

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 14 June 2023

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Five-Point Road Map

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.
4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Myanmar's coffee beans benefit from import duty exemptions in multiple countries

THE Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization has announced that Myanmar's coffee beans have been granted tax exemption by more than 10 foreign countries. Currently, Myanmar's coffee is exported to 14 countries, including the United States, various European countries, and several Asian nations. Notable countries offering import tariff exemption for Myanmar's coffee include the US, Japan, Belgium, China, Germany, Viet Nam, the UAE, Singapore, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Russia, France, and Spain. This favourable tax treatment has encouraged the relevant institutions to focus on expanding coffee production and boosting exports to these countries.

The transport of Myanmar's coffee beans follows different routes depending on the destination. Coffee beans are sent to neighbouring countries like China and Thailand through land borders, while shipments to the US, Canada, Europe, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are transported by sea. The speciality coffee beans from Myanmar are highly sought after due to their exceptional quality and organic production methods. Currently, Myanmar's speci-



Myanmar's speciality coffee beans command a price of US\$7,500 per tonne, significantly higher than the usual range of \$3,000-4,500 per tonne. The country generates approximately \$2.5 million in annual revenue from coffee exports. The photo shows coffee cherries at the coffee plantation.

ality coffee beans command a price of US\$7,500 per tonne, significantly higher than the usual range of \$3,000-4,500 per tonne. The country generates approximately \$2.5 million in annual revenue from coffee exports. According to the Myanmar Coffee Association, there is a total of 50,000 acres dedicated to coffee plantations in Myanmar, **SEE PAGE-3**

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No 35/2023

11th Waning of Nayon 1385 ME
13 June 2023

Advocate-General of Magway Region appointed

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Tint Wai as Advocate-General of Magway Region under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

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

Applications for establishment of political parties under verification

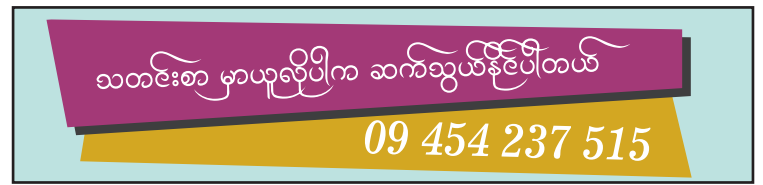
THOSE who want to establish a political party are applying to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they want to establish.

To date, there have been 13 parties that have applied for the right to establish parties.

Among those that applied, Khumi National Party is found to comply with the political parties' registration law and regulations, and the Union Election Commission approved the application for

the establishment of the political party yesterday.

The Khumi National Party which has the right to establish a party must apply to the Commission for registration as a political party under Rule 7 of the Registration of Political Parties within 30 days from the date of approval. To date, seven political parties have been allowed to be established and the other parties that have applied for party establishment are also being scrutinized. — MNA/KZL



Announcement for local and foreign well-wishers to donate cash to cyclonic storm Mocha victims

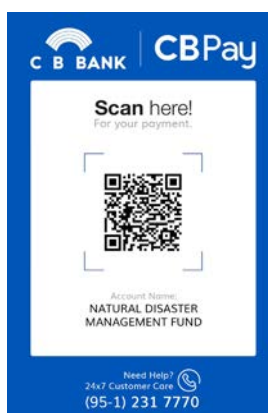
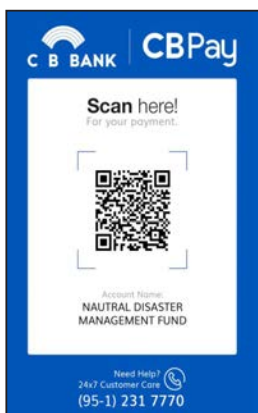
1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.
2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.
3. It has been announced that dona-

tions can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.

4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.
5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and

Citizens Pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code

and enter the code provided within it. 6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -



Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
Daw Lei Lei Aye Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404050 09-2021491	U Than Soe Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-250123885	U Aye Min Thu Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Mandalay Region Department 09-420708827
U Win Shwe Deputy Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404048 09-254170011	Daw Than Than Win Deputy Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-420740160	
Daw Phyu Phyu Win Director Department of Disaster Management 067-3404316 09-43054844		

National Disaster Management Committee

High knowledge and education key to nation's future

- As today is an age of technology, it should not be left behind.
- It is necessary for all to study for the improvement of one's knowledge and to help promote his or her children's education and knowledge.
- Only if knowledge is high will the democracy system and the nation's future be assured.

(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officers, other ranks and family members of Myitkyina Station held on 13 December 2022)

Fund donation ceremony for orphans of Sama Hill Maha Parahita Youth Development Home marking 2023 Myanmar Women's Day

THE fund donation ceremony for orphans of Sama Hill Maha Parahita Youth Development Home marking the 2023 Myanmar Women's Day was held at the Sama Hill Maha Parahita Youth Development Home in Thawuthti in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, developmental officials, invitees, the head sayadaw of Sama Hill Maha Parahita Youth Development Home and orphans and students.

First, the Union minister and party donated cash and day meal to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyaninda of Sama Hill Maha Parahita Youth Development Home and shared merits.

Then, they inspected the caring for infants at Sama Hill Maha Parahita Youth Development Home, poem reciting of children at Maha Parahita (Sama Hill) pre-primary school and learn-



The ceremony to handover the fund received from the one-man show by famous singer Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan in progress, attended by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn yesterday.

ing section of students at BEMS Branch (Sama Hill-Nay Pyi Taw).

Afterwards, the ceremony to handover the fund received from the one-man show of famous

singer Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan "Future of Stars" held at MICC-2 in Nay Pyi Taw in December 2022.

At the event, the Union Min-

ister comforted the abandoned children and donated K12 million to Sama Hill Maha Parahita Youth Development Home, and K2 million each to Aye Mya Shwe

Pyi Rakhine Monastery and Thihho Monastery.

The Maha Parahita Youth Development Home on Sama Hill about four miles from Thawuthiti of Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw was established by Sama Hill Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala and Bhaddanta Nyaninda (school administrative Sayadaw) in 1990 with four children to care the abandoned children and poor children and there were 25 children just in one month.

Currently, there are a total of 1,150 students including over 40 bough children. The parahita home also produces 61 university and college students, 3 medical students and 41 graduates.

The daily consumption of the parahita school for orphan is over 16 bags of rice and 20 visses of cooking oil and the donors can donate K1 million for one meal in addition to clothing, teaching aid materials and textbooks. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar's coffee beans benefit from ...



Coffee fruits are seen at the coffee farm.

FROM PAGE-1 with 38,000 acres allocated to highland Arabica coffee and 12,000 acres to lowland Robusta coffee. Shan State serves as the primary producer of coffee beans in the country. The Department of Agriculture notes

that Arabica coffee is primarily exported to foreign trade partners. Myanmar aims to achieve a coffee export target of 10,000 tonnes this year, doubling the volume from the previous year (5,000 tonnes), according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myan-

mar's coffee plantations are spread across Mandalay Region, Shan State, and Kayin State. The coffee harvesting season is from November to February, with exports to external markets occurring between April and May. — TWA/EM

38 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 June, total figure registers 639,740

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **639,740** after **38** new cases were reported on 13 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,748,205** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **639,740**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **618,738** including **98** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 13-6-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

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.

MoC Union Minister addresses BIMSTEC Business Conclave in Kolkata, India

U Aung Naing Oo, the Union Minister for Commerce, was invited by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to attend the BIMSTEC Business Conclave as the guest of honour. The event took place at the Hytta Regency Kolkata Hotel in Kolkata, Republic of India. At the meeting, the Union minister talked about the trade and investment conditions between Myanmar and BIMSTEC member countries, highlighting the potential for further development.

The Union minister focused on promoting trade, identifying potential products for trade among BIMSTEC member countries, and encouraging business-to-business (B2B) interactions to foster trust and friendship between exporters and importers. He also discussed increasing investment from BIMSTEC member countries in Myanmar, facilitating currency access, enhancing contact and cooperation between traders on both sides, and boosting tourism activities. He further suggested considering improved road connections, financial communication activ-



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo addresses the BIMSTEC Business Conclave in India yesterday.

ities, and increased public engagement as future initiatives.

Following the ceremony, the Union minister toured the exhibition showcasing products from emerging countries and provided encouragement to the display organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI. Later, he participated in the International

Trade: Opportunities and Barriers Forum held at Ballroom One, with U Aye Win, UMFCCI Chairman, joining as a panellist.

