

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This image captures domestic travellers visiting the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

Bagan Sees Rise in Jan-Apr Visitor Arrivals Year on Year

More than 510,000 domestic and international visitors had arrived in Bagan as of 25 April this year, and with expected surges during the Kason full moon period, total arrivals are projected to surpass the over 530,000 recorded by April last year.

THE Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone is expected to attract more visitors in the first four months of this year than in the same period last year, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan Branch).

During the international New Year and the Myanmar New Year festivals, domestic and foreign visitors visited the Bagan archaeological zone, especially the 18 famous pagodas and temples, and those featuring ancient mural paintings, were crowded with visitors. And so, it is estimated that visitor arrivals this year will surpass those of the same four-month period last year.

“Compared to the first four months of last year, the number of domestic and foreign visitors up to the end of these

four months this year is not significantly different. However, if there are no issues such as extreme heat or fuel shortages in late March and April, the number of visitors is expected to increase noticeably compared to last year. We are pleased to see a steady increase in tourist arrivals year by year. As the full moon day of Kason falls at the end of this month, we expect more visitors to come. Including this holiday period, it can be said that more tourists will visit Bagan compared to the previous four months. It is encouraging to see the continuous growth in tourist arrivals each year. Since there will be a four-day holiday including the Kason full moon day, we would like to invite pilgrims and travellers from across the country to visit Bagan,” said Daw San San Myint,

assistant director of the department.

During the recent four-day Thingyan festival, more than 9,000 local and foreign visitors came to Bagan. In comparison, over 14,000 visitors were recorded during the same period last year. Although there was a decrease of about 5,000 visitors due to extreme heat and fuel difficulties, the total number of visitors during the first four months of this year did not decline compared to last year.

Last year, more than 530,000 domestic and international visitors arrived in Bagan by April. This year, more than 510,000 visitors had already arrived by 25 April, and with the expected crowds during the Kason full moon period at the end of April, the total number is projected to exceed last year’s figure. — Oktha/KTZH

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Full Moon Day of Kason, unique for Buddhists

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Authorities crack down on telecom fraudsters and gambling rings in Muse

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 38/2026

14th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
29 April 2026

Announcement on substitution of Amyotha Hluttaw representative

THE Union Election Commission hereby announces that, following the multiparty democratic general election held in phases beginning on 28 December 2025, the elected representatives for the Amyotha Hluttaw under the proportional representation system in the Ayeyawady Region have been officially declared.

Under Rule 132 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Rules, U Pyone Cho [14MaMaNa(C)009804] is hereby appointed as a substitute representative for vacant seat No 7 from Constituency 1 of the Amyotha Hluttaw under the proportional representation system in the Ayeyawady Region. This seat was previously held by U Myint Kyaing [9/MaNaMa(C)089546] of the Union Solidarity and Development Party. The appointment has been made in line with the priority list submitted by the relevant political party.

(Sd) Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 40/2026

14th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
29 April 2026

Announcement on substitution of Defence Services representative to Region or State Hluttaw

THE Union Election Commission hereby announces that, following the multiparty democratic general election held in phases beginning on 28 December 2025, a substitution has been made to a Defence Services representative in a Region or State Hluttaw.

Under Section 33 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law, and upon notification from the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services requesting a change to a previously submitted nomination, the commission has reviewed the matter and hereby confirms the substitution of the representative originally announced in Commission Announcement 35/2026, dated 11 February 2026, as follows: -

Taninthayi Region Hluttaw Representative Col Thein Zaw Myint (BC 31667) is replaced by Col Yan Gyi Aung (BC 33135).

(Sd) Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 39/2026

14th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
29 April 2026

Announcement on substitution of Region or State Hluttaw representatives

THE Union Election Commission hereby announces that, following the multiparty democratic general election held in phases beginning on 28 December 2025, the elected representatives for the Region and State Hluttaws under the proportional representation system have been officially declared.

Under Rule 132 of the Region and State Hluttaw Election Rules, the following individuals are hereby appointed as substitute representatives for vacant seats in proportional representation constituencies, in line with the priority lists submitted by the respective political parties: -

- (1) Kayin State Hluttaw (Proportional Representation System), Constituency 1
Nan Ni Ni Aye [3/BaAhNa(C)013826] (Hpa-An Township), Representative 2, of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, is replaced by U Aung Myint Thein [3/KaKaYa(C)010538] (Hpa-An Township), Representative 2, of the Union Solidarity and Development Party.
- (2) Yangon Region Hluttaw (Proportional Representation System), Constituency 1
U Htin Kyaw Thu [12/LaKaNa(C)022202] (Mayangon Township), Representative 2, of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, is replaced by U Aung Pyae Phyo [12/ThaKaTa(C)142163] (Mayangon Township), Representative 2, of the Union Solidarity and Development Party.

(Sd) Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



MAI, KBZMS launch travel insurance programme

MYANMAR Airways International and KBZMS General Insurance have jointly introduced a travel insurance programme to enhance passenger safety, convenience, and confidence.

The travel insurance provides coverage for infectious diseases, including COVID-19, as well as baggage delay, loss or damage of baggage, flight delays, trip cancellation, personal liability, accidental death and permanent disability, medical

expenses, and the repatriation of remains.

KBZMS General Insurance Chief Executive Officer, U Sai Lu Mon Aung, stated that passengers can easily obtain insurance coverage by accessing the MAI website, enabling them to travel with greater confidence.

The travel insurance became available from 28 April. MAI passengers can purchase it through the

add-on section of the airline's official website when booking flights, allowing them to obtain insurance coverage together with their tickets. — ASH/KZL

This image displays an advert for the travel insurance jointly introduced by MAI and KBZMS.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office

Directive 1/2026

14th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
29 April 2026

District Administrative Directive

1. The President's Office has issued this directive to amend the District Administrative Directive issued by the State Administrative Council with Directive 3/2025 on 30 July 2025.
2. Paragraph 11 of District Administrative Directive shall be substituted as follows:

"11. The Region or State governments, Nay Pyi Taw Council, shall form the District Management and Administrative Committee with the approval of the Union Government to carry out the district administrative measures as follows: -

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| (a) District Administrator | Chairman |
| District General Administration Department | |
| (b) District Head | Member |
| Planning Department | |
| (c) District Legal Officer | Member |
| District Law Office | |
| (d) District Head | Member |
| Ministry of Immigration and Population | |
| (e) A person assigned by the district administrator | Member |
| (f) District Police Force Head | Secretary |
| Myanmar Police Force | |

By order,
Khin Lat
Deputy Minister
President's Office

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office

Directive 2/2026

14th Waxing of Kason 1388 ME
29 April 2026

Township Administrative Directive

1. The President's Office has issued this directive to amend the Township Administrative Directive issued by the State Administrative Council with Directive 4/2025 on 30 July 2025.
2. Paragraph 11 of Township Administrative Directive shall be substituted as follows: -

"11. The Region or State governments, Nay Pyi Taw Council shall form the Township Management and Administrative Committee with the approval of the Union Government to carry out the Township administrative measures as follows: -

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| (a) Township Administrator | Chairman |
| Township General Administration Department | |
| (b) Township Head | Member |
| Planning Department | |
| (c) Township Legal Officer | Member |
| Township Law Office | |
| (d) Township Head | Member |
| Ministry of Immigration and Population | |
| (e) A person assigned by the township administrator | Member |
| (f) Township Police Force Head | Secretary |
| Myanmar Police Force | |

By order,
Khin Lat
Deputy Minister
President's Office

Myanmar joins AMAF Special Ministers' Meeting on Middle East Situation online

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, virtually joined the special meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) on the Latest Situation in the Middle East yesterday, hosted by the Philippines.

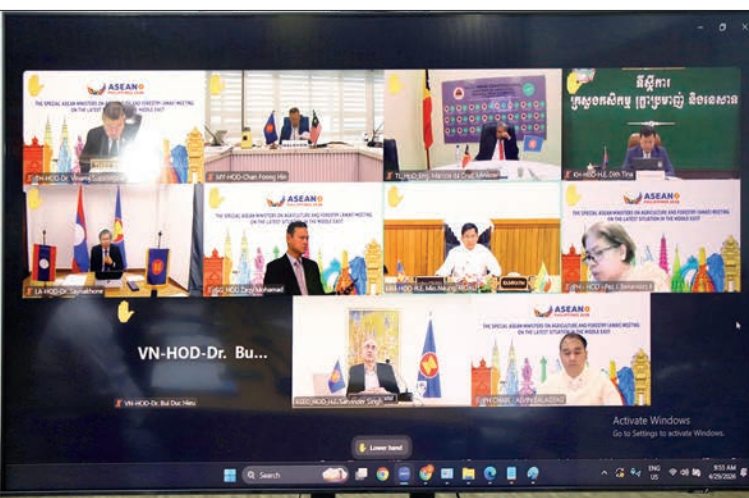
During the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the need for close cooperation among ASEAN member states to address potential challenges related to food security and energy security arising from ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. He noted that while Myanmar's current summer agricultural production has not yet been significantly affected due to the use of remaining fuel supplies and fertilizers, the difficulties in fuel and fertilizer availability may arise in the upcoming monsoon season.



