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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.

Myanmar needs to follow IP treaties related to trade and participate in IP agreements among ASEAN countries

MYANMAR must prepare to join the IP international agreements involved in the ASEAN IP action plan, said Chairman of the Central Committee on Intellectual Property Rights Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo at the meeting 1/2023 of the central committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the General who serves as Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence, said that out of four copyrights laws, the Trademark Law came into force on 1 April 2023, and the registration of trademarks was officially accepted from 26 April this year. The Ministry of Commerce, the Customs Department and the Supreme Court of the Union have released relevant bylaws, procedures and notifications for implementation of the Trademark Law.

The General urged all to continue implementation of the remaining Industrial Designs Law, Patent Law and Copy Rights Law to be able to come into force.

The General stressed the need to form the IP Rights Central Committee with experts



The 1/2023 meeting of the Central Committee on Intellectual Property Rights in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Committee Chair Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

from the intellectual property arena. As IP Agency has been formed, the duties and functions of the agency must be undertaken under Section 8 of Chapter IV of the IP Law.

Being a member of the World Trade Organization and

the World Intellectual Property Organization, Myanmar needs to follow the IP treaty related to trade as well as participate in the IP agreement among ASEAN countries. Myanmar has to implement the IP action plan in building the ASEAN Economic

Community similar to other member states. Myanmar must prepare to join the IP international agreements involved in the ASEAN IP action plan.

The General urged ministries in charge and relevant ministries and NGOs involved

in the IP Rights Central Committee to participate in their respective sectors in implementing the intellectual property protection system which will contribute to the economic objectives of the State.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

DPM Union MoTC Minister, Union ministers, officials oversee recovery efforts in Rakhine State

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

MoI awards students who pass matric exam, provides stipends and stationaries to offspring of ministry's staff

PAGE-5

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Black gram, pigeon pea prices volatile in Yangon market

PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS

MGEA sells pure gold at over K3 mln per tical amid higher prices in grey market

PAGE-7



Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

National Disaster Management Committee

No organizations allowed to conduct activities against friendly neighbours

Our government always ensure the peace and stability and development of neighbouring countries by adopting a practical policy of “not allowing any organizations to utilize our territory to conduct activities against our friendly neighbours”.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadue Maha Thray Sithu Thadue Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing on 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day ceremony on 4 January 2023)

Myanmar needs to follow IP treaties related to trade and participate in IP ...

FROM PAGE-1

Vice-Chair of the Central Committee Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo reported on the enactment of the copyrights laws, plans to appoint copy rights experts, advantages in IP registration and measures to be taken to be able to keep abreast of other nations regarding IP.

The secretary and the joint

secretary of the central committee reported on the accomplishment of the decisions from previous meetings and letters on intellectual rights.

Members of the central committee deputy ministers and officials presented undertaking of relevant ministries in copy-rights measures. Then, the decision (draft) of the 1/2023 meeting was approved. —MNA/TTA

Public Notice

1. The United States of America is stepping up one-sided economic sanctions on Myanmar and the news spread that the US put Myanmar’s state-owned banks: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB) on the sanction list with effect from 20-6-2023.
2. State-owned banks offer systematic and precise banking services and, as they do not open their foreign currency accounts at the US-based banks or the US bank branches, they would not face any losses of currency and will continue to offer systematic payment services in trade using foreign currency. Although the country faced similar sanctions previously, the MFTB and MICB provided foreign banking services systematically without delays.
3. Regarding the current spreading news, people do not need to worry and can trust the banking services as usual. The foreign banking services are provided not only by these two state-owned banks but also by the local private banks and foreign bank branches. In line with rules and regulations adopted by the Foreign Currency Supervisory Committee and the Central Bank of Myanmar, the transfer, payment and receiving of foreign currencies, imports and exports, and transfer of employees’ and seafarers’ salaries will continue to be conducted conveniently.

Ministry of Planning and Finance

SAC Member DPM MoHA Union Minister attends National Tourism Development Central Committee 1/2023 meeting

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, who is also Chairman of the National Tourism Development Central Committee, attended the 1/2023 meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Deputy Prime Minister said the meetings of the central committee should be held twice a year at least according to Section 13 of Chapter 5 of the Myanmar Tourism Rule. Currently, the COVID-19 disease is under control and so it is accelerating the tourism development programmes. Moreover, the meeting should discuss the proper preparations before the coming open season.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, international airlines were suspended in 2020 and 2021 and Myanmar’s tourism industry was also totally suspended for travel restrictions like other world countries. Before 2019, there were 4.36



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut chairs the meeting 1/2023 of the National Tourism Development Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

million travellers to the country but there were only 900,000 in 2020 and over 100,000 in 2021.

International flight services were resumed in April 2022 and allowed tourists to enter the country as per the COVID-19 health rules and there were over 0.23 million travellers in 2022. As the digits are lower than the tourist numbers to Thailand, Laos,

Cambodia and Viet Nam, it highlights the need to make efforts for the development of the tourism industry like the neighbouring countries.

The country should ease certain regulations, for example, e-Visa and offer incentives like special discounts for tourists and Tax Refund, and adopt an effective advertising system via online

platforms and online marketing.

He also highlighted the currency exchange rate as per the policy, consideration to use Master Card and Visa Card, and it is necessary to organize tourism expos and trade shows in local and foreign countries for international media awareness and cooperate with agencies for international markets.

He then stressed the need to ensure safety, the main fact of the tourism industry.

Then, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw, who is also Vice-Chair of the committee, reported on tourism-related matters.

Next, the joint secretary of the committee director-general of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism presented the implementation of decisions set at the 2/2022 committee meeting, the reshuffle of the tourism working committee, six region and state tourism working committees and conditions to ease licence application.

The Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, the Region and State chief ministers, deputy ministers, tourism experts, representatives of private tourism organizations and relevant officials coordinated the discussion and the Deputy Prime Minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

DPM Union MoTC Minister, Union ministers, officials oversee recovery efforts in Rakhine State

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union MoTC Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, accompanied by Union ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Myo Thant and Dr Thet Thet Khine, deputy ministers and officials, oversaw the peaceful learning of students at the basic education schools in Sittway and warmly greeted them yesterday.

Admiral Tin Aung San and party inspected the reconstruction of the damaged classrooms, the teaching aids, the balance of teacher and student ratio, and the cleanliness status of the schools and environments, and fulfilled the necessary requirements.

Admiral Tin Aung San and party proceeded to Sittway Multipurpose Port and inspected the



Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Ministers and officials view the peaceful learning of students at BEHS 4 Sittway yesterday.

unloading of relief and rehabilitation materials, distribution of them to affected areas, and officials. In carrying out relief and re-

habilitation activities in Rakhine State, telecommunication operators provide services of unlimited calls between their mobile phones from 15 to 30 June, free SMS, and 5GB data. Operators have planned to provide the Internet service free for three years in the education, health and social sectors — MPT at the Sittway General Hospital and University for Computer Studies; Mytel at the Sittway University, Sittway General Hospital, Buddhist University and MraukU Dhamma Centre; ATOM at the Nursing Training School and the Government Technical High School; Ooredoo at the Sittway Technological University and Traditional Medicine Hospital. — MNA/TS

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be “for the people”, the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting “CRPH”, “NUG”, and “PDF” terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

DPM MoPF UM meets staff of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank



Deputy Prime Minister U Win Shein holds talks with the staff from the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank on 20 June.

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein met the staff of the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank headquarters on 20 June morning.

At the meeting, the Union minister instructed the MADB staff to cooperate with regional and state governments and district and township administration bodies to be able to collect arrears, to check with the Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics to ensure that Fom-7's are originals and to follow rules and regulations.

Next, Deputy Prime Minister U Win Shein met the members at the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar on Sule Pagoda Road.

