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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.

Protecting takin from extinction in PutaO



The takin usually inhabits the peak between over 3,300 feet and 15,000 feet just the eastern Himalayas range.

THE species of takin living on grassland and in the gully of snow-covered mountains should be protected from extinction in PutaO District of Kachin State.

The takin usually inhabits the peak between over 3,300 feet and 15,000 feet just the eastern Himalayas range. They are mammals and live in groups of 20 to 300 individuals. In winter,

they move to lowlands and are seasonal migratory animals. They, folivores, feed on a variety of leaves and grasses, as well as bamboo shoots and flowers (herbivorous). They also live on mountain slopes and through thick forests and salt pits.

There are four species of takins or gnu goats such as Bhutan takin, Mishmi takin, Sichuan takin and Golden tak-

in. The takin in Myanmar is Mishmi takin (*Budorcas taxicolor*). According to a local hunter, there are also golden takins of different species.

The takin inhabits Bhutan, China, India and Myanmar. In addition to the takin, the Red Panda, Hharal (*Pseudois nayaur*), Monal, Phoenix and Rufous-necked Hornbill are distinct species of the Khakab-

orazi area in PutaO District. To protect against the extinction of these endangered species, residents should avoid serious hunting and travellers should not purchase the parts of animals at high prices, according to a forest ranger in charge of the research and educating programmes division of the Khakaborazi National Park.—Phon Kan (Putao)/KTZH

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Pyin Oo Lwin

NAN MYAING

Pure Arabica Coffee

Sales Department- Ph-085 2021740, 09 30529111
 STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 30860180
 KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
 STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pinyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

Objectives of 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

- To serve primary duties of Tatmadaw for successfully safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, and protecting the State Constitution and shielding the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system
- To emphasize agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible for the restoration of the durable and perpetual peace across the nation as ceasing of armed conflicts is an actual requirement for realizing the multiparty democratic system
- To safeguard the national interest of the State, lives and property of people, and to put a strenuous effort on respective corners in times of natural disasters.
- To provide the necessary assistance by Tatmadaw for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election upon completion of undertakings in accord with the provisions of the state of emergency for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Danu National Organization Party (DNOP) with its headquarters located at No 348, Thitsar Street, Zaytan Ward, Ywangan, Shan State (South) applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.

2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Danu National Organization Party (DNOP)



The emblem of the Danu National Organization Party (DNOP)

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Naga National Party (NNP) with its headquarters located at Zeephyugon Ward, Kandee, Sagaing Region applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.

2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Naga National Party (NNP)



The emblem of the Naga National Party (NNP)

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Danu National Democracy Party with its headquarters located at No 10/64, Cherry Street, 10th Ward, Kalaw, Shan State (South) applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.

2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Danu National Democracy Party



The emblem of the Danu National Democracy Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Zomi Congress for Democracy Party with its headquarters located at No Ba/9, Lwelbwarl Ward, Tiddim, Chin State applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.

2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Zomi Congress for Democracy Party



The emblem of the Zomi Congress for Democracy Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party with its headquarters located at Building No 10, Room No 002, Shwehninzi Street, Shwelinpan low-cost housing section-1, Hlinethaya (East) Township, Insein District, Yangon Region applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.

2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party



The emblem of the 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers with its headquarters located at No 2, Dagaungphaya Street, 4th Ward, Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region, applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.

2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers.



The emblem of the People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers

Union Election Commission

Building Union based on democracy and federalism

DEMOCRACY is a system of government chosen by all the eligible members of the State, typically through elected representatives. The federal system is a concept of dividing up the authoritative power on concerted efforts of the ethnic groups from different regions and states and is also a system or living in unison and sharing equal opportunities.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the Passing Out Parade of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy on 2 December 2022)

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics Party with its headquarters located at No 327, Pahtoegy Street, Sagataung, Santaw Quarter, Pyay, Pyay District, Bago Region applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics Party



The emblem of the Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Shan State Kokang Democratic Party with its headquarters located on Kyishan Street, 1st Ward, Tonchan, Laukkai Township, Shan State (North), applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party



The emblem of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Mro National Party with its headquarters located at No 245, 4th Ward, Thabyaygon, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Mro National Party



The emblem of the Mro National Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The People's Party with its headquarters located at Room No 906, 9th floor, Yuzana Tower, Shwegondaing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the People's Party



The emblem of the People's Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Wa National Party with its headquarters located at No 40, Thayar Street, 1st Ward, Area 2, Lashio Township, Shan State (North), applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Wa National Party



The emblem of the Wa National Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Women's Party (Mon) with its headquarters located at No 5/B, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Myaingthaya Ward, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State, applied on 24-3-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Women's Party (Mon)



The emblem of the Women's Party (Mon)

Union Election Commission



Loans from the Myaseinyaung Project fund were distributed to villagers in Kawhmu Township Yangon Region, 14 June 2022.

Loans provided to villages in regions/states through Myaseinyaung Project

A total of 207 villages in Mahlaing, Thazi, Wundwin townships in Mandalay Region are under implementation until the financial year 2024-2025 through the Myaseinyaung Project.

Among these villages, 43 villages have two water supply projects, six concrete paving works, 36 electric lighting projects being carried out with an interest income of K328.3

million from project funds and K651.4 million of public contribution.

In addition, for the convenience of the rural people of Ponnagyun Township, K41 million were loaned from the fund to 79 loanees. K38.9 million of funds were lent at a low interest rate to 151 loan receivers from Ottwin Township, Bago Region. — TWA/GNLM

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair inspects palm oil distribution



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin and officials view the distribution process of palm oil yesterday.

NAY Pyi Taw Council, UMFC-CI and Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association jointly distributed palm oil at fairer prices to the departmental staff and their families yesterday in the compound of the Zabuthiri Hall at the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office marking the 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, council members and officials of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association inspected the sale of palm oil.

Then, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman gave certificates of honour to officials of the association.

Similarly, the palm oil was

sold at fairer prices to staff and families of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee in the compound of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on 24 March. Deputy Mayor U Maung Maung and officials viewed the event and gave certificates of honour to relevant officials of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association. — MNA/KTZH



Five EV chargers arrive at Yangon International Airport

FIVE sets of Xianhe Ianhe AS & T 60 kW EV chargers for battery electric vehicles (BEVs) arrived at Yangon International Airport on 25 March.

The chargers were imported by Myanmar Construction & Development Infrastructure Co

Ltd with the permission of the National-Level Leading Committee on the Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Businesses.

The import of these chargers is exempted from Customs tariffs. — MNA/MKKS

Officials check new arrivals of EV chargers at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

13 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 March, total figure records 634,072

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **634,072** after **13** new cases were reported on 25 March 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,494**, including **one** new recovery. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 25-3-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

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MoALI Deputy Minister inspects agricultural system in Taninthayi Region

THE raw industrial crop, which is crucial for local industries and the export sector, is planted on about 1.6 million acres and the second largest plantation is in Taninthayi Region. Educational programmes are conducted for the right choice of seedlings and plantation processes, said Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi during the demonstration of the Rain-guard Tapping System at Perennial Crops Research and Development Centre (Shwedoo) in Myeik Township of Myeik District in Taninthayi Region on 23 March.

During the demonstration, the official of the Department of Agriculture reported on the good and weak points of the Rain-guard Tapping System

and the deputy minister and party gave orange seedlings and other materials to the owners of rubber farms.

