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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.

Inter-Ministry Universities' Football Tournament for 2023 commences

SECRETARY of the State Administration Council Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe attended the ceremony to kick off the Inter-Ministry Universities' Football Tournament for 2023 at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe said that the Inter-Ministry Universities' Football Tournament aims to select outstanding university student footballers to be able to take part in the ASEAN University Games (AUG) and international competitions. Outstanding footballers will be chosen as selected players to participate in the 21st ASEAN University Games to be held in



State Administration Council Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe and dignitaries view the football match between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation team and the Ministry of Science and Technology team A yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



Indonesia in 2024. The Union minister urged those athletes to pour out their strenuous efforts in the competition to secure positions of selected players in the national team and then to compete at the SEA level, Asian level and international level.

The SAC Secretary, council members and Union ministers cordially greeted the athletes.

The Secretary watched the competition between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Ministry of Science and Technology (A) teams at

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MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Maung Maung Shein, Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Public holiday announcement for Eid Al Adha Day

ACCORDING to the State Administration Council Notification No 112/2023, Eid Al Adha Day which falls on Thursday, the 12th Waxing of First Waso 1385 ME (29 June 2023), is a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

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Applications for establishment of political parties under verification

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

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

Among those that applied, National Politics New Vigor Party is found to comply with the political parties' registration law and regulations, and the Union Election Commission approved the application for the establishment of the political party yesterday.

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

32 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 June, total figure registers 640,234

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 640,234 after 32 new cases were reported on 22 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,808,397 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 640,234. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,054 including 32 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 22-6-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLN

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

1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.

2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.

3. It has been announced that dona-

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

4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.

5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and

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

and enter the code provided within it.

6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -

Scan here! For your payment

70157401001

Natural Disaster Management Fund

Call Center: 5211

Scan here! For your payment

2442 Customer Care (95-1) 231 7770

Natural Disaster Management Fund

Call Center: 5211

Scan here! For your payment

20034665

Natural Disaster Management Fund

Call Center: 5211

Scan here! For your payment

09 255001537

Natural Disaster Management Fund

Call Center: 5211

Scan here! For your payment

21037553

Natural Disaster Management Fund

Call Center: 5211

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

National Disaster Management Committee

Utmost efforts needed to cease internal armed conflicts

I would like to urge all stakeholders to make utmost efforts for ceasing the internal armed conflicts starting from this very Diamond Jubilee of Independence so that our next generation will inherit peace.

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

Inter-Ministry Universities’ Football Tournament for 2023 commences

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the opening match in which the latter trounced the former 5-0.
Group A of the tournament is formed with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Science and Technology (A), Ministry of Education (B) and Ministry of Border Affairs. Group B comprises the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Group C is constituted of the Ministry of Education (A), Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and Ministry of



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe gave the inaugural speech at the Inter-Ministry Universities' Football Tournament 2023 yesterday.

Science and Technology (B). Among the spectators were SAC members Poe Rei Maung, Dr Hmu Thang, Dr Aung Thein, Mahn Nyein Aung Kyaw Min, Dr Kyaw Tun and U Yan Kyaw. — MNA/TTA

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



Admiral Tin Aung San and party inspects the discharging of rehabilitation supplies from the vessel at Sittway Multipurpose Port yesterday.

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 attended the handover ceremony of donations for the restora-

tion of Buddhist monasteries, Christian churches and Hindu temples and cash providing ceremony for Homes for Aged and Youth Development Philanthropic Centres yesterday.
Admiral Tin Aung San and party inspected the unloading of relief and rehabilitation materials at Sittway Multipurpose Port, distribution of them to affected areas, and gave necessary instructions to officials.
Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung presented cash donations to the Wailuwun monastic education school, the St Mark's Cathedral and the Sri Sri Mohadev Bari (Mahashiva) Hindu Temple.
Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine gave a K118.1 Million donation to Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin for Homes for Aged and Youth Development Philanthropic Centres.
Admiral Tin Aung San and party inspected the reconstruction of the damaged gravel retaining wall along the strand road, concrete roads and platforms in Sittway. He called for making the restoration stronger and better than the original condition, and greening, cleaning and beautifying work for public recreation.
The Deputy Prime Minister, Union ministers, the Rakhine State chief minister and deputy ministers attended the coordination meeting on rehabilitation held at the Rakhine State government office. — MNA/TS

Press Release

AT the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, Mr Don Pramudwinai, U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, attended an informal discussion on Myanmar, held on 18-19 June 2023 in Pattaya, Thailand, along with the Foreign Ministers, Special Envoy, Ambassadors and representatives from ASEAN Member States: Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the Philippines and neighbouring countries: China and India.

The Union Minister expressed his appreciation to friends of Myanmar for organizing an informal discussion on Myanmar while welcoming suggestions to overcome challenges faced by Myanmar. At a time when correct information on Myanmar was blocked and one-sided news was spread by biased media, progress was analyzed making reference to the ASEAN five-point consensus, he briefed the meeting on the development in Myanmar, particularly the implementation of three main tasks of the ASEAN five-point consensus; namely the cessation of violence, inclusive political dialogue and provision of humanitarian assistance as these tasks complement Myanmar’s Five-Point Road Map.

