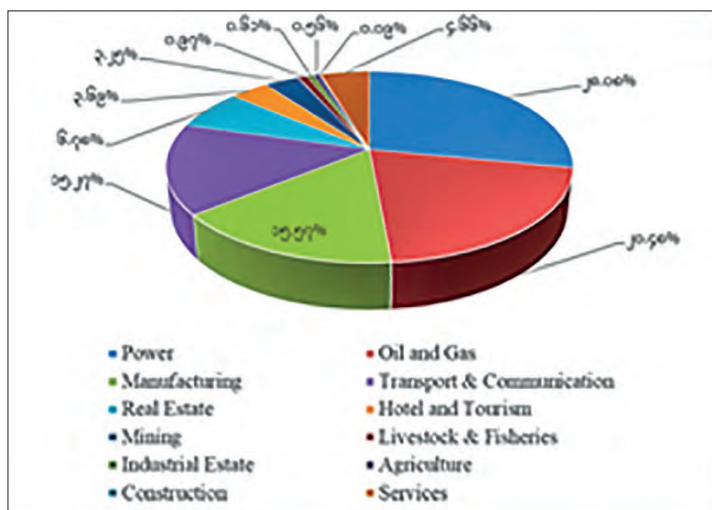
Interested individuals can attend the course at Flavour Speciality Coffee located at 117, 38<sup>th</sup> Street, between Maha Baddola Road and Merchant Road, Kyauktada Township, by dialling 09 250848637, 09 43093313, or emailing riograndecoffeemyanmar@gmail.com. — NN/KK

## Manufacturing sector FDIs soar in FY 2025-2026

FOREIGN direct investments of over US\$245 million flowed into Myanmar’s manufacturing sector in the previous financial year 2025-2026 (1 April-31 March), which indicated a sharp rise compared to \$182.6 million recorded in the FY 2024-2025, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) permitted 80 enterprises to make investments in the manufacturing sector last FY 2025-2026. Chinese companies primarily made investments in the manufacturing sector. The manufacturing enterprises that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the locals.

The Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to 85 projects from China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Taiwan Province of China, Japan, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore and the UK to invest over \$472.6 million in the past FY, including expansions of capital by existing enterprises. This FY, one new enterprise was founded, investing \$21 million in the Oil and Gas sector. The manufacturing sector drew \$245 million from 80 en-



Foreign Investment of Existing Projects as of 31 March 2026 (by Sector).

terprises, while the services sector attracted \$3.688 million from three enterprises. Livestock and fisheries, manufacturing, power, and transport and communication sectors saw capital expansion by the existing enterprises.

Myanmar’s garment enterprises operate under the Cutting, Making, and Packaging model. European Union member countries, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the US and China place garment orders from Myanmar. Myanmar’s garment sector plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the country, contributing to the country’s GDP to a certain extent. In addition to

garments, the manufacturing of electrical devices, footwear, bags, wigs, lenses, and cameras is also running under a CMP system.

Delegates of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers (MGMA) attend DTC 2026 Greater Bay Area International Textile and Clothing Industry Fair held on 25 to 27 March at Guangdong Modern International Exhibition Centre, promoting made in Myanmar products. MGMA members are engaged in a series of industry-focused activities aimed at strengthening international collaboration and exploring advancements in garment manufacturing. — KK

## CBM transacts US\$44.84M, THB61M, CNY700K in Mar

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$44.84 million, 61 million baht and 700,000 yuan in March 2026.

CBM has been continuously injecting US dollars into the edible oil and fuel oil import sector. CBM injected over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in the foreign exchange market in February and over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM injected foreign currencies into the market, with a view to curbing the instability

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



Central Bank of Myanmar.

# ECONOMY WORLD

## China's budget 3D printers fuel a desktop manufacturing boom

BEAT the heat with a 3D-printed accessory that works like a permanent plastic hand shade, a wearable device that blocks sunlight when held up.

While it has recently gone viral on TikTok and Instagram, it is more than just a playful internet trend. It is a tangible example of how China's consumer 3D printers have moved beyond expensive industrial labs into global living rooms, enabling a new form of on-demand manufacturing that is quietly reshaping supply chains and hobbyist culture alike.

The 3D printing has shed its reputation as a tool only for the dedicated fringe, as accessible machines from manufacturers from south China's tech hub of Shenzhen are democratizing the technology. For an entry price as



A customer watches a 3D printer working at the customization workstation in the inno100 flagship store in Nanshan District of Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, 18 January 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

low as US\$300, hardware aficionados are allowed to print finished creative gadgets in just a few hours.