Then, the deputy minister and party attended the hand-over ceremony of vegetable species and demonstration of preventing pests on summer paddy held in fields of farmer U Aye Chan in Sandawutt village of Myeik Township.

In Taninthayi Region, the average output per acre of paddy was 70.25 baskets with 72.50 per cent of local food security last year and the local food security increased to 72.87 per cent with 71.79 baskets per acre of paddy this year.

The deputy minister also met with the palm oil entrepreneurs at the District Agriculture Department office on the same evening. During



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi is pictured during the inspection tours in Taninthayi Region on 23 March.

the meeting, he discussed the enhancement of technology for palm oil production and investment, all-inclusive and sustainable businesses supporting farmers of small-scale plantations, the establishment of palm oil organizations in the Taninthayi Region and cooperation to set up the oil mills. — MNA/KTZH

Illegal medicines, foodstuffs, consumer goods, electronics and vehicles confiscated

ON 21, 22 and 23 March, the on-duty teams under the management of the Customs Department nabbed three kinds of goods including 440 space robots (toy) with recharge worth K1.98 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and two kinds of goods including textiles and laces worth K55.7 million that were different from the Import Declaration (ID), two kinds of goods including 145.50 kilogrammes of Tendo-care tablets worth K14.5 million that needed import licences and medicines and two Hi-REG XR-10.0 power supplies that were taken over 61 days of Valid for Prior Arrival-VPA worth K23.2 million at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 22 March, a combined

on-duty team at the Yepu permanent checkpoint in Shan State confiscated a total of 160 portable BT speakers with wireless microphones and textiles worth K6.75 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from two vehicles (approximately K100 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse and the action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 23 March, an Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force conducted inspections at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint and captured 3,000 kilogrammes of refreshing towels worth K15 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) and the Import Licence (IL). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, the Muse Anti-Illicit Trade control and prevention team made surprise checks at the Sinphyu check-

point on the vehicles which were entering from China and seized eight kinds of goods including a total of 52 duty-free mobile phones (used) worth K37,015,000 by the side of road and the action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined team led by the Bago Region Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force captured K38,434,000 worth of 17,470 litres of palm oil and K910,000 worth of 70 cartons of LipoVitan-D energy drink without official documents from four Toyota Hilux cars (approximately K60 million) at the Nyaungkhashay X-ray Station. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 25 arrests (estimated value of K353,489,000) were made on three consecutive days from 21 to 23 March, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Kawthoung, Taunggyi townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched the house of Lwin Ko Ko (aka) Ko Ko on Bogyoke street in Padaukshwewah Ward in Kawthoung Township and seized 56,000 stimulant tablets and 0.02 kilogramme of heroin at 3 pm on 23 March.

In addition, at 1 pm on 24

March, Police Force searched the house of Thein Kyaw (aka) Phoe Kyaw on YayhtaukOo street in Yayayekwin Ward in Taunggyi Township and captured 18,000 stimulant tablets.

Offenders are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Two offenders are pictured together with seized drugs.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Bears face threat of extinction due to illegal overhunting



Two baby bears are seen being preserved in the Yangon Zoo on 3 June 2022.

THE Yangon Zoological Gardens announced on 23 March, World Bear Day, that bear species are facing the risk of extinction due to the loss of their habitats and being hunted illegally.

There are eight species of bear living in the world, but only two species: Himalayan bear and Sun bear live and breed in Myanmar.

Nowadays, all bear species have lost their habitats by illegal overhunting.

Because bear bile is considered to be medicinal and is used in the formulation of traditional medicines, bear species are facing the risk of extinction.

Bears are an important

part of natural forests and ecosystems, as well as being an important species in the food chain.

Yangon Zoological Garden has released a statement to mark World Bear Day, saying that bears can regulate the number of other species as well as being key species and ecological engineers due to their ability to change the environment.

Himalayan bears and Sun bears are kept and displayed in the Zoological Gardens (Yangon) and there are 132 species of animals and 1,363 animals and all these animals are well conserved in the zoo, according to the announcement in June 2022. — TWA/KZL

Traffic to be temporarily closed in Nay Pyi Taw on Armed Forces Day

DURING the 78th Armed Forces Day military parade on 27 March, traffic will be temporarily closed from Nay Pyi Taw's Bawgathiri traffic light to the Thaikhaung junction traffic light, the Public Traffic Regulatory and Supervision Committee announced.

As the traffic will be temporarily closed from the Bawgathiri traffic light located on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, Pyinmana Township, to the Thaikhaung intersection traffic light in Zeyathiri Township from 5 am to 10 am, the Nay Pyi Taw traffic enforcement committee warned drivers that they must detour from the Thaikhaung junction traffic light, Nay Pyi Taw-Zeyathiri Township to Khwanyopann Roundabout through Neikban Road (Myopat Road), the Khwanyopann Roundabout through Yazathingaha Road, and from Pankhinn traffic light-Bawgathiri traffic light to the Yangon-Mandalay Highway through Yazahtani Road in Pyinmana Township. — TWA/KZL

Effective penalty for YBS vehicles charging higher fares during Thingyan

YBS vehicles that charge higher fares during Thingyan will be punished effectively, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

During the Thingyan festival of 2022, there were a total of 11 complaints lodged with relevant authorities regarding YBS vehicles charging exorbitant fares from passengers. If the vehicle is a CNG one, the bus line will be closed, if it is a diesel vehicle, the business licence will be revoked. YRTC announced that it will take the same action this year as well.

During Thingyan, 16 bus companies will operate in Yan-

gon. On the 13th (Thingyan Aa Kyo Day) 1,430 vehicles by 67 bus lines, on the 14th (Thingyan Aa Kya Day) 1,290 vehicles by 63 bus lines, on the 15th (Thingyan Aa Kyat Day) 1,288 vehicles by 63 bus lines, on 16th (Thingyan Aa Tat Day) 1,288 vehicles by 63 bus lines will run respectively. On new year's day, all YBS lines will operate as usual.

The bus line and bus line numbers that will be operated by day during Thingyan can be accessed on the website page and Facebook page of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee-YRTC. — TWA/KZW

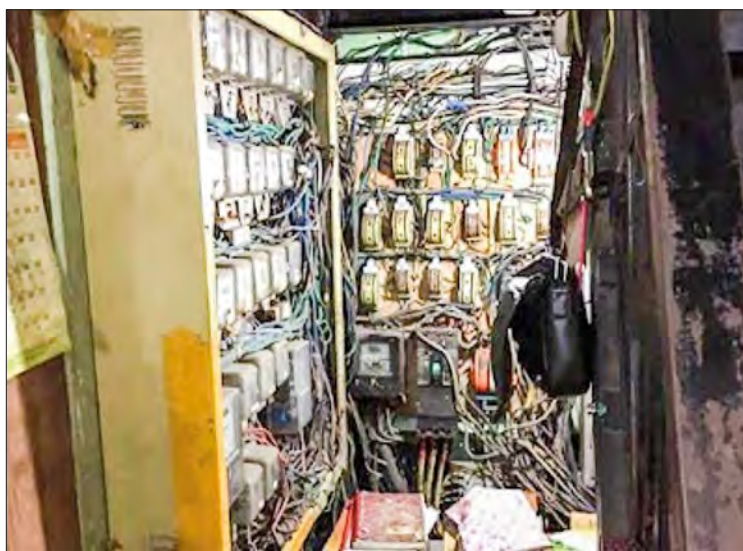


Commuters are seen getting off from the YBS bus in Yangon.