At his meeting with the commission members, the Deputy Prime Minister said that the commission plays a vital role in the development of Myanmar's capital market and that the commission should function under the law, rules and regulations for the development of private companies that sell shares and that investors should be protected under the law. — MNA/ KZW

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

MoI awards students who pass matric exam, provides stipends and stationaries to offspring of ministry’s staff

THE Ministry of Information held an award-giving ceremony for those who passed the matriculation examination for the 2022-2023 Academic Year and a stipend and stationaries awarding ceremony for the offspring of the ministry’s staff for the 2023-2024 Academic Year yesterday.

In his speech, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said that education builds up mental and physical growth to overcome challenges successfully, that is, the educated person can stay healthy and wealthy.

Education teaches life lessons so that the students could surely become the educated ones who can support the country’s prosperity and the people through learning and studying.

He also added that today’s students are the ones who are going to lead the country and so they should live with good disci-

pline following civic and ethical duties.

Then, the Union minister and wife provided school stipends and stationaries for the 2023-24 Academic Year and representatives from Union Minister Office, MRTV and IPRD accepted.

The deputy minister’s wife also handed over the assistance of school stipends and stationaries to the representatives for the children of the staff of the Printing and Publishing Department, Media Development Department and News and Periodicals Enterprise.

Then, the Union minister and his wife, the deputy minister’s wife presented outstanding awards to the students who gained distinctions in the matriculation examination for the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

The ministry provided edu-

cational assistance to a total of 2,991 students – 1,427 primary students, 675 middle school students, 473 high school students and 416 university students. It provided K5,000 and one dozen books per primary student, K7,500 and one dozen books per middle school student, K10,000 and two dozen books per high school student and K15,000 and two dozen books per university student, totalling K52,267,500.

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, 36 students passed the matric exam without distinctions while there were 14 students with one distinction, two students with three distinctions, two with four distinctions and two with six distinctions. The ministry provided K58,067,500 – K50,000 per student who passed without distinction and K100,000 per distinction. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn awards Ma Hnin Lei Yi who passed the matric exam with six distinctions.

MoSY Union Minister attends 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan joins the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and related meetings virtually yesterday.

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan attended the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and related meetings virtually at 7:30 am yesterday.

Mr YB Adam Adli Abd Malm from Malaysia gave a presentation on the efforts made to improve the mental health of the youth in the region under the theme “Facing All Mental Health Problems”.

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan highlighted that 87 employees who performed social service work and 240 young women under the age of 18 and 250 children who were psychologically

affected have been provided with psychological and social support in the 2022-2023 financial year.

The Union minister mentioned that the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and related meetings will be conducted under the theme of “Let’s Build a Harmonious ASEAN Society with the Strength of the Youth” to be held in 2024 under the chairmanship of Myanmar.

Next, the ministers representing ASEAN member countries discussed the status of the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and adjourned the morning session of the meeting.

In the afternoon, the ASE-

AN+3 Ministerial Meeting on Youth continued at 12:30 pm, and Union Minister U Min Thein Zan expressed that the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and the 9th ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting on Youth, which will be hosted by Myanmar in 2024, will be convened in Nay Pyi Taw in October or November.

Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, which acted as co-chairs in this meeting, announced that they have officially handed over the responsibility to Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China, who will be co-chairs of the next meeting.

— MNA/KZL

Illegal foodstuffs, consumer goods, mining products and vehicles seized

A combined team under the supervision of the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force apprehended an unregistered Voxy car (worth approximately K4 million) near Lido Road between Tanai and Myitkyina on 19 June. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A combined team on duty under the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated a Hino truck (valued at around K25 million) carrying two kinds of goods (worth K7.975 million) including 90 APP steel sinks which were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) near the 0/65 Milepost between Phayagyi and Waw on 20 June. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, a combined team at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint intercepted a Toyota Hilux (estimated value of K17 million) carrying 4,500 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk (worth K1.5 million) without proper documentation while travelling from Hpa-an to Bago. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In a separate incident, a combined team led by a sub-inspector of the Dawei Myoma Police Station confiscated 10 bags of mining products (tin, tungsten and iron ore) without official documents from a vehicle on Bothanky road in Dawei township on 20 June. Following interrogation, they also discovered another 29 bags of mining products (tin, tungsten and iron ore) at the metal refining plant in Waekyun Myothit ward in Dawei township, on the same day. The action was taken under the Myanmar Mines Law.

A total of six arrests were made on 19 and 20 June, with an estimated value of K81,425,000, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal vehicle in Kachin State.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

National Literary Award winner writer Nyi Pu Lay passes away

NATIONAL Literary Award winner writer Nyi Pu Lay (aka) Nyein Chan (aka) Bo Nyo died of a heart attack in Mandalay on 21 June morning.

Saya Nyi Pu Lay was the youngest son of Ludu U Hla and Ludu Daw Amar and was born on 5 February 1952 in Mandalay.

He attended St Peter's High School in Mandalay from primary to high school education. He obtained a science degree majoring in geology from Mandalay Arts and Science University. As he was the youngest son among five siblings, he used the pen name "Nyi Pu Lay" in the literature field and his story "Hlatsar Tat-toe" was published in Sabai Phyu magazine in 1985 and he entered the Myanmar literature field by writing short stories.

From 1975 to 1977, he was Mandalay region's selected football player on the short list and he was detained together with his parents for seven months at Mandalay prison for making communication with his brother Phoe Than Chaung, who was in the jungle with BCP on 21 August 1978.

In 1989, he established the Htipaungkar publishing house with his friends at Letsalkan between 32nd and 33rd Street, 84th Street. His first short story was "Thu Htet Kae, Shwe Pyi Soe, Nyi Pu Lay" (1989 March, Ludu Kyi Pwar Yay publishing house) and the first book written on a computer in Myanmar "Kalay Lugyi Kyite Pyi Chit Kya Par Tae" Nyi Pu Lay short stories (1990 September, Ludu Kyi Pwar Yay publishing house), *Lamin Yae Cho Thar Tae Lat Khot*



Than, Ta Kyaung Swal Kalay Panchi and other short stories, "Lu Ah Aeintmat" short stories and "Ledo Hukawng Hmin Chit Hmat Su Myar" are his famous books.

Moreover, he published "Myay Thu Gyi" story and "Nyein Thet Taminit and other short stories" in 2006 and the "Nyein Thet Taminit and other short stories" won the first Tha Ha Ya literary award of Tha Ha Ya Library of Mogok in 2006.

He won a national literary award with his book "The Sweet Honey Drop on the Sharp Blade" in 2016.

Saya Nyi Pu Lay was also interested in painting and he drew pictures for stories and held photo exhibitions to display the photos he took under the name of "Nyein Chan Lan San" in Mandalay.

The authors of the Mandalay literature community and his friends extended condolences to the family on their social network.

The writer died at the age of 72 and left his wife Daw Tin Tin Win and three children. — TWA/KTZH



Saya Nyi Pu Lay (C) is seen sitting between father Ludu U Hla and Mother Ludu Daw Amar, and his siblings.

Black gram, pigeon pea prices volatile in Yangon market

YANGON'S pulses market sees price fluctuation of black gram and pigeon pea (red gram) in June 2023, traders involved in pulses trading pointed out.

The prices stood at K2,374,000 per tonne of black gram (FAQ/RC) and K2,609,000 per tonne of black gram (SQ/RC) and K3,050,000 per tonne of pigeon pea on 20 June. Black gram was priced at K2,237,500 per tonne while pigeon pea price touched a high of K3,200,000 per tonne on 19 June.

The figures showed a sharp rise of over K130,000 per tonne of black gram and a significant drop of K150,000 per tonne of pigeon pea within one day, U Hla Myint, a trader told the

Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prevailing price of black gram broke a record high of K2,456,000 per tonne on 17 October 2015.

The black gram price touched a high of K2,425,000 per tonne on 17 June and two days later, the price plunged to K2,237,500 per tonne. Similarly, the pigeon pea price hit an all-time high of K3.33 million per tonne on 5 June 2023 and 15 days later, the price was down by K300,000 per tonne. The pulses market sees a big price swing.