The consumer electronics

hub, known for producing global bestsellers such as drones and robot vacuums, continues to push the boundaries of smart hardware innovation.

The origins trace back to markets in countries where supply chains were still underdeveloped. For instance, when a drone's base broke, there was often no quick way to source a replacement, creating demand for users to 3D print their own spare parts.

The city's innovators seized this opportunity. Last year, TIME magazine listed Shenzhen startup Bambu Lab's H2D among its annual Best Inventions, and it has since gained popularity on shopping platforms such as Amazon. Bambu Lab's founders were previously employed by Chinese drone giant DJI.

Statistics show that the city's "Four Little Dragons" in consumer 3D printing — Bambu Lab, Creality, Anycubic and Elegoo —

hold a commanding 94 per cent of the global market share for sub-2,500-dollar machines.

"Because they lack China's robust manufacturing, e-commerce and logistics networks, they cannot achieve same-day or next-day spare parts delivery. For them, consumer-grade 3D printers remain the best tool for meeting immediate needs," said Chen Bo, vice-president at Elegoo.

In the first quarter, China's 3D printer exports surged 119 per cent year on year. In Guangdong Province in southern China, where Shenzhen is located, the increase was even sharper at nearly 137 per cent, with the province accounting for 88.2 per cent of the country's total exports. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BIREF

#### Nissan lifts FY 2025 outlook to 50 bln yen operating profit on weaker yen

NISSAN Motor Co said Monday it expects to log an operating profit of 50 billion yen (\$314 million) for the financial year ending in March from its earlier projection of a 60 billion yen loss, a positive shift attributed to a weaker yen and lower costs related to environmental regulations.

The struggling Japanese automaker said its projected net loss is 550 billion yen, down from an estimated 650 billion yen, on sales of 12 trillion yen, revised up from an estimated 11.9 trillion yen.

"The improvement mainly reflects a one-time positive impact from changes to US emissions regulations, along with ongoing cost reductions and favourable foreign exchange effects," the company said in a statement.

Nissan is scheduled to announce its full-year earnings results on 13 May. — Kyodo

#### Chinese automaker Chery launches new hybrid car in Israel

CHINESE carmaker Chery launched a new hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) in Israel on Monday, its local distributor Freesbe said in a statement. The model, Chery Tiggo 7 HEV, is a compact crossover SUV powered by a 1.5-litre gasoline engine and an electric motor with a 1.8-kWh battery. The car has a combined power of 246 horsepower, paired with a special hybrid transmission called DHT that smoothly manages both the engine and the electric motor. It accelerates from 0 to 100 kilometres per hour in 8.7 seconds and reaches a maximum speed of 175 kilometres per hour. Chery was the best-selling brand in Israel in the first quarter of 2026, according to data issued by the Israel Vehicle Importers Association. — Xinhua

## JAL, GMO to test using humanoid robots for airport ground operations



A humanoid robot pushes a cargo container during a media demonstration at Haneda airport in Tokyo on 27 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN Airlines Co and GMO Internet Group Inc said Monday they will launch a demonstration experiment using humanoid robots to move passengers' luggage at Tokyo's Haneda airport in May, to verify their potential for achieving labour efficiency in ground handling operations.

The project, which is scheduled to run through 2028, comes as travel demand expands, driv-

en partly by growing inbound tourism, while labour shortages in airport ground operations are likely to become more severe as Japan's population continues to age.

The demonstration, the first such initiative in Japan, will be led by a JAL subsidiary responsible for handling ground operations, including unloading cargo and guiding aircraft on the ground, and a GMO group

company that promotes the social implementation of artificial intelligence and robotics.

JAL Ground Service Co President Yoshiteru Suzuki said replacing physically demanding tasks with robots "is likely to inevitably reduce workers' burden, providing significant benefits to employees," noting there are tasks, including safety management, that can only be handled by humans. — Kyodo

# Nikkei ends above 60,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> time on tech gains, Mideast hopes

THE Nikkei stock index finished above the 60,000-point line for the first time on Monday, propelled by heavyweight technology shares and hopes for a breakthrough in the Middle East conflict.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 821.18 points, or 1.38 per cent, from Friday at 60,537.36. The broader Topix index finished 18.69 points, or 0.50 per cent, higher at 3,735.28.