Offenders to get 5 to 10-year prison for illegal power consumption

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation announced that there will be a field study on electricity consumption and the people will be sentenced to five to 10 years in prison if it is found illegal consumption of energy.

The illegal use of power is the illegal connection to power lines, direct connection without a meter box, reduction of consumption with a meter box, using bypass circuit, the wiring on input/output cables, reverse installation of input/output cables, cable extension, using power for business from the general meter and home-use meter, using the power of small-scale industry and lump sum meter beyond the energy load limit, illegal power



Panels of meter boxes are seen at one of the apartments.

usage repairing the meter boxes, repairing the inner part of the meter and screw loosening, the

statement said.

It continued the power usage in industries during the re-

stricted hours between 5 pm and 11 pm, another power usage on his own decision during the power rotation system, connecting two power lines and more, illegal tampering on general home-use meter, home-use power, small-scale and industrial power meter boxes, illegal tampering on the current transformer and voltage transformer for the meter and electric circuit connecting the current transformer and voltage transformer for the meter and illegal tampering or faults or damages on the current transformer and voltage transformer for the meter and electric circuit connecting the current transformer and voltage transformer for the meter.

Above mentioned methods can cause power loss, voltage reduction, transformer explosion due to overload, electrocution, fire outbreak and lowering income in the electricity sector of the country, it said.

Respective township officials will conduct field studies and if illegal power consumption is found, users and accessories to the case will face power cuts and have to pay a fine in line with the power load. Moreover, they will be prosecuted under Sections 52 and 53 of the 2014 Electricity Law and they will be sentenced to five years or 10 years in prison in addition to the fine penalty, announced YESC. — TWA/KTZH

LOCAL BUSINESS

Strong demand elevates chickpea price

CHICKPEA prices spiked on account of the strong foreign and domestic demand, according to the Mandalay Commodity Centre.

Although chickpea is abundantly harvested, exporters, traders who store the stocks in hands and millers are increasingly purchasing them amid growing domestic consumption.

The prices moved in the range between K184,000 and K191,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss on 1 March 2023 and jumped to K203,000 and K209,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss depending on varieties on 25 March.

The figures showed a sharp increase of K17,000-K19,000 per 56.25 visses over three months.

At present, chickpea is provided by Sagaing, Monywa, Tagaung, Kyanyat, Kyaukse and Kume areas to the Mandalay Commodity Centre.

The chickpea is a winter crop and is usually grown in October and November. The harvest season is from January to April. They are mostly found in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Magway regions.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans.

Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans are also grown in the country. Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy. Among agricultural products, various beans and pulses are the main items.

Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond



Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 18,000 kilogrammes worth US\$12.678 million have been exported to foreign countries since April 2022.

self-sufficiency. More than 18,000 kilogrammes worth US\$12.978 million have been exported to foreign countries so far since April 2022, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. — NN/EM

Corn price on downward trend in domestic market



At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.

YANGON Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayint Naung commodity centre) saw a downward trajectory in prices of corn, according to

At the end of January, the corn price was stable at K1,300 per viss. Then, the price has been moving downwards from the last week of February and touched a low of K1,200 per viss on 25 March.

The decrease in FOB price affected the corn price in the domestic market. The FOB price is US\$310-330 per tonne.

At present, Myanmar delivered corn to China and Thailand through border posts and also shipped corn to China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines by sea, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitu-

tion program. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for corn exports.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate

of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate of the US dollar (over K2,880).

Myanmar exported more than 2 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

More than two million tonnes of corn are expected to be shipped to foreign trade partners in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 25 March 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,120
Octane 95	K2,215
Diesel	K2,075
Premium Diesel	K2,155

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,330,300 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,940,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market t	K2,865 to K2,880

The above prices may change from time to time.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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Raise public awareness of forest conservation in rural areas

BOTH forests that are systematically managed by rangers and naturally existing jungles help relieve the impacts of climate change and improve the natural environment as well as contribute to the development of the socioeconomic status of the people.

Hence, it is necessary to emphasize the improvement of the socioeconomic life of the rural people, the creation of good environment nature in order to support the stability of the natural environment, and raising public awareness to participate in environmental conservation including nurturing and protecting the forests.

Officials engaging in the profession of the forest should give educative talks about the advantages of conserving the forests to

In this regard, it is necessary to choose the prioritized areas for public participation in the forest nurturing measures. In addition, forestry officials need to use the necessary equipment in raising public awareness of forestry affairs to have effective educative results and catch the attention of the people in forestry affairs.

as teak, ironwood and other hardwood for the purpose of export while nurturing new forest plantations which may be reliable in coming some 30 years for new generations.

Currently, local authorities and forest officials are joining hands in staging public awareness about the important role of forests and their advantages, while urging the rural people to establish community-owned forests and firewood plantations for their interests. Moreover, officials widen the scope of the people to nurture forests, follow forestry laws and rules, prevent illegal extraction of forest products, and use firewood-substitute fuels and efficient stoves.

In this regard, it is necessary to choose the prioritized areas for public participation in the forest nurturing measures. In addition, forestry officials need to use the necessary equipment in raising public awareness of forestry affairs to have effective educative results and catch the attention of the people in forestry affairs.

Currently, the government is placing an emphasis on the improvement of the socioeconomic life of the people both in rural and urban areas. In so doing, it is necessary to carry out forest and forestry conservation on a wider scale through public awareness campaigns for contributing to rural development and poverty alleviation.

PM Modi advises precaution, maintenance of vigil amid rise in Covid-19 cases



PM Modi directed officials to enhance the Whole Genome Sequencing of Positive Samples with the designated INSACOG Genome Sequencing Laboratories. Samples being examined at the Genome Sequencing Lab at DMS, Chennai. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/ ANI

A MID the spike in influenza cases in the country and the rise of Covid-19 cases in the past two weeks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting to assess in terms of preparedness of health infrastructure and logistics, the status of the vaccination campaign, stated an official release.

A comprehensive presentation was made covering the global Covid-19 situation including the rising cases in India by the Secretary, of Health, MoHFW.

A slight rise in new cases
PM Modi was briefed that India has been witnessing a slight rise in new cases with average dai-

ly cases reported as 888 and weekly positivity reported as 0.98 per cent in the week ending 22 March 2023. However, 1.08 lakh daily average cases have been reported globally during the same week.

“The action taken on the directions given by Prime Minister during the last Covid-19 review held on 22 December 2022, was also briefed. He was informed that the availability and prices of 20 main Covid Drugs, 12 other drugs, eight buffer drugs, and one influenza drug are being monitored,” it read.

A mock drill was also conducted on 27 December 2022, in 22,000 hospitals, and many remedial measures were taken by hospitals

thereafter.

The Prime Minister was apprised of the influenza situation in the country, particularly with respect to a higher number of cases of H1N1 and H3N2 being noted in the last few months.

PM Modi directed officials to enhance the Whole Genome Sequencing of Positive Samples with the designated INSACOG Genome Sequencing Laboratories.

“This will support tracking of newer variants if any, and timely response,” said PM Modi.

Covid appropriate behaviour
He also emphasized on Covid appropriate behaviour including wearing masks in hospital prem-

ises by patients, health professionals, and health workers.

He also stressed that wearing of masks is advisable when senior citizens and those with co-morbidities visit crowded areas.

He directed that effective monitoring of IRI/SARI cases, and testing for influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and Adenovirus be followed up with States. Further, Prime Minister stressed the need to ensure the availability of required Drugs and Logistics for influenza and Covid-19 across Health Facilities along with the availability of sufficient beds and for health human resources.

He highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic is far from over and

there is a need to monitor the status across the country on regular basis. The PM advised to continue focusing on the 5-fold strategy of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behaviour; enhance Lab Surveillance, and testing of all Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases. Mock drills should be conducted regularly to ensure that our hospitals are ready for all exigencies.

Respiratory hygiene
Prime Minister exhorted the community to follow respiratory hygiene & to adhere to Covid appropriate behavior in crowded public places.

SOURCE: ANI



Book Title	- Ah Khet Ah Khe Go Yin
	Hsaing Gyin
Compiler	- Kyaw Zin
Publishing House	- Roloway Book House
Publication Date	- February 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	- K3,500

Ah Khet Ah Khe Go Yin Hsaing Gyin

MATTER-OF-FACTLY, this book was not intended to become a book. This is just a recording of a debate, and to make it known to the public, a publisher has printed this book for the sake of the readers. The publisher said, “If this book can give some strength to the readers, the publishing is worthwhile.” The leading participants in the debate are Saya Zaw Khine Oo, who is writing books on Philosophy; Academy Award Winner; Actress and Film Director Swe Zin Htike, who is sharing her international experience; and Myanmar Language Teacher Cherry Myay Maung Tin Tun, who was referred to in the book titled, “Myanmarsar

Chit Thaw Gurkha” written by Saya Min Yu Wai.

The participants have different backgrounds and diversified philosophies but one thing in common among them is that they have all struggled to achieve success in their careers. True to the title of the book, they have shared their own experiences in the face of the difficulty they have encountered.

The book is opened with their attempt to define what difficulty means. Saya Cherry Myay said, “The job or a task and the difficulty are complementary. They can be likened to the obverse side and reverse side of a coin. As long as a person is

working, he will be faced with difficulty. If he is determined to accept all the challenges and make enough effort to overcome them, he will achieve success. In other words, difficulties are the stepping stones to success.” He went on to say that the difficulties are the footprints left by the achievers.

Daw Swe Zin Htike said, “If I am asked to choose a word amidst a difficult situation, I’d choose the word dukkha, the suffering. I like to overcome hardship and hindrance. Without the ability to overcome them, we cannot move forward. However, we must make a positive move. In our endeavour to move forward, we must have a vision. In this regard, we must be aware that the difficulty or hindrances are not of the same level. Some hindrances are just at the level of constraint. Some exit only at the individual level. If the hindrances and the difficulty are at a higher level, they can become crises, which are at the community level or at the national level. Depending on the level of hindrances and difficulties, we have to use different strategies. In some cases like individual level ones, we need to drop them off, not bothering ourselves with trivial matters. But for some more serious matters, we need to bring them forward for solution. When reaching the national level, the crisis will put us into the corner.”

Saya Zaw Khine oo said, “Difficulty starts in the womb, according to the Buddhists. From womb to tomb, we have to be faced with all sorts of difficulties big and small. We have to undergo all kinds of tough tests through all three groups of age.”

In fact, this book mentions the ways or strategies to overcome the hindrances and difficulties we have to undergo throughout our life. This is the reason why this book is recommended to readers.



Book Title	- Hsin Ye Gyin Lut Kin Aung Lan Pya
	Hsaung Bar Myi
Translator	- Pho Hlaing
Publishing House	- Htoon Foundation
Publication Date	- October 2022 (1st Edition)
Price	- K8,000

Hsin Ye Gyin Lut Kin Aung Lan Pya Hsaung Bar Myi (Why Nations Fail)

By Daron Acemoglu & James A Robinson

SAYAGYI U Pho Hlaing writes only good books which are valuable to the readers. He cannot be forgetful. When reading this book, it is written by him the way he chose to give a name to this book. He said that he has pondered over how he should translate Why Nations Fail into Myanmar. The word fails means that it does not work. If he translates the title literally, it would be Naing Ngan Myar Ba Gyaunt Ma Aung Myin Dar Lai. He hates the literal translation. In his opinion, if a nation succeeds, there will prevail stability and peace. The people of that nation will be able to live in peace of mind, leading a prosperous life, and earning a decent income. No citizen shall suffer from abject poverty. In brief, a successful nation will be a stable, peaceful and prosperous one. While considering the title, a lyric from the song titled Nagani came to his mind. This lyric is Hsin Ye Gyin Lut Kin Aung Lan Pya Hsaung Bar Myi, which can be translated into English as I will show the way to a life free from poverty. A failed nation is not free from

poverty. To be able to show the reason why nations are poor. As the lyric reflects the reason why nations fail and how to free a nation from poverty, the translator has chosen it as the title of his translated version of Why Nations Fail.

The original book was jointly written by two writers. One of them is a Professor of Economics from the world-famous university called Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the other one is a Professor of Governance from

Havard University. His name is James A Robinson, and he is also a political scientist cum economist. This book highlights the gap between the rich and the poor nations. For example, the United States of America, Britain and European countries are the rich nations whereas Sub-Saharan nations, North Korea, South Asia and Latin American nations are poor.

There are 15 episodes and the pages number over 300. The episodes deal with the causes or reasons for national economic development, the obstacles that hinder economic growth and the development theories. At a time when our world is being faced with economic crises, this book is really worth reading.

ENVIRON WORLD

How Viet Nam is trying to stop rice warming the planet

AS a child, Dong Van Canh watched while the rice fields of Viet Nam's Mekong Delta were set alight to make way for the next crop, blackening the sky and flooding the air with potent greenhouse gases.

Rice — Asia's principal staple — is to blame for around 10 per cent of global emissions of methane, a gas that over two decades traps about 80 times as much heat as carbon dioxide.

Usually associated with cows burping, high levels of methane are also generated by bacteria that grow in flooded rice paddies and thrive if leftover straw rots in the fields after harvest.

The message from scientists is: rice cannot be ignored in the battle to cut emissions.

In the Mekong Delta, Canh, now a 39-year-old rice farmer, does not leave straw out to decay on the paddies — nor does he burn it, as his parents did before him.

Motivated by the memory of being forced inside his home

on days the smoke was thick — sometimes so acrid it made him choke or faint — he joined an initiative that removes straw from the fields and turns it into mushrooms and organic fertiliser, earning a small income on the side.

"If we can collect the straw and make money, all of us benefit," he told AFP, running his fingers through a large, soft mound of straw, cow dung and rice husks that will soon become nutritious food for Mekong crops.

Shrinking emissions

The programme — organized by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) — is one of a handful across Viet Nam and the region trying to steadily shrink methane emissions from rice production.

Many of the initiatives are not new but have been spotlighted since around 100 countries signed the Global Methane Pledge two years ago, agreeing to



Farmers use a roller to collect straw in a field in Can Tho. **PHOTO: AFP**

reduce emissions by 30 per cent from 2020 levels by 2030.

Several of the world's biggest rice producers, including Indonesia, Bangladesh and Viet Nam, are on board — although the two largest, China and India, failed

to sign.

In Viet Nam, as the harvesting season draws to a close, farmers push carts overflowing with straw bales that will later be soaked and laid out to grow straw mushrooms.

Once the fungi are ready they will be sold before the farmers take back the straw and funnel it into a composting machine. Two months later it will be ready — and can be sold for around 15 cents a kilogramme (2.2 pounds).—AFP

S Africa art show highlights destructive ties between Man and Nature

A lioness towers over a seemingly dead hunter, her paws pinning his body to the ground.

A woman dressed in black, her face replaced by a leopard's head, sits flanked by three prowling wild cats.