Union Minister U Min Naung virtually participates in the AMAF Special Ministers' Meeting on the Latest Situation in the Middle East, hosted by the Philippines, yesterday.

To overcome these challenges, Myanmar plans to maintain a reserve of agricultural fuel and distribute it to farmers at affordable prices. The country will also seek fuel assistance from ASEAN member states

to enable the use of harvesting machinery. Moreover, efforts are being accelerated to ensure equitable sharing of fertilizers among ASEAN countries and to promote the use of organic fertilizers through expanded technical support.



He continued that Myanmar supports strengthening the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve system, enhancing data sharing, and promoting open trade to ensure regional food security, while emphasizing the need for close cooperation among all ASEAN member states in unity.

The meeting aimed to discuss the current food security situation, preparedness measures, ongoing initiatives, policy frameworks, and strategic responses. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

40-MW Thazi, Thabyaywa solar power plants inaugurated in Mandalay

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy held an opening ceremony yesterday morning for two completed solar power plants in Mandalay Region — the 40-megawatt Thazi Solar Power Plant in Thazi Township, Meiktila District, constructed by Leader Power Co Ltd, and the 40-megawatt Thabyaywa Solar Power Plant in Meiktila Township, constructed by Hanzar Solar Energy Co Ltd.

After the ceremonial procedures, Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin stated that the two completed projects will be able to generate about 202 million kilowatt-hours annually and supply electricity to around 130,000 households. A 210-megawatt solar power project currently under construction will be completed soon, and the Ministry will continue to provide necessary support to ensure timely completion.

He also explained that on-



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin presses the button at the opening ceremony of Solar Power Plants in Mandalay Region yesterday.

going power generation projects are facing delays for various reasons. Some operating plants have suffered destruction, leading to reduced electricity gener-

ation. In the transmission sector, long-distance transmission results in energy losses, and some major transmission lines have been damaged due to natural

disasters and human actions. Therefore, the well-functioning transmission lines are facing excessive loads, causing frequent system breakdowns and power

outages. In the transmission sector, drawbacks and malpractice have also led to electricity losses. Due to these weaknesses in the electricity system, consumers are currently using the power through a rotating system. He continued that both short-term and long-term plans will be implemented to address these challenges.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung remarked, and an official of the power plant expressed gratitude.

The Union minister and party then watched the documentary movie on the construction of the power plants, toured the plant area and observed the installation of solar panels from a designated viewpoint.

They inspected the ongoing construction of a 210-megawatt solar power project being implemented by Shwe Swan Inn Company Limited. — MNA/KTZH

Efforts underway to strengthen Myanmar's energy security, domestic production

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is implementing both short-term and long-term plans to strengthen the country's energy security, ensure the efficient and effective use of energy in the economic sector, develop energy infrastructure, reduce dependence on imported energy, and promote the development of domestic energy resources.

In addition, the Ministry is carrying out initiatives such as constructing a modern oil refinery to enable domestic production and use of petroleum

products, applying advanced technologies to increase the output of oil and natural gas from domestic fields, and cooperating with private entrepreneurs to enhance oil and gas production activities.

In efforts to increase production from onshore oil and gas fields, research and development activities are being carried out. Research and analysis of thin sandstone formations in Well 14 have been conducted at the Maubin (South) Oil and Gas Field operated by Myanma Oil

and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. Following drilling operations, approximately two million cubic feet of natural gas were produced yesterday.

The newly increased natural gas output is being distributed through the Ywama Gas Distribution Station in Yangon for use in electricity generation.

Since the end of 2023, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has been conducting research and analysis of thin sandstone formations in the Aphyauk and



This photo shows Well 14 of Maubin (South) Oil and Gas Field.

Maubin oil and gas fields. The natural gas produced from these fields is being supplied for use in compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles in Yangon, fertilizer

factories, industrial plants in Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region, liquefied petroleum gas plants, and the electricity generation sector. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

MoH Union Minister calls for inclusive peace talks to strengthen healthcare, achieve UHC

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win said at the opening ceremony of the World Hepatitis Summit 2026 that Myanmar is calling for inclusive peace talks, which are a fundamental requirement for strengthening healthcare systems and achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

He also said at the summit, held from 28 to 30 April at the Eastin Grand Hotel Phayathai in Bangkok, Thailand, that the event, held under the theme “Elimination for Everyone, Everywhere, Right Now,” aligns closely with Myanmar’s efforts to leave no one behind in the fight against hepatitis. He added that his ministry is committed to achieving the goal of eliminating hepatitis in Myanmar by 2030.

The Union minister said that Myanmar’s progress in hepatitis prevention and treatment has led to the expansion of free hepatitis C treatment to 36 public hospitals nationwide by 2025, bringing emergency healthcare services closer to the people. He added that the hepatitis B vaccine has been included in the national immunization programme and is administered to all newborns immediately after



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win joins the documentary group photo session during the opening ceremony of the World Hepatitis Summit 2026, held in Thailand.

birth. He further noted that the National Blood Centre and similar facilities across the country have been systematically implementing a safe blood donation programme since 2012, and that the incidence of hepatitis B and hepatitis C has been decreasing significantly year by year.

The Union minister also said that hepatitis treatment drugs are being manufactured locally and that special emphasis is being placed on prevent-

ing mother-to-child transmission and promoting people-centered healthcare. He added that a national strategic plan for hepatitis has been formulated and implemented to make prevention and treatment services accessible to everyone. The ministry is also accelerating disease prevention and treatment activities in collaboration with the Myanmar Liver Foundation and international organizations. He further expressed his hope that repre-

sentatives, experts, and partner organizations from various countries attending the conference would strengthen cooperation in healthcare activities, including hepatitis prevention and treatment.

The Union minister then held a separate meeting with Mr Pattana Promphat, Minister of Public Health of Thailand, to discuss further cooperation in healthcare services between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Union minister discussed measures to effectively implement policies aimed at increasing citizens’ life expectancy, strengthening healthcare services that directly benefit the public, enhancing existing health cooperation in border areas between the two countries, promoting collaboration in health human resource development, advancing the Dawei Hospital upgrade project, and providing training for doctors and nurses to improve their performance. He also discussed cooperation between the two countries to upgrade healthcare systems, achieve the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and address other mutually beneficial issues in the health sector.

The conference was attended by health ministers, deputy ministers, and secretaries from health ministries of ASEAN and other countries, as well as senior health officials. Other participants included the President and members of the World Hepatitis Alliance, regional directors from the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regional Offices, invited liver specialists, and other distinguished guests. — MNA/TH

ME in Seoul aids family of worker killed in industrial accident

A Myanmar national, Maung San Yu, who was legally employed at a steel casting factory in Hwaseong City, Gyeonggi Province, Republic of Korea, suffered a workplace accident on 24 March and later passed away while receiving medical treatment at a hospital.

The Myanmar Embassy in Seoul assisted the family of the deceased by facilitating timely visa arrangements so they could travel to Korea to hold the funeral. The embassy also worked in coordination with the

E9 Friends Law Firm company, which officially signed with the labour attaché, the Ministry of Labour, to ensure that all entitled rights and benefits were fully obtained. Embassy staff, along with personnel from the military attaché office, also attended the funeral and provided necessary assistance.

During the family’s stay in Korea, the labour attaché from the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul supported them with travel and accommodation arrangements, opening a tempo-

rary bank account, handling necessary documentation, and coordinating with relevant organizations to secure all entitled benefits.

As a result of these efforts, the deceased’s wife was able to fully receive all due entitlements, including service pay, unpaid wages, overtime pay, leave compensation, workplace injury insurance, funeral support funds, and employer-provided compensation, and arrangements were made to ensure legal fees were kept at



A family member receives the compensation through the Labour attaché at the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, South Korea.

a minimum rate.

The Myanmar Embassy in Seoul assists and protects the interests of Myanmar nationals

in Korea, including those legally employed, in accordance with the laws of both countries. — MNA/KTZH

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.

NATIONAL

Graduation ceremonies held across nation for People's Military Service Training 22



The graduation parade for the People's Military Service Training 22 in action yesterday.

ees who demonstrated outstanding performance throughout the course.