On the top-tier Prime Market, the main gainers were electric appliance, nonferrous metal and machinery issues.

The US dollar mostly traded in the lower 159 yen range in Tokyo, after strengthening to the upper 159 yen level, as a flight-to-safety mood eased.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 159.23-25 yen compared with 159.30-40 yen in New York and 159.67-69 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm

Friday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.1742-1744 and 186.98-187.02 yen against \$1.1717-1727 and 186.73-83 yen in New York and \$1.1689-1693 and 186.66-70 yen in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond ended up 0.035 percentage point from Friday's close at 2.470 per cent, as the debt was sold on inflation concerns with crude oil prices remaining elevat-



A stock monitor in Tokyo shows the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ending above 60,000 for the first time.

PHOTO: KYODO

ed.

The Nikkei stock in-

dex surpassed the 60,000 line soon after the mar-

ket opened, on rises in heavyweight technology shares tracking gains by US counterparts late last week. But the index then briefly turned negative on profit-taking.

"As many investors are aware 60,000 is a psychologically important level, profit-taking took place after topping the line," said Maki Sawada, strategist in the Investment Content Department of Nomura Securities Co. — Kyodo

## Singapore's manufacturing output up 7.9% in Q1

MANUFACTURING output in Singapore rose 10.1 per cent year on year in March, lifting first-quarter growth to 7.9 per cent, official data showed on Monday. The Singapore Economic Development Board said in a statement that all clusters posted year-on-year expansion in March 2026, except biomedical manufacturing and chemicals.

Electronics output surged 30 per cent, driven by strong gains in infocomms and consumer

electronics as well as semiconductors, supported by robust demand linked to artificial intelligence (AI) applications.

Precision engineering expanded 14 per cent, with the precision modules and components segment recording a higher output of optical instruments, electronic connectors and metal precision components. The machinery and systems segment also benefited from increased production of semiconductor equipment. — Xinhua

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**MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLAR MINI-GRID PROJECT**

The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, is inviting qualified and interested companies to submit proposals for implementing solar mini-grid electricity project in the following villages in Ayeyarwady Region:

Lot-ID	Project Village(s)	Location Site
Lot-1	Kyone Taing Village Village Group : Kyone Taing, Kankone Lay Eain Tan, Bamao (East), Ngakyin Chaung and Daunggyi Villages	Wakema Township, Ayeyarwady Region

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be delivered to the address below at 10:00 AM Local Time on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Interested companies should visit the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development (MCRD) Website (<https://www.mcrd.gov.mm/>) or directly contact the following address for further information:

Department of Rural Development (Head Office)  
Office No.36/B, Pandita Road, Ottara Thiri Township, Naypyidaw  
Tel./Fax: +95 673 418633, 418635  
Email: pl.hq@drdmyanmar.net; drdnepmg@gmail.com; myomyonpd@gmail.com

**Tender Committee**

**The Republic of The Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Department of Research and Innovation**

**"International Open Tender"**

Department of Research and Innovation under the Ministry of Science and Technology invites international open tender for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Bamboo Flooring Machines and Solar PV Testing equipment from qualified suppliers/manufacturers to contract by US Dollar as follows:

- Bamboo Flooring Machines (1 Lot)
- Solar PV Testing Equipment (1 Lot)

Date and Time to Purchase Tender Forms : 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (within office hours)

Last date for resubmission : 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (within office hours)

Address to Purchase : Department of Research and Innovation, No (6), Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

For more information, please contact : +95-9-884235931, +95-9-5191489

Email address : dribudget@gmail.com

Tender Committee  
Department of Research and Innovation, Yangon

**Ministry of Transport and Communications  
Myanma Port Authority  
Open Tender Invitation**

- The Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanma Port Authority, hereby invites qualified and interested companies to submit tender proposals for the construction of 1500 BHP Harbour Tug (1- Unit) during 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 fiscal years, using foreign currency (USD).
- Date and Time for Tender Forms Sale : - During office hours from 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 to 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.
- Location for Tender Forms Sale : - Planning Section, Theinbyu Dockyard, Mechanical Engineering Department, No.557/559, Strand Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
- Tender Opening Date, Time and Location : - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026, 13:00 hrs No. 10, Pansodan Street, Head Office, First Floor, Myanma Port Authority, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
- If you need more detailed information, please contact us at telephone no. +95 9 515 8404, +95 9 401 010 293, and email: cmeoffice.mpa@gmail.com

Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee  
Myanma Port Authority

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0046N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0046N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:  
**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (172N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (172N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:  
**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## A-bomb survivors march in New York ahead of nuclear treaty review confab

**S**URVIVORS of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki marched through New York on Sunday, chanting “No more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis” and calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, ahead of a major nuclear disarmament conference in the city.