The two installations are part of the latest exhibition by 72-year-old American photographic artist Roger Ballen, which opens in Johannesburg, South Africa, next Tuesday.

Renowned for his

thought-provoking work into the human psyche, Ballen said the display aims to explore the "antagonistic" relationship between Man and Nature, especially the decimation of African wildlife.

"If you look at the history of humanity, it's just been a destruction of nature, the destruction of wildlife," said Ballen, a New York native, who has lived and worked in South Africa for almost 40 years.—AFP



The 'End Of The Game' display is the first to be hosted in Roger Ballen's newly opened Inside Out Centre. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU, Germany reach deal on fossil fuel car phaseout plan

THE European Union and Germany on Saturday said they had struck a deal after a dispute over the planned phaseout by 2035 of the sale of cars using fossil fuels.

A landmark deal to prohibit new sales of fossil fuel cars from 2035 is key to the bloc's ambitious plan to become a "climate-neutral" economy by 2050, with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

But in an unprecedented move earlier this month, leading car producer Germany blocked the agreement at the last minute after it had already been approved under the traditional EU legislative process.

Berlin demanded that Brus-



A Volkswagen ID.3 electric car being charged in Dresden, Germany, 11 September 2020. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP**

sels provide assurances the law would allow the sales of new cars with combustion engines that

run on synthetic fuels, the focus of the breakthrough announced on Saturday.—AFP

New 'glass-like' orchid species discovered in Japan

A new species of orchid with delicate, glass-like blooms has been discovered by Japanese scientists, who found the pink and white plant hiding in plain sight.

Despite its presence in Ja-

pan's parks and gardens, it took researchers at Kobe University a decade to confirm that the plant — dubbed the "Spiranthes hachijoensis" — was a previously unknown species. "It was a sur-

prise to discover a new species of spiranthes, which is so common that you can see it in parks, gardens and among potted plants," lead researcher Kenji Suetsugu told AFP Thursday.—AFP

Tuberculosis deaths rising again in Europe: WHO

THE number of tuberculosis deaths in Europe is on the rise again after declining for almost two decades, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Friday.

TB killed 27,300 Europeans in 2021 compared to 27,000 a year earlier, according to the latest data available.

WHO attributed the rise to the Covid-19 pandemic, citing lockdowns, diverted medical resources and delayed diagnoses, as well as the spread of a drug-resistant form of tuberculosis. This was the first time in 20 years the downward trend was broken, the WHO Europe said.

Russia and Ukraine were the two most affected countries, with around 4,900 and 3,600 deaths respectively. Across the 53 countries that make up the WHO's European region, which includes countries in Central Asia, some 230,000 people contracted TB, a number that continued to decline from previous years.

The illness is caused by a

bacteria that primarily attacks the lungs.

It is transmitted via the air by infected people, for example by coughing. It is preventable and curable. "The increase in TB deaths that we are seeing in 2021 is most likely a consequence of delay in, or lack of, TB diagnosis during the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to increased severity of disease and an associated increase in deaths," the WHO Europe said. — AFP

A member of French NGO Aides calling for more funds for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. **PHOTO: JEFF PACHOUD / AFP**



J&J loses key tuberculosis drug patent in India

INDIA'S Patent Office rejected on Thursday US pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson's application to extend its patent on a key tuberculosis treatment, allowing local companies to make cheaper generic versions.

India accounted for nearly 29 per cent of 10.6 million tuberculosis cases worldwide, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2022 Global TB report, a major public health problem as it struggles with drug-resistant strains.

Johnson and Johnson had applied to extend its patent on the drug bedaquiline until 2027 after it was challenged by two tuberculosis survivors in Mumbai in 2019. The survivors, Indian Nandita Venkatesan and Phumeza Tisile from South Africa, launched their challenge as part of a campaign to make the drug more affordable. — AFP



India accounted for nearly 29 per cent of 10.6 million tuberculosis cases worldwide, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2022 Global TB report, a major public health problem as it struggles with drug-resistant strains. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Transgender women no longer eligible for female athletics events: Coe



World Athletics' decision to exclude transgender women was based "on the overarching need to protect the female category". **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WORLD ATHLETICS**

TRANSGENDER women will no longer be allowed to compete in female track and field events regardless of their lev-

els of testosterone, World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said Thursday. Speaking after a meeting of the global track and field federation's decision-making body, Coe said: "The Council has agreed to exclude male or female transgender athletes who have been through male puberty from female world ranking competitions from March the 31st this year."

Coe said World Athletics had consulted with stakeholders including the International Olympic Committee and national federations about the issue of transgender athletes. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Medical colleges in India almost doubled since 2014: Govt

THE number of medical colleges in India has almost doubled since 2014, adding to the thrust on medical education in the country.

According to the official data released by the central government, the number of medical colleges has been increased almost twice in the eight years of the Modi government. In 2014, there were 387 medical colleges in the country. In 2023, the number of medical colleges in India increased to 660.

When it comes to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the total number was seven in the country in 2014. Today, the number of AIIMS has increased to 22.

The number of post-graduation seats in medical education got a boost in the last eight years. There is a total of 65,335 PG medical seats in the country today which is more than double what was in 2014. There were 31,185 PG medical seats in India in 2014.

Similarly, the number of MBBS seats was increased to 1,01,043 today from 51,348 in 2014. — ANI

Poor children have poorer health, educational outcomes in adolescence

A new investigation conducted by UCL academics indicates that Generation Z youngsters born into the lowest fifth of families in the UK are 12 times more likely to experience a slew of bad health and educational outcomes by the age of 17 than their more affluent classmates.

The study, published in The Lancet Public Health, used data from the Millennium Cohort Study, a major study of more than 15,000 children born after the new millennium (September 2000 - January 2002) who are now in their early 20s.

Researchers collected data on five adverse health and social outcomes in adolescents aged 17 years, which are known to limit life chances: educational achievement, smoking, poor health, obesity and psychological distress.

Children who were most disadvantaged between the ages of 0-5 were four and a half times more likely to do worse at school at the age of 17 compared to those in the highest income group. And they were three and a half times more likely to start smoking.

Those born in the lowest income quintile group were also more likely to have a harmful cluster of vulnerabilities at age 17 and were 12 times more likely to experience all - or all but one - of the five adverse health and social outcomes examined by researchers, compared to those born in the highest income quintile. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Sticky business: Half of honey imported into EU is adulterated

AROUND half of the honey imported into the European Union has been tampered with — watered down or laced with cheap sugar syrup — according to an official study published Thursday. EU health and scientific agencies and the OLAF anti-fraud office worked together on the report, which confirmed the suspicions of consumer groups and Europe's homegrown beekeepers.

Europe imports around 40 per cent of the honey it consumes, and has the world's second sweetest tooth for the sticky breakfast staple after the

United States.

But, when OLAF tested 320 samples from shipments into the bloc, it found that 46 per cent of them appeared not to be fully made of honey at all.

Three-quarters of the time, “honey” from China isn't what it claims to be, and 14 out of 15 batches from Türkiye failed the EU's tests.

Honey from former EU member Britain is even more suspect — all ten batches fell foul of the inspectors — although perhaps because it is mixed with imports from Mexico, Ukraine and Brazil. — AFP



A beekeeper collects honeycombs from a frame at an apiary. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chad nationalizes former ExxonMobil firm after disputed sale

CHAD has announced it has nationalised a former subsidiary of US oil and gas giant ExxonMobil, whose sale to a British company last year it had contested.