Following the ceremonies, chief ministers from the respective regions and states, along with commanders of various commands and officials, met with the newly graduated soldiers of Course 22 in the school halls. They delivered encouraging remarks and greeted the graduates warmly. During the course, trainees were provided with systematic instruction in physical fitness, military drill, combat tactics, and general subjects.

Under the Constitution, the State protects the rights of its citizens, who in turn are required to perform national duties. Committed to fulfilling these obligations, these exemplary citizens have completed their training and are now undertaking their roles in national defence and security.

Subsequently, graduation honorary dinners were held at the respective training depots for newly graduated soldiers of Course 22. — MNA/GNLM

EVERY citizen holds a fundamental duty to uphold the "Our Three Main National Causes": the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the

perpetuation of sovereignty. In fulfilment of these responsibilities, young people who enthusiastically registered have been undergoing training, and the graduation ceremonies for Peo-

ple's Military Service Training 22 were held yesterday at various training depots across the respective military commands.

The graduation ceremonies followed a formal military pa-

rade, during which trainees took a solemn oath of allegiance while holding the national flag. Officials from each training depot delivered graduation addresses and presented awards to train-

Myanmar facilitates safe return of citizens facing hardship abroad

THE Government of Myanmar, placing a high value on its citizens, is committed to ensuring that Myanmar embassies and consulates, in coordination with relevant ministries and host-country authorities, take necessary action to enable Myanmar nationals abroad to return home safely and promptly, regardless of the difficulties they may face.

The Myanmar Consulate-General in Cairo worked in coordination with the relevant authorities in Iraq and employment agencies to secure exit permits for Myanmar nationals Ma Khin San Htay, Ma Thin Thin Aye, and Ma Phyo Ei Mar, who had been facing difficulties while working in Iraq.

They departed for Yangon via a Baghdad-Sharjah flight on 27 April, a Sharjah-Bangkok flight



The photo shows Ma Khin San Htay, Ma Thin Thin Aye and Ma Phyo Ei Mar who were repatriated from Baghdad, Iraq. **PHOTO: THIHA**

on 28 April, and a Bangkok-Yangon flight on 29 April, arriving in Yangon at 3:10 am.

The Myanmar Consulate-General continues to assist Myanmar nationals abroad who are experiencing difficulties, helping facilitate their safe return home. The government, through the efforts of Myanmar embassies and consulates, continues

to support the repatriation of Myanmar nationals who encounter hardship while working overseas.

The families of the workers have expressed their deep gratitude to the Myanmar Government, the Myanmar Consulate-General, and the Myanmar Embassy for their assistance in rescuing their loved ones during times of distress. — Thiha/MKKS

Loans doubled to boost farmers' production costs in FY 2026-2027

IN the 2026-2027 financial year, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue will provide loans at approximately twice the current rate to help cover farmers' production costs.

In addition, agricultural machinery loans will be made available to farmers and agricultural producers. Loans of up to K3 billion will be provided for one sector, while loans exceeding K3 billion will be available for another sector, to increase productivity in agriculture-based industries. The increased loan amounts and the new agricultural machinery loan programme are scheduled to be launched in early May.

The new loan programme will offer low-interest financing, enabling farmers to access funds that meet their practical needs. This is expected to strengthen farmers' confidence in the national government and state-owned banks.

The Myanma Agricultural Development Bank provides seasonal loans to farmers each year during the monsoon, winter, and summer growing periods. Pre-monsoon crop loans are currently being issued for 24 crops, including paddy. In the 2026-2027 financial year, loan amounts will be increased to approximately twice the current level to ensure adequate support for farmers' production costs. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

KIA, KPDF members rejoin legal framework

THE government is extending an invitation to those involved in various armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support.

A total of four members of KIA and KPDF entered the legal fold yesterday. These returning members stated that they could no longer accept the terrorist acts committed by the armed groups and PDF, such as forced conscription, threatening, arresting, and killing innocent civilians and civil servants for the benefit of terrorist organizations, planting mines and destroying non-military infrastructure like roads and bridges. They also cited discrimination, internal hierarchical oppression, torture, killings, violence, poor living conditions, and demoralization due to an inability to resist Tatmadaw operations



A ceremony welcoming KIA/KPDF members who returned to the legal fold, along with the provision of cash assistance, is underway in Tanai, Kachin State, yesterday.

as reasons for leaving. Moreover, they expressed trust in the State and Tatmadaw's peace processes and a desire to live peacefully under the law, hoping to contribute back to the

State and people whom they had caused losses to.

The four individuals- two male members of KIA and one male and one female member of KPDF reentered the legal

fold yesterday and were accepted by responsible officials. At the handover ceremony, PDF members were handed over to their parents or guardians at Ye Mahn Aung Hall of

Tanai base in the Northern Command Headquarters yesterday.

Returnees handed over one Ko Pari rifle, one KA-25 gun, one K-25, four grenades, 600 bullets, nine magazines, one bullet-proof vest, one walkie-talkie and other materials to the relevant officials.

Officials rewarded K10 million for two rifles, K7.5 million for one K-25 gun, K1.2 million for four grenades and K2 million for the returnees, totalling K20.9 million.

There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Handover ceremony for 2 air quality monitoring stations held

A ceremony for the handover of two Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS) was held at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

The two units were donated by the Clean Air for Sustainable ASEAN (CASA) Project. The combined value of these monitoring stations is US\$68,800.

During the handover ceremony, Chief Minister of

Yangon Region U Aung Naing Thu delivered the opening remarks. This was followed by a video presentation regarding the CASA Project. Officials then proceeded to sign the formal documents to record the handover of the equipment. Subsequently, Professor Mr Ki Young Lee from Seoul National University, representing the CASA Project, expressed his words

of thanks.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, regional ministers, officials from the CASA Project, the Director-General and responsible personnel from the Environmental Conservation Department, heads of regional departments, district and township-level officials, and other invitees. — ASH/KNN



This photo depicts the handover ceremony for the two Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS) in progress.

Animal workshop transforms Myanmar zoos into international-standard conservation centres

TO transform Myanmar zoos into international conservation zoos and enrich animals' quality of life, a three-day workshop called Animal Behaviour and Enrichment has been in progress at the Yangon Zoo.

Organized by Htoo Zoos and Garden Business Unit, the 8th Animal Behaviour and Enrichment Workshop has been ongoing from 28 to 30 April at the Yangon Zoo, and experts from Thailand Khao Kheow Open Zoo and international organizations have given lectures.

At the workshop, about 38 trainees, including officials from the Department of Forest, zoo administrators, veterinarians, zoo keepers and staff, have joined.

The workshop aims to change zoos in Myanmar into international conservation zoos

and understand the natural behaviours of animals for the enrichment of their quality of life, said the Yangon Zoo. In particular, the workshop is designed to provide enrichment techniques which support the mental and physical growth of animals, creating natural habitats and sharing knowledge about stress release, it said.

Organizing such workshops supports Myanmar zoos to meet animal welfare norms set by the South-East Asian Zoos and Aquariums Association (SEAZA).

The Animals Welfare Auditory Team, comprising international experts, will come to Myanmar in August and visit each zoo to conduct thorough inspections, verifying compliance with SEAZA norms and ensuring the humane treatment of captive animals. — MT/ZS

OPINION

Full Moon Day of Kason, unique for Buddhists

THE Lord Gautama Buddha attained omniscient knowledge while seated beneath the Bodhi tree, through the accumulated power of the perfections developed over countless lifetimes of practice. For this reason, Myanmar Buddhist people regard the full moon day of Kason as the most sacred and auspicious day.

As significant evidence, the full moon day of Kason (Buddha Day) is one of the most highly revered days for Buddhists. On this day, the Bodhisatta Sumedha, the hermit, received a prophecy from Buddha Dipankara that He would certainly become a Buddha in the future. It was also on the full moon day of Kason in the year 68 of the Maha Era that the future Buddha was born. Furthermore, it was on the full moon day of Kason in 103 Maha Era that He attained insight into the Four Noble

Buddhists have long practised venerating and worshipping the Buddha. They cherish the tradition of watering Bodhi trees, as the Buddha attained enlightenment beneath the Bodhi tree in the month of Kason, which falls during the hottest period of summer.

During this time, water sources are at their lowest and most depleted. Therefore, in devotion to the Buddha, the practice of pouring water on the Bodhi tree has given rise to the “Bodhi Tree Watering Festival”.

Although the Lord Buddha attained Parinibbana, Myanmar Buddhists regard the Maha Bodhi tree as a representation of the Buddha, as it is believed to have emerged together with other significant sacred signs at the time of the Buddha-to-be's birth. With this devotion, they perform the meritorious act of pouring scented water on Bodhi trees annually on the full moon day of Kason.