Before the procession, Japanese survivors of the atomic bombings, also known as hibakusha, were joined by US peace activists and others in front of the New York Public Library in singing the Japanese anti-atomic bomb song “Genbaku o Yurusumaji”.

The group then headed toward the United Nations headquarters, stretching for about 100 metres. They chanted the slogan while beating drums and ringing bells, drawing the attention of pedestrians and people in nearby stores, including some who took pictures of the procession on their smartphones.

“I want them to listen, even just for a moment, and to feel that they want to eliminate even one nuclear weapon,” said Yua Saitsu, a 17-year-old high school peace messenger from Nagasaki.

The hibakusha and activists are in New York for a conference at the United Nations to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty starting Monday, which is generally held every five years.

At the conference’s session for



A march led by survivors of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is held in New York on 26 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

nongovernmental organizations, the scheduled speakers include the secretary-general of Nihon Hidankyo, Japan’s leading atomic bomb survivors group, the governor of Hiroshima Prefecture as well as the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Tadako Kawazoe, an 82-year-old survivor of the Nagasaki bombing, said, “We must continue raising our voices so the NPT returns to its founding principle: preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.”

After the march, Kunihiko Sakuma, the 81-year-old head of a Hiroshima-based group supporting survivors and himself an A-bomb victim, said, “I walked remembering other anti-nuclear activists who have already passed away, as well as the victims of the bombing.”

Second-generation atomic bomb victim Kazumi Maeda, who is 72 and from Saga Prefecture, said she “sensed strong public interest” during the procession, as people waved and gave thumbs-ups to the marchers. — Kyodo

### NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia to launch biosatellite for lunar mission simulation in mid-2030s

RUSSIA plans to launch a biosatellite to study the effects of deep-space conditions on living organisms in the mid-2030s, a senior scientist said Sunday.

The planned biosatellite “Vozvrat-MKA” will travel beyond Earth’s orbit, said Vladimir Sychev, a leading researcher in space biology at the Institute of Biomedical Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences, cited by RIA Novosti.

He noted that existing data on how living organisms respond to near-lunar conditions remain extremely limited, adding that the mission will study the effects of hypomagnetic environments, galactic radiation and high-energy secondary neutrons.

The satellite, carrying living organisms, is expected to reach an altitude of up to 200,000 kilometres to simulate interplanetary flight conditions and assess galactic cosmic radiation, according to reports. — Xinhua

Strict legal action taken after bomb hoax delays flight bound for Bangkok

A bomb hoax, which triggered a four-hour delay for a Thai AirAsia flight departing from Krabi International Airport on Sunday, has prompted Thai authorities to take immediate security measures and vow severe legal consequences for the perpetrator.

The incident unfolded at approximately 4:47 pm local time aboard Thai AirAsia flight AIQ 4401, an Airbus A320 bound for Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok. As the aircraft was pushing back from its parking stand, a passenger made a comment about an explosive device in carry-on luggage.

According to the flight attendant, she was assisting the passenger with placing a bag in the overhead compartment when the passenger said, “Slide the bag carefully. Beware of a bomb,” a statement repeated when the attendant asked for clarification. The crew member reported the remark to the captain, who promptly halted takeoff procedures and returned the aircraft to the gate. Despite the passenger later admitting the comment was a “joke,” standard security procedures were activated without delay. All passengers were evacuated, and all luggage was offloaded. — Xinhua

## Global military spending hits record high in 2025: report



Hellenic Ground Forces’ Leopard 2A6 HEL battle tanks ride during a military parade to mark the national “Oxi” (No) Day in Thessaloniki on 28 October 2025, commemorating Greece’s refusal to accept the ultimatum given by fascist Italy in 1940 during World War II. **PHOTO: AFP**

GLOBAL military expenditure rose to a record US\$2.89 trillion in 2025, marking the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of growth, according to a report released by the Stockholm International Peace Re-

search Institute (SIPRI) on Monday.