A decree signed by President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno on Thursday declared that all the assets, prospection rights, operating permits and oil-transport authorizations held by Esso Exploration and Production Chad Inc “are nationalized”.

The firm's sale to Savannah Energy plc had been announced by the UK firm on 9 December. Chad had immediately contested the sale, saying it had gone ahead despite the government's “express objections” and in violation of its

right of first refusal.

The company holds concessions in a number of productive fields, as well as rights over oil extracted there and a share in a pipeline transporting crude to neighbouring Cameroon for export via the port of Kribi.

The dispute was taken to arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, which ruled in favour of Savannah Energy on 7 January.

In a statement on Friday, Savannah said Chad actions were in “direct breach” of commercial conventions to which Chad was a party. It said that under Savannah Chad Inc. — as the company has been renamed — “the historic production decline (of oil) was immediately reversed”. — AFP

Chinese manufacturers hail closer economic ties with RCEP countries

EVERY 10 minutes, a brand new loader rolls off the 150-metre-long production line of Guangxi LiuGong Machinery Co Ltd, joining the rows of machines outside the plant that are ready for export.

Production at the Liuzhou-headquartered machinery manufacturer has been in full swing since the beginning of the year, with rapidly mounting overseas orders and a constantly expanding market share.

China's recovery in economic activity and the high-quality implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has fueled the development of the manufacturing sector, getting the economy off to a strong start.

Situated in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, which faces RCEP economies in Southeast Asia, the company has achieved a string of breakthroughs in overseas markets this year, riding the wave of China's economic recovery and booming China-RCEP co-



People look at a product of China's LiuGong Machinery at the 2023 CONEXPO-CON/AGG in Las Vegas, the United States, on 14 March 2023. **PHOTO: ZENG HUI/XINHUA**

operation.

In January, the company's export volume of construction machinery increased by over 50 per cent year on year, and since February, the overseas shipment of large excavators has soared by 500 per cent year on year.

During the same period, loaders produced by the company were delivered to Thailand, marking the first batch of construction machinery exported by the company under the RCEP agreement.

“Chinese products now have a good reputation and satisfactory market share in Southeast Asia. Our sales network in the region is fairly complete,” said Xiang Dongsheng, vice-general manager of LiuGong Machinery Asia Pacific Co Ltd, who added that the company has accelerated the pace of international business development by taking advantage of Guangxi's geographical location and its close cooperation with the ASEAN countries. — Xinhua

Japan inflation slows to 3.1% in February

JAPAN'S consumer prices rose 3.1 per cent in February from a year earlier, government data showed Friday, slowing from the four-decade highs seen in previous months.

The figure, which excludes volatile fresh food, met market expectations and comes after the government introduced relief

measures for soaring energy bills.

It is the first deceleration in over a year and marks a drop from January, when consumer prices jumped 4.2 per cent on-year — the highest level since September 1981, fuelled in part by higher energy bills.

UBS economist Masamichi Adachi had said ahead of the data

release that he expected a lower inflation rate in February “due to a discount on energy price with the government's subsidies”.

The 3.1 per cent rise is above the Bank of Japan's two-per cent target but remains lower than the sky-high inflation seen in the United States and elsewhere. — AFP



Ginza is the name of a district in central Tokyo. It is a vibrant shopping area with large department stores and several famous brands. **PHOTO: KYODO**

UK consumer data
improve but outlook
remains gloomy

CONSUMER data released here on Friday showed a further rebound in retail sales and confidence in the United Kingdom (UK) economy, but the overall picture remains gloomy as high inflation continues to bite.

Retail sales volumes grew by 1.2 per cent in February, the largest monthly increase since October 2022, and sales volumes have returned to pre-COVID-19 levels in February 2020, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

Non-food stores sales volumes rose by 2.4 per cent month-on-month in February because of strong sales in discount department stores. Food store sales volumes rose by 0.9 per cent with some anecdotal evidence of reduced spending in restaurants and on takeaways because of cost-of-living pressures. — Xinhua



A shopping trolley is seen at a supermarket in Manchester, Britain, 22 March 2023. PHOTO: JON SUPER/XINHUA

UBS, Credit Suisse tie-up may not
lead to Swiss bliss

THE marriage of UBS and Credit Suisse was hastily arranged to prevent a global financial meltdown -- but the size of the resulting megabank could cause domestic problems in Switzerland, the central bank admitted Thursday.

The Swiss National Bank, which played matchmaker in Sunday's takeover of Credit Suisse, said the formation of one giant bank in Switzerland would create competition issues that would need addressing carefully.—AFP

Airbus starts delivering China-assembled A321neo aircraft

EUROPEAN aircraft manufacturer Airbus started delivering A321neo aircraft assembled at its Final Assembly Line Asia (FALA) facility in north China's Tianjin Friday.

The first China-assembled A321neo aircraft was delivered to Shanghai-based Juneyao Air.

"The newly delivered A321neo aircraft is the 88th member of the Juneyao fleet. More will be received within the year," said Zhao Hongliang, CEO of Juneyao Air.



Crew members from Shanghai-based Juneyao Air, who attend the delivery ceremony of the first China-assembled A321neo aircraft, pose for a group photo in front of the aircraft in north China's Tianjin on 24 March 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHAO ZISHUO

A321neo, the largest member of the A320neo

family, can carry up to 244 passengers. Airbus started

to produce A321 series aircraft at the FALA facility in

November 2022.

"Relevant final assembly activities and tests went on smoothly, showcasing the maturity of the FALA in China to adapt to new products quickly," said Airbus Executive Vice-President and Airbus China CEO George Xu. "Airbus continues to expand and enhance its comprehensive cooperation with China's aviation industry, underlining the long-term commitment to China to ensure customer proximity while supporting the global commercial aircraft production ramp-up," Xu said.—Xinhua

Montenegro charges crypto fugitive Do Kwon with forgery

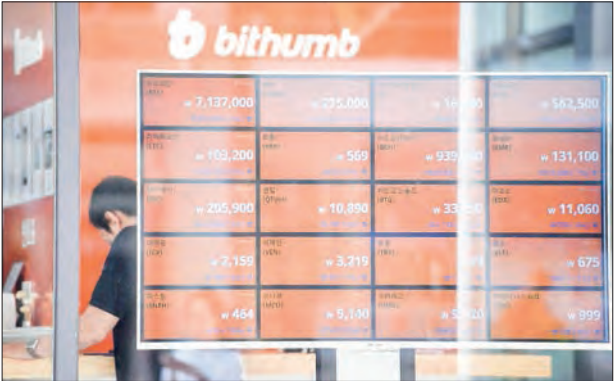
PROSECUTORS in Montenegro on Friday charged fugitive cryptocurrency entrepreneur Do Kwon with forgery and South Korean officials vowed to press for his extradition. The Terraform founder is accused of fraud over his company's dramatic collapse last year, which wiped out about \$40 billion of investors' money and shook global crypto markets. Kwon, whose full name is Kwon Do-hyung, was arrested with a companion on Thursday at the

airport in the Montenegrin capital Podgorica after being found travelling with fake travel documents.

"A criminal complaint was filed against both persons for the criminal offence of document forgery," Montenegro's police said on Friday.

A Podgorica court said it had remanded both Kwon and his companion in custody for up to 30 days over suspected document forgery "due to flight risk".