Furthermore, the Union minister attended the BIMSTEC Investment Forum - Challenges and Opportunities in Ballroom II. U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA

under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), served as a panellist for the discussion.

Several distinguished figures were present at the meeting, including Mr Mehul Mohanka, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of India, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of External Affairs and Education, Government of

India, Mr Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, Minister of Industry of Bangladesh, Mr Ramesh Rizal, Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Supply of Nepal, Dr Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka's Minister of Industry, Mr Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Ms Tashi Wangmo, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Employment, Bhutan, Mr Ameya Prabhu, Deputy Chairman of the Republic of India Chamber of Commerce, guests from BIMSTEC member countries.

The Myanmar delegation included U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), U Aye Win, Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, U Tun Lwin, Chairman of the Myanmar Pulses and Sesame Traders Association; Daw Kywe Kywe Zin, Chairperson of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association; and U Myint Han, Chairman of the Myanmar Gem Industry Association. — MNA/TS

Advertorial:

DAPEIN Hydropower Station: Harmonious Coexistence between Enterprises and the Environment

THE 5 June 2023 is the 52nd World Environment Day. This year's slogan is "Plastic Reduction and Plastic Picking Up", a call to take action to reduce the use of plastic and clean up plastic wastes in the environment.

In recent days, DAPEIN (I) Hydropower Station has taken "World Environment Day" as an opportunity to organize Chinese and Myanmar employees to carry out a series of themed publicity and environmental improvement activities for the power station,

practising the new development concept of "building a modernization in which man and nature live in harmony". During the activity, Chinese and Myanmar workers braved the scorching sun to thoroughly clean up the road between the plant building and the living area and the sanitary dead corners around the living area, focusing on removing scattered plastic bottles and bags. In addition, Chinese-Myanmar bilingual promotional banners, theme lectures and other car-

riers were also used to widely publicize the activity, guiding and educating Chinese and Myanmar workers in various forms and angles to take joint actions, pay attention to and participate in environmental protection, and strive to be active disseminators and model practitioners of the concept of ecological civilization.

DAPEIN (I) Hydropower Station is the first clean energy project invested in and constructed by China Datang Corporation. During the construction and op-

eration of the power station, it adheres to the tenet of "ecological priority and green development" and continues to strengthen corporate environmental management. Especially in the past five years, the construction of the "Beautiful DAPEIN Hydropower Station" has continuously progressed. A total of more than 1,500 fruit trees such as mango and citron trees and seedlings with local characteristics have been planted in the plant area, living area, and on both sides of

the road. The environment of the power station has been continuously improved and enhanced.

As of 1 June 2023, the hydropower station has achieved safe operation for 3,985 days, with a cumulative power generation of 10.096 billion kWh, saving about 1.24 million tonnes of standard coal, reducing about 830,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and about 20,000 tonnes of sulfur dioxide emissions, finally achieving a harmonious coexistence between enterprises and nature.

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

Vessel MV Weru Pack Kha delivers relief supplies to Rakhine State

IN line with the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee, the Transport and Communication Work Committee has meticulously planned and overseen the transport of essential relief aid and materials to Rakhine State. Departing from the Myanmar Terminal (TMT) port, the MV Weru Pack Kha set sail for Sittway yesterday morning, carrying a diverse range of relief supplies.

Among the cargo were 34.84 tonnes of electric towers and associated materials, 20 transformers, 464 tonnes of timber, 57,333 CI sheets, tents, 144 rolls of tarpaulin, 297 bags of rice (each containing 24 pyis), 1,971 rice bags of various sizes, 668 bags of salt, as well as edible oil, dried noodles, dried fish, canned food, and other essential foodstuffs. Additionally, the vessel transported clothing,



Officials are seen overseeing the transport of essential relief aid and materials to Rakhine State while the vessel is setting sail for Sittway yesterday.



consumer goods, and an extensive array of rescue equipment, weighing 1,294.47 tonnes, including medicines. These supplies were generously provided by various ministries and government entities, including the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home

Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Electric Power and Energy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement,

Yangon Region government, and Myanmar Economic Corporation.

From 5 May until 13 June, a total of 16 vessels delivered a remarkable 22,817.12 tonnes of aid and relief materials to Rakhine State. This comprehensive assistance encompasses con-

struction materials, electrical equipment, medical supplies, consumer goods, and vital food items. The concerted efforts of these relief missions aim to alleviate the hardships faced by the affected communities in Rakhine State. — MNA/CT

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, industrial materials, and vehicles confiscated

THE Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, in a joint effort, successfully confiscated various illegal items. A combined team intercepted 3,120 bottles of Hiin Guang beer (worth K1.56 million) without official documents from a Nissan ADVY12 Station Wagon car (worth K15 million) on 9 June at the 16th-Milepost Kyaukchaw checkpoint. Additionally, 4,320 bottles of Hur Guang beer (worth K2.16 million) without official documents were seized from an Isuzu Elf light truck (estimated value of K20 million) travelling from PyinOoLwin to Mandalay. These actions were carried out under Customs procedures.

Further, a Nissan diesel truck (estimated value of K40 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse was found to contain goods (worth K58.92 million) that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) on 10 June at the 17/1 Milepost on the PyinOoLwin road. Among the seized items were 516 Fusu rechargeable solar AC/DC desk fans. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team at the Yangon International Airport (Import desk) confiscated goods (worth K9,540,300), including 10 Pbxi/Th Temperature-Humidity Advanced Data-Loggers on 9 June, and the action was conducted under

Customs procedures.

Additionally, a total of 0.066 tonne of illegal teak and 0.207 tonne of other illegal timbers (worth K58,460) were seized in Yedashe township of Toungoo district. Furthermore, a vehicle, valued at K5 million, was confiscated near Katokema village on the Yangon-Mandalay Road. These actions were taken under the Forest Law and Import and Export Law.

Consequently, a total of nine individuals were arrested between 9, 10 and 12 June with an estimated combined value of K152,238,760, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal goods in Mandalay Region.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Statement No 8/2023

1. Myanmar National Human Rights Commission inspected 54 prisons, 38 jails and 26 places of home for the aged, schools for persons with disabilities and youth centres from January 2020 to May 2023 under Section 43 and Section 44 of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law.
2. The Commission sent its recommendation to the relevant Ministry to take necessary measures for the continuation of education for the prisoners, who revealed that they wanted to continue their education under Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that "Everyone has the right to education".
3. On 9 June 2023, the matriculation results were announced for the 2022-2023 academic year. There are 161,850 students who took the exam in the whole country and 109,851 students passed. Therefore, it is learnt that the passing percentage is 67.87.
4. Among the 109,851 students who passed the exam, there were 10 from the Insein Central Prison, 29 from the Mandalay Central Prison and five from six prisons in other regions and states, totalling 44 who passed the exam. Among those successful, there were one student with five distinctions, two students with four distinctions, 25 students with three distinctions, seven students with two distinctions and six students with one distinction and it is learnt that the passing percentage of the prisoners who took the exam is 91.67.
5. Therefore, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission congratulates those who passed the exam and will continuously encourage further measures for the right to education of the prisoners who passed the exam.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 13 June 2023

Corrigendum

PLEASE read "Included in relief supplies that arrived yesterday were 10,000 mosquito nets and 10,000 blankets worth US\$97,500." instead of "Included in relief ... worth \$47,500." in the news item titled "China's humanitarian assistance for Mocha victims arrives" on page 5 of yesterday issue (13 June 2023) of The Global New Light of Myanmar. Errors are regretted. – Ed.

Rehabilitation efforts accelerated in Mocha-affected areas of Rakhine State



Lt-Gen Lu Aye presents fund assistance in Kyaukpyu.

LT-GEN Lu Aye from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) took charge of overseeing rehabilitation measures in the Mocha-hit areas of Rakhine State. He visited Bodhi Theikpan monastery in Taungyin Ward and Youth Development Philanthropic Monastery in Zeditaung Ward of Kyaukpyu yesterday.

During his visit, Lt-Gen Lu Aye engaged in cordial conversations with teachers and students at the monastic education schools established within these monasteries. He also provided stationery and notebooks as contributions to support their educational endeavours.