The global military burden, or military expenditure as a share of gross domestic product (GDP), rose to 2.5 per cent in 2025, the highest level since

2009, SIPRI said.

Military spending increased by 2.9 per cent in real terms from 2024, a sharp slowdown, however, from the 9.7 per cent rise recorded the previous year.

“Global military spending rose again in 2025 as states responded to another year of wars, uncertainty and geopolitical upheaval with large-scale armament drives,” said a researcher with SIPRI’s Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme.

The researcher said the growth would probably continue through 2026 and beyond, given current crises and many states’ long-term military spending targets. The United States remained the world’s largest military spender, though its expenditure fell by 7.5 per cent to \$954 billion in 2025. SIPRI said the decline was mainly because no new financial military assistance for Ukraine was approved during the year, in contrast to the previous three years. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Villarreal on verge of Champions League slot, Sevilla drops into bottom 3 in La Liga

VILLARREAL needs just one point from its remaining games to secure a place in next season's Champions League after a 2-1 home win over Celta Vigo on Sunday night.

Gerard Moreno opened the scoring from the penalty spot inside the first 30 seconds after Alberto Moleiro was fouled, and Villarreal doubled its lead shortly before the half-hour mark when Nicolas Pepe swept in a cross from the left.

Borja Iglesias pulled a goal back from the spot in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute, having to retake his penalty after his first effort was saved but ordered to be taken again for encroachment. Moments later, Ferran Jutgla headed against the post, but that was as close as Celta came to an equalizer. — Xinhua

## Asian Games likely to shift to year before Olympics starting in 2031

THE Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) plans to reschedule the Asian Games to the year immediately before the Summer Olympics, a move aimed at better aligning the continental event with the world's biggest sporting showcase, an OCA official told Xinhua on Monday.

The adjustment is expected to take effect from the Doha Asian Games, which would be moved from 2030 to 2031, said Song Luzeng, vice president of the OCA. The proposal has already been approved by the OCA Executive Board and is now under further consultation with international sports federations.

"It would allow the Asian Games to serve as a qualifying event for the Olympics, giving more elite athletes valuable competition opportunities and raising the overall standard of the Games," Song said. — Xinhua

## Three Turtles crowned Myanmar Plaza Sepak Takraw Champions



The Three Turtles Team receives the winning trophy of the Myanmar Plaza Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup 2026.

THE Myanmar Plaza Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup final, organized by the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation with the support of Myanmar Plaza, was held at Myanmar Plaza on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, at 5 pm yesterday.

In the final, the Three Turtles Team played against the Shwe Kyun Thar Team. The Three Turtles Team defeated the Shwe Kyun Thar Team 2-0. The Three Turtles Team won first prize, the Shwe Kyun Thar Team

took second place, while the USL Team and the YRG Team jointly secured third place.

After the competition, the award ceremony followed. The first-prize winners, the Three Turtles Team, received the Myanmar Plaza Sepak Takraw Challenge Cup 2026 trophy. The team also received individual medals and a cash prize of K5 million. The Shwe Kyun Thar Team received individual medals and a cash prize of K3 million, while the USL Team and the YRG Team, who jointly won third place, were

awarded individual medals and a cash prize of K1.5 million each.

"The ability to host such national-level competitions will greatly help us to succeed in international competitions. I believe that the Myanmar Plaza Challenge Cup, which is currently being held, will greatly support our participation in the Sepak Takraw World Cup to be held in Malaysia from 16 to 23 May 2026," said Vice-President U Aung Myint Myat of the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation. — MNA/MKKS



Jannik Sinner of Italy hits a return during the men's singles round of 32 match against Elmer Moller of Denmark at the 2026 Madrid Open on 26 April 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Sinner cruises through, Zheng gives Rybakina big scare at Madrid Open

TOP seed Jannik Sinner cruised into the last 16 of the Madrid Open on Sunday with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Elmer Moller. After struggling in his opening match, Sinner found his rhythm in a tournament missing both Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic. Sixth seed Lorenzo Musetti also advanced in straight sets, beating Tallon Griekspoor 6-4, 7-5 in a match that was closer than the scoreline suggested, with a key game in each set proving decisive. Arthur Fils reached the second week with a 7-6 (2), 6-3 victory over American Emilio Nava, while Cameron Norrie relied on his serve to guide the 19<sup>th</sup> seed past Thiago Agustin Tirante 7-5, 7-6 (5).