On this Buddha Day, Bodhi trees at pagodas and temples across the country are especially crowded with devotees who come to pour water on the sacred trees, making the occasion lively and vibrant throughout the nation with the perspectives of greeting the Bo trees and adjusting to the hot environment.

Truths. Finally, it was on the full moon day of Kason in 148 Maha Era that He attained Parinibbana (final passing away). Thus, this auspicious day is associated with these four significant events.

As an international movement in September 1999, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka submitted a proposal to the United Nations to have it officially recognized as a global public holiday. Subsequently, the United Nations designated the Buddha Day on the full moon day of Kason as an international public holiday known as the Vesak Universal Holiday.

Buddhists have long practised venerating and worshipping the Buddha. They cherish the tradition of watering Bodhi trees, as the Buddha attained enlightenment beneath the Bodhi tree in the month of Kason, which falls during the hottest period of summer. During this time, water sources are at their lowest and most depleted. Therefore, in devotion to the Buddha, the practice of pouring water on the Bodhi tree has given rise to the “Bodhi Tree Watering Festival”.

UNITY LEADS TO PROGRESS WHILE DUPLICITY BRINGS RUIN

By AUGUSTIN



“တစ်လှေတည်းစီး တစ်ခရီးတည်းသွား” “We ride in the same boat, we go on the same journey”

IN THIS interconnected world, choosing unity over division defines true success. Your stance determines whether you thrive by working together or fail by straddling two separate, uncertain, and risky paths. Here are two insightful Myanmar proverbs that perfectly reflect this concept, offering timeless wisdom for navigating the complexities of our shared modern life and fostering stronger connections in everything we do.

I wrote this article for foreign readers who are studying the Myanmar language, so I have presented it in a bilingual format using both Myanmar and English.

“တစ်လှေတည်းစီးတစ်ခရီးတည်းသွား”

“တစ်လှေတည်းစီးတစ်ခရီးတည်းသွား” ဆိုတဲ့ စကားပုံက “ငါတို့အားလုံးအတွက် အတူတူ အလုပ်လုပ်ကြရတာပါ။” ဆိုတာကို သတိပေးနေတာပါ။ လှေတစ်စင်းတည်းပေါ်မှာ အတူပါလာတဲ့သူတွေဟာ လှေမြုပ်ရင် အားလုံးမြုပ်မယ်၊ လှေပန်းတိုင်ရောက်ရင် အားလုံးအတူရောက်မယ်ဆိုတဲ့ သဘောပေါ့။ ဒီ

နေ့ခေတ် ကမ္ဘာကြီးမှာဆိုရင် ဒီစကားပုံက ပိုတောင် အရေးပါလာပေးတယ်။ ဥပမာအနေနဲ့ Climate Change (ရာသီဥတုပြောင်းလဲမှု) ပြဿနာကို ကြည့်ပါ။ ဒါဟာ နိုင်ငံကြီးပဲဖြစ်ဖြစ်၊ နိုင်ငံငယ်ပဲဖြစ်ဖြစ် ရှောင်လွှဲလို့မရတဲ့ အခက်အခဲတွေ ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့တဲ့ COVID-19 ကပ်ရောဂါ တုန်းက ကမ္ဘာတစ်ဝက်ခြမ်းမှာ ဖြစ်နေတာပဲဆိုပြီး လျစ်လျူထားလို့ မရဘဲ လူသားအားလုံး အတူတကွ ရင်ဆိုင်ခဲ့ရတာမဟုတ်လား။ ဒါဟာ တစ်ကမ္ဘာလုံးက လူသားတွေဟာ လှေတစ်စင်းတည်းစီးနေကြတဲ့ ခရီးသည့်တွေ ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သက်သေပြနေတာပါ။

သမိုင်းဝင် ဖြစ်ရပ်တစ်ခုကို ပြောပြရင် International Space Station (ISS) ကို ကြည့်နိုင်ပါတယ်။ အာကာသထဲမှာ အမေရိကန်နဲ့ ရုရှား အပါအဝင် ကမ္ဘာမြေပေါ်မှာ နိုင်ငံရေးအဆင်မပြေမှုတွေ ရှိနေရင်တောင် အာကာသစခန်းထဲမှာတော့ “တစ်လှေတည်းစီး” စိတ်ဓာတ်နဲ့ အတူတူ အသက်ရှင်၊ အတူတူ အလုပ်လုပ်ကြရတာပါ။

ဒီစကားပုံရဲ့ တန်ဖိုးက “ညီညွတ်လာ ကံကြမ္မာချင်း ဆက်နွယ်နေကြတယ်” ဆိုတာကို သတိပေးနေတာပါ။ အားလုံးဟာ ပန်းတိုင်တစ်ခုတည်းကို တွေ့ရတာပဲလို့ အားလုံးမြုပ်မယ်၊ လှေပန်းတိုင်ရောက်ရင် အားလုံးအတူရောက်မယ်ဆိုတဲ့ သဘောပေါ့။ ဒီ

နေ့ခေတ်တစ်ယောက်က လှေဝမ်းကို ဖောက်နေမယ်ဆိုရင် ဘယ်သူမှ ခရီးဆုံးရောက်မှာ မဟုတ်ပါဘူး။ ဒါကြောင့် ဒီစကားပုံက အချင်းချင်း ဖေးမကူညီဖို့နဲ့ တူညီတဲ့ ရည်မှန်းချက်အတွက် စုပေါင်းအင်အားနဲ့ ရှေ့ဆက်ဖို့ ခွန်အားပေးနေတာ ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

ဒီနေ့ခေတ် စီးပွားရေးလောကကို ပြန်ကြည့်ရင်လည်း “တစ်လှေတည်းစီး တစ်ခရီးတည်းသွား” ဆိုတဲ့ စကားက ပိုမှန်နေတာကို တွေ့ရပါလိမ့်မယ်။ ကမ္ဘာကြီးဟာ Global Supply Chain ဆိုတဲ့ ကြီးမားတဲ့ စီးပွားရေးလောကကို ချိတ်ဆက်ထားတာမို့ တစ်နေရာမှာ ပြဿနာတက်ရင် ကျန်တဲ့နေရာတွေ ပိုရိုခက်ခဲမှုရှိလာတာ အဆန်းမဟုတ်တော့ပါဘူး။

အထင်ရှားဆုံး သာဓကတစ်ခုကတော့ ၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်မှာ ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့တဲ့ နိုင်ငံပေါင်းစုံက သိပ္ပံပညာရှင်တွေဟာ ကမ္ဘာမြေပေါ်မှာ နိုင်ငံရေးအဆင်မပြေမှုတွေ ရှိနေရင်တောင် အာကာသစခန်းထဲမှာတော့ “တစ်လှေတည်းစီး” စိတ်ဓာတ်နဲ့ အတူတူ အသက်ရှင်၊ အတူတူ အလုပ်လုပ်ကြရတာပါ။

ဒီစကားပုံရဲ့ တန်ဖိုးက “ညီညွတ်လာ ကံကြမ္မာချင်း ဆက်နွယ်နေကြတယ်” ဆိုတာကို သတိပေးနေတာပါ။ အားလုံးဟာ ပန်းတိုင်တစ်ခုတည်းကို တွေ့ရတာပဲလို့ အားလုံးမြုပ်မယ်၊ လှေပန်းတိုင်ရောက်ရင် အားလုံးအတူရောက်မယ်ဆိုတဲ့ သဘောပေါ့။ ဒီ



“လှေနှံနှစ်ဖက်နှင်း” “Straddling two boats”

Ever Given သင်္ဘောကြီးရဲ့ သမိုင်းဝင် ဖြစ်ရပ်ဟာ “တစ်လှေတည်းစီး တစ်ခရီးတည်းသွား” ဆိုတဲ့ အဓိပ္ပာယ်ကို တစ်ကမ္ဘာလုံး သိသွားအောင် သင်ခန်းစာပေးခဲ့ပါတယ်။ အလျားပေ ၁၃၀၀ ကျော်ရှိတဲ့ ဒီဇရာမ ကုန်တင် သင်္ဘောကြီးဟာ ဆူးအက်တူးမြောင်းထဲမှာ ကန့်လန့်ဖြတ် သောင်တင်သွားတဲ့အတွက် ကမ္ဘာကုန်သွယ်ရေးလမ်းကြောင်းကြီးတစ်ခုလုံး ရက်ပေါင်းများစွာ ရပ်တန့်သွားခဲ့ရပါတယ်။