While in Kyaukpyu, he in-

spected the ongoing dredging operations to clear blocked drains in Asoeya Ward. Additionally, at a ceremony held at the Township General Administration Department, where cash was donated to the fund for repairing religious schools and buildings damaged by the storm, Lt-Gen Lu Aye presented financial aid to the relevant village administrators and members of the board of trustees.

Meanwhile, Lt-Gen Aye Win from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) observed the cleaning activities conducted by departmental personnel on the Strand Road, located west of Myoma market

in South Myothit Ward of Buthidaung. Afterwards, he visited the Dhammayon of Donthein Village, overseeing the provision of healthcare services to storm victims. During his visit, he extended assistance to residents and representatives from three village-tracts.

In Myebon, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Soe addressed the requirements of the board of trustees of religious schools at the Township General Administration Office. Furthermore, he assessed the progress made in the efforts to promptly renovate the religious schools damaged by the storm in Taungpaw Ward. — MNA/TTA

Affordable prices for essential goods, commodities in Mocha-affected Sittway



Sittway residents are pictured buying essential goods at affordable prices yesterday.

LOCAL battalions under the Western Command, along with officials, have taken the initiative to sell essential foodstuffs at reduced prices, contributing convenience to residents and departmental staff affected by

Cyclone Mocha in Sittway. This effort aims to ensure that individuals have access to food at fair and affordable prices during these challenging times.

A wide range of foodstuffs, including rice, edible oil, salt,

meat, fish, eggs, dairy products, vegetables, onions, garlic, as well as products from Tatmadaw factories and MEC such as instant noodles, biscuits, and canned food, were available for purchase at lower prices compared to the prevailing market rates. Additionally, electronic devices and construction materials from private entrepreneurs were also offered at discounted prices at U Ottama Park in Sittway.

Locals and families of departmental staff expressed their gratitude for being able to buy essential foodstuffs at affordable prices during this difficult period. They appreciated the efforts of the officials in providing relief and support through the provision of necessary goods. — MNA/KZW

Tatmadaw (Air) continues delivering foodstuffs, aid to Rakhine State

RELIEF aid and food items contributed by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers, and relief supplies provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for local communities affected by Cyclone Mocha in Rakhine State are being transported by Tatmadaw aircraft and helicopters.

A total of 2.6 tonnes of emergency medical supplies and 15 special medical members were transported from Yangon International Airport to Sittway Airport. A total of 160 rice bags (8

tonnes) donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement were delivered from Mandalay International Airport to Kalay Airport by planes of Tatmadaw (Air).

A total of 3,291 Tatmadaw members and departmental staff who will help in rehabilitation work and 503.9 tonnes of supplies were helicoptered to the storm-battered areas.

Officials in the respective areas received relief items and will distribute them to storm victims. — MNA/KZW



Relief teams are seen boarding the Tatmadaw aircraft.

Tatmadaw relief teams engage in rehabilitation efforts in disaster-affected areas

RELIEF teams despatched by Tatmadaw to disaster-stricken areas are actively involved in relief and rehabilitation operations, working in collaboration with local security forces and social relief teams.

In MraukU, the current location of the relief teams, efforts were focused on clearing debris and fallen trees from Shwedaung Monastery. Simultaneously, the medical teams provided essential healthcare services to the local community in the vicinity of Maha Pyinnya Thitarama Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre.

Similar relief teams were deployed to Yaychanpyin and Nga-taukte Village in Sittway Township, where they successfully removed fallen trees. The medical teams accompanying them extended healthcare services to the residents of Thetkaepyin Ywama Village and Latha Village in Maungtaung Township.

Tatmadaw relief teams are committed to undertaking these relief and rehabilitation measures with utmost dedication, aiming to alleviate the impact of the disaster and restore normality in the affected areas. — MNA/TTA



Clear-up measures are underway in the Mocha-hit area.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



The meeting 1/2021 of the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee in progress on 23 June 2021 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Homes, apartments occupied by terrorists to become national property

THE Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has announced that houses and apartments rented by individuals apprehended in connexion with acts of explosions and assassinations will be retained as evidence. Subsequently, upon confirmation by the court following the trial, these properties will be confiscated as national assets.

A new notification was issued on 12 June directed towards apartment owners who permit terrorists to reside in their premises. Henceforth, owners are required to rent out their flats or apartments only after ensuring that the tenants' personal information is complete. Additionally, owners must report the list of tenants to the respective ward or village administrative bodies, along with the

supporting evidence of their information.

Renting out houses or apartments to individuals associated with terrorist organizations is viewed as aiding and abetting terrorism, tantamount to engaging in violent acts akin to terrorists themselves.

Consequently, it is crucial for apartment owners to conduct thorough screenings before renting out their properties. Failure to report the guest list will result in the seizure of rented apartments as evidence upon the arrest of perpetrators. Furthermore, such properties will be confiscated as national assets, and appropriate action will be taken against the owners as accomplices to violence when the matter reaches the court. — TWA/MKKS

Employers Organization Department-EOD to offer worker affairs training

THE Employers Organization Department-EOD, under the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), has announced the opening of worker affair courses in 2023. These courses aim to educate private entrepreneurs on Myanmar labour laws and regulations.

The introductory courses will be taught by officials from UMFCCI and the Arbitration Council. They will be held on 19 June from 1 pm to 4 pm. Additionally, online courses will be available on 23 and 29 June, as well as 7, 14, and 21 July from 1 pm to 3 pm.

The course fees are set at K30,000 for EOD subscribers and K60,000 for EOD non-subscribers. Participants are required to attend the courses in their entirety and will receive completion certificates upon submitting the required reports as outlined in the course guidelines.

To enrol in the courses, applicants must provide their company name and business type. Furthermore, substitutions during the courses are not allowed, and participants must adhere to any additional rules and announcements provided by the course organizers.

By offering these worker affairs training courses, the EOD aims to enhance the knowledge and understanding of labour laws among private entrepreneurs in Myanmar. — TWA/MKKS



A list of training programmes by UMFCCI in 2023.



A news conference was convened by the Automobile Dealers Association in 2018.

Reports on damaged cars submitted to relevant ministries for official review

THE Automobile Dealers Association has officially submitted a comprehensive report on the repair and sale of damaged cars in the car market to the relevant ministries for careful examination.

The primary objective of this report is to address the challenges faced by car buyers. It includes thorough checks to determine the accuracy and reliability of the vehicles, along with the collection of a vehicle inspection fee. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of obtaining permission for both major and minor repairs to damaged vehicles, accompanied by the necessary payment of fines. The report also highlights the significance of maintaining

detailed records when vehicles are permitted to undergo modifications.

Additionally, the report underscores the appointment of a legal advisor who will play a pivotal role in overseeing the process. Legal action will be taken against vehicles found to be inconsistent with the records, accompanied by the enforcement of appropriate fines.

By submitting this comprehensive report, the aim is to ensure transparency and accountability in the car market, safeguarding the rights and interests of car buyers. It is expected that the relevant ministries will carefully review the findings and take necessary actions to address the issues raised. — TWA/MKKS

Prices of halved chickpeas surge sharply

THE Yangon beans and pulses market has witnessed a sharp rise in the prices of black grams and pigeon peas, and the same trend is observed for halved chickpeas, which are widely consumed domestically.

The wholesale price of halved chickpeas reached a staggering range of K6,000–K6,200 per viss in the Yangon market on 13 June 2023. Similarly, in the Mandalay market, Taiwan halved chickpeas are priced at K6,400 per viss, while 929 type chickpeas cost K6,350, and V2 type chickpeas are val-

ued at K5,900.

Comparing the wholesale prices per viss of chickpeas on June 13 across several years reveals a significant increase. In 2022, the prices ranged from K3,200 to K3,350, while in 2021 they were K2,200–K2,250. In 2020, the prices were K1,650–K1,750, followed by K1,900–K1,925 in 2019, K2,185 in 2018, K2,250 in 2017, and K2,500–K2,600 in 2016. In 2015, the price stood at K1,560, while it was K980 in 2014, K1,170 in 2013, K1,280 in 2012, and K960 in 2011. Consequently, the current price

of chickpeas, similar to pigeon peas, reached an all-time high on 13 June 2023, in the history of the bean market.

Green peas have also experienced a significant surge, with prices ranging from K6,830 to K7,670 per viss, mirroring the increase observed in halved chickpeas on the same day. The rise in prices of various pulses, including chickpeas and green peas, which are staple foods domestically, imposes a heavy burden on domestic consumers, particularly those with low incomes.