In the women's draw, China's Zheng Qinwen, seeded 32<sup>nd</sup>, pushed second seed Elena Rybakina hard before bowing out. Zheng took the first set 6-4 against the Kazakh, who was born in Russia, but Rybakina fought back to win a tense second set 6-4 and then took the decider 6-3 to reach the last 16. — Xinhua

## Mbappe doubt for Clasico after Real Madrid confirm thigh injury

REAL Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe is a doubt for the Clasico on 10 May after his club confirmed Monday he has sustained a thigh injury.

"He has been diagnosed with an injury to the semitendinosus muscle in his left leg," said Los Blancos in a statement, after the France captain went off hurt during Madrid's 1-1 draw against Real Betis in La Liga last Friday.

Madrid, second in the Spanish top flight by 11 points from leaders Barcelona, face Espanyol on Sunday before taking on the Catalan giants the following weekend.

Real Madrid initially indicated Mbappe had suffered a muscular overload, but further tests showed their top goalscorer was injured. — AFP



## Putin meets Iran's top diplomat in St Petersburg

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin held talks with Abbas Araghchi and said Moscow would do everything in its power, alongside regional states, to help bring peace to the Middle East as soon as possible.

Russia is ready to do everything that serves Iran's interests in the context of the conflict in the Middle East, Vladimir Putin said during talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Saint Petersburg.

Putin said that he received a message from Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei.

"At the beginning of the conversation, I would like to note that last week I received a message from the Supreme leader of Iran," Putin said at talks with Araghchi.

The Iranian people are fighting courageously and heroically for their sovereignty, Putin said, adding that Russia hopes that the Iranian people will pull through this period of trials and tribulations, and that peace would come soon.

Earlier in the day, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Saint Petersburg for talks with President Putin.

Araghchi thanked Moscow for supporting Tehran. He praised the relations between both countries and said they would continue to strengthen.

The diplomat added that Iran would continue resisting the US.



Russian President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during a meeting at the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library in St Petersburg, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Before the talks, Iran's top diplomat stated that he intended to discuss coordinated efforts with Russia to help end the conflict in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov, and Chief of the Main Directorate of the General Staff Igor Kostyukov also participated

in the meeting. The Iranian delegation also included Araghchi's deputy Kazem Gharibabadi and Iran's ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali. — SPUTNIK

## Final talks begin on missing piece for pandemic treaty

AN extra week of negotiations to complete an international agreement on handling future pandemics kicked off in Geneva on Monday, with sharp divisions holding up an accord.

Wealthy countries and developing nations are at loggerheads in the talks at the World Health Organization over how the pandemic treaty, adopted last year, will

work in practice.

The agreement's Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system deals with sharing access to pathogens with pandemic potential, then sharing benefits derived from them such as vaccines, tests and treatments.

"The world cannot afford to lose this opportunity and risk being unprepared for the next pandemic"

ic," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at the start of the talks.

"It will not be perfect; no agreement ever is. But it can be fair; it can be functional," he told negotiators.

In May 2025, WHO members adopted a landmark agreement on tackling future health crises, after more than three years of negotiations sparked by the shock of COVID-19.

The accord aims to prevent a repeat of the disjointed international response that surrounded the coronavirus crisis, by improving global coordination, surveillance and access to vaccines.

PABS, the heart of the treaty, was left out to get the bulk of the deal over the line.

"Developing countries are voicing their mistrust, fearing they will share their viruses without any guarantees of equitable access to vaccines in the event of a crisis," WHO chief scientist Sylvie Briand told AFP. — AFP



The New "Umbral" monument, which pays tribute to medical personnel who died during the COVID-19 pandemic, is pictured in Bogota on 13 February 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Hezbollah rejects direct Lebanon-Israel talks

HEZBOLLAH leader Sheikh Naim Qassem said Monday that Hezbollah categorically rejects direct Lebanon-Israel talks, noting that any outcomes from such talks are irrelevant to the group.

"We reject direct negotiations outright," Qassem said in a statement, adding that the talks and their results "do not concern us in any way." He also accused the Lebanese authorities of making humiliating and unnecessary concessions and acting against the interests of the Lebanese people.

He outlined five conditions as the only acceptable path forward: ending Israeli attacks by land, sea and air, Israel's withdrawal from occupied territory, the release of prisoners, the return of displaced residents to their towns and villages, and reconstruction. — Xinhua