သင်္ဘောတစ်စင်းတည်း လမ်းပိတ်သွားတာဟာ ကမ္ဘာကုန်သွယ်ရေးရဲ့ ၁၂ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းလောက်ကို ထိခိုက်စေခဲ့ပြီး နိုင်ငံပေါင်းစုံမှာ ကုန်ပစ္စည်းပြတ်လပ်တာ၊ ဈေးနှုန်းတက်တာတွေ ဖြစ်ကုန်ပါတယ်။

တစ်လှေတည်းစီး တစ်ခရီးတည်းသွား” ဆိုတဲ့ စကားပုံရဲ့ အရေးပါပုံကို လက်ရှိ ၂၀၂၆ ခုနှစ် အိန္ဒိယနိုင်ငံ ပွဲ ဖြစ်ရပ်နဲ့ ကြည့်ရင် ပိုပြီးထင်ရှားပါတယ်။ ဒီစစ်ပွဲဟာ ဒေသတွင်း ပဋိပက္ခဟာ အမေရိကန်မှာပဲ ရပ်မနေဘဲ ဥရောပ အမေရိကန်မှာပဲ ရပ်မနေဘဲ ဥရောပ အတူတူ အလုပ်လုပ်ကြရတာပါ။

“We ride in the same boat, we go on the same journey”

The proverb, “We ride in the same boat, we go on the same journey,” is simple but carries

a deep meaning. It serves as a reminder that our fates are all linked. If the boat sinks, we all sink; if it reaches its destination, we all arrive together. This message is even more important in our world today.

Real-World Examples

Climate Change and Pandemics: Look at the issue of Climate Change. Whether a nation is big or small, it is something no one can avoid. Similarly, think back to the COVID-19 pandemic. We couldn't just ignore it because it was happening on the other side of the world; all of humanity had to face it together. This proved that we are all passengers on the same boat.

The Space Station. A great example from history is the International Space Station (ISS). In space, scientists from many different countries, including the United States and Russia, must live and work together to survive, even if their countries have political problems on Earth. Why? Because if one person makes a mistake in space,

everyone's life is at risk.

The true value of this proverb is “unity”. Whether in a family or at a workplace, instead of coldly saying, “That's not my problem,” we need to realize we are all moving towards the same goal. If one person is rowing the boat while another is drilling a hole in the bottom, nobody will reach the destination. This proverb encourages us to help one another and use our collective strength to move forward.

If you look at the modern economy, this proverb is more accurate than ever. The world is connected by the “Global Supply Chain,” so it is no surprise that a problem in one place affects everyone else.

The 2008 Financial Crisis: This started with the collapse of the US housing market. However, the impact didn't stop there; it crashed stock markets across Europe, Asia, and the entire world. When one country's boat gets a hole, water enters the hulls of other countries as well. It showed that we cannot truly separate our economies; we

share the same fate.

The Suez Canal Incident: Consider when the massive ship Ever Given got stuck in the Suez Canal. That one ship blocked about 12 per cent of global trade, leading to product shortages and price hikes in many countries. It was a practical lesson that we are all in the same economic boat.

In business and international relations, we should move beyond the mindset of “rowing only my own boat.” We must help each other so that we can weather the storms together. We are living in an era where one person's success benefits everyone, and one person's failure becomes a risk for us all.

The significance of the proverb, “We ride in the same boat, we go on the same journey,” becomes even clearer when we look at the current 2026 Iran War. This conflict is not just a regional issue; it demonstrates how the entire world is connected, showing us that when one part of the world struggles, we all feel the impact – just like passengers sharing the same boat.

“လှေနှံနှစ်ဖက်နှင်း”

တစ်လှေတည်းစီး တစ်ခရီးတည်းသွား” ဆိုတဲ့ စည်းလုံးညီညွတ်မှုအကြောင်း ပြောပြီးရင်၊ လှေနှံပတ်သက်ပြီး လူမှုရေးလောကမှာ “လှေနှံနှစ်ဖက်နှင်း” ဆိုတဲ့ သင်ခန်းစာကိုလည်း မေ့ထားလို့ မရပါဘူး။ ဒီစကားပုံက တစ်ဖက်ဖက်မှာ ပြတ်ပြတ်လားလား မရပ်တည်းဘဲ အကျိုးအမြတ်အတွက် ဟိုဘက်ဒီဘက် ခွဲထားတဲ့သူတွေကို ရည်ညွှန်းတာပါ။ တစ်ယောက်က လှေနှံစင်းကို ခွန်းထားမယ်ဆိုရင် အဲဒီလူဟာ လှေနှံစင်းစလုံးရဲ့ ခရီးစဉ်ကို နှောင့်နှေးစေရုံမကဘဲ နောက်ဆုံးမှာ သူ့ကိုယ်တိုင်လည်း ရေထဲကျပြီး ဒုက္ခရောက်တတ်ပါတယ်။

သမိုင်းဝင်ဖြစ်ရပ်တွေထဲက ဥပမာပေးရင် ဒုတိယကမ္ဘာစစ်တုန်းက အီတလီနိုင်ငံ ရဲ့ ရပ်တည်ချက်ကို ကြည့်နိုင်တယ်။ အစပိုင်းမှာ ဝင်ရိုးတန်းနိုင်ငံတွေ (ဂျာမနီ၊ ဂျပန်) နဲ့ ပေါင်းခဲ့ပေမဲ့ စစ်အခြေအနေ မကောင်းတော့တဲ့အခါ မဟာမိတ်ဘက်ကို ပြောင်းဖို့ ကြိုးစားခဲ့ပါတယ်။ ဒီလို မပြတ်သားတဲ့ ရပ်တည်ချက်ကြောင့် အီတလီနိုင်ငံဟာ နှစ်ဖက်စလုံးရဲ့ ယုံကြည်မှုကို ဆုံးရှုံးခဲ့ရပြီး တိုင်းပြည်အတွက် အရမ်းကို အထိနာခဲ့ရပါတယ်။

စီးပွားရေးလောကမှာလည်း ဒီအတိုင်းပါပဲ။ Kodak (ကိုဒတ်) ကုမ္ပဏီဟာ ဒစ်ဂျစ်တယ်ကင်မရာ နည်းပညာကို အစောကြီးကတည်းက ပိုင်ဆိုင်ထားပေမဲ့ ဖလင်ရောင်းရတဲ့ အကျိုးအမြတ်ကိုလည်း မစွန့်နိုင်။ ဒစ်ဂျစ်တယ်ဘက်ကိုလည်း အားစိုက်ရမလို့လို့နဲ့ “လှေနှံနှစ်ဖက်နှင်း” နေခဲ့ပါတယ်။

ပြတ်သားတဲ့ ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက် မချနိုင်ခဲ့တဲ့အတွက် နောက်ဆုံးမှာတော့ တဟုန်ထိုး တိုးတက်လာတဲ့ နည်းပညာလှိုင်းအောက်မှာ နှစ်မြုပ်သွားခဲ့ရပါတယ်။

တကယ်တော့ “လှေနှံနှစ်ဖက်နှင်း” တဲ့ အလေ့အကျင့်ဟာ လူသားချင်း ယုံကြည်မှုကို ပျက်ပြားစေပါတယ်။ လှေတစ်စင်းထဲမှာ အတူစီးနေသူတွေ အချင်းချင်း “ဒီလူ ငါတို့နဲ့ တကယ်ရော ပါရဲ့လား” ဆိုတဲ့ သံသယဝင်လာ ပြီဆိုရင် အဲဒီအဖွဲ့အစည်းဟာ ပြိုကွဲဖို့ လမ်းစပါပဲ။

“Straddling two boats”

An important lesson: “straddling two boats.” This proverb refers to those who do not take a firm stand on one side but instead try to play both sides for their own benefit. If someone tries to stand on two different boats, they not only slow down the journey for both, but they will eventually fall into the water and face trouble themselves.

For a historical example, look at Italy's position during World War II. At first, they aligned with the Axis powers (Germany and Japan), but when the war situation turned sour, they tried to switch to the Allied side. Because of this indecisive stance, Italy lost the trust of both sides and suffered greatly. This is a clear example of the negative consequences of “straddling two boats” in politics.

The business world tells a similar story. You likely remember the giant company, Kodak. Although they possessed digital camera technology very early on, they were unwilling to give up their profits from film sales, yet they tried to invest in digital technology as well, effectively “straddling two boats”. Because they could not make a firm decision, they eventually sank under the rapidly advancing wave of new technology.

In reality, the habit of “straddling two boats” destroys trust between people. When people riding in the same boat start to wonder, “Is this person really with us?”, the organization is on the path to collapse. In modern workplaces, those who are disloyal and try to play both sides often fail to earn anyone's long-term trust, and their careers often suffer as a result.