Kwon now faces two



Bithumb is a South Korean cryptocurrency exchange. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

cases in Montenegro -- the first involving his alleged possession of forged documents and the second regarding his possible extradition.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB311A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB311A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-3-2023** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (23MS095N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (23MS095N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-3-2023** 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 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 MTT SHIPPING SDN BHD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (W145)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (W145)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-3-2023** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia says economy will adapt to sanctions by 2024

RUSSIA'S economy will have finished adapting to Western sanctions by 2024, Moscow's prime minister said Thursday, saying that his country had survived the international attempts to isolate it.

After the Kremlin sent troops to Ukraine last year, Moscow's economy was hit with a flurry of sanctions and the exit of major Western companies — as well as the departure of thousands of educated Russian professionals.

In a speech to the Russian parliament, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin acknowledged the damages from the sanctions but vowed a quick recovery.

"Let's be realistic, the out-



Moscow plans to cut output by 500,000 barrels per day in March in response to Western sanctions. **PHOTO: GAZPROM**

side pressure on Russia is not weakening," he said.

"But we still expect that the adaptation period will end in 2024

President Vladimir Putin hosted his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Moscow for a meeting that highlighted their growing economic ties and a united front against the West.

Mishustin welcomed "strengthening cooperation with friendly countries, with those who share our views and values".

Echoing comments by Putin, Mishustin said the West's sanctions, "unmatched in recent history", were aimed at ordinary Russians. "Russian people were the target," Mishustin told the Duma deputies, "but we survived". According to the Rosstat national statistics agency, Russia's economy contracted 2.1 per cent last year. — AFP

Macron says EU chief to join him on visit to China

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said Friday that European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen would accompany him on an upcoming visit to China.

Macron is set to travel to China early next month for talks with President Xi Jinping, as Western leaders are urging Beijing to pressure Russia over the war in Ukraine. Macron said after a summit of EU leaders in Brussels that he had asked von der Leyen to come with him for part of the trip to present a "united voice" to China. Macron has called on Beijing to help convince Moscow to end its year-long invasion of Ukraine. China has sought to position itself as a neutral party on the conflict, even as it has burnished its ties with Russia. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Greece, Italy to discuss rail 'restart' after tragedy: PM

GREECE'S prime minister on Friday said he would discuss with Italy safety improvements

on Greek trains run by an Italian state company in the wake of last month's rail tragedy.

"We will have the opportunity to discuss the way in which the Italian government... will be able to support the restart of Greece's railways in a more active and substantial way," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told reporters at a eurozone leaders' summit in Brussels.

Mitsotakis said Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni had accepted an invitation to talks in Athens before the Greek general election in May.

"I believe we have the potential to jointly create a new future for our railways, whereby the Italian company will invest more in reliable, safer and faster trains" and Greece "will invest more in our network, its safety and its possible expansion", Mitsotakis said. — AFP



Many protesters urged the government of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to resign over what is the country's deadliest rail accident. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

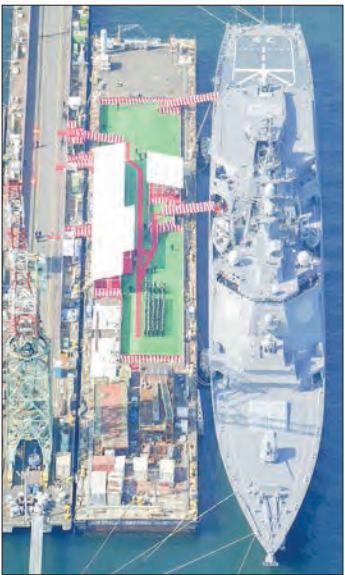
Japan eyes upgrading Aegis ships with Tomahawk missiles by FY 2027

THE Japanese government plans to upgrade all eight of its Aegis destroyers by fiscal 2027 so that they can be installed with Tomahawk cruise missiles purchased from the United States, a government source said Saturday.

The move is intended to help Japan develop capabilities that can strike targets inside an adversary's territory, amid North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats and China's military rise.

According to the source, Japan plans to acquire the latest Tomahawk Block-5 missiles with a range of about 1,600 kilometres. The government has already announced a plan to purchase 400 Tomahawks, earmarking 211.3 billion yen (\$1.6 billion) in the budget for fiscal 2023 starting April.

Currently, two Maritime Self-Defence Force ships equipped with the Aegis missile defence system are stationed at the Yokosuka naval base in Kanagawa Prefecture. Two others are based at Maizuru base in Kyoto Prefecture



According to the Defence Buildup Programme, the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) will increase the number of Aegis destroyers (DDG) from the current eight to ten. **PHOTO: KYODO**

and the remaining four at the Sasebo base in Nagasaki Prefecture.

The government plans to earmark funds to refurbish the vertical launching system of each ship from fiscal 2024 for the installation of Tomahawk missiles. — Kyodo

Ex-PM Thaksin vows to return to Thailand post-election, face jail time

FORMER Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Friday he is ready to return and serve his prison term in Thailand provided he is allowed to spend the remainder of his life with his family, regardless of the results of an upcoming general election.

Speaking in an interview with Kyodo News during a trip to Tokyo, Thaksin said he is bidding his time before possibly going

back this year, following years of living in self-exile abroad. He was ousted in a military coup in 2006 and left Thailand in 2008 to avoid facing time in prison. — Kyodo

Yemeni govt warns of return to full-scale conflict as Houthis escalate attacks

YEMEN'S internationally-recognized government warned on Friday of a possible return to all-out military conflict in the war-ravaged Arab country following an uptick in attacks by the Houthi militia in the northeastern oil-rich province of Marib.

Yemen's Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani said in a statement that scores of Houthi rebels launched a large offensive against the government-controlled areas in the Harib district west of Marib, forcing hundreds of local households to flee.

Despite recent diplomatic efforts towards peace, heavy clashes between the Yemeni army and the Houthi militia were reignited in Marib during the past three days, with Tuesday's overnight fighting in Harib leaving 19 people from both sides killed, and several others injured. — Xinhua



Vehicles and fighters of UAE-trained troops of the Giants Brigade patrol at the Harib junction of the Bayhan district in Yemen's Shabwa governorate, 19 January 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Macron says Charles III visit could come early summer

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said Friday that a postponed state visit by Britain's King Charles III could be rearranged for early summer.

Charles had been due to make his first foreign visit as king next week to France, but the trip was delayed amid protests against Macron's pensions reforms.

"We have suggested that, at the beginning of the summer, depending on our respective agendas, we could together schedule a new state visit," Macron said. — AFP

14 dead in US strikes on Syria after drone kills American contractor

FOURTEEN pro-Iran fighters were killed in US air strikes on Syria carried out in retaliation for a drone attack that killed an American and wounded six others, a war monitor said Friday.

A US contractor was killed, and another contractor and five US service personnel wounded, when a kamikaze drone "of Iranian origin" struck a maintenance facility on a base of the US-led coalition near Hasakeh in northeastern Syria, the Pentagon said.

In response, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said Thursday that, at President Joe Biden's direction, he had ordered "precision air strikes tonight in eastern Syria against facilities used by groups affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps". — AFP

Combative spoiler enters Türkiye's election campaign

TÜRKIYE'S top politicians have formed two camps heading into May's election: those who revere President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and those united in the single goal of ending his two-decade rule.

Then Muharrem Ince came along.

The Turkish leader's chief rival in the last election in 2018 all but vanished after picking up 30.6 per cent of the vote.

Erdogan's 52.6 per cent allowed him to extend a run that has seen his Islamic-rooted party become Türkiye's most transformative force since the secular state's creation by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 100 years ago.