Halved chickpeas (far left), along with other beans, are seen being sold at the beans and pulses market.

Reports suggest that consumers have witnessed a price hike in essential kitchen goods such as potatoes, halved

chickpeas, and green peas, in addition to rice, edible oil, and meat in the middle of 2023. — TWA/CT

OPINION

Emulate the life of blood donors in past, present and future

BUDDHISM classifies donations as the lowest level of donations using cash and kind property, the middle level based on body organs and limbs of humans and the highest level defined as sacrificing life. As a religious concept, Myanmar Buddhist people assume that the donation of blood is one of the noble meritorious deeds based on the body organs of humans.

Donating blood is seldom for all. It is because those wishing to donate blood must be healthy and fit and capable of donating the blood. Their blood must be pure without any diseases and viruses, and such kinds of blood must be suitable for receivers. Blood groups and the nature of donors must coincide with that of receiver patients.

Importantly, all blood donors must be at least 17 years old to donate the general blood supply or 16 years old with parental or guardian consent. Such a limit may be different from global countries depending on the enactment of relevant laws to protect the interests of blood donors.

Generally, everybody does not dare to sacrifice their property, life and limbs. But, blood donors keenly and happily donate their blood for saving the lives and limbs of patients they have never seen. Those donors do not intend to possess any results on property, opportunities and optimistic responses from receivers or society. It can be said that they donate blood without any attachments to possible possession.

Hence, noble blood donors are honoured by setting World Blood Donor Day in 2004. Every year countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day. The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.

The theme for the 2023 World Blood Donor Day campaign, celebrated on 14 June

2023, is "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often." It focuses on patients requiring life-long transfusion support and underlines the role every single person can play, by giving the valuable gift of blood or plasma.

In truth, blood donors are life savers. Their blood can help smooth treatment for patients. Donating blood is not based on discrimination. The blood and plasma regardless of religion, skin colour, political doctrine, friends, enemies, the rich, the poor and so on flows into the patients for better treatment to initiate relationships among the global people. As a concept of Buddhism, those blood donors are surely to thumb up in the vicious circle.

India making weapons for its own needs and exporting them to 85 countries

INDIA'S big defence indigenisation push is leading to making at home most of the weaponry it needs for its security. It is also exporting weapons to 85 countries.

SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) data on international arms transfer trends also highlights that about 50 per cent of India's defence exports from 2017 to 2021 were to Myanmar, followed by Sri Lanka (25 per cent), and Armenia (11 per cent).

Exports to Armenia included, besides mounted artillery, Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers, Konkurs anti-tank guided missile and a wide variety of ammunition.

Till recently, the country was importing even basic items such as aircraft paint, cargo nets and slings for helicopters, anti-collision lights for fighter jets, landing lights for trainer aircraft and LED lights for warships. They now figure on a list of hundreds of military components that are being made in India, and exported, too, according to people in

the know. These items are among the 4,666 including replacement units, subsystems, spares and components that have been placed under a phased import ban by the defence ministry. It has published four positive indigenisation lists during the last one and a half years. The fourth list of the 928 items was published in May.

Of these, 2,736 items have been indigenized so far in a fresh push for self-reliance and the remaining will be manufactured in India in line with the prescribed timelines between December 2023 and December 2029.

These items are used in military platforms including fighter planes, helicopters, trainer aircraft, warships, tanks, infantry combat vehicles, high-mobility trucks, defence electronics and different types of ammunition.

Other items that are now being manufactured in the country include missile approach warning sensors for helicopters, laser warning systems for armoured fighting vehicles, firefighting

systems for warships, electronic warfare systems, and naval fire control systems, the officials said. The indigenization has been achieved by various defence public sector undertakings either through industry partners, including micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs), or in-house, said another official. The total import substitution value of the 2,736 items indigenised so far stands at INR 25.70 billion, according to defence ministry data.

"In India, the private sector has been making components for foreign military contractors for years. The expertise is there, and it is high time that it is tapped to power the indigenisation drive at the lower end of the spectrum, which is subsystems, spares and components, while simultaneously focusing on the big platforms. There's immense scope to further expand the two types of positive indigenisation lists," said Air Marshal Anil Chopra (retd), director-general of the Centre for Air Power Studies.

India has employed a two-

pronged approach to achieve indigenisation through import bans.

One approach relates to banning the import of platforms such as fighter jets, warships, helicopters and artillery guns, while the other covers sub-systems, spares and components.

As part of the former, India has published four other lists that have imposed a phased import ban on 411 different types of weapons and platforms. They include lightweight tanks, naval utility helicopters, artillery guns, missiles, destroyers, ship-borne cruise missiles, light combat aircraft (LCA), light transport aircraft, long-range land-attack cruise missiles, basic trainer aircraft, airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) systems, and multi-barrel rocket launchers.

These platforms are expected to be indigenized during the next five to six years. These lists were announced during the last three years — in August 2020, May 2021, April 2022 and October 2022. Import substitution of ammunition, which

is a recurring requirement, has been given special emphasis in these lists. India has taken measures over the last four to five years to boost self-reliance in defence. Apart from a series of phased import bans, these steps include creating a separate budget for buying locally-made military

hardware, increasing foreign direct investment (FDD) from 49 per cent to 74 per cent, and improving the ease of doing business.

India had on 19 May announced that the value of defence production in the country crossed one trillion rupees for the first time on the back of key reforms to spur growth in the sector. The figure stood at INR1,068 billion in FY 2022-23 compared to INR950 billion in FY 2021-22, and INR549.51 billion five years ago.

India produces a raft of weapons and systems including the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), different types of helicopters, warships, tanks, artillery guns, warships, missiles, rockets and a variety of military vehicles. It is eyeing a turnover of INR1,750 billion in defence manufacturing by 2024-25.

The country's focus is not only on cutting dependence on imports but also on boosting exports. India is currently exporting military hardware to around 85 countries, with around 100 firms involved in the exports. It includes missiles, artillery guns, rockets, armoured vehicles, off-shore patrol vessels, personal protective gear, a variety of radars, surveillance systems and ammunition.

India has set a defence export target of INR350 billion by 2024-25.

Grand healthcare expo in Cairo connects global medical firms with Africa

LOCAL, regional and global medical companies showcased their latest products, services and innovations at the second edition of Africa Health ExCon, the largest healthcare exhibition in Africa, aiming to explore the great potential and opportunities in the African market.

Themed "Your Gate to Innovation and Trade", the just-concluded four-day expo at the Egypt International Exhibition Centre in the capital Cairo gathered hundreds of exhibitors from around 90 countries, including Egypt, the United States, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, Saudi Arabia and China.

"Through participating in Africa Health ExCon, we are keen to tell African countries that Egypt produces medical supplies with a globally competitive quality," Ahmed Salah, an Egyptian exhibitor, told Xinhua.

Tens of different types of medical supplies

Ahmed Salah is a regional sales manager of Euromed, an Egyptian medical device manufacturer. He said his company produces tens of different types of medical supplies and exports them to 45 countries across the world, including Brazil, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Uganda, and Mali.

The company's booth behind Salah exhibited homemade products including disposable needles, injection syringes, medical tubes like cannulas and catheters, oxygen masks, and nebulizer masks.

At another hall, a large booth of China's medical manufacturer Comen Medical Instruments Co Ltd was buzzing with visitors who were attracted by the company's various devices, particularly its latest infant radiant warmer machine.

Zhang Wei, Comen's regional sales director for Africa, said that the company provides solutions in neonatal and general intensive care units as well as operating



This photo taken on 8 June 2023 shows the booth of China's medical manufacturer Comen Medical Instruments Co Ltd at the healthcare exhibition of Africa Health ExCon in Cairo, Egypt. PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA

BY S VENKAT NARAYAN
Our Special Correspondent

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Image of the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas manufactured in India.

room scenarios, and established a branch office in Egypt last year after seeing potential in the growing Egyptian and African markets.

Beijing-based Star Sports Medicine, another Chinese participant, displayed a variety of sports medicine instruments primarily used in clinical procedures, such as sutures and threads, limb-positioning devices, and tibial fixation buttons.

Medical conferences and workshops planned on the sideline of the expo attracted flocks of health professionals including physicians, medical engineers, hospital operators and even medical students.

A platform for African health professionals

Mariam Abdullah Mahmoud, a Somali studying medicine at Egypt's Ain Shams University, said she came to the expo "to see how medicine has progressed on our continent".