In conclusion, while the “riding in the same boat” mindset brings progress, the “straddling two boats” mindset only leads to destruction.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

YCDC invites open tenders for supplies procurement for 2026-2027 FY

THE Yangon City Development Committee invited open tenders for the procurement of operational supplies needed for the 2026-2027 financial year.

Supplies include 406,500 bags of cement, 455 tonnes of round steel bar, 69.64 tonnes of MS Plate, 8,820 meters of 4" Angle Sheet, 14.50 tonnes of Beam, one lot of HDPE pipes and pipe fittings, 10 units of Butterfly valve, 780 tonnes of Bitumen (asphalt), 39 tonnes of Emulsified bitumen, three units of 315 KVA transformers, 38 units of Buggy vehicles, 6,140 packs of Paper (3 types), 89 packs of CTP plates, 169 packs of Art paper/White

card, 200 barrels of printing ink, and gravel (3 types) – 4,500 cubic yards, River pebbles – 12,000 cubic yards, 6,500 cubic yards of Coarse river sand and 476,284 gallons of diesel, 40,700 gallons of premium diesel and 10,000 gallons of petrol.

Interested suppliers need to submit tender applications by 12 May 2026. The tender form is available at the Procurement Division of the Finance and Account Department at the City Hall, 1st floor. Individuals can enquire about details at the Procurement Tender Committee during office hours by dialling 01 388732. — NN/KK



The City Hall – Yangon's prominent landmark – which accommodates the offices of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

Trainees invited for Rice Milling Production Technology Courses



UNDER the public-private collaboration between the Ministry of Science and Technology's Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), Rice Milling Production Technology courses will be offered as Fully Funded Internship Training at the School of Industrial Training and Education (SITE).

The courses include Level 1 (Certificate in Rice Processing Technology) and Level 2 (Higher Certificate in Rice Processing Technology).

Those who have attended GTHS, GTI, those who have studied mechanical/electrical

engineering, GTHS and AGTI graduates, and those currently working in rice mills or production factories are eligible to attend the courses. Trainees will be selected through an entry interview.

The course duration is three months for Level 1 and four months for Higher Certificate (Level 2). Trainees will receive certificates issued by the SITE and MRF, and have job opportunities at the rice mills upon completion of the course. Living allowance (food and accommodation) will be provided during the training period as well.

Instruction will be conducted at the Industrial

Technology Training School through theoretical and practical approaches at rice mills and rice-related factories. Trainees must attend full-time during training hours.

The application form can be downloaded at www.myanmarricefederation.org. Applicants must submit their applications between 4 and 22 May, along with a copy of their citizenship scrutiny card, household registration, residence recommendation from the ward administrative office, criminal clearance certificate from the relevant police station, education qualification documents, recommendation letter from employers of the respective company, mills and factories.

Individuals can enquire about details at the SITE on Natmauk Lane 1, Bocho 2, Bahan Township, Yangon, at 09 268237552 or MRF, located at Rooms 901-903, UMFCCI Tower, 29, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road, Latha Township, Yangon, at 01 218266-68, 01 2301128-29, and 09 698198550. — NN/KK

CBM injects over US\$9.9M into import sector on 28 Apr

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$4.78 million to edible oil-importing companies, and US\$5 million to LNG-importing companies and over US\$168,400 to CMP companies on 28 April.

CBM sold over \$4.6 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$13,400 to CMP companies on 27 April, along with transactions of over 2.23 million baht in the market.

CBM sold over \$3.59 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$3.33 million to LNG-importing companies on 24 April.

CBM sold over \$3.7 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$4 million to LNG-importing companies on 23 April.

CBM sold over \$3 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$1 million to LNG-importing companies on 22 April.

CBM injected over \$44.84 million, 61 million baht and 700,000 yuan in March, \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in February and \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January.

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



US dollars being counted at a money changer in Yangon.

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NATIONAL

Authorities crack down on telecom fraudsters and gambling rings in Muse

THE Myanmar Government has designated the fight against telecom fraud and online gambling activities, which pose threats to both the country and the international community, as a national responsibility, and is actively carrying out operations in coordination with domestic forces and neighbouring countries to ensure that such activities cannot establish a base within Myanmar.

Yesterday evening, two Chinese nationals and 12 Myanmar nationals who had been involved in online fraud and gambling operations and were on the run were arrested in Muse, northern Shan State, together with related equipment used in their activities. In addition, 26 illegal Chinese nationals residing unlawfully in Myanmar were also arrested from residential areas in Muse.

Acting on intelligence that online fraud and gambling activities were being conducted in Muse, a joint security team carried out inspections. At approximately 4:10 pm, the team discovered and arrested two Chinese nationals and 12 My-

anmar nationals who had been involved in such activities and were in hiding inside a house in Phwayhone area, Tawywet Ward, Muse Township. A range of equipment used in the operations was also seized, including 24 mobile phones, 19 all-in-one computers, one TP-Link device, and six Wi-Fi routers.

Furthermore, based on information that foreign nationals were staying illegally in Muse, the joint team conducted another inspection at approximately 4:30 pm at a house in Homon Ward, where 26 Chinese nationals who had entered and were residing in



the country illegally were found and arrested.

The seized equipment used in online fraud and gambling operations will be handled in accordance with established pro-



Images reveal crackdown sites in Muse, northern Shan State, where online scammers and gambling suspects were arrested (above), and 26 Chinese nationals detained in Homon Ward, Muse (left).

cedures. Those arrested will be prosecuted effectively under the law, and further investigations will be carried out to identify and take legal action against other individuals involved behind the

scenes.

The Government of Myanmar is actively cooperating in efforts to combat online fraud and gambling. It is also conducting legal screening of foreign nationals who, for various reasons, are present in Myanmar and are found to be involved in such activities. In line with humanitar-

ian considerations and friendly relations between countries, arrangements are being made to repatriate such individuals to their respective countries. Major offenders are being detained and formally handed over to the relevant authorities, while effective legal action is being taken under the law. — MNA/KNN

Consulate-General approval required for returnees on leave

STARTING from 1 May, workers who would return to Myanmar will need to bring the Consulate-General's approval from respective Myanmar embassies, said the Department of Labour on 28 April.

It said that some new workers have tried to leave the country through illegal approaches by taking advantage of privileges allowed for workers on leave, so that they can skip some requirements, such as overseas training and medical tests, so the department has now made sure a safe migration for Myanmar workers, eliminating unwanted risks, including human trafficking cases, by practising a thorough verification.

To avoid delays through the verification process, returnees on leave will have to seek approval from the Consulate-General offices along with employer approval of leave, and those in countries where the Myanmar Consulate-General office does not exist will need to seek approval from the nearest country or city, starting from 1 May, it said.

If the workplace stated in the work permit, visa, and the leave form differs from the OWIC, they will have to apply for a new OWIC when they arrive back in Myanmar, it said. Along with approval from the respective Myanmar Embassy, returnees will have to apply for departure, and if they are found to have committed misconduct in the application for leave, they will be banned from departing for a specified period, and their names will be added to the blacklist, it added.

For the permit to go back to work abroad, Myanmar workers will need to apply for departure five business days in advance, along with an application form and required documents. The Safe Migration publishes a daily list of eligible persons on its Telegram channel. — MT/ZS

Trading Amount and Foreign Exchange Rate in the Market on 29 April 2026

| | US\$ | Chinese yuan | Thai baht | India rupee |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| Exchange rates | 3,653~3,669 | 557~558.70 | 125.30~125.70 | 43.60 |
| Trading amount in the market | 18,017,108.08 | 3,664,120.00 | 191,782,241.78 | |
| The amount sold by CBM to the market | | | 6,201,149.12 | |

THE amount of foreign currencies traded in the Foreign Exchange market was sold for the imports of edible oil, fuel oil, car/motorcycle spare parts, medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, fertilizers, wheat, and consumer foodstuffs. From the revenue of the CMP sec-

tor, US\$3.96 million contributed to the edible oil sector; and US\$0.23 million to the CMP sector. The Central Bank of Myanmar contributed THB 6.20 million to the construction sector; the industrial raw materials sector; the consumer foodstuffs and non-trade sector. — MNA

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ECONOMY WORLD

Global gold demand up 2% in Q1: report



Customers select gold jewellery at a duty-free store in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province, on 17 January 2026. PHOTO: GUO CHENG/XINHUA/FILE

Jewellery consumption stood at 300 tonnes, down 23 per cent, but the levels of spending increased 31 per cent, signalling continued positive sentiment towards gold jewellery.