The Union Minister elaborated on peace efforts by undertaking all necessary measures for the cessation of violence. Like many other countries in the region, Myanmar experienced insurgency during the Cold War era. By 1974, it has managed to bring tranquillity to 90 per cent of the country’s inland areas. In order not to damage the friendship with neighbouring countries, Myanmar exercised utmost constraints in managing the insurgency in border areas. Gentleman agreements were reached with almost all ethnic armed organizations in the post-Cold War era basically agreeing to carry out border development programmes and peace processes, and vowing not to commit offensive attacks and not to make new recruitments. Successive governments have been pursuing the peace process for more than 33 years. Ceasefire in 1990 allowed 17 big EAOs and 17 small EAOs to operate in special zones covering about three per cent of the border areas. As the dedicated Ministry was formed for the development of those areas, some EAOs traded arms for peace for good and about 10,000 armed personnel were transformed into Border Guard Forces–BGF and they are joining hands with the government ensuring peace and stability in respective areas. As of today, there are 18 EAOs and 10 of them signed the NCA and eight are non-NCA signatories who continue to participate in peace negotiation. A to-

tal of 106 rounds of peace talks were held under the current government. As of now, peace talks are organized more than 5,000 times. Important agreements were reached particularly for the building of a Federal Union through a multiparty democratic system as well as for sharing of power and resources. Tatmadaw strictly follows the peace agreement not undertaking first strikes and not intruding on demarcated zones. Only in cases of NCA violation, intrusion into government control areas, expansion of bases in resource-rich areas and imposing threats to the public, counter-attacks are carried out with maximum restraints and in line with the Rule of Engagement in the Vienna Convention. Myanmar people value lives and never go to extremes. Despite the existence of armed struggles for 75 years since 1948, the gun death rate is the lowest in the ASEAN region.

The Union Minister explained that some EAOs takes advantage of the political instabilities in the past two years by training and equipping vulnerable and emotional youth in the post-COVID-19 period as the PDFs even in the areas where stability was enjoyed for the past five decades. They do attack security forces but they aim at soft targets by killing and bullying unarmed people, members of opposition parties, public services personnel and veterans and destroying public properties. Those armed groups emerged only after the announcement of the ASEAN five-point consensus. So-called NUG ministers order PDFs for terror activities against those who do not follow the instruction for school and office closure by supporting arms and ammunition to PDFs. To date, 5,846 innocent lives were claimed by PDFs including 187 young children, 77 teachers, 69 members of the Sangha, 807 village and ward administrators and 148 other public services personnel, 17 medical service personnel, members of opposition parties, veterans. Such kind of brutal acts are not acceptable in any civilized society. Being responsible to protect its people, the government has to counter the attacks by PDFs. As an institution systematically organized with rich experience and capability, Tatmadaw can easily eliminate ordinary armed groups. However, it exercises utmost restraints not to hurt its own citizens. Government open its door for peace in order to solve domestic issues in an amicable manner. Amnesty is also announced giving pardons except to those with records of serious crimes such as rape and murder. All are allowed to participate in the political process after coming to legal-fold. Political parties are also allowed to be formed and registered. As all the doors

are opened for the cessation of violence and inclusive political dialogues,

The Union Minister explained that some EAOs do not cooperate wholeheartedly in peace processes as they don’t wish to relinquish the benefits they are gaining from illegal businesses of drug and armed smuggling. Also, some did not join the elections all three times. As drug production becomes synthetic chemical-based, eliminating drug issues becomes more challenging. Therefore, he stressed the need to promote cooperation with neighbours and the ASEAN Member States.

On the humanitarian front, the Union Minister underlined that the government will continue facilitating the works of the AHA centre. With regard to the repatriation of displaced persons in Rakhine state, the government has been expediting the early implementation of the pilot project. Although there are some delays in the commencement of the repatriation process as some potential returnees were threatened by some groups on the other side, Government will continue its efforts in cooperation with all relevant parties.

As the government has to address the issue of one-sided media attempting to destroy the country’s image while blocking the true information in Myanmar, Union Minister called for greater cooperation from friends of Myanmar. Only through communication and engagement at all levels in ASEAN, ASEAN Member States can effectively support Myanmar to overcome challenging situations through proper analysis and judgement.

The Union Minister continued to explain that there are some NLD members who wish to stay peacefully in the country in line with the rules of law. Any democracy would not accept election fraud of this scale, 29 per cent, as experienced in the 2020 general elections. Findings were disclosed to media and diplomats. NUG fail to solve the political issue through lawful and peaceful means by engaging in destructive activities. Myanmar had experienced a similar organization, the National Coalition Government of Union of Burma(NCGUB) 30 years ago. Although such groups raised funds and earn international support by claiming for the cause of democracy, none of those people returned to the country during the 10 years of democracy and not even at the time of the NLD administration. Most of those people merely aim for gaining refugee status, they don’t consider much on the benefit of the people and gradually fade away from politics.

He highlighted that all enabling environments, such as granting amnesty and allowing party registration, are

in place, anyone with a sincere will to bring about benefits to the people can seek peaceful solutions by participating in political processes while denouncing terrorist activities.