"The exhibition provides a platform for African health pro-

professionals to interact, connect, unite, and exchange and share knowledge to improve healthcare in Africa," she added.

As for Ahmed El-Aref, an Egyptian medical engineer and owner of a medical equipment maintenance company, the fair provided a window into "the latest technologies in medical devices" and a good opportunity to foster business ties.

Global medical giants

Among the participants were also some global medical giants such as Germany's Siemens and France's Thuasne.

Thuasne featured a number of orthopaedic braces and medical compression garments, including knee supports, dynamic ankle-foot orthoses, lumbar belts, and wrist splints.

"We come to this event to find new distributors and partners in Egypt and Africa," Laurent Ponsard, Thuasne's area sales manager for the Middle East and

Africa, told Xinhua.

"I am quite pleased with the large number of visitors. We also see big companies participating, which is a good sign indicating that the market here is dynamic," Ponsard said.

SOURCE: Xinhua

The event was mainly organized by the Egyptian Authority for Unified Procurement, Medical Supply, and the Management of Medical Technology, known as UPA.

Mary Kirolos, director of UPA's Central Administration of Health Technology Management, stressed that Egypt is committed to playing a positive role in the healthcare sector in Africa.

"Egypt seeks to make the expo an annual hub where the healthcare firms and institutions can meet, communicate and exchange trade, knowledge and technology," the UPA official said.

SOURCE: Xinhua

LOCAL BUSINESS

Above 500 companies fail to submit Annual Returns in May: DICA

IN May 2023, a total of 550 companies did not submit their annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, as reported by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). DICA has issued a notification stating that any registered company failing to file its AR on MyCO will be struck off the register from the directive's date, in accordance with Section 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law. In January, 500 companies, followed by 400 in both February and March, and 200 in April, did not file their AR on MyCO. Thus, a total of 2,050 companies have failed to file their AR in the first five months of this year. Furthermore, the DICA has stated that 5,000 companies failed to submit AR in 2022. Registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website began on August 1, 2018, in compliance with the Myanmar Companies Law

2017. All registered companies are required to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year (not later than one month after the

anniversary of incorporation), as stated in Section 97 of the law. As per Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements

(G-5) simultaneously. Overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year-end, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law

2017. According to DICA's report, numerous companies have been suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies must submit ARs within two months of incorporation to avoid a fine of K100,000 for late filing. DICA has also notified that any company failing to submit its AR within 13 months will receive a suspension notice (I-9A). Failure to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice will result in the company's status being shown as suspended in the system. Companies can restore their status only after paying a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totaling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM



The photo shows the office building of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA.

Gold price surpasses K3.1 mln per tical in shady dealings

THE price of pure gold has surged above K3.1 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the unofficial domestic market, following the upward trend in spot gold prices and the depreciation of the Kyat against the US dollar. Spot gold prices have reached \$1,962 per ounce, and the Kyat has depreciated to K2,970 in the grey market, leading to a rise in gold prices to K3,122,000 per tical in the unofficial market. As a result, the YGEA (Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association) has raised the reference rate to over K2,311,400 per tical. There is a significant price difference of over K800,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the unofficial market. The YGEA calculates the price based on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some additional adjustments, while the US dollar is exchanged at K2,960 in the unauthorized forex market. The exchange rate of the US dollar has a direct impact

on domestic gold prices. In instances where the price gap between the reference price and the market price is wide, the YGEA has urged sellers to conduct gold transactions below K2.9 million per tical, as it was on 27 April. Following the bankruptcy of a US bank in early March, the gold price experienced a sharp surge. Despite the global increase in gold prices, Myanmar's forex market remained stagnant. Consequently, the YGEA released a statement on 20 March, advising its members not to engage in competitive buying while monitoring the upward trend in gold spot prices. Furthermore, the YGEA has instructed its members to only engage in gold transactions with immediate payment and to avoid verbal transactions over phone calls without physical stocks. It should be noted that the YGEA does not bear any responsibility for market manipulation in the unauthorized market. Therefore, its members are required to strictly adhere to

the rules and regulations of the association during gold transactions. Currently, the relevant authorities are taking measures to address market abuses, including inspections and prosecutions of market manipulation. In addition, the Central Bank of Myanmar has announced that it will investigate those involved in market manipulation through digital platforms, as stated in the notification dated 20 March. The surging US dollar, which is being exchanged at over K4,500, has pushed the price of pure gold to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022. To curb gold prices, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots through the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw. In an effort to reduce gold prices, both the YGEA and the Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association have sold gold bullion supplied by their executive members and general members as well. — NN/EM

MRF to launch rice processing technology course on 19 June

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) is set to launch a Rice Processing Technology Course with certification on 19 June. This programme has been arranged in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Industry, and the Myanmar Rice Millers Association.

The training will be divided into two parts. The first part, focusing on theoretical knowledge, will take place at the Commodity Testing and Quality Management Centre (Hlegu) in Yangon Region from 19 June to 7 July. The Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industry will oversee this phase. The second part, which includes both theoretical and practical aspects, will be held at the Industrial Training Centre (Sinde) under the Directorate of Industrial Cooperation, Ministry of Industry, from 10 to 28 July.

The course will cover various topics such as rice crop drying, storage, milling, processing, and post-harvest technologies. Experts from public-private partnerships will deliver the training.

To participate in the course, individuals must possess at least a bachelor's degree, diploma, AGTI diploma, BTech degree, or BE degree. Educational requirements may be relaxed for those currently employed in rice mills and paddy companies, taking into consideration their job experience.

Upon successful completion of the course and passing the required tests, participants will be awarded a certificate. Job opportunities will also be available for trainees to work in rice mills.

Interested individuals can enrol at the MRF by submitting a registration form, a copy of their citizenship scrutiny card and housing registration certificate, a recommendation letter from the ward administrator, education certificates, a reference from their supervisor or employer, and three passport-sized photos. For further information, enquiries can be sent via email to admin@mrf.com.mm or mrf.myanmar@gmail.com, or by contacting the federation at the following phone numbers: 01 218266-68, 01 2301128-29, 09 968283477. — NN/EM

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

First Covid vaccine side-effect claims land in German courts

VACCINE-MAKER BioNTech faced Monday its first legal claim in its home country of Germany over adverse effects allegedly suffered by some users of its Covid vaccines, more than two years after one of the world's fastest and most extensive inoculation campaigns.

In the face of the deadly pandemic that emerged in early 2020, which prompted border closures and lockdowns that trapped millions of people in their homes, the arrival of Covid vaccines had been widely hailed as a life-saver.

But the jabs, which had been developed at breakneck speed

and granted early approval for usage, are now the focus of legal procedures in several countries including France and Britain where plaintiffs argue that the vaccines harmed their health.

In Germany, a court in Hamburg was prepared to hear a case from Monday against BioNTech, which, together with US giant Pfizer, produced the first mRNA vaccine Comirnaty.

The hearing was delayed however after the claimant's lawyers put in a last-minute challenge of the judge's impartiality, and asking instead for a panel of judges to rule on the case.

In her claim, the plaintiff reported suffering effects including "pain in the upper body, swelling of the extremities, exhaustion, fatigue and sleeping disorders" after receiving the vaccine, the court said. She is seeking 150,000 euros (\$162,000) in damages and recognition that the "defendant is bound to provide material damages", the court added.

Her lawyer Thomas Ulbrich, who is also representing another 250 people in similar cases, said his clients were "all healthy" before suffering from symptoms, allegedly following their jabs. — AFP



(FILES) In this file picture a patient receives an injection of the Comirnaty Covid-19 vaccine by Biontech-Pfizer at a vaccination centre in Berlin's Humboldt Forum museum on 18 January 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Dogs die as South Africa snake antivenom shortage bites

ZARZA, a much-loved Staffordshire terrier, ended up at a South African animal hospital with a bite from a Mozambique spitting cobra on her snout.

The snake's powerful venom can stop the breathing muscles from working, but normally the bites are treatable with an antidote.

The problem, say South African veterinarians, is that they currently have virtually no vials of the antiserum left.

"We've been out of antivenom for quite some months now," said Dean de Kock, a vet at the Valley Farm Animal Hospital in Pretoria, where Zarza was treated but eventually died.

Vets and snake experts say the shortage started getting serious towards the end of last year — though the authorities are denying there is a problem.

"Snakebite antivenom is available in the country," the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), a government body in charge of antidote production, told AFP.