A lot has happened since Ince's defeat. Six disparate parties have built an anti-Erdogan alliance and — after a year-long debate — rallied around the candidacy of secular CHP party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu in the 14 May vote. A major pro-Kurdish party has also given Kilicdaroglu its tacit support.

The opposition alliance is the most multi-faceted and seemingly



Muharrem Ince won 30.6 per cent of the vote in Türkiye's 2018 presidential election. **PHOTO: AFP**

popular of any Erdogan has faced at the ballot box.

This makes Ince's decision to run again particularly frustrating for Erdogan's political foes.

"This is bad news for the opposition," Sabanci University political science assistant professor Berk Esen told AFP. "Ince's ability to draw votes from the CHP and (its junior partner) the İyi Party could have a spoiler effect and force the presidential election to a second round."

'I will be elected'

Ince (pronounced Indzhe) represented the CHP in the last election because the party felt the more mild-mannered Kilicdaroglu had less public appeal.

His passionate speeches and combative persona mimicked Erdogan's own campaign style and drew huge crowds in the last campaign. — AFP

US prosecutors win first guilty plea in murder of Haiti leader

DUAL Haitian-Chilean citizen Rodolphe Jaar, one of several men accused in the 2021 murder of Haitian president Jovenel Moise, pled guilty on Friday in the United States to charges related to the assassination, court documents show.

Jaar, 50, admitted before a judge that he provided "material support and resources" knowing that they would be used to kidnap and kill the president, his plea statement says. Jaar, a businessman, is the first among 11 people charged by US prosecutors in south Florida with a role in planning the assassination.

The 53-year-old Haitian leader was gunned down on 7 July 2021 by Colombian mercenaries at his private residence in Port-au-Prince. His security detail did not intervene. According to the guilty plea, Jaar housed the Colombian commando team and gave them weapons. In pleading guilty, Jaar offered to help federal

authorities investigating Moise's murder, in hopes of winning a reduced sentence. Without a sentence reduction, Jaar faces a possible maximum term of life in prison. His sentencing has been set for early June. A lust for money and power led to the plot to kill Moise, US Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Markenzy Lapointe declared at a 15 February news conference in Miami. At that time, Lapointe

announced the arrest of four suspects in the murder; among them Venezuelan Antonio Intriago and Colombian Arcangel Pretel Ortiz.

The US investigation revealed that Intriago and Ortiz, managers of the Miami security firm CTU, devised a plan to kidnap Moise and replace him with Christian Sanon, a Haitian-American citizen who wanted to become president of the Caribbean country. — AFP



Haitian security forces look for evidence outside of President Jovenel Moise's residence in Port-au-Prince following his assassination on 7 July 2021. **PHOTO: VALERIE BAERISWYL/AFP/FILE**



Myanmar striker Than Paing (red) chases the ball with good running power during the Hero Tri-Nation International Football Tournament 2023 match against Kyrgyzstan at Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal on 25 March 2023. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar draws Kyrgyzstan 1-1 in Hero Tri-Nation International Football Tournament 2023

MYANMAR national football team tied 1-1 against team Kyrgyzstan in their second match of Hero Tri-Nation International Football Tournament 2023 played at Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal yesterday.

Due to a lack of luck on the side of the Myanmar team, they were allowed to take a penalty kick, but could not convert it into a goal, and team Myanmar lost a

goal in the early minutes.

Both teams executed well in the first half with speedy play and spirited counter-attacking but the first half ended as a goalless draw.

Myanmar played hard in the second half with better penetrating.

With speedy action plus beautiful football playing style, team Myanmar notched the

opening goal just before the match ended with a score by football star Aung Thu.

After giving up the opening goal, Kyrgyzstan attacked frequently and gained their equalizer in the extra time.

Team Myanmar played hard, but due to a lack of attention near the end of the match, they were satisfied with a draw. — KZL

Ibrahimovic, 41, beaten by Gibraltar player as Euros' golden oldie

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic, the 41-year-old Swedish striker, on Friday became the second oldest player to feature in a European championship qualifier but his landmark night ended in a sobering 3-0 defeat to Belgium.

Ibrahimovic came on as a 73rd-minute substitute in the Euro 2024 group game in Solna. The Swedish star, born on 3 October 1981, was initially hailed as the oldest man to take part in a European qualifier.

However, it then emerged that Gibraltar striker Lee Casciaro, born on 29 September 1981, had taken the record in his team's match on Friday against Greece. At 41 years, five months and 21 days, Ibrahimovic is still ahead of former Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff, who played against Sweden on 29 May 1983, at 41 years, three months and one day. — AFP

McKennie, Pepi double as US thrash Grenada 7-1

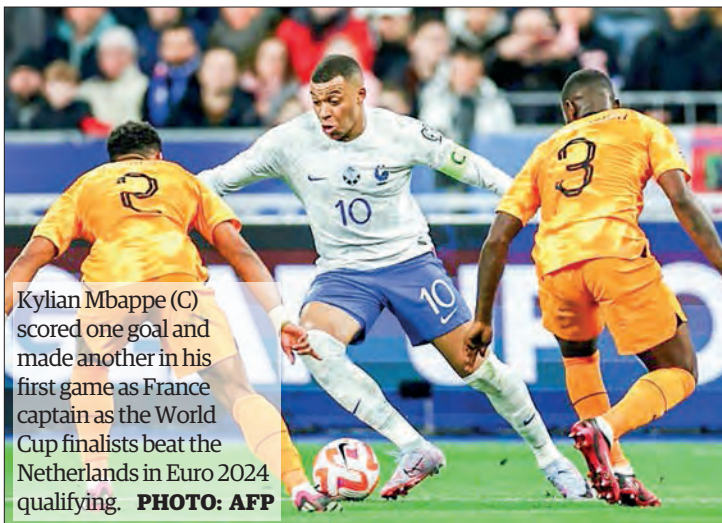
WESTON McKennie and Ricardo Pepi scored two goals apiece as the United States put their off-field troubles behind them to beat Grenada 7-1 in the CONCACAF Nations League on Friday.

Chelsea's Christian Pulisic, Leeds forward Brenden Aaronson and Mexico-born Alejandro Zendejas also scored for the US, who were playing their first competitive fixture under interim coach Anthony Hudson.

The build-up to the game had been dominated by the fall-out from the World Cup controversy surrounding US forward Gio Reyna, handed a start by Hudson for Friday's game at the Kirani James National Stadium in St. George.

However Reyna endured a frustrating night, contributing little of note to the US performance before being substituted midway through the second half. — AFP

Mbappe gets off to winning start as France captain



Kylian Mbappe (C) scored one goal and made another in his first game as France captain as the World Cup finalists beat the Netherlands in Euro 2024 qualifying. PHOTO: AFP

KYLIAN Mbappe marked his first game as France captain on Friday with two goals and an assist as the World Cup finalists romped to a 4-0 win against a depleted Netherlands side in a Euro 2024 qualifier in Paris.

Mbappe has succeeded long-standing France skipper Hugo Lloris and the new era got off to a flying start as the Paris Saint-Germain superstar set up the pink-haired Antoine Griezmann to score inside two minutes. Dayot Upamecano bundled in

the second goal in the eighth minute and Mbappe got his name on the scoresheet to make it 3-0 before the midway point in the first half.

Mbappe wrapped up the victory in emphatic fashion with two minutes remaining, before the Netherlands' Memphis Depay had a stoppage-time penalty saved by goalkeeper Mike Maignan. It was a display of ruthless efficiency from Didier Deschamps' side against a Dutch team missing several key players after a virus swept through their squad. — 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.