He informed that the current government is carrying out all its duties and all the records of its activities under its administration are systematically kept for a systematic handover of the state responsibilities to the winning party after general elections.

The Union Minister continued to explain that the country’s peace efforts over the past 33 years were done through dialogues rather than armed conflicts. During that period, some EAOs delayed the peace process as they are not willing to relinquish high profits gained from illegal businesses including drugs. Successive governments are pursuing peace patiently. Now a day, rates of armed attacks and drug smuggling are declining due to collaborative efforts of the government with the neighbouring countries. Some are returning to legal-fold.

Despite Myanmar being a resource-rich country surrounded by five neighbours with 31 billion people and the country being situated at the hub of the world’s biggest market with high development potential, it continues to experience hardship for a long period due to external interference. Due to its geo-political and geo-strategic locations, successive Myanmar government has been upholding the principle of “peaceful co-existence” without interfering with the internal affairs of other countries and has no issue with any countries in the world. The Union Minister said Myanmar stands ready to receive good advice and suggestions from and promote cooperation with friends of Myanmar who realize the real situation in Myanmar and the challenges of biased media on Myanmar.

The Union Minister concluded by expressing the government’s readiness to cooperate with all countries who can understand the real situation in the country as opposed to the wrong image portrayed by some biased media and disinformation campaigns.

Participants at the informal meetings expressed their adherence to non-interference in the internal affairs of Myanmar and their readiness to support Myanmar for peace, stability and inclusive political dialogues. They expressed their willingness to avoid the ASEAN-minus formula looking forward to strengthened cooperation with Myanmar.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Date, 22 June 2023

Myanmar delegation led by MoRAC Union Minister arrives back

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko arrived back in Yangon after attending the 18th China-ASEAN Culture Forum in China yesterday.

During the visit, the Union Minister visited the Guanyin Zen Temple in Nanning and offered cash donations to an assistant monk of the temple on 18 June and met the Consul-General and staff at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Nanning in the same evening.

The Union Minister attended the pre-coordination meeting of the 18th China-ASEAN Culture Forum at 6 pm on that day.

During the discussion under the topic “Building Smart Libraries and Promotion on Reading” of the 18th China-ASEAN Culture Forum held

on 19 June, the Union Minister discussed the signs of progress in the sector of libraries and Director Dr Kay Thi Aye of the National Library participated in Special Dialogue section.

The Union Minister also attended the Opening Ceremony of Revival and Reconstruction of the Yongle encyclopedia at Guangxi national library in the evening and observed the library and museums.

The Union Minister and party also headed to Liuzhou from Nanning on 20 June and visited the No Wang snail noodle factory, Liuzhou Shrine, Liuzhou industrial museum and Bauhinia Culture Creative Gallery exhibition hall. Then, the delegates attended the dinner hosted by the Liuzhou Mayor and enjoyed the beauty of Liuzhou by ship.

The Union Minister and party arrived back in Nanning



Union Minister U Ko Ko. (L) is pictured on his arrival back in Yangon yesterday.

on 21 June and went to Kunming airport and paid homage to the Sitagu Sayadaw, who arrived at Kunming to renovate

a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda in China, at the lounge of Kunming airport.

Moreover, the Union Min-

ister and party saw off Sitagu Sayadaw at Kunming airport and returned to Myanmar yesterday morning. — MNA/KTZH



The handover event of donation by Venerable Qianze of the Qixia Temple in progress yesterday.

Handover ceremony of donations made by Chinese Venerable Qianze takes place in Nay Pyi Taw

VENERABLE Qianze of the Qixia Temple in Guilin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China, has made donations for student monks and nuns at Buddhist learning centres and students in monastic schools in Myanmar. The ceremony of handing over the donation to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was

held at the MoRAC Union Minister's parlour in Nay Pyi Taw, at 10 am yesterday.

First, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained the purpose of Venerable Qianze of Qixia Temple donating 8,000 yuan to student monks and nuns at Buddhist learning centres and students in monastic schools in

Myanmar. Then, MoRAC Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan clarified monastic schools under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. Finally, the deputy minister accepted the donation transferred by MoFA Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut on behalf of Venerable Qianze and returned the certificate of honour. — MNA/CT

Ministry of Construction hosts 6th Meeting of Greater Mekong Subregion Urban Development Working Group

THE Ministry of Construction hosted the 6th Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Urban Development Working Group (UDWG) virtually in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of member countries: Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

MoC Permanent Secretary U Wunna Zaw, Mandalay City Development Committee member 1 U Myint Oo,

Director-General of Department of Urban and Housing Development U Aung Kyaw Soe, officials of GMS National Secretariat (Foreign Economic Relations Department of Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations), Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and Yangon City Development Committee joined the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Director-General U Aung Kyaw Soe of the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

Mr Alan Baird from the Secretariat of GMS explained

the matters discussed at the 5th GMS Urban Development Working Group meeting.

During the first session of the meeting, Mr Antonio Ressano from the Secretariat of GMS briefed the measures for urban development while Mr Antonio Ressano and Mr Srivastava from the Secretariat of GMS discussed GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework (2015-2022) and Regional Investment Framework (2024-2026) in the second session and the representatives of member countries took part in the discussion.