Experts in the field disagree. **A 'countrywide shortage'**

In April, a group of snakebite treatment specialists pleaded with the health minister over what they described as "a major health risk".

While the supply problems may be easing in some quarters, vets say they are still struggling.

Hospitals treating humans get priority when any new doses come available, said Johan Marais, a herpetologist — specialist in reptiles and amphibians — who heads the African Snakebite Institute. — AFP



Mike Perry, owner of African Reptiles & Venom, handles a puff adder before extracting venom from the snake near Diepsloot, Johannesburg, on 29 May 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rwanda, AU sign continental medicines agency hosting pact

RWANDA and the African Union (AU) have signed a host country agreement for the African Medicines Agency (AMA), paving the way for the beginning of operations of the newly launched continental regulatory body for medical products.

Rwandan Minister of Health Sabin Nsanzimana signed the agreement Saturday on behalf of his government while African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Minata Samate Cessouma, signed on behalf of the AU at a ceremony in Kigali, Rwanda's capital city.

"AMA will play a key role in building confidence in the quality of health products on the continent, promote cooperation and mutual recognition in regulatory decisions

and facilitate the movement of health products," Nsanzimana said.

The signing ceremony came days after the Rwandan cabinet endorsed the hosting of the agency's headquarters as well as allocation of state land, where the agency will operate.

Cessouma, hailed Rwanda for its commitment to promoting the country's health, saying AMA will contribute enormously to the production and distribution of medicine on the continent.

Rwanda was selected to host the agency during a 2022 African Union's executive council meeting in Lusaka, Zambia.

Nsanzimana said Saturday's signing was another step to move the ideas from paper to implementation. — Xinhua

Novartis to buy US pharma group Chinook Therapeutics

SWISS pharmaceutical giant Novartis said Monday that it had reached a deal to buy US kidney treatment developer Chinook Therapeutics for up to \$3.5 billion.

Chinook Therapeutics, which is based in the northwestern city of Seattle, is developing two medicines to treat a rare and progressive kidney disease that mostly affects young adults, No-

vartis said in a statement.

As many as three in 10 patients progress to kidney failure and dialysis within 10 years, the statement said.

Under the agreement, Chinook shareholders will receive \$3.2 billion in cash, or \$40 per share, which is 67 per cent above Friday's closing price.

They would receive an ad-

ditional \$300 million, or \$4 per share, "upon the achievement of certain regulatory milestones".

Novartis said it expects the transaction to close in the second half of the year, pending the approval of Chinook shareholders and regulators.

"IgA Nephropathy is a devastating disease mostly affecting young adults and potentially lead-

ing to dialysis or kidney transplantation," said Novartis chief executive Vas Narasimhan.

IgAN, which lacks targeted treatment options, affects up to 21 people per million in the United States every year, according to Novartis.

"We are excited by this unique opportunity to address one of society's most challeng-

ing healthcare issues, with the potential to bring additional much-needed treatment options to patients," Narasimhan said.

The company statement said the deal "is fully in line with Novartis strategy to focus on innovative medicines and will significantly expand its renal portfolio, complementing the existing pipeline". — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Lula tells EU chief Brazil has 'concerns' on trade deal



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (L) and European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen arrive to give a joint statement after their meeting at Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 12 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

PRESIDENT Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Monday Brazil has "concerns" over the European Union's efforts to add new environmental protections to a trade deal with South American bloc Mercosur.

"Strategic partners should have a relationship of mutual trust, not mistrust and sanctions," Lula told a joint news con-

ference with European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen, after the two met in Brasilia.

The EU and the Mercosur nations — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay — are trying to finalize a trade deal after reaching an agreement in principle in 2019 following two decades of negotiations.

But ratification by the EU's

27 members has stalled, notably over European concerns about Mercosur countries' environmental protections — particularly in the Amazon rainforest, where deforestation surged under Lula's predecessor, far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, in office from 2019-2022.

The EU has proposed a "side letter" with environmental guarantees.

But although veteran leftist Lula has cast himself as the anti-Bolsonaro on environmental policy, he was blunt in his reaction to the proposed additions to the agreement.

"I told president von der Leyen about Brazil's concerns," he said.

"It expands Brazil's obligations and makes them punishable by sanctions in case of non-compliance," he added.

He accused EU lawmakers of trying to legislate "outside their territory" with measures that "change the balance of the agreement". — AFP

Japan aims to raise female exec ratio to 30% in listed firms by 2030



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (2nd from L) speaks at a meeting of a government council for gender equality held at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 13 June 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A Japanese government council approved on Tuesday a women's empowerment policy featuring the goal of raising the ratio of female board members to more than 30 per cent by 2030 at companies listed on the top-tier Prime Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The policy also lays out that the companies to appoint at least one female board member by

2025 as a starter. The move comes as companies in the country lag behind the United States and European countries in promoting women to managerial positions.

The policy will be included in the annual basic policies for economic and fiscal reform, scheduled to be approved by the Cabinet on Friday.

"The entire government will

work together to realize a sustainable society, where diversity is respected and all people feel fulfilled," said Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at a meeting of the Council for Gender Equality.

In Japan, 18.7 per cent of firms listed on the Prime Market had no female board members as of the end of July 2022, the Cabinet Office said, adding the proportion of the companies with over 30 per cent of executive roles filled by women was only 2.2 per cent.

Noting that investors at home and abroad are increasingly focusing on the gender ratio of company executives, the policy states that promoting women to executive posts is "an urgent issue" for Japan's economic growth.

The government will ask the bourse to set rules calling for firms to craft action plans to achieve the target on appointing women as executives. — Kyodo

Thrifty tourists pile into Egypt as travel costs dive amid currency depreciation

ZEDENKO Krabich, a 42-year-old tourist from Croatia, was on a trip to the Red Sea resort of Safaga in southeastern Egypt for medical purposes.

After finishing treatment for bone problems using the sand of Safaga, Krabich said he will head further south to Luxor and Aswan for further tours.

The Croatian tourist, like many others, chose Egypt because the most populous Arab country, boasting rich cultural and recreational sites, offers an excellent travel experience at a expense lower than other regional countries.

Egypt has witnessed a tourism boom since the begin-

ning of this year and is expected to welcome the largest annual number of tourists in history by the year end.

According to Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ahmed Issa, the number of inbound tourists reached 1.3 million in April, hitting a monthly high, while the first quarter saw an increase of 43 per cent in visitors number compared to the same period last year.

Issa predicted that by the end of this year, Egypt will receive close to 15 million tourists, a 28-per-cent increase year on year, which could dethrone the previous 2010 record of 14.7 million. — Xinhua



Tourists take boats at a dock after visiting the Nubian village of Gharb Soheil in Aswan, Egypt, on 9 March 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Australia must seize opportunities to endure economic headwinds: PM

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday that the country needs to seize development opportunities to weather the global economic headwinds.

"Advanced economies around the world are dealing with the very difficult combination of high inflation and rising interest rates," he said in a speech to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia's State of the Nation conference in Canberra, adding that he remained optimistic that Australia can emerge from the period of global economic challenges in a stronger position.

He emphasized that breaking new ground was critical to

maintain economic growth, and identified clean energy transition, new technologies, and the growing care and support sector as major opportunities.

"We know Australia can't afford to just wait and watch and react to the clean energy transformation, the growth of the care and support economy, or breakthroughs in technology. We have to seize these opportunities," he said. National accounts data released earlier in June revealed Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.2 per cent in the first three months of 2023 and was up 2.3 per cent in the 12 months to the end of March, the slowest quarterly growth since September 2021. — Xinhua

European stocks rise before key US inflation data

EUROPEAN stock markets steadied and the dollar largely fell against main rivals Tuesday as investors awaited monthly US inflation data that could determine the Federal Reserve's next move on interest rates.

Expectations are for the US central bank to hold fire at the end of its meeting Wednesday — after 10 straight hikes to combat elevated inflation.

But there is a chance it could hike again should Tuesday's consumer prices number weaken less than expected.