There are 17 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy plantations and 9.63 million acres of pulses and beans. The

main buyer India had low pulses output in 2023 so the demand is increasing. The prices are therefore likely to remain on an upward trend.

There were 2.76 million acres of black gram and 1.59 million acres of pigeon pea in the 2017-2018 financial year, accounting for 37 per cent of the overall bean plantations. The export volume of black gram and pigeon pea totalled 750,000 tonnes at that time, which constitutes 57 per cent of overall pulses export volume.

Monsoon pulses cultivation season has started and the newly harvested pigeon pea will enter the market at the end of the year. — TWA/EM



The photo shows various beans including black grams and pigeon peas being organized for sale in the market.

Myanmar gem entrepreneurs invited to world's second-largest gem exhibition in India

MYANMAR gem merchants have been invited to open showrooms at the India International Jewellery Show (IJS Premiere 2023), which will be held in two locations: at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, India, from 3 to 7 August and at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in India from 4 to 8 August.

The show is considered to be the world's second-largest gem exhibition and it is expected that 35,000 domestic guests and more than 1,000 visitors from 60 countries will attend.

The participating exhibitors will have to bear their own exhibition and travel expenses.

Those who want to participate in the exhibition should contact the Trade Development Division of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization un-

der the Ministry of Commerce via email at mocctradeair@myantrade.gov.mm, by phone at 067-408622 and 067-408623. — TWA/CT



An Indian model is seen modelling jewellery at the India International Jewellery Show in 2018. PHOTO: GJEPC

LOCAL BUSINESS

MGEA sells pure gold at over K3 mln per tical amid higher prices in grey market

MANDALAY Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) has been selling pure gold at over K3 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme), whereas the price rocketed at over K3.1 million per tical in the shady dealings.

To stabilize the gold price, the MGEA commenced gold sell-off at K3,050,000 per tical at noon of 19 June and sold at K3,040,000 per tical on 20 June and K3,035,000 per tical on 21 June.

The MGEA's price will scale down the price depending on the daily price fluctuation.

Apart from the members of the association, whoever can buy them freely at the office located on 67th Street between 40th and 41st Street, Mahamyaing 1 Qt, by presenting the citizenship scrutiny card and household registration document. For further details, please contact the office. The MGEA is open for gold trading except the weekends and bank

holidays.

The prevailing price of pure gold fetched up to K3.14 million per tical at the grey market, tracking the spot gold price rally at US\$1,935 per ounce and Kyat depreciation to around K3,000 against the US dollar.

Myanmar's gold price is highly correlated with the spot gold price and the US dollar exchange rate. The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 pushed the gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

To lower the gold price, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM



Gold jewellery items are displayed at one gold outlet in Yangon.

MRF meets Chinese representatives to strengthen cooperation in rice trade



Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), bagging \$853.472 million. China topped the list with over 775,000 tonn The cooperation-strengthening meeting to boost rice trade in progress in the picture.

MYANMAR Rice Federation discussed matters to ramp up rice production and strengthen cooperation in the rice trade with the Chinese counterparts at the Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 20 June 2023.

At the meeting, the chair of MRF, officials concerned and rice exporting companies negotiated cooperation in agriculture sectors between the two countries, rice export promotion, bilateral trade affairs to benefit both countries, investments in the agriculture production sector and trading of agricultural machinery and fertilizer.

Chinese representatives including officials of the Huaihua provincial government also delivered the plans to work together in the production of hybrid rice seeds in Myanmar, the dissemination of growing methods, the production of quality rice, providing training to produce agronomists and exports of rice, broken rice and other agricultural products.

The Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol (SPS Protocol) workshop was held on 14 June at the Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The SPS protocol is a must for legitimate rice export

to foreign countries including China. Over 300 stakeholders in the rice industry including officials of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), rice millers and exporters were present at the workshop.

The MRF aims to achieve a rice export target of 2.5 million tonnes in the current financial year 2023-2024, generating an income of US\$1 billion.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the 2022-2023 FY (April-March), bagging \$853.472 million. China topped the list with over 775,000 tonnes. — NN/EM

Traders need to seek registration for rice storage by 26 June

THE wholesalers are required to submit registration for rice storage for above 5,000 baskets of paddy and 1,000 rice bags (over 50 tonnes) by 26 June 2023 at the latest, Myanmar Rice Federation released a notification on 21 June.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce, MRF has been making efforts and participating in the development of the rice market, systematic registration for rice storage, fair market and price stability as the role of the private sector.

MRF stated that digital registration service through Online registration (MyRO) is

underway to facilitate the registration process.

While the MyRO online registration system is being set up, trial operations of warehouse storage situations will be conducted in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and Mandalay regions in June and July 2023. The MRF asked those traders to submit a complete registration form by 26 June 2023 at the latest through export@mrf.com.mm/ or Viber No 09.400067240 or to the office of the MRF in person.

The traders must create a warehouse inventory list to track the stocks. The Department of Consumer Affairs and



Rice bags are seen being well organized at the warehouse.

the MRF will go on an inspection tour of the warehouses as

a public-private partnership.

The companies are also

notified to fill in the registration form according to the stock information of their business partners (millers and rice traders) in other regions.

Those traders who store above 5,000 baskets of paddy and 1,000 rice bags (over 50 tonnes) are included in this registration. Those farmers working on a small scale and the retailers holding hundreds of rice bags in their hands are not entitled to this notification, a rice seller highlighted. The administrative committee of the MRF also notified that trial operations to collect the warehouse storage data are free of charge. — NN/EM

Show a strong bond between Myanmar and Indian experts

BAGAN holds a special place in the hearts of those who appreciate the ancient cultural heritage and Myanmar’s historical events that elevated the prestige of the First Myanmar Empire under the reign of King Anawrahta from the 11th to the 13th centuries. Since then, Bagan and its residents have diligently preserved cultural artefacts and historical evidence.

Successive governments have also taken measures to ensure the sustainability of these ancient cultural treasures, including mural paintings, stone inscriptions, decorative works on ancient structures, architectural marvels, and construction techniques. In addition, damaged buildings have been carefully restored to their original glory in accordance with UNESCO guidelines.

Through the collaborative endeavours of Myanmar and Indian experts, the aim is to revive the historical grandeur of these ancient buildings and preserve the cultural heritage of the Bagan region for future generations. These joint efforts will serve as a testament to the friendly ties and cooperation between Myanmar and India, reinforcing their strong bond.

da Temple, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum has swung into action.

Archaeological experts from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and specialists from various sections of the DANM are collaborating to restore these structures to their original forms. The restoration efforts were initiated on June 5, 2023.

The primary objective of the department is to ensure that the ancient buildings within the Bagan cultural region retain their original style. Experts from both Myanmar and India have been meticulously inspecting and supervising the different phases of this cooperative project since June 16. As of now, more than 40 per cent of the maintenance work has been completed, with officials closely monitoring the progress of restoring these culturally significant structures.

Currently, Myanmar and Indian experts are focusing their efforts on restoring specific buildings such as Nat Hlaung Kyaung, Thagyapone Pagoda, and Myataung brick monastery. Furthermore, the golden lacquerware letters, depicting the life of the embryo Buddha, are undergoing a meticulous cleansing process in the tunnel of Ananda Temple.

Through the collaborative endeavours of Myanmar and Indian experts, the aim is to revive the historical grandeur of these ancient buildings and preserve the cultural heritage of the Bagan region for future generations. These joint efforts will serve as a testament to the friendly ties and cooperation between Myanmar and India, reinforcing their strong bond.

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

EPISODE:14

William Theobald (1829 – 1908) was a malacologist and naturalist on the staff of the Geological Survey of India serving in Burma, then a part of British India. Very little is known of Theobald’s early life. Theobald was referred to in official documents as “William Theobald, Junior”. He arrived in Calcutta on the ship Hindostan via the Suez in March 1847 and worked as a volunteer in the coal exploration of the upper Damodar and Son valleys under David Williams. During this time Joseph Hooker visited him and they spent time together. Later Theobald became an assistant to John McClelland who took over the exploration from David Williams.