The Sixth Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Urban Development Working Group underway yesterday.

Then, Director-General U Aung Kyaw Soe gave a concluding remark.

The 7th GMS UDWG meeting will be held in Thailand. — MNA/KTZH

Science and technology for further development of ASEAN community: MoST Union Minister

THE science and technology sectors are essential for the further development of the ASEAN community, said Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw during the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation, held at the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, yesterday.

In addition to the ministerial meeting, the Union minister also attended the opening ceremony of the Digital Future Conference.

At the opening ceremony, the CEO of the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry (AITI) of Brunei Darussalam, Ir. Haji Jailani bin Haji Buntar delivered a welcoming speech.

Then, Minister of Transport, Information, and Communica-



The 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation in progress in Brunei Darussalam, attended by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw yesterday.

tions of Brunei Darussalam Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary Mustapha, who is a alternative chairman of the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation, gave an opening speech.

Next, the ministerial meet-

ing, the Digital Future Conference and the booths were opened.

Afterwards, Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat Satvinder Singh gave a keynote address titled the Role of Innovation in Overcoming Chal-

lenges and Securing Opportunities in ASEAN.

The ASEAN Ministers of Science, Technology and Innovation and guests visited the booths related to ASEAN Tech and the Digital Future Conference.

Union Minister Dr Myo

Thein Kyaw attended the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in the afternoon.

On the topic of “ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Growth Enabled by Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)”, he exchanged views on Myanmar’s policy, current actions and future technology cooperation in the ASEAN region.

Next, the participants approved the discussions and presentations of the 83rd ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Committee.

The Union minister and the attendees emphasized the issues of cooperation in research activities that can be supported in the field of science and technology and innovation for the further development of the ASEAN community. — MNA/KZL

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, minerals, foreign currency notes and vehicles seized



Offenders are seen along with seized Indian Rupees in Chin State.

A combined team led by the Thandwe District Forest Department under the supervision of the Rakhine State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured a total of 2.607 tonnes of illegal timbers (worth K182,490) on 13 June. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, a total of 4.410 tonnes of illegal teak and 1.356 tonnes of other illegal timbers

(worth K1,452,228) were seized in Lewe and Ottarathiri townships on 18 June. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a combined team led by a police officer from Kanpauk Police Station in Yephyu township impounded 56 bags of lead (worth K50.4 million) without official documents from a house in Kanpauk village. The action was taken under the My-

anmar Mines Law.

A combined team led by a police officer from Tiddim Police Station captured a total of 7,198,500 Indian Rupee (approximately equivalent to K184,807,090) without a foreign currency exchange licence from a Honda CR-V car (worth K3 million) in Tiddim township. The action was taken under the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

On 22 June, a combined team confiscated a Toyota Crown (worth K8.5 million) and a Nissan X-Trail (worth K7 million) without official documents heading to Phayagyi from Waw near a Tollgate on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road in Bago township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, seven arrests were made on 13, 18, 20 and 22 June, with an estimated value of K255,341,808, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Over K420 mln worth of prohibited chemical (Caffeine) captured in Ywangan township

MORE than one tonne of prohibited chemical (caffeine) worth over K420 million was captured in Ywangan township in Shan State (South).

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a 12-wheel Nissan lorry travelling from Hanmyintmo to Ywangan at the Myogyi checkpoint in Ywangan township at 7 am on

21 June and seized over one tonne of prohibited chemical (caffeine) worth over K420 million.

Following interrogation, offenders admitted that the seized drugs were to be carried from Mandalay region to Shan state.

Legal action was taken against the offenders and an investigation is underway to find out the persons involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS

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

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Dried chilli pepper prices on the rise

THE prices of various chilli peppers are moving up in June, U Hla Han, a chilli pepper depot owner at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The prices rebounded to K15,000-17,000 per viss of long chilli pepper, Moehtaung variety and bell peppers on 21 June 2023 after it declined to K10,000-13,000 per viss at the end of March 2023.

When new stocks of chilli pepper entered the market in April 2022, the prices touched a low of K4,700-8,000 per viss. Traders kept them in their hands at that time and resold them at an exorbitantly high price in history.

The price of chilli peppers hit a record high of K31,000 per viss on 11 November 2022. Also,

the prices peaked at K18,500-19,000 per viss of Moehtaung variety on 9 August 2022 and K21,000-22,000 per viss on 24 November.

The traders who kept the chilli peppers stocks in hand reaped a great profit last year.

The prices recorded in the last week of June this year is up by K8,000 per viss compared to that in the corresponding period last year. The prevailing prices of long chilli and Moehtaung varieties are near record highs.

New chilli peppers from Thetaw, Kyaukse and Pyawbwe areas will flow into the Yangon market at the end of June, while the new supply of long chilli pepper from Shan State and bell peppers will enter the Yangon market in mid-October.

— TWA/EM



The photo shows a seller displaying the quality of chilli pepper.

MISA holds opening ceremony for office at UMFCCI building



The office opening ceremony for the Myanmar Iron and Steel Association-MISA in progress on 21 June.