GLOBAL gold demand, including over-the-counter trading, rose two per cent year on year to 1,231 tonnes in the first quarter of 2026, an industry report said Wednesday. Global demand for gold bars and coins increased 42 per cent year on year to 474 tonnes, marking the second-highest quarter on record, with Asian investors hoovering up gold investment products, according to the report released by the World Gold Council. According to the report, jewellery consumption stood at

300 tonnes, down 23 per cent, but the levels of spending increased 31 per cent, signalling continued positive sentiment towards gold jewellery. Central banks continued to purchase gold, with global gold reserves rising by 244 tonnes in the first quarter of the year, according to the council.

Demand for gold used in technology edged one per cent higher to 82 tonnes, fuelled largely by the continued growth in AI infrastructure, according to the report. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Zealand household living costs up 2.1%

New Zealand household living costs rose 2.1 per cent in the year to the March 2026 quarter, remaining below the country's headline inflation rate, Stats NZ reported Wednesday.

The increase, measured by the household living-costs price indexes, followed a 2.2-per cent rise in the previous quarter. By comparison, annual consumer price inflation (CPI) held at 3.1 per cent, said the statistics department.

"Falling interest payments for households was the main reason for the lower increase in the cost of living compared to New Zealand's overall inflation rate," Stats NZ prices and deflators spokesperson Nicola Growden said.

Interest payments went down nearly 20 per cent over the past year, while the cost of building a new home increased one per cent over the same period, Growden said. — Xinhua

Business forum opens to promote trade in Africa

THE 9th International Forum on Financing Investment and Trade in Africa (FITA 2026) opened Tuesday to promote trade and business across the region.

More than 15 partnership agreements are expected to be signed with chambers of commerce and international institutions. Furthermore, three major projects benefiting Tunisian companies in Africa will be announced, according to local media.

The event is taking place in a complex global geopolitical and economic context, and despite declining international support, rising prices, and geopolitical instability, Africa is not collapsing; on the contrary, it is transforming itself even further, said Anis Jaziri, president of the Tunisian-African Business Council.

"We are witnessing a profound qualitative shift: Western investors, players from the Arab Gulf and Asian capital, but above all African investors, now consider the African continent as a highly promising economic destination despite its risks," he said. — Xinhua

Budget airlines first to cut flights as jet fuel prices soar

RYANAIR, Transavia, Volotea and other low-cost airlines are feeling the financial pain from high jet fuel prices as a result of the Middle East war and are cutting flights.

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has taken a huge chunk of oil supplies off the market, sending the price of jet fuel soaring and triggering fears of shortages that could force airlines to cancel flights.

Airlines aren't waiting for a lack of supplies to react.

"Travel alert: airlines are cutting thousands of flights right now," Travel Therapy TV host Karen Schaler said in an Instagram reel this past weekend. "Book early".

That advice would win the approval of Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary, who expressed concern earlier this month that fears of fuel short-

ages were making people put off booking flights.

Low-cost carriers — which control a little more than a third of the global market, according to various estimates — are feeling the pinch first due to the nature of their business model.

With cheaper tickets, they have less capacity to absorb the rise in fuel costs. — AFP



Low-cost airlines are cutting flights and raising fares as soaring jet fuel prices. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Tanker operated by Japan's Idemitsu Kosan passes through Strait of Hormuz



Supplied photo shows the oil tanker Idemitsu Maru. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A tanker operated by a subsidiary of Japanese oil refiner Idemitsu Kosan Co transited the Strait of Hormuz without paying any toll, a government source said Wednesday.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi also said in a social media post that she had confirmed a tanker linked to Japan had passed the strait and was heading to Japan with three nation-

als on board.

Hitoshi Nagasawa, the head of the Japanese Shipowners' Association, said 41 Japanese-related vessels are still stranded in the Persian Gulf, adding that he hopes for continued support to ensure their "safe and smooth departure as soon as possible".

The Panama-flagged Idemitsu Maru loaded crude oil at a terminal

in Saudi Arabia in early March, according to Iran's Press TV.

After more than a week stationary off Abu Dhabi, the ship began heading toward the strait Monday, the local media outlet said. It was reportedly carrying 2 million barrels of crude as it passed through after securing permission from Iranian authorities. — Kyodo

Mercedes warns longer Mideast war could cause shortages

GERMAN premium automaker Mercedes-Benz warned Wednesday that a drawn-out conflict in the Middle East could cause shortages of key inputs as it reported tumbling quarterly profits.

Traffic in the Strait of Hormuz has slowed to a trickle as Iran and the United States maintain competing blockades, restricting global supplies of energy and raising the cost of smelting industrial metals like aluminium.

Oil is also a key input for plastics and other petrochemical products.

"We're continuously monitoring (the war) and analyzing the implications for the sup-

ply chain," Mercedes finance chief Harald Wilhelm told reporters on a call.

"If it were to last longer, you could not rule out the possibility of shortages in certain areas, whether of energy

or certain commodities that are heavily sourced from the region."

Mercedes said net profit for January to March fell 17 per cent from the previous year to 1.43 billion euros (\$1.67 billion). — AFP



Mercedes said net profit for January to March fell 17 per cent from the previous year to 1.43 billion euros (\$1.67 billion). **PHOTO: AFP**

Invitation to Submit Expression of Interest from Developers for Urban Development Project at Yin Pyan Station Yard

1. Myanma Railways, with the objective of promoting rail-concerned business and infrastructure development, intends to implement an urban development project on 7.5143 acres of land located at the Yinpyan Station Yard Area in Kankauk Ward, Chanayetharzan Township, Maha Aungmyay District, Mandalay Region under Build-Operate-Transfer(BOT) tender system. Local, international, and joint venture developers are invited to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) to undertake the design, construction, financing, and operation of this urban development project.
2. The EOI proposal form can be obtained free of charge during office hours at the Office of General Manager (Upper Myanmar), Myanma Railways, 3rd Floor, Mandalay Railway Station, from 29-4-2026 to 15-5-2026.
3. For detailed information, inquiries may be made in person at Commercial Department, Myanma Railways Head Office or by telephone at 09-891750134.

Tender Invitation and Evaluation Committee
Mandalay Region Government

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2607N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2607N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-4-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC GUANGDONG VOY.NO. (2608S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC GUANGDONG VOY.NO. (2608S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-4-2026** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (025)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (025)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-4-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 ANDAMAN SEA GATEWAYS GROUP OF COMPANIES LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



This handout photograph taken on 25 April 2026 and released by Pakistan's Prime Minister Office shows Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (C) addressing a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (5L) amid the Middle East war, at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad. **PHOTO: PAKISTAN'S PRIME MINISTER OFFICE / AFP**

Iran to respond on prospects of US talks after leadership consultations: Pakistani PM

Pakistan's diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region remain ongoing and unwavering.

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had assured him that Tehran would respond on the prospects of talks after consultations with the Iranian leadership.

Speaking to the federal cabinet here, Sharif said Araghchi

visited Pakistan recently along with a delegation and held multiple rounds of comprehensive discussions with the Pakistani side before departing for Russia.

"Before his departure, he assured me that he would get back to me after consultation with his leadership," the prime

minister said. Sharif said Pakistan's diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region remain ongoing and unwavering.

"Pakistan's efforts for peace are still underway, and there has not been even the slightest decrease in these efforts," he said. — Xinhua

US judge orders Purdue Pharma to pay billions ahead of bankruptcy

A US federal judge on Tuesday sentenced OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma to pay billions of dollars over its role in the opioid crisis, ahead of upcoming bankruptcy proceedings and its dissolution.

The criminal sentencing caps off years of legal battles and paves the way for Purdue and its former owners, the Sackler family, to pay more than \$8 billion as part of a settlement. Between 1999 and 2023, around 806,000 people died from opioid overdoses in the United States, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. — AFP



Family members of opioid overdose victims protest outside the US District Court for the District of New Jersey in Newark, New Jersey, on 28 April 2026. **PHOTO: ARON RANEN / AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait to resume full govt working hour

KUWAIT on Wednesday said that it will resume full staffing levels and regular working hours across all government entities starting Sunday, 3 May, following a cabinet directive.

According to the Kuwait News Agency, the Civil Service Commission said all ministries and public institutions are required to return to full attendance and normal operations, including the resumption of standard duty schedules.

Employees will return to the seven-hour workday, ending the reduced hours introduced in recent weeks.

Authorities stressed the need for strict implementation and called for a smooth transition back to full operational capacity. — Xinhua

VP Duterte's team rejects House impeachment claims

THE defence team of Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte on Wednesday rejected the claim by the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives that it had found probable cause to impeach her after three clarificatory hearings on two complaints under the panel's jurisdiction. A total of 53 lawmakers voted in favour of the motions, accusing Sara of corruption, assassination plots, inciting sedition and patterns of abuse, among others.