He went to Burma in 1855 as a staff of the Geological Survey of India and took over the Pegu survey. He returned to Bengal on completion of the survey in 1873 to be appointed Deputy Superintendent of Bengal in 1876. From 1868 to 1876 he described a dozen new species of reptiles.

Theobald was the first to publish a full catalogue of reptile specimens collected in British India, Descriptive Catalogue of the Reptiles of British India (1876), although Anderson claimed that several new descriptions by Edward Blyth were overlooked by this work. Theobald’s work on Indian freshwater snails with illustrations was one of the first of its kind. He even made his shell collections available to Francis Mason for his epic work on the flora and fauna of British Burma titled “Burma, its People, and Natural Productions”. The third edition of this work was completely rewritten by Theobald and was published in two volumes under the title “Burma, its people, and Productions”; or notes on the fauna, flora, and minerals of Tenasserim, Pegu and Burma (Hertford, England, 1882 & 1883). The first volume of this work covered geology, mineralogy, and zoology and was exclusively written by him while the second volume relied on several important botanical works of his time. He retired from the service in June 1881 and died at Ilfracombe, Devon, Eng-

land on 31 March 1908.

On the beds containing Silicified Wood

Theobald reported on the beds containing Silicified Wood in Eastern Prome, British Burmah in 1869 in GSI records Volume II. The following significant paragraphs could be extracted to describe the fossil wood group briefly.

No fact relating to the geology of Pegu is better known than the abundance of silicified wood occurring in the valley of the Irawadi, but as no detailed account has hitherto been published of the beds from which this fossil wood has been derived, it is his intention in the present notice to give such a sketch of them as will show their most salient points of interest and facilitate the recognition of the group elsewhere, where its occurrence might from its mineral character be overlooked and its beds confounded with other and more recent deposits.

The fossil wood group, too, is smaller and, as regards its organic remains, the simpler of the two, and can therefore be treated by itself more conveniently than in connexion with the lower, from which the organic remains require much additional study and comparison with living species, for which very imperfect facilities at present exist.

The most familiar form in which fossil wood occurs in the Irawadi valley is that of well-rolled and polished pieces from one to six inches in length, distributed through the coarse shingle which underlies the ordinary alluvial clay of the province and is freely exposed in the bed of the Irawadi at a variety of places, as for instance, under the station of Thait-mio and on the opposite bank under the deserted fort of Miade. Opposite Prome also a great thickness of this gravel, less coarse than at Maide, but equally well supplied with well-worn and rounded fragments of fossil wood that occur fully 30 feet thick, and rises to a height of about 60 feet above the present flood-level of the Irawadi. The fossil wood in the Prome district occurs in two distinct formations and under very different conditions, viz., in



William Theobald (1829 - 1908) Source: GSI

the form of entire trunks in situ or fragmentary pieces, but little rolled, and in well-worn or polished pieces, some of the large size, but more frequently as pebbles, which form a conspicuous ingredient in the recent gravels.

Theobald gave, in descending order, a table of the main division into which the Miocene beds east of the Irawadi may be divided, the upper three of which constitute the fossil wood group.

MIocene

Fossil wood Group

- (a) Sand- in parts gravelly and conglomeratic - characterised by the profusion of concretions of peroxide of iron associated with it; fossils, trunks of silicified exogenous wood, and locally mammalian bones. In the subordinate beds of conglomerate, rolled fragments of wood as above, silicified, (that is, mineralized subsequently to their entombment), mammalian and reptil-

- ian bones and teeth of cartilaginous fish.
- (b) Fine silty clay with a few small pebbles mixed with sand in strings here and there the whole is very fine and homogeneous and devoid of fossils.
- (c) A mixed assemblage of shales, sand, and conglomerates, the last very subordinate, partaking much of the characters of beds a-b; a little of the concretionary peroxide of iron. Fossils, rolled wood silicified; mammalian and reptilian bones and cartilaginous fish teeth. Towards the base, the beds contain marine shells and pass into those of the next group.

Pegu Group

- (d) An enormous succession of sandstones and shales of unknown thickness and not usually fossiliferous. Particular beds, however, contain fossils in profusion:

- d-1. Hard sandstone with corals (Cladoceras).
- d-2. Blue Kama clay, is highly fossiliferous.
- d-3. Cytherea Promensis bed or Prome sandstone, and numerous others which cannot be specified till their fossil contents have been more especially examined.

- (a) The surface of this bed is everywhere protected by a gravelly layer composed of small quartz pebbles and ferruginous concretions derived from pebbly strings and irregular courses of conglomerate dispersed through the sand, which readily washing away leaves the residual layer in question at the top; to the protection afforded by which against further waste, the existence of what still remains of this incoherent bed is largely due. This surface layer is of variable thickness, its development being, to some extent, a measure of the denudation this group has undergone. On the surface and impacted in it at different depths where it is very thick lie logs of silicified wood of all sizes from a foot or so to trunks of 40 and 50 feet, not entire, but jointed up into pieces of various lengths through a spontaneous fracture, probably brought about by their own weight, and irregular subsidence during the removal of the friable matrix wherein they were originally encased.

Though, as a rule, these large logs occur as described in gravelly debris, they sometimes occur relative to the incoherent sand so as to leave no doubt of its being the bed wherein they were originally deposited, and on which they may be sometimes seen apparently in situ, as between Thanat-ua and Kiungee, and not only in this bed but in the beds beneath it, the same fossil wood occurs, though in smaller pieces, and much less abundantly. The larger logs are quite unrolled, but the smaller pieces are often rounded by transport, though never to the extent seen in the pieces of fossil wood contained in the recent gravels. When this sand rises into hills, the sides are invariably steep, and not infrequently scarped, exposing a clean vertical section of sand with its crust of gravel at the top.

This sand is greyish in colour, very fine and uniform, and

with only a certain admixture of impalpable argillaceous matter forming, where exposed to traffic, fine dust, or, in the beds of streams where the argillaceous portion has been removed by water, a clean silver sand very fatiguing to travel over. Though the sand Theobald is describing unquestionably contains silicified wood, it seems probable from the great abundance of large trees strewn over the surface, that they existed more plentifully in that topmost portion which has almost disappeared through denudation leaving only these bulky memorials behind it, than elsewhere.

The structure of the wood has been to a considerable extent obliterated by decay before its mineralization was effected, and all that can be definitely said of it is that the wood is exogenous and not a conifer. Theobald had remarked but one species in Prome, though the Burmese, from trivial distinction in colour and weathering, affects to recognise the modern Enjin (Hopea suave) and the Thiya (Shorea obtusa), an identification of course quite illusory. This wood nowhere exhibits any traces of marine action as might have been anticipated had it floated about till water-logged in a brackish or purely salt estuary, and hence it may be inferred with a considerable probability that it floated about in a fresh-water sea, or lakes fed by a sluggish stream, till it sank where it became ultimately silicified. It must at the same time be remembered that the wood found in beds containing marine fossils is also free from perforations, but these are small pieces, much rolled prior to their entombment and probably under conditions on some sub-marine bank unfavourable to the presence of either Pholas or Teredo.

On the surface of the incoherent sand at this point, and evidently weathered out of it, Theobald picked up a fragment of the lower jaw of a deer, and from the immediate vicinity, he collected mammalian bones, mostly ill-preserved and fragmentary, shark vertebrae and teeth, and chelonian plates (Colossochelys and two species of Emys). There he got a fragment of the lower jaw of an elephant, to-

gether with fragmentary portions of the limb bones of that animal, all imperfect either from original violence or subsequent decay, the former cause certainly operating in some instances. In Upper Burma, well-mineralized bones are probably more common in the jungle by those which have been at various times collected there, and the difference is merely the result of different conditions at the time of their deposition.