MYANMAR Iron and Steel Association (MISA) opened its office on the 13th floor of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 21 June, with a view to accelerating the iron and steel business development.

Dr Kay Thi Lwin, chair of the MISA, general secretary U Aye Thiha, U Aye Tun, chair of Myanmar Industries Association (MIA), officials of the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industry and affiliated companies attended the ceremony.

MISA existed as a cluster of

the MIA since 2014. It was also accepted by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Additionally, the MISA joined the South East Asia Iron and Steel Institute (SEASIS) in December 2018 to promote the iron and steel industry by building networks with the members of the SEASIS.

The MISA will move forward to the development of industry standards which are compatible with the country and the production of iron and steel products that meet international

standards. The association will cooperate with international organizations to grow small and medium steel enterprises, disseminate iron and steel information and receive technical assistance from the regional countries by holding seminars and research paper reading sessions.

At present, Myanmar's steel demand is estimated at 2.5 million tons per year, 92 per cent of which are imported. The demand is likely to grow up to 5.4 million tonnes per year in 2030, according to the MISA.

— NN/EM

Automatic licensing and non-automatic licensing system for importers commences on 22 June



Lorries laden with export cargoes are seen at the Muse 105-Mile Trade Zone.

SEEKING Import licences through automatic licensing and non-automatic licensing systems on Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 platform is available from 22 June, according to the news bulletin (9/2023) released by the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Having digitized the licensing system, import licensing for certain lines (1,525 lines) via seaborne trade will be automatically passed on to the system.

According to that notification of the Ministry of Commerce, for seaborne trade, commodities lines that did not require import licences before are mandatory for import licences under the non-automatic import licensing process after 60 days from today (22 June).

Additionally, for imports via the border, only a non-automatic licensing system will be exercised amid the scrutiny of export earnings and other income documents.

Those commodities that did not need import licences before will be allowed to be imported with licences after 30 days from today. According to news bulletin 8/2023 of the Ministry of Commerce, in accordance with the Customs Tariff of Myanmar 2022, 3,075 commodities lines with 10 digits HS Code for imports were notified to be permitted licence automatically on Myanmar trade net 2.0 portal and from 22 June, only 1,525 lines will be granted licences through automatic import licensing system in line with the procedures of the State.

— NN/EM

OPINION

Expedite rehabilitation to declining commodity prices

THE rehabilitation efforts in the cyclonic storm Mocha-affected areas of Rakhine State are being accelerated following the completion of rescue and relief operations. The focus of the rehabilitation process is to promote the development of infrastructure and restore damaged buildings, agriculture, and livestock farms.

The impact of the storm has been severe on several townships in Rakhine State, causing significant losses and damages to manufacturing processes and services. Consequently, these townships have been unable to maintain their production capacity. Therefore, the unaffected townships must leverage their strengths to enhance productivity beyond normal levels.

By doing so, they can meet the demands for consumer goods, personal items, and production materials in storm-affected townships. During the rehabilitation period, efforts are being made to mitigate the decline in the GDP of the affected areas, which have experienced a significant loss of production. Agriculture and livestock farms in the relevant regions and states are being operated to supply meat, fish, eggs, vegetables, and other consumer goods and personal items to the local population. This helps reduce the need to purchase goods from other regions and states, thus avoiding the high prices associated with manufacturing costs and transportation charges. Micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) play a crucial role in this process. The success

of these businesses can contribute to a substantial increase in the supply of products, leading to lower prices for consumers. To support the expansion of MSMEs, business owners are seeking loans for their operations. The MSME central committee and the working committee have provided guidance on loan disbursement, specifying interest rates for the capital period, expansion period, and ongoing operations in accordance with the established rules and regulations.

An increase in the GDP of Rakhine State is vital for raising per capita income. This, in turn, will drive up demand and improve the state's economy through increased productivity and the availability of raw materials. It is therefore essential to prioritize the rehabilitation of the meat and fish, agriculture, and livestock sectors, which are the mainstay of the region's economy.

By expediting the rehabilitation efforts, Rakhine State can recover from the devastating effects of Cyclone Mocha. The restoration of infrastructure, repair of damaged structures, and revitalization of agriculture and livestock activities will contribute to the economic stability and prosperity of the affected areas. Additionally, supporting MSMEs and facilitating access to loans will further boost production and promote affordability for consumers. With concerted efforts, Rakhine State can emerge stronger and more resilient in the aftermath of the cyclonic storm.

Rainy Season: Unlocking Business Opportunities Amidst Nature's Deluge

By AUGUSTIN

The rainy season has set in

The rainy season is a time of rejuvenation and transformation that brings a range of emotions and experiences.

When the skies darken and the first raindrops fall, a sense of anticipation fills the air. People undergo a remarkable change as dry landscapes are refreshed by the rain, and nature seems to wake up.

We can explore the beautiful aspects, soothing sounds, and significant impact of the rainy season. From the comforting sound of raindrops on windows to the vibrant changes in plants and animals, the rainy season holds a special place in our hearts, evoking memories and inspiring reflection.

As the scorching summer sun yields to the ominous monsoon clouds, a refreshing wave of relief sweeps through the air, accompanied by the soothing fragrance of damp earth.