Sara did not attend the hearing on Wednesday. Her defence team said the proceedings before the Committee on Justice departed from the constitutional design, as the process had not confined itself to the verified complaints and their attachments.

The impeachment complaint now moves to the House plenary, which is set to vote on the articles in May, and a one-third vote would send Sara to trial in the Senate. — Xinhua

Former Thai PM Thaksin to be released on parole on 11 May

THE Parole Committee under the Ministry of Justice of Thailand decided on Wednesday to allow former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to be released on parole on 11 May.

According to Thai media reports, the committee held a meeting to review whether nationwide inmates meet the parole criteria, including Thaksin. The meeting decided that Thaksin would be released on parole on May 11 on the condition that an electronic monitoring device must be worn until the end of the sentence. After being released on parole, he will be under parole supervision for four months.

Under the Corrections Department's criteria, inmates who are eligible for parole must demonstrate good conduct, serve no less than two-thirds of their sentence, or be aged over 70, suffer from chronic diseases or disabilities. The specific circumstances vary from case to case. — Xinhua

Pentagon chief to testify on Iran war, peace efforts stall

PENTAGON chief Pete Hegseth will make his first testimony before Congress on the Mideast war Wednesday, as efforts to end the conflict stalled with the United States reportedly sceptical of Tehran's latest offer to unblock the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has blockaded the waterway — a vital conduit for oil and gas shipments — since the start of the US-Israeli offensive two months ago, sending shockwaves through the global economy. US officials did not dispute accounts by CNN and The Wall Street Journal that US President Donald Trump was skeptical of the proposal. During a White House state dinner Tuesday, Trump told Britain's King Charles III and other guests that Iran has been "militarily defeated". — AFP

SPORTS

Final trials for Myanmar's first Women's Academy set for Yangon, Mandalay



Myanmar women's national team player Naw Htet Htet Wai is pictured in the poster of preliminary selection for the Myanmar Women's Football Academy.

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) will conduct the final selection in Yangon and Mandalay among nominees for the Women's Football Academy, Myanmar's first-ever football institution. The academy is planned to open in Mandalay.

Document verification and medical checkup for those who were selected in the preliminary stage from the lower Myanmar will be made at MFF Hall at 1 pm on 9 May, and final selection will proceed on 10 and 11 May.

For those who were selected in the preliminary stage from Upper Myanmar, document verification and medical check-up will be made at 1 pm on 17 May, and final selection will continue on 18 and 19 May.

Accommodation will be provided for those from other regions and states only, and the guardian must be a woman.

The list of final nominees will be announced through the MFF official Facebook page on 22 May. Original and a copy of the birth certificate, original and a copy of the household list, ID card or a copy of the student card and original approval of the school are required for the selection, said MFF. — MT/ZS

Myanmar to compete in Sepak Takraw World Cup 2026

THE Myanmar Sepak Takraw team will compete in the Sepak Takraw World Cup 2026 to be held in Malaysia from 16 to 23 May.

The tournament will feature three event categories, and Myanmar will take part in all: the quadrant event, the regu event and the team event. The team began training in mid-March and also allowed players to compete in a Sepak Takraw tournament held at Myanmar Plaza after the Thingyan period as part of preparations. The competition will include many strong teams, and it will mark Myanmar's first international tournament since the XXXIII SEA Games in Thailand.

The Myanmar squad includes manager U Myint Lwin Htay, coaches U Kyaw Min Soe and U Aung Myo Swe, and players Zin Min Oo, Thant Zin Tun, Aung Myo Kyaw, Chit Lunn Po, Shane Wunna Zaw, Yan Paing Oo, Min Thant Thu, Han Win Htut, Ye Htet, Aung Aung, Thet Paing Soe and Shin Thant.

For the quadrant event, Myanmar



A Sepak Takraw player in dynamic action in this picture. PHOTO: MSTAF

will field Zin Min Oo, Thant Zin Tun, Aung Myo Kyaw, Chit Lunn Po, Shane Wunna Zaw and Yan Paing Oo. For the regu event, Min Thant Thu, Han Win Htut, Ye Htet, Aung Aung and Thet

Paing Soe have been selected. The line-up for the team event will be decided based on the performance of the 12 selected players. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Yangon City appoint Japanese coach Hiro Ono as head coach



YANGON City FC has appointed Japanese coach Hiro Ono as head coach ahead of its debut season in the Myanmar National League.

After securing promotion to the MNL, Yangon City has begun major preparations and promoted Hiro Ono, who served as technical director during the second half of last season, to the head coach position. He previously managed Shan United and led the club to a league title.

Yangon City plans to

strengthen its squad by recruiting domestic national-level players and foreign players, with official announcements to follow soon. The club had already signed several well-known players during its time competing in MNL-2.

Although Yangon City finished third in last season's MNL-2, it earned promotion after Dagon Port FC was dissolved, taking its place in the top division. — Maung San Gyi/KZL

Japanese coach Hiro Ono. PHOTO: YUFC

Bayern edges closer despite defeat as Diaz leads fightback against PSG

LUIS Diaz's display drew praise but could not prevent Bayern Munich from slipping to a 5-4 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League semifinal. The narrow loss leaves Bayern with work to do ahead of the return leg in Munich on 6 May, but the 29-year-old Colombian forward again showed why he is known as "Lucho", or "the Fighter". Diaz's goal kept Bayern in contention and brought the team's

attacking trio to 100 goals across all competitions this season, with Harry Kane scoring 54, Michael Olise 20 and Diaz 26.

According to data supplier Opta, that tally is well clear of rivals, with Real Madrid's trio of Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Federico Valverde combining for 69 goals. "He mirrors the character of our team, which never gives up," Bayern board member Max Eberl said.

Since joining from Liverpool for 45 million euros in 2025, Diaz has emerged as a decisive figure in key moments, including goals in the German Cup semifinal against Leverkusen and in the Champions League quarterfinal against Real Madrid.

Coach Vincent Kompany has found a way to maximize Diaz's impact, making use of his relentless energy and ability to disrupt defences. — Xinhua

Iran to respond on prospects of US talks after leadership consultations: Pakistani PM

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WORLD



Victory Day Parade in Moscow to Mark 80th Anniversary of WWII Victory on 9 May 2025. PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE

Foreign guests to attend Moscow's Victory Day Parade, Kremlin aide confirms

The military parade marking the 81st anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War will be held in Moscow on 9 May.

FOREIGN guests will be attending the Victory Day Parade in Moscow, Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov assured on Wednesday.

"There will be guests," Ushakov

told reporters when asked about foreign guests at the Victory Day Parade.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico will be on hand for the event, the official added.

The military parade marking the 81st anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War will be held in Moscow on May 9.

— SPUTNIK

Sunlight turns plastic waste into fuel

SCIENTISTS are developing solar-powered technologies to convert plastic waste into clean fuels, offering a potential solution to both pollution and energy challenges, an Australian study revealed Wednesday.

The research explores how sunlight-driven processes can transform discarded plastics into hydrogen, syngas and other industrial chemicals, offering a pathway toward a more sustainable, circular economy, said a statement from Australia's Adelaide University.

Global plastic production exceeds 460 million tonnes annually, with large volumes leaking into the environment, according to the research, which highlights how plastics, rich in carbon and hydrogen, can be repurposed as an untapped resource rather than waste.

The process, known as solar-driven photoreforming, uses light-activated photocatalysts to break down plastics at relatively low temperatures. These reactions can produce hydrogen, a clean fuel with zero emissions at the point of use, as well as other valuable chemicals used in industry, said the study published in Chem Catalysis. — Xinhua

More countries turning to solar amid high fossil fuel prices, supply uncertainty

MORE countries are increasingly shifting towards solar energy and joining the International Solar Alliance amid rising fossil fuel prices and supply disruptions, said Ashish Khanna, Director General, International Solar Alliance.

In an exclusive conversation with ANI, Khanna said that in just the last month, countries like

Canada, the Republic of South Korea and Jordan have joined the alliance, driven by economic and energy security considerations.

"You know, just in last one month, Canada, the Republic of South Korea and Jordan are joining. Why are they joining? They're joining because doing solar made a lot of sense just for the climate. Then it made



The Republic of Korea (South Korea) officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on 20 April, 2026.

PHOTO: WEF

a lot of sense being lowest cost, affordable energy for countries. And now, when the world has to import fossil fuels at double the price, even not knowing where the LPG will come, it has a huge

fiscal shock, all three are pointing to do a lot more electrification of their countries and using solar," he said.

He highlighted that global solar installations have been

rising steadily, noting that solar deployment, which was around 500 gigawatts annually, has now reached 600 gigawatts, and is expected to grow further as countries accelerate adoption. — ANI