As a rule, it is not, however, in the sand but in the coarser and more conglomeratic beds that the bones seem mostly to occur, of which a good instance is seen midway between Omouk and Lema, some 10 miles east-south-east from Thait-mio. Here a great bed of conglomerate is seen dipping 30° south-east in which he noticed the tusk of a small elephant, but too friable to be extracted from its hard matrix, together with other bones, all in a poor state, and more or less injured by rolling about on a coarse shingle before their final consolidation.

(b) Below the above sand occurs a deposit of very uniform character composed of pale silty clay which passes upwards into overlying sand. This silty clay is very fine, thin-bedded, and homogeneous, with merely a few strings of sand here and there, and an occasional small pebble in the sand. It is everywhere seen at the base of the last bed into which it seems to pass, though their respective characters constitute a good means of demarcation between them. It is entirely devoid, as far as observation goes, of organic remains.

The country Laidi comprising the doab between the Pade and Myo-hla streams is composed of clay with sparing remnants here and there of the upper sands. It is largely exposed, too, in the broad valley about Let-pan-hla and between that village and Chouksound. Towards the mouth of the Myo-hla stream near Htoug-kyund, this clay forms the open country and is dug for making pottery.

(c) Below the clay, a group of beds occurs of rather varied characters, resembling, to some

extent, the beds both above and below it. It contains, though sparingly, the same descriptions of fossil wood as the sands at the top of the group, and some of its beds present characters very similar to portions of those beds; whilst towards its base, it appears to pass insensibly into the lower group characterised by marine fossils. It is, however, generally very devoid of organic remains, though, as a convenient lower horizon to it, he had taken a sandstone which is generally recognisable where the junction is clear, by a few organic remains not very well preserved, among which a coral (Cladocora) is most characteristic, which may be regarded as the highest member of the lower group.

A small but intrusive section is also seen of these beds in the Myouk Naweng, a little below Thamyagon, where pale silty shales are seen supporting a great thickness of rusty incoherent sand traversed by thin layers of shale and a coarse quartzose conglomerate with clay galls and cavernous hollows incrustated with a layer of the brown haematite, as seen in some sandy beds of the upper division (a). In this conglomerate Theobald mammalian bones, shark’s teeth, and a small log of fossil wood about two feet long of very similar character, though less completely mineralized than that found so abundantly in bed (a). No other fossils were discernible here, nor, as a rule, throughout this division, though towards its base, sandstones come in containing marine shells and corals, though neither plentifully nor well preserved. These marine beds, however, are naturally more connected with the great group which follows immediately below the present, and which nowhere contains the fossil wood so characteristic of the present group.

References:

1. *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.*
2. *Theobald, Wm. 1869: On the beds containing Silicified Wood in Eastern Prome, British Burmah, Records of Geological Survey of India, Volume. II, Part 4.*

TECH/ENVIRON
WORLD

‘Every drop counts’: Spain’s crops thrive on wastewater



Farmers in southeastern Spain have long relied on recycled wastewater to irrigate crops. PHOTO: STR/AFP

WITH rainfall increasingly scarce, irrigating crops can be a major challenge, but farmers in southeastern Spain have long relied on recycled wastewater in a model that is winning attention abroad. “Here the water is still dirty... but by the end, it will be crystal clear and bacteria-free,” said Carlos Lardin, operations manager at Esamur, the public body overseeing wastewater management in the Murcia region. At his feet, brownish water bubbled in a de-silting tank, the first step before being sifted, filtered and then biologically treated to give it “a second life”, explained the 45-year-old engineer. Some 23 years ago, Murcia – an arid region with chronic water shortages that claims to be the EU’s leading producer of fruit

and vegetables – set itself a huge challenge of reusing wastewater to irrigate its crops. To that end, the region built a network of 100 treatment plants that process and disinfect water from the sewage system so it can be reused on the fields. This treatment, which involves sand filters and ultraviolet rays, ensures that the water “is not contaminated” and doesn’t transfer bacteria “such as E.coli” to the fruit and vegetables, Lardin said. **‘An important resource’** As a result, some 98 per cent of the region’s wastewater is reused today, compared with an average of nine percent across Spain and five percent across the EU, government figures show. — AFP

Climate goals need clean energy surge in Global South: IEA

FINANCING for clean energy in developing and emerging economies excluding China must increase seven-fold within a decade if global warming is to be capped at tolerable levels, the International Energy Agency

said Wednesday. To keep Paris climate temperature goals in play, annual investment for non-fossil fuel energy in these countries will need to jump from \$260 billion to nearly \$2 trillion, the inter-

governmental agency said in a report. “Financing clean energy in the emerging and developing world is the fault line of reaching international climate goals,” IEA executive director Fatih Birol told journalists in a briefing Tuesday. The report comes on the eve of the two-day Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris, which seeks to galvanize support for revamping the mid-20th century architecture governing financial flows from rich to developing nations. Speeding the transition from dirty to clean energy, and helping the Global South cope with and prepare for devastating climate impacts are high on the summit agenda. — AFP



Only 10% of clean energy investment is going to emerging and developing countries other than China, according to the IEA. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Iceland suspends whale hunt on animal welfare concerns

ICELAND’S government said Tuesday it was suspending this year’s whale hunt until the end of August due to animal welfare concerns, likely bringing the controversial practice to a historic end. “I have taken the decision to suspend whaling” until 31 August, Food Minister Svandis Svavarsdottir said in a statement, after a government-commissioned report concluded the hunt does not comply with Iceland’s Animal Welfare Act. The country’s last remaining whaling company, Hvalur, had previously said this would be its final season as the hunt has become less profitable.

Iceland’s whaling season runs from mid-June to mid-September, and it is doubtful Hvalur would head out to sea that late in the season. Annual quotas authorize the killing of 209 fin whales — the second-longest marine mammal after the blue whale — and 217 minke whales, one of the smallest species. But catches have gone down drastically in recent years due to a dwindling market for whale meat. Iceland, Norway and Japan are the only countries in the world that have continued whale hunting in the face of fierce criticism from environmentalists and animal rights’ defenders. — AFP



With Iceland’s whale hunt suspended until 31 August it now looks doubtful the nation’s last remaining whaling company, Hvalur, would head out to sea that late in the season. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Search for missing Titanic sub like ‘going into space’

RESCUERS trying to find the orca-sized submersible that vanished on its way to visit the wreck of the Titanic are facing a gargantuan task that will test the limits of technical know-how — with only a very slight chance of success, experts say. Teams from around

the world were racing against the clock Tuesday to locate the vessel and its five-person crew before their oxygen runs out — with little more than a day’s supply left. But scouring a 7,600-square-mile (20,000-square-kilometre) area of the North Atlantic to a depth of

more than two miles (almost four kilometres) is not easy. “It’s pitch black down there. It’s freezing cold. The seabed is mud, and it’s undulating. You can’t see your hand in front of your face,” Titanic expert Tim Maltin told NBC News Now. — AFP

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Campaigners slam Japan government forced sterilization report

JAPANESE campaigners on Wednesday slammed a government report into the sterilization of thousands under a eugenics law in place until 1996, saying it failed to take responsibility for the procedures.

The 1,400-page report submitted to parliament this week details how some 16,500 people — including some as young as nine — were sterilized without their consent under the law in force from 1948.

Around 8,500 more were sterilized after their consent was obtained, though campaigners have cast doubt on how freely agreement was given.

The law allowed doctors to sterilize people with heritable intellectual disabilities, to “prevent ... poor quality descendants”.

In 2019, lawmakers passed legislation offering each victim government compensation of

3.2 million yen (\$22,800) — an amount campaigners called insufficient given the damage inflicted.

Lawmakers also commissioned the report made public this week, which Koji Niisato, a lawyer who has represented victims of the policy, said fell short.

It is “largely a compilation of what has been investigated and reported” which merely confirms “that it was an extremely terrible law,” he told journalists Wednesday.

But “it lacks a summary of why this terrible law was enacted and existed for 48 years, and fails to mention why the government didn’t take responsibility even after the law was amended,” he said.

“That is extremely regrettable.”

Victims of the sterilization programme campaigned for decades seeking recognition



Demonstrators march in support of forced sterilization victims in May 2018. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

of the harm they suffered and compensation.