Business opportunities in seasonal transition

This seasonal transition not only brings respite from the heat but also presents a multitude of lucrative opportunities for businesses.

Amidst the downpour, a diverse range of products and services emerge, ready to be embraced by savvy entrepreneurs seeking to capitalize on the monsoon season.

It could be a great way to make money during the rainy season.

A new set of products for the rainy season is now available for sale, both online and in physical stores. In-person selling, also known as traditional retail, involves selling products or services in physical stores or locations.

Before embarking on any business scheme, it is crucial to conduct thorough market research. The scheme will fail from the beginning due to a lack of market research. This process helps in gaining insights into the local demand, competition, and consumer preferences.

By understanding these factors, you can assess the viability and potential profitability of your business goal. Market research serves as a foundation for mak-

ing informed decisions and setting realistic expectations for your venture.

Here, I've compiled a suggestion of the best products to sell during raining season – let's dive in.

Free flow of human and vehicular traffic will be hampered because of the flood that follows the rain and most businesses will

waterproof footwear, and accessories like waterproof bags and covers, has increased due to higher rainfall.

The rainy season offers abundant business opportunities by catering to customers' specific needs during this wet and humid period. Umbrellas are a highly sought-after product, providing essential

unofficial national dish), Laphet Thoke (Myanmar tea leaf salad or pickled tea salad), Shan Khao Swe (Shan ethnic noodle), Mala Hin (a vegetarian meal with tofu, beans, rice noodles, peas, kailan, carrots, and seasonal vegetables), Myanmar Style BBQ, Pepyoke Nanhya (beans and naan bread), tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and pa-



GrabFood, a popular food delivery service, is primarily available in Southeast Asia. Grab accounted for 54 per cent of the region's food delivery gross market value last year, followed by rivals Foodpanda at 19 per cent and Gojek at 12 per cent, based on estimates by Momentum Works. Photo shows a Grab food delivery driver in Singapore. **PHOTO: KYODO**

run at a low ebb because of the restricted movement of customers.

Despite all this, some business minded people will often see this season as an opportunity to make money. Individuals who earn money through honest and diligent work typically display qualities such as reliability, professionalism, and a strong work ethic.

What will it profit you?

To tap into this rainy season market, you can sell these items through various channels, such as physical stores, online marketplaces, or by setting up temporary rain gear kiosks in busy areas.

To make money during the rainy season, you can consider offering products or services that cater to the needs and preferences of people during this time.

The demand for rain gear, including umbrellas, raincoats,

rain protection. Sellers can offer a variety of designs, from basic to stylish options, generating substantial profits.

Raincoats and rubber boots are in high demand for outdoor rain protection. Entrepreneurs can tap into this market by offering a range of rainwear options. Tarpaulins shield belongings from rain damage, and vehicle covers experience a surge in demand during the rainy season.

Mosquito nets are another profitable product as stagnant rainwater breeds mosquitoes. Customers actively seek protection from disease-spreading bites, making mosquito repellent products valuable additions to sellers' offerings.

Establishing shops near corporate firms or in strategic locations to sell hot drinks and snacks, such as Mohinga (Myanmar's

koras, can be a lucrative venture. Alternatively, online businesses can deliver freshly cooked hot items, eliminating the need for a physical shop.

During the rainy season, when people tend to spend more time indoors, there is an opportunity to cater to their entertainment needs. You can take advantage of this by providing indoor entertainment options like board games, puzzles, video games, board games, captivating books and organizing activities such as movie nights, game nights, or workshops.

Patrons arrive at your exquisite restaurant, only to find themselves caught in a sudden downpour outside. As they seek shelter within your cosy establishment, you unveil a delightful array of entertainment options to keep them thoroughly engaged.

Additionally, considering set-

ting up or renting out indoor play areas specifically designed for children can be a lucrative venture.

Services suitable for the rainy season

During the rainy season, homes may face challenges like leaks, dampness, and mould growth. This presents an opportunity to provide valuable home maintenance and repair services. Offering solutions such as waterproofing, roofing repairs, and mould remediation can be a profitable venture during this period of increased demand.

Waterproofing services are in high demand to address leaks and water seepage issues. Entrepreneurs can offer solutions for homes, offices, and other locations with minimal investment.

Heavy rains often lead people to prefer staying at home. You can take advantage of this by offering food delivery services that provide warm and comforting meals.

One of the most in-demand businesses during the rainy season is food delivery. People tend to not go out of their homes and prefer food delivered to their doorsteps. If you have the necessary resources, consider starting your own home-based food delivery business.

Additionally, setting up a small stall or mobile cart in busy areas where you sell hot beverages like coffee, tea, or hot chocolate can be a profitable opportunity.

Despite the rainy season, some individuals still venture out, particularly to destinations renowned for their natural beauty during this time. If you find yourself in an area with appealing rain-related tourism opportunities like waterfalls, hiking trails, or scenic drives, you can capitalize on this by offering travel and tourism services tailored to cater to these visitors.