"If we don't see a slowdown in core (inflation) prices, then that

might introduce some nervousness that might prompt the Fed to hike again tomorrow instead of the pause that is currently being priced," noted Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

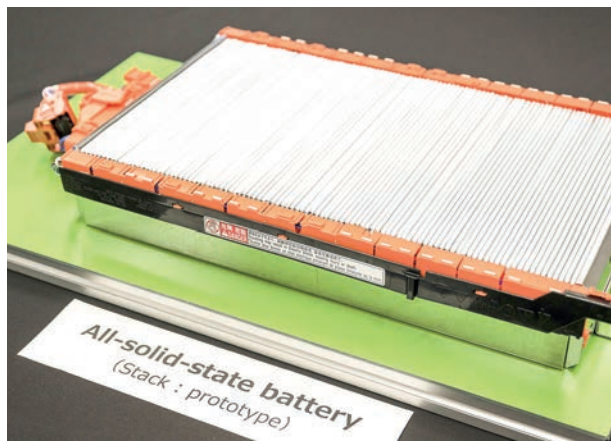
Core inflation strips out contributions from energy and food — the two sectors mainly responsible for consumer prices indices rocketing worldwide over the past year. The Fed decision comes as central banks around the world continue to struggle in their battle against inflation, which remains well above their two per cent targets. — AFP

Toyota to launch EV powered by solid-state battery as early as 2027

TOYOTA Motor Corp plans to launch an electric vehicle powered by an all-solid-state battery as early as 2027, the company has said, as it seeks to boost its fledgling EV business with the next-generation technology that significantly increases driving range on a single charge.

Unlike the lithium-ion batteries currently used to power EVs, all-solid-state batteries employ solid electrolytes, providing increased energy density.

The new battery, which can endure temperatures of over 100 C and is more resistant to deterioration, will more than double the driving



Supplied photo shows a prototype of an all-solid-state battery developed by Toyota Motor Corp. PHOTO: PHOTO COURTESY OF TOYOTA MOTOR CORP/ KYODO

range of the bZ4X EV, with charging reduced to around 10 minutes, a third of the time required by current technology, the Japanese automaker said.

Toyota is aiming to

achieve a driving range of 1,000 kilometres, Takero Kato, head of the company unit in charge of developing advanced EVs, said in a YouTube video posted on Tuesday.

Toyota had said it

would release hybrid vehicles employing all-solid-state batteries in the early 2020s, but it has decided to prioritize development of vehicles powered by the next-generation batteries amid the rising popularity of EVs.

The automaker, previously seen as reluctant to embrace all-battery vehicles, announced in April that it plans to sell 1.5 million EVs annually and launch 10 new models by 2026.

Global automakers are rushing to develop all-solid-state batteries, with Nissan Motor Co and Honda Motor Co aiming to utilize them by fiscal 2028 and the late 2020s, respectively. — Kyodo



Traders work the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York City on 31 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Boeing, Indonesia partner to explore air traffic management improvements

BOEING announced on Monday that the company has signed an agreement with AirNav Indonesia to explore initiatives to further enhance the safety and efficiency of Indonesia's national air traffic management system.

Improving airport and flight operations can help increase the safety and sustainability of Indonesia's aviation system through more efficient movement of aircraft and reduced fuel use, Boeing said. The memorandum

of understanding (MOU) brings together Boeing's engineering expertise with the Indonesian government's key initiatives in airspace management, training and air traffic management strategic planning. Boeing and AirNav will work closely with the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation of Indonesia, local airlines, airport operators and other aviation stakeholders in the country, according to the announcement. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (170N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (170N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-6-2023 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

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Ministry of Immigration and Population Department of Population

Invitation of Proposals for International Consultant

1. Ministry of Immigration and Population (MOIP) intend to implement Mapping and Enumeration Area delineation operation using GIS technology which is one of the major activities of Population and Housing Census. On this regard, Ministry of Immigration and Population is seeking the serving of an international consultant to delineate and produce Enumeration Areas (EAs), update the Geo Database provide technical advice and conduct the capacity enhancement training.

2. The experienced international consultant will be recruited through competitive selection and evaluation processes, and interested candidates are invited and suggested to refer below information to submit the proposal:

- (a) The date and time that the interested candidates can get TOR for international consultant - During 15-6-2023 to 14-7-2023 (during office hours.) TOR can be available from www.dop.gov.mm
- (b) The place which can be submitted the proposal - Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Building No (48), Nay Pyi Taw
- (c) Method of submission of proposal - In person or by email: pop.dept.mm@gmail.com
- (d) Deadline for submission of proposal - 14-7-2023 at 16:30 PM MMT. (During office hours.)
- (e) Interview Date and time - The shortlisted candidates will be contacted

3. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

4. If you want to know more about proposal form and the terms and conditions, you can contact the following phone number and email during office hours:

Department of Population, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone No. +9567-431066, +9567-431067
Email Address. pop.dept.mm@gmail.com

Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Covid-19 enquiry told Brexit hit UK's pandemic preparations

THE UK government's focus on Brexit seriously hampered pandemic planning, an enquiry examining the country's handling of the Covid-19 health emergency was told on Tuesday.

Hugo Keith, lead lawyer to the Covid-19 enquiry which is holding its first public session, said the country's departure from the European Union had "required an enormous amount of planning and preparation".

"It is clear that such planning, from 2018 onwards, crowded out and prevented some or perhaps a majority of the improvements that central government itself understood were required to be made to resilience planning and preparedness."

The UK suffered one of the worst Covid-19 death tolls in Europe with more than 128,500 fatalities recorded by mid-July 2021.

The current toll of deaths with Covid-19 on the death cer-



People look at messages and hearts on the National Covid Memorial Wall, dedicated to those who lost their lives to Covid-19, on the embankment on the south side of the River Thames in London on 13 June 2023.

PHOTO: AFP

tificate stands at just over 227,000, according to the latest govern-

ment figures.

Chaired by retired senior

judge Heather Hallett, the first phase of the enquiry is focusing

on the UK's resilience and preparedness.

But relatives of people who died have already condemned the enquiry for failing to include them and say it will be a "farce" if they are not able to testify.

Members of the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice campaign lined up outside the enquiry in central London holding pictures of their loved ones.

"Without learning from the experiences of our members, how can the inquiry properly evaluate the decisions made by those in charge?" group member Barbara Herbert, who lost her husband Paul to Covid, said earlier this week.

"We are people that will be able to put reality to the theory that Hallett is testing, that has got to happen, otherwise it's just a farce," added Saleyha Ahsan, a doctor whose father Ahsan-ul-Haq Chaudry also died. —AFP

Iran rejects US claim of helping Russia build drone plant

THE Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday rejected the US claim that Iran is sending materials to Russia to help Moscow build a drone manufacturing plant. Nasser Kanaani made the remarks at a weekly press conference, in response to the White House's allegation that Tehran "provided hundreds of armed drones to Russia last month for Moscow's war in Ukraine", according to a statement posted on

the website of Iran's Foreign Ministry. Iran rejects such claims with "political motivations", said Kanaani, adding that military and defence cooperation between Iran and Russia had started before the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In a statement on Friday, John Kirby, spokesperson for the White House National Security Council, said: "As of May, Russia received hundreds

of one-way attack UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), as well as UAV production-related equipment, from Iran."

He said Russia had used Iranian drones in recent weeks to strike Kiev, noting that Moscow has been "offering Iran unprecedented defence cooperation, including on missiles, electronics, and air defence in return for Iran's supplying kamikaze drones to Russia". — Xinhua

Russia says German Leopard tanks, US Bradleys captured in Ukraine

MOSCOW said Tuesday that it had captured several German Leopard tanks and US Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, releasing footage showing Russian troops surveying the equipment supplied to Ukraine by Western countries.

"Leopard tanks and Bradley infantry fighting vehicles. These are our trophies. Equipment of the Ukrainian armed forces in the Zaporizhzhia region," the Russian defence ministry said in a statement.

"Servicemen of the Vostok group inspect enemy tanks and

infantry fighting vehicles captured in battle."

Kyiv has appealed to its allies in the West to deliver a broad range of modern military equipment to help Ukrainian forces recapture large swathes of territory controlled by Russian forces.

The defence ministry said several of the captured vehicles had working engines, suggesting that this suggested the battles they were involved in had been short and that Ukrainian troops had "fled" their offensive positions. — AFP

Potential Iran deal not binding on Israel: PM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a parliament committee on Tuesday that Israel will not be constrained by any international nuclear deal with Iran.

His remarks at the parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee came amid media reports that the United States was making progress toward a nuclear deal with Iran,

an arch-foe of Israel in the Middle East.

"No agreement with Iran will be binding on Israel, which will continue to do everything to defend itself," Netanyahu told the committee, according to a statement released on his behalf.