They have also turned to the courts seeking relief, and last year three people were awarded damages in a land-

mark victory.

The Osaka High Court overturned a lower court decision, and ordered the national government to pay a combined 27.5 million yen (\$200,000) to the

elderly trio.

But earlier this month, a different high court rejected damages requests by plaintiffs, arguing a 20-year statute of limitations had passed. — AFP

Volvic on front line of France’s new water fears

THE public fountains in Volvic, the home of one of the world’s most famous mineral waters, have been turned off.

Just down the road from the bottling factory at the foot of the old volcanic hills of central France, streams once powerful

enough to drive flour mills are drying up and villages are under a hosepipe ban.

Campaigners such as Sylvie de Larouziere, head of the water conservation group PREVA, point the finger at the Volvic plant. “It seems like it’s always

getting bigger,” she complained.

A local aristocratic trout farmer is suing the company, owned by French multinational Danone, after a stream that fed his 17th-century fish ponds abruptly dried up.

The Puy de Dome region is sometimes called the “water tower” of France, with heavy and reliable rainfall meaning farmers downstream used to slosh around in their fields because the soil was so wet.

But those days are long gone. In early May with supplies “abnormally weak”, authorities imposed a hosepipe ban and outlawed the filling of swimming pools in 31 nearby districts, hitting some 60,000 people.

Volvic’s public fountains were switched off and villagers fear water cuts this summer. — AFP



French officials say there is no proof that Volvic’s operations are causing nearby streams to dry up. PHOTO: AFP

US judge scraps law banning gender transition treatment in minors

A US federal judge on Tuesday struck down a law prohibiting minors from gender transition treatment in Arkansas, the first time such a restriction has been overturned as similar laws are enacted in Republican-led states.

Judge Jay Moody ruled the law was unconstitutional because it violated the rights of doctors to provide medical care and discriminates against transgender people. — AFP

Sierra Leone’s battle to keep pregnant girls in school



Enthusiasm: Bio came to power in 2018 with campaign promises that focused on help for women and education. PHOTO: ISSOUF SANOGO/ AFP

HAWA used to relish competing with her cousin for top marks in school until, eight months ago, she fell pregnant.

“We studied hard together,” the slight 18-year-old told AFP. “I was one of the top girls in the class.”

In Sierra Leone, where pregnant girls have been allowed in classrooms since a ban was lifted in 2020, the news should not have halted Hawa’s education.

However, like other progressive policies introduced under President Julius Maada

Bio, keeping pregnant girls in school has been easier said than done.

Hawa was mercilessly taunted by other students, and her mother stopped sending her money for supplies and uniforms.

She ended up dropping out of school at six months pregnant, forced to watch her cousin advance alone. Bio, who is seeking a second term in office in Saturday’s presidential election, made education and women’s rights the main pillars of his presidency. — AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

How big tech embraced disabled users

BURIED beneath the hype of the artificial intelligence revolution, big tech is quietly rolling out services for disabled people that it hopes will push a greater transformation for customers.

Apple and Google are leading the field, harnessing the sensors and cameras of their best-selling smartphones that allow users to edit, enhance and improve their photos and audio. Among the latest announcements, Apple unveiled its Live Speech feature in May that uses machine learning — the term Apple uses for AI — to re-create a user’s voice.

The idea is to allow people who are at risk of losing the ability to speak to type messages and have them read out in their natural voices. Google, meanwhile, is testing an upgrade to its Lookout app, a programme that describes images to blind people and those with impaired vision. — AFP



Apple unveiled its Live Speech feature in May that uses machine learning — the term Apple uses for AI — to re-create a user’s voice. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China’s central bank cuts two benchmark interest rates

CHINA’S central bank on Tuesday cut two benchmark interest rates, following several similar measures in recent days in a bid to counter the post-Covid growth slowdown in the world’s second-largest economy.

Last week, the People’s Bank of China (PBoC) lowered two other key rates and pumped billions into financial markets, as fresh data showed the economy continued to struggle. — AFP

Erdogan ally points to ‘painful’ Turkish rate hike

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s influential partner in his ruling coalition warned Tuesday the government needs to take “painful” economic recovery measures that include interest rate hikes.

MHP party leader Devlet Bahçeli’s comments delivered important political cover for Erdogan’s new economic team to pursue a more conventional approach to cure Türkiye’s accumulating woes.

The central bank will hold its first policy meeting Thursday since Erdogan named respected economist Mehmet Simsek as finance minister and former Wall Street executive Hafize Gaye Erkan as the head of Türkiye’s central bank in a reshuffle that filled foreign investors with hope last month.



Türkiye’s central bank is expected to dramatically raise interest rates on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

gan unexpectedly filled his government with market-friendly officials after winning a hard-fought re-election last month.

Türkiye’s annual inflation rate hovers near 40 per cent and its central bank reserves stand at historic lows after two years of Erdogan’s unorthodox economic policies.

Both have promoted conventional policies that include interest rate hikes to combat inflation — the opposite of the approach long backed by Erdogan. The Turkish leader said last week that he “accepted” the changes that his new economic team would like to pursue. —AFP

SoftBank ready for counteroffensive with AI after massive losses

SOFTBANK Group Corp CEO Masayoshi Son said Wednesday the company will “mount a counteroffensive” after posting a massive net loss for the second straight year in fiscal 2022, vowing to pursue growth that utilizes the rising popularity of artificial intelligence.

Son said the Japanese investment and technology giant is now ready to tap into five trillion yen (\$35 billion) of cash reserves

after cutting back on new investment in recent years to cope with worsening market conditions.

“An artificial intelligence revolution is about to explode,” Son said at the company’s annual shareholders’ meeting in Tokyo, citing the recent popularity of ChatGPT, a generative AI chatbot developed by US-based OpenAI. Son said Arm Ltd., SoftBank’s British subsidiary that designs chips for various products



Softbank Group Corp CEO Masayoshi Son speaks at the company’s annual shareholders’ meeting in Tokyo on 21 June 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

from smartphones to cars worldwide, will play a key role in “the AI revolution” that is about to occur. In the revolution, everything will be connected to AI, which will solve social problems and other issues in place of human beings, he said. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (043N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (043N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-6-2023** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC ZHAOMING VOY.NO. (2308S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHAOMING VOY.NO. (2308S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (324S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (324S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-6-2023** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD

Turkish arms makers’ export ambition on display at Paris Air Show

TURKISH defence manufacturers are out in force at this week’s Paris Air Show, the first in four years during which conflicts including Russia’s invasion of Ukraine have spotlighted the country’s now-coveted weapons.

Most obvious is state-

owned Turkish Aerospace (TAI), whose ample stand, fronted by a tarmac display of armed drones, helicopters and a recently-developed jet trainer, is just a few paces away from heavyweights like Airbus and Boeing at Le Bourget airport. Dour-faced military

delegations, including one group from Brazil, could be seen touring the aircraft while gawkers took pictures of the bomb- and missile-laden drones. As an arms exporter, Türkiye “benefits from an image as a ‘third way’: politically less restrictive than West-

ern systems, but more neutral than buying Russian, Chinese or Iranian while guaranteeing satisfactory quality,” Leo Peria-Peigne, a researcher at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) wrote in a recent paper. — AFP



Turkish Aerospace Industries has sold drones to countries across Central Asia and Africa. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ex-Nissan chief Ghosn files \$1 bln lawsuit against carmaker: report

FORMER Nissan Motor Co Chairman Carlos Ghosn has filed a lawsuit against the Japanese carmaker and others, seeking over \$1 billion in damages for allegations including defamation, Reuters said Tuesday.

The lawsuit was reportedly filed last month in Lebanon, the Middle Eastern nation to which Ghosn sensationally fled in December 2019 while awaiting trial in Japan after being arrested for allegedly underreporting

remuneration and misusing Nissan’s funds.

Ghosn has denied the allegations and said he acted to escape what he called Japan’s “rigged” justice system.