Due to limitations on outdoor activities during the rainy season, there is a demand for indoor fitness classes, yoga sessions, and wellness services such as massages or spa treatments. To tap into this market, you can consider

offering these services in a dedicated space or collaborating with existing fitness centres or wellness facilities. This provides an opportunity to cater to individuals seeking indoor wellness and fitness options during the rainy season.

Pest control services become crucial as rainwater washes away pests' shelters. Entrepreneurs can provide pest control solutions with proper knowledge and resources.

Mobile car wash services thrive due to dirtier cars caused by muddy roads and heavy rain. This business requires minimal capital and offers convenience to car owners.

Laundry services cater to the challenges of drying clothes during the humid rainy season, benefiting areas with many paying guests or students.

Pick-up services for stranded individuals and expanded delivery options serve customers' needs. Individuals with vehicles can provide timely services along their routes.

Unlocking Business Opportunities

In conclusion, let us embrace the rainy season as a season of growth and possibilities, where innovative business ideas can bloom and flourish. With careful planning, market research, and a keen understanding of customer needs, entrepreneurs can make the most of this rainy season and unlock new heights of success in their ventures. So, let's embrace the rain and embark on a journey of profitable and fulfilling business endeavours during this captivating time of year.

Identifying and meeting these needs can lead to significant profits and success during the rainy season. The rainy season serves as a canvas upon which entrepreneurial visions can come to life. By recognizing the needs and preferences that arise amidst nature's deluge, businesses can unlock a world of untapped potential and create ventures that not only thrive but also leave a lasting impact. ■

US approves lab-grown chicken for sale

THE United States has granted its first ever approvals to two companies to sell chicken grown directly from animal cells, becoming only the second country to allow lab-grown meat to be offered to consumers.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved food safety systems at facilities of Upside Foods and Good Meat, a spokesperson for the agency told AFP Wednesday, with the companies adding the products would be available soon at select restaurants.

Both Upside Foods and Good Meat were cleared on safety grounds by the Food and Drug Administration in November, and the USDA last week reviewed and approved their product labels to ensure they were not misleading.

"This approval will fundamentally change how meat makes it to our table," said Uma Valeti, CEO and founder of Upside Foods, in a statement.

"It's a giant step forward towards a more sustainable future — one that preserves choice and life." Josh Tetrick, CEO of Good Meat, the cell-cultured food division of Eat Just, added its "cultivated meat" was now "approved to sell to consumers in the world's largest economy".

Producing the meat in large, high-quality volumes is expensive. But, following approval, Upside processed its first order, placed by three-Michelin-star Chef Dominique Crenn in San Francisco.

SOURCE: AFP

Good Meat, meanwhile, started production of its first batch that will be sold to celebrity chef and philanthropist Jose Andres.

Andres will sell the product at a yet-to-be-revealed restaurant in the capital Washington.

Several start-ups are aiming to produce the so-called lab-grown meat, which would allow humans to consume animal protein without the associated environmental harms of farming or animal suffering.

The products differ from plant-based substitutes such as soy burgers that mimic the texture and flavor of meat but do not contain any animal protein.

Eat Just was the first to receive authorization to make artificial meat, in Singapore in 2020. While succeeding in the general lab-meat market has proven complicated, some companies have set their sights on pet food, whose consumers are less picky. Bond Pet Foods, a Colorado start-up, is creating animal protein from a microbial fermentation process to feed dogs.

Eco-friendly? Perhaps not

Lab-grown meat involves first harvesting cells from a living animal or a fertilized egg, to establish a cell bank that can be kept for decades in deep freeze. They are then cultivated in steel tanks where they are fed nutrients similar to what animals would eat.



Some of the large cultivator tanks where meat is grown from meat cells, not from animal bodies. **PHOTO: UPSIDE FOODS**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Level-2 fire outbreak at Hteinbin dump

THE Fire Services Department (FSD) announced that a fire broke out at the Hteinbin garbage dump in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon, at 10:45 am on 22 June.

The fire brigade classified the fire as Level 2, and it was extinguished at noon. According to the Fire Department's report, a fire that started when chemicals were being disposed of in the landfill destroyed two cranes and one 16-wheeler truck, and two firemen suffered suffocation due to chemical fumes.

There was also a fire at the dump in 2008, and it had to wait for the fire to be put out for a week. The news reports then said that four out of 16 patients with smoke inhalation in Ward 20 of Hlinethaya Township died of asphyxiation.

Vehicles from the Yangon City Development Committee transport around 1,350 tonnes of waste in Yangon to the Hteinbin dump, about 1,100 tonnes to the Dawei Chaung dump, approximately 25 tonnes to the Dala disposal site, and around eight tonnes to the Seikkyi/Khanaungto landfill on a daily basis. — TWA/CT



The fire brigade is seen extinguishing the fire at the Hteinbin dump site.



An exhibit being displayed at the General Aung San Museum (Yangon).

General Aung San Museum to be temporarily closed to make preparations before Martyr's Day

THE General Aung San Museum (Yangon) will be temporarily closed from 27 June to 18 July in order to make preparations for the 76th Martyr's Day commemorative exhibition, according to the Department of Archeology and National Museum.

On Martyrs' Day on 19 July, the General Aung San Museum (Yangon) and the General Aung San's House Museum (Natmauk) will be opened to the public as in previous years.