Iran "aspires to the destruction of Israel," he noted. Netanyahu, a staunch op-

ponent of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, maintains that the emerging new deal will enable Iran to develop nuclear weapons without the burden of the sanctions.

"Our policy is aimed at increasing the circle of peace to stop Iran and its proxies," the Israeli leader said, referring to Israel's key security strategy based on forging new alliances in the Middle East. — Xinhua



Ukrainian servicemen ride atop an armoured personnel carrier vehicle (APC) in the Zaporizhzhya region on 11 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Tens of thousands evacuated as cyclone menaces India and Pakistan

MORE than 40,000 people have been evacuated across India and Pakistan as a cyclone approaches their coast, officials said Tuesday, with gales of up to 150 kilometres per hour predicted.

The cyclone — named Biparjoy, meaning “disaster” in Bengali — is making its way across the Arabian Sea and is forecast to make landfall as a “very severe cyclonic storm”, government weather monitors warned.

In Pakistan’s southeastern Sindh province, officials said at least 20,000 people had been evacuated from the storm’s path, while across the border in India’s Gujarat state, authorities said they had also helped a similar number to move.

India’s Meteorological Department said the storm would hit near the Indian port of Jakhau on Thursday evening with winds surging up to 150 kilometres per



Policemen stop motorcyclists along a closed coastal road in Karachi on 13 June 2023 as cyclone Biparjoy makes its way across the Arabian Sea towards the coastlines of Pakistan. PHOTO: AFP

hour (93 miles per hour).

“Over 20,000 people have

been evacuated,” said CC Patel, the official in charge of re-

lief operations in Gujarat state, adding that more people would

be moved throughout Tuesday.

Fishing has been suspended along the Gujarat coast where there could be waves of up to three metres (over nine feet), and the Indian Coast Guard on Monday evacuated 50 personnel from an oil drilling ship due to rough conditions.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired meetings to review the impending cyclone, calling for officials to “take every possible measure to ensure that people living in vulnerable locations are safely evacuated”.

Authorities in Gujarat have warned as many as 1.6 million people are likely to be affected in their state, and heavy winds and rains ahead of its arrival have already killed three people.

Two children were killed when a wall collapsed, and a woman was hit by a falling tree while riding a motorbike. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japanese officials call for Mount Fuji crowd control

A surge in demand for rest cabins on Mount Fuji has led Japanese officials to call for crowd control measures including potential entry restrictions during this summer’s climbing season.

Local authorities and tourism associations near the famous volcano warned that an “unprecedented” number of people were expected to tackle its steep symmetrical slopes this year.

They raised safety concerns in a petition submitted on Monday to the governor of Yamanashi region, where the sacred mountain’s most popular hiking trail is located.

Crowds could be larger than usual due to the relaxation of Covid restrictions, including the return of foreign tourists, and the 10th anniversary of the peak’s designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. — AFP

UN chief supports creation of AI watchdog body

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday expressed support for establishing an AI watchdog body akin to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“It’s my intention to create a high-level advisory body on artificial intelligence to seriously prepare the different kinds of initiatives that we will be able to take ... I would be favourable to the idea that we could have an artificial intelligence, an agency, which I would say is inspired by what the International Agency of

Atomic Energy is today,” the top UN official said at a press conference at the UN headquarters in New York.

Guterres stressed the need to address the significant harm caused by digital platforms filled with misinformation alongside the concerns over advancements in artificial intelligence, proposing an international code of conduct as a solution.

While acknowledging that the alarm bells over AI were “deafening”, the UN chief em-

phasized that they should not divert attention from the existing damage inflicted by digital technology. “They must not distract us from the damage digital technology is already doing to our world,” he said.

Guterres highlighted the grave global harm caused by the proliferation of hate and lies in the digital space, noting that “the proliferation of hate and lies in the digital space is causing grave global harm now.” — Xinhua



Protesters hold a rally in Seoul on 12 June 2023 against Japan’s plan to discharge treated radioactive water into the sea from the disaster-hit Fukushima nuclear power plant. PHOTO: KYODO

S Korea begins briefings to ease anxiety over Fukushima water

SOUTH Korea’s fisheries ministry held the first of a series of nationwide briefings for the public Tuesday to explain seafood safety amid Japan’s plan to release treated radioactive water from the disaster-hit Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea.

The Oceans and Fisheries Ministry said Monday the briefings will continue until late June to provide scientific information on the treated water at the Fuk-

ushima Daiichi plant that Japan plans to start discharging in the summer.

The first event was held in the southern port city of Busan with about 40 people — all working in the local fisheries industry — in attendance, a ministry official said.

Song Sang Keun, the vice fisheries minister, said Monday, “(The ministry) plans to meet face-to-face with the public, es-

pecially those working in the fisheries industry, to explain how safe our marine products are, based on scientific and objective facts.” “There is no way that inappropriate marine products will get to the table of our people,” Song added. He also emphasized that the ministry wants to prevent seafood consumption from slowing down due to incorrect information about the treated water. — Kyodo

Tens of thousands evacuated as cyclone menaces India and Pakistan

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SPORT



The photograph captures Sithu Aung, a prominent football star from Myanmar, wearing a red jersey during his training session in preparation for the upcoming international friendlies. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar's football team to engage in friendly matches with China, Macau

THE Myanmar men's national football team is scheduled to participate in FIFA international friendly matches against China and Macau this week, as confirmed by the Myanmar Football Federation. The matches will take place at the stadium in Dalian City, China, with Myanmar facing China on

16 June and Macau on 19 June. Head coach Michael Feichtenebeiner has announced the selection of 24 players who will represent Myanmar in these FIFA international friendlies. The Myanmar squad departed from Yangon on 12 June at 9:30 am local time and arrived in Dalian at 10:25 am local time

on 13 June, in preparation for the matches.

Upon their arrival, the team checked in at the Kempinski Hotel in Dalian and commenced light training within the hotel premises yesterday evening, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation. — KZL

Mbappe says never discussed extending stay with PSG

KYLIAN Mbappe's future at Paris Saint-Germain was in serious doubt on Tuesday after the France superstar told AFP he had never discussed extending his contract with the club beyond next year.

Mbappe and his entourage spoke out the day after he sent a letter to the club confirming he would not take up an option to remain at the French champions until 2025.

That immediately raised the spectre of the 24-year-old forward, one of the most coveted players in world football, following Lionel Messi out of Parc des Princes this summer because if Qatar-owned PSG do not cash in by selling him now, he could

leave for nothing at the end of next season.

In a statement to AFP, Mbappe said he had informed PSG "on 15 July 2022" of his decision not to activate an option to extend his contract, which ends after next season, for an extra year "and the only aim of the letter was to confirm what had already been spoken about previously".

"Kylian Mbappe and his entourage confirm that this matter has not been discussed since over the course of the year, except a fortnight ago to announce the sending of the letter.

"No potential contract extension has been mentioned,"

it continued. "After maintaining publicly in recent weeks that he

would be a PSG player next season, Kylian Mbappe has not asked to leave this summer and has

just confirmed to the club that he would not be activating the extra year," Mbappe and his entourage explained. — AFP



France's forward Kylian Mbappe plays the ball during a training session ahead of the upcoming UEFA Euro 2024 football tournament qualifying matches in Clairefontaine-en-Yvelines, on 12 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Twelve Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To prioritize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy.
- (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.

McIlroy, Koepka paired together at US Open

WORLD number three Rory McIlroy and newly crowned PGA Championship winner Brooks Koepka will make for a spicy pairing in the first two rounds of the 123rd US Open at Los Angeles Country Club.

The two will tee off on the par-70 North Course alongside 2021 Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama at 1:54 pm (2054 GMT) on Thursday, when the US Open returns to Los Angeles for the first time since it was held at Riviera Country Club in 1948.

Koepka passed McIlroy's total of four major titles when he won his fifth at the PGA Championship at Oak Hill

last month.

McIlroy hasn't lifted a major trophy since he won the PGA Championship and Open Championship in 2014 — a drought that drew a dig from Koepka back in 2019 when the American noted that McIlroy hadn't won a major "since I've been on the PGA Tour".

"I just don't view it as a rivalry," Koepka said back then. "I'm not looking at anybody behind me".

The two also ended up on opposite sides when Koepka made the leap to the Saudi-backed LIV Golf circuit, with McIlroy championing the PGA Tour. — AFP