The case brought by Ghosn alleges defamation, slander, libel and the fabrication of material evidence by Nissan as well as 12 individuals and two other firms, according to the news agency, which says has seen a copy of the lawsuit. Prosecutors have set a court date of 18 Septem-

ber to begin proceedings, it said. A spokesperson for Nissan declined to comment on the matter. In an interview that was part of the Reuters report, Ghosn, who headed Nissan for nearly two decades, said, “We have a long battle in front of us. We are going to fight to the end.” He was also quoted as saying that he has not left Lebanon since 2019 because he is wanted by Japan through an International Criminal Police Organization “red notice.” — Kyodo

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (11/2023-2024)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-154(23-24)	Diesel Engine Oil (15 W 40) (CI-4) (400) Drums	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-155(23-24)	Hydraulic Oil Light (ISO VG 46) (400) Drums	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-156(23-24)	SAE 40 Gas Engine Oil (1000) Drums	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-157(23-24)	EP-90 Gear Oil (Or) 80W 90 GL-5 Gear Oil (200) Drums	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-158(23-24)	SAE VG 40 Engine Oil (400) Drums	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-159(23-24)	Natural Gas Engine Oil (NGEO) Advanced 40 (160) Drums	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **22 June, 2023** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **13:00 pm** on **6, July 2023**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **6-7-2023, 13:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Brazil seizes massive shark fin haul

BRAZILIAN authorities said Tuesday they confiscated nearly 29 tonnes of illegal shark fins bound for Asia, in what they described as possibly the largest such seizure ever. Environmental protection agency Ibama estimated around 10,000 shortfin mako and blue sharks were killed to harvest the fins, which are considered a delicacy

in Asia. “It is possibly the largest seizure in history of this type of product,” Ibama environmental protection director Jair Schmitt said in a statement. The fins were seized from two export companies, one in the southern state of Santa Catarina, the other in the southeastern state of Sao Paulo, officials said. — AFP



Environmental protection agency Ibama estimated around 10,000 shortfin mako and blue sharks were killed to harvest the fins, which are considered a delicacy in Asia. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP / FILE**

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The foregin manufacture **ZIBO NAB AGROCHEMICALS LIMITED**, would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by **TOPAGRI MYANMAR CO.,LTD** to Pesiticide Registration Board , Myanmar), from former distributor **MYANMAR THET NAY MIN CO.,LTD**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **TOPAGRI MYANMAR CO.,LTD** Block (2/C),No(17), Nawaday Housing, Hlaing Tharya Township, Yangon. Ph - 09883759773

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	Registration Type
1	Jet Fighter	Profenofos 50% EC	P2022-5600	Provisional
2	NAB-Quest	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 20% EC	P2022-5802	Provisional
3	min Eimar	Hexaconazole 10% SC	P2022-5801	Provisional
4	Yan Da	Indo-3-Ylacetic acid 0.00052% + Gibberellic acid 0.135% + 24-Epibrassinolide 0.00031% SL	P-2022-5767	Provisional

MANUFACTURER NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

Pesticide Registration Board granted registration of the following (2) pesticides with their Mnaufacturer Name as “**SHIJIAZHUANG XINGBAI BIOENGINEERING CO.,LTD**”. The Manufacturer Name of these (2) pesticides will be changed from “**SHIJIAZHUANG XINGBAI BIOENGINEERING CO.,LTD**” to “**HEBEI XINGBAI AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD**”. People’s Republic of China as below

Sr.	Product Name	Registration No.	Current Manufacturer Name	New Manufacturer Name
1.	Li Bu (Emamecti Benzoate 5.7% WG)	P2018-4170	SHIJIAZHUANG XINGBAI BIOENGINEERING CO.,LTD	HEBEI XINGBAI AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD
2.	Sone Xing (Thiamethoxam 25% WDG)	P2018-4273	SHIJIAZHUANG XINGBAI BIOENGINEERING CO.,LTD	HEBEI XINGBAI AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD

Any objection regarding to this can be lodged within 14 days to the Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Insein Township, Yangon. “**SHIJIAZHUANG XINGBAI BIOENGINEERING CO.,LTD**”.

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

Musk meets Modi to discuss investment in India

TWITTER owner and Tesla CEO Elon Musk said Wednesday he discussed potential “significant investments” in India after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the United States.

Musk, one of the world’s richest men, said that Modi was “pushing us to make significant investments in India, which is something that we intend to do, and are trying to figure out the right timing”.

New Delhi has rolled out the red carpet for top global investors and companies — including tech giants like Google and Apple — in the last few years.

Since the coronavirus pandemic, many companies have expanded their presence in India as a way to cut their supply-chain dependence on China and tap into the South Asian nation’s huge domestic market.



PM Modi met US health experts, academics, think tanks & entrepreneurs, invited Elon Musk to invest in India. The Tesla chief said that he is incredibly excited about the future of India. **PHOTO: TWITTER/AFP**

Modi, who saw the tech billionaire shortly after arriving from India on a state visit, said it had been “great meeting” Musk in New York.

“We had multifaceted conversations on issues ranging from energy to spirituality,” Modi tweeted on Wednesday, a day before he is due to be hosted by US President Joe Biden for a state dinner.

Musk said he was a “fan” of Modi.

“I am actually incredibly excited about the future of India. India has more promise than any large country in the world,” he added.

Musk has faced questions from free speech activists over Twitter reportedly caving into the Indian government’s demands for takedowns of critical posts. — AFP

The abaya controversy is testing the secular boundaries of French schools



According to the Ministry of Education, incidents of violations of secularism decreased between April and May. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRANCE’S identity has long been linked to its vision of secularism in public life.

A 2004 law bans the wearing of clothing or symbols that reveal a person’s religion in education,

including large crosses, Jewish yarmulkes and Islamic headscarves.

Unlike headscarves, abayas—a long, baggy garment worn with plain clothing to conform to Islamic beliefs—remain in a gray area and not subject to outright ban.

However, some believe they disregard secular principles, fueling a recurring debate about Islam’s influence in schools.

France was shocked when in 2020 a radicalized Chechen refugee beheaded a teacher near his school in a Paris suburb who had been showing his students cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four dead after latest New York e-bike fire

FOUR people have died after lithium batteries for e-bikes sparked a fire in a New York building, officials said Tuesday, sounding the alarm over the skyrocketing number of such incidents.

The fire broke out overnight in a maintenance shop for electric bicycles and scooters, on the ground floor of a building in Chinatown.

A large pile of blackened two-wheelers was seen strewn outside the charred facility on Tuesday, in a photo posted by New York Fire Department on their official Twitter account.

During a press briefing at the scene, the city’s fire commissioner, Laura Kavanagh, said four people had died and two were seriously injured.

“It is very clear that this was caused by lithium ion batteries and e-bikes,” she said, adding that the store had previously been cited for safety violations. It is the 108th such fire so far this year in New York, with a total toll of 66 injured and 13 dead, including Tuesday’s victims, according to the fire department.

In April, a 19-year-old woman and her seven-year-old brother were killed in a similar fire in the borough of Queens.— AFP

UK hosts international allies for Ukraine reconstruction

LEADERS and representatives from more than 60 countries are expected in London from Wednesday for a two-day conference to secure funding to help Ukraine recover from the ravages of war.

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from Wednesday for a two-day conference to secure funding to help Ukraine recover from the ravages of war.

The International Ukraine Recovery Conference 2023, hosted by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, is the second to be held since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February last year.

The first, in Lugano, Switzerland, in July last year saw Kyiv’s allies commit to supporting Ukraine through what is expected to be an eye-wateringly expensive and decades-long recovery. Ukraine’s Prime Minister Denys Shmygal told them rebuilding could cost at least \$750 billion. — AFP



Ukraine’s Prime Minister Denys Shmygal told them rebuilding could cost at least \$750 billion. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Don’t steal our voices’: dubbing artists confront AI threat

VOICE actors across the globe are mobilizing towards the unregulated use of synthetic intelligence (AI) to generate and clone human voices that they concern poses a menace to their livelihoods.

“We’re fighting a very big monster,” mentioned Mario Filio, a Mexican artist who has carried out voiceovers for Hollywood star Will Smith, the Obi-Wan Kenobi character in Star Wars and the party-loving lemur King Julien within the animated film “Madagascar”. Campaigning below the slogan “Don’t steal our voices”, greater than 20 voice performing guilds, associations and unions from Europe, america and Latin America have created the United Voice Artists coalition.

It represents the faceless

voiceover artists and narrators of commercials, motion pictures, audiobooks and video video games who concern that their voices shall be changed by machines, and even cloned by artificial intelligence with out their consent.

“The indiscriminating and unregulated use of artificial intelligence is a risk that could lead to the extinction of an artistic heritage of creativity and wonder, an asset that machines cannot generate,” based on the group, which says its members embody the US Nationwide Affiliation of Voice Actors (NAVA) and Latin America’s Organization of United Voices. “Our voices are our livelihood,” NAVA vice-chairman Carin Gilfry mentioned in an announcement final month. — AFP



Commercial voiceover artists, voice actors, audiobook narrators and video game narrators fear that their talent will be displaced by synthetic voices, or even worse, that their own will be cloned by artificial intelligence without their consent, putting their livelihood at stake. **PHOTO: VIDEO GRAB/ORGANIZACION DE VOCES UNIDAS,AFP**

Finnish parliament elects conservative Petteri Orpo as PM



National Coalition Party chair Petteri Orpo addresses a his press conference at the Finnish Parliament in Helsinki, Finland, on 20 June 2023, after the parliament elected him as a new Prime Minister. **PHOTO: ANTTI AIMO-KOIVISTO / LEHTIKUVA / AFP**

FINLAND’S parliament on Tuesday elected conservative Petteri Orpo as prime minister at the head of a four-party coalition including the far-right Finns Party which plans a major crackdown on immigration.

Parliament voted in favour of Orpo, who won April elections and has been in thorny negotiations to build a coalition since then, by 107 in favour, 81 opposed and 11 absent.

Orpo was to be formally appointed as prime minister later Tuesday by President Sauli Niinisto, taking over from Sanna

Marin, whose Social Democrats finished third in the election behind Orpo’s National Coalition Party (NCP) and the Finns Party.

In addition to the NCP and the Finns Party, the new coalition is made up of the smaller Swedish People’s Party (RKP) and the Christian Democrats.

Orpo campaigned on an austerity ticket, vowing to cut spending by six billion euros over four years. The new coalition presented last week also announced a “paradigm shift” on immigration. — AFP

Thousands of Colombians protest against president

THOUSANDS of Colombians protested in the capital Bogota and other cities Tuesday against reforms by the country’s first-ever leftist president Gustavo Petro, which many say go too far.

Since taking over last August, Petro has submitted several reform projects to parliament to reduce private participation in the healthcare system, redistribute unproductive land, and reform labor and pension regulations.

But he has since lost his majority backing in the legislature, tying his hands in reform efforts.

The 63-year-old leader has also opened negotiations with armed groups in the quest for a “total peace” after decades of violence, and has vowed to lead the country to a greener future.

Called by the right-wing opposition under the banner “march of the majority,” protesters gathered Tuesday in cities including Bogota, Medellin, Cali and Barranquilla.

Many waved Colombia’s yellow, blue and red flag, and

held up posters with such messages as: “No to ending up like Cuba or Venezuela.”

The mobilization seemed particularly large in Colombia’s second-largest city, Medellin, according to images broadcast by national media. — AFP



Called by the right-wing opposition under the banner “march of the majority,” protesters gathered Tuesday in cities including Bogota, Medellin, Cali and Barranquilla. **PHOTO: AFP**

Over 40 dead in gang violence, fire at Honduras women’s prison

AT least 41 people were killed Tuesday at a women’s prison in Honduras, where violent clashes between rival gangs sparked a fire that tore through part of the facility, police said.

The deadly violence occurred at a prison about 25 kilo-

metres (15 miles) north of the capital Tegucigalpa, according to police spokesman Edgardo Barahona, who put the “preliminary” death toll at 41 women.

It was unclear if they were all inmates. Five other women were injured and taken to hospital,

Barahona added. Hundreds of relatives of incarcerated women gathered outside the detention facility awaiting information about their loved ones.

“We don’t know who the victims are,” said one visibly distraught man. — AFP

'Don't steal our voices': dubbing artists confront AI threat
PAGE-15



SPORT

Man City agree deal to sign Chelsea's Kovacic: reports



Chelsea midfielder Mateo Kovacic is reportedly on his way to Manchester City. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

MANCHESTER City have agreed a £30 million (\$38 million) deal with Chelsea to sign midfielder Mateo Kovacic, according to reports on Wednesday.

The treble winners are set to pay an initial £25 million for the 29-year-old Croatia international, with a further £5 million to follow in potential add-ons. Kovacic, who joined Chelsea from Real Madrid in 2018, initially on loan, is entering the final year of his contract at Stamford Bridge.

The midfielder is set to become City's first signing of the summer transfer window and will give manager Pep Guardiola more midfield options at a time when captain Ilkay Gundogan's future is uncertain.

Gundogan's contract expires at the end of this month and the Germany international has not yet agreed new terms. Kovacic, who won the Champions League three times with Real and once with Chelsea, is likely to be one of several departures from the London club as new manager Mauricio Pochettino trims his squad.

Chelsea earlier Wednesday bid farewell to France midfielder N'Golo Kante, who is joining Saudi club Al Ittihad. — AFP

Wimbledon line judges' future uncertain as Grand Slam embraces AI

WIMBLEDON technology chiefs say line judges are safe — at least for now — even as the grass court tournament embraces artificial intelligence.

The All England Club and global tech giant IBM on Wednesday announced new AI features for the championships, which start early next month.

A tool using generative AI technology will provide audio commentary for match highlights videos on the Wimbledon website and app.

And a "draw analysis" feature uses AI to define how favourable the path to the final might be for each player in the singles draws.

Bill Jinks, technology director at the All England Club, said Wimbledon had to work hard to stay at the cutting edge.

"Wimbledon is the oldest Grand Slam tournament and we have a rich heritage and traditions that go back all the way to 1877 and that's one of the main reasons people keep coming," he said.

"It's a huge part of that experience for people — players and fans alike.

"But you can't do that without technological innovation. We wouldn't have remained at the pinnacle of the sport without that technological innovation to keep us there."

Wimbledon has a unique place in the global tennis calendar, with players and fans attracted by the hallowed traditions of the All



Line judges are safe at Wimbledon, but for how much longer? PHOTO: AFP/FILE

England Club.

Smartly dressed umpires and line judges are as much part of the experience as strawberries and cream and the all-white kit that players must wear.

But how much longer can they survive in the light of galloping technology? — 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.

No 2 Nelly Korda returns for Women's PGA after back injury

WORLD number two Nelly Korda returns from a lower back injury to compete in this week's Women's PGA Championship, trying to capture her second major title after missing four events.

The 24-year-old American daughter of retired tennis star Petr Korda has had more than a month off since missing the cut in last month's LPGA Founders Cup.

Before that, Korda had top-six finishes in six of seven LPGA events this year and had moved to world number one before being overtaken in May by South Korea's Ko Jin-young.

"It was nice to be at home," Korda said Tuesday. "Started practising a week and a half

ago when I was all cleared to go two weeks ago. Just been grinding away."

Korda has played 27 practice holes at Baltusrol and plans nine more on Wednesday before she tees off on Thursday alongside top-ranked Ko and third-ranked Lydia Ko of New Zealand. "I'm very excited," Korda said. "It's going to be a pretty interesting test this week. It's an amazing golf course."

"Your game has to be good and on all cylinders."

Korda, the reigning Olympic champion, suffered a back injury at the 2020 Women's PGA and missed much of that season but won her first major title at the 2021 Women's PGA at Atlanta Athletic Club. — AFP