On Martyr's Day last year, General Aung San's personal belongings, paintings depicting his life, postage stamps and bank notes bearing General Aung San's picture, his speeches and horoscope were displayed at the General Aung San Museum (Yangon) as a special exhibition. — TWA/MKKS

Biometric information to be collected simultaneously in 45 townships of Yangon Region

BIOMETRIC information will be collected simultaneously in 45 townships of the Yangon Region, the Yangon Region chief minister said at the opening of the training course on how to use the Biometric Enrollment and UID Management System of the Yangon Region Immigration and Population Department on 20 June.

The collection of biometric information, which is a basic and vital system for the e-Government process to convert the digital system in accordance with international standards, will be done in 45 townships in Yangon Region at the same time. It will be conducted by dividing civil servants and their family members, students aged 10 years and above, prisoners in jails and prisons, private banking and financial services, workers in factories and workshops, nuns, monks, and members of other religious orders into six targeted groups.

The chief minister said that the e-ID system is a system that collects the information of individuals living in the country and maintains it in a database, and it will continue to issue National IDs electronically to all citizens under the law. — TWA/CT



The process of getting information into practice is seen in the training course on how to use the Biometric Enrollment and UID Management systems.

Myawady, Tachilek border trade tops US\$200 mln in May

THE value of trade through the Myawady and Tachilek border points with the neighbouring country Thailand totalled US\$205.13 million in May 2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Trade via the Myawady border amounted to \$186.751 million with exports worth \$57.691 million and imports worth \$129.06 million.

The overall trade figures showed a sharp drop of \$53.395 million compared to that in the corresponding period last year, with a sharp drop of \$59.585 million in exports and an increase of \$6.19 million in imports.

Despite the rise in the mineral export group, the exports



The photo shows a dozen of trucks on the Tachilek border.

in agricultural products, livestock products, manufacturing and other groups declined, while there was a decrease in consumer goods imports, yet there was an increase in

imports of intermediate goods and capital goods last month via the Myawady border.

Nonetheless, the trade value via the Myawady border in May 2023 was up by \$79.806 million from that of April, with an increase of \$25.077 million in exports and \$54.729 million in imports.

Last month, the trade value through the Tachilek border reached \$18.379 million, including exports worth \$9.201 million and imports valued at \$9.178 million. Tachilek border achieved 12.53 per cent of the trade target. The figures showed a decrease of \$2.256 million in exports and \$0.685 million compared to those registered in the corresponding period last year.

The export values were up by \$0.012 million in forest products, \$0.184 million in minerals, \$0.519 million in fishery products and \$0.004 million in manufacturing. Exports of Agricultural groups showed a decline of \$2.973 million and other groups indicated a small drop of \$0.002 million.

Meanwhile, imports in capital goods were up by \$0.716 million. However, the import values fell by \$1.203 million in intermediate goods and \$0.198 million in consumer goods.

Trade value increased by \$6.735 million through the Tachilek border compared to that of April 2023. — TWA/EM

HEALTH/WELLNESS:
WORLD

China steps up efforts to prevent mpox spread

CHINA is redoubling its efforts to prevent the spread of the mpox disease, as a growing number of cases have been reported in certain parts of Asia and a few cases were found in Chinese cities including Beijing and Guangzhou, a health official said Tuesday.

In a bid to detect patients as early as possible, the coun-

try has been building a mpox monitoring and early warning system, with a particular focus on the protection of key groups, said Shi Guoqing, an official with the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

Efforts have been made in areas such as health monitoring of inbound travellers,

epidemiological investigation for suspected cases, sample collection and laboratory testing, among others, according to Shi.

The mpox disease no longer represents a global health emergency, but the threat of its resurgence remains, the World Health Organization said last month. — Xinhua



A pharmacist prepares a dose of mpox vaccine at a pop-up clinic in West Hollywood, California, in August 2022. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

‘Just the beginning’: US anti-abortion camp expands fight



A model of human embryos during the early stages of pregnancy is displayed at a pregnancy crisis centre run by the Christian faith-based non-profit WellSpring Life Ministry in Severna Park, Maryland, on 13 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

ACTIVIST Lydia Heykamp goes door-to-door in a quiet Virginia suburb with a pressing message: now that the constitutional right to abortion has been overturned, the state must ban it outright.

The 23-year-old is part of a new offensive in America’s anti-abortion movement, as it pivots from the national stage following last year’s Supreme Court decision ending the constitutional

right to a termination.

“I was ecstatic,” Heykamp told AFP. But, she says, “that was just the beginning.” “I don’t think I could stay silent and sit on the sidelines.” In overturning Roe v. Wade, the court placed reproductive rights in the hands of individual US states: some quickly banned the procedure, but others moved to protect it.

“The movement is still pret-

ty far away from what it wants, which is a nationwide ban on abortion,” said Mary Ziegler, a law professor at the University of California, Davis, who studies reproductive politics. In a country where the majority believe abortion should be legal in most cases, activists such as Heykamp have refocused their efforts on state legislatures, courts and local communities. — AFP

Healthcare heavily hit by Sudan fighting: WHO

AROUND two-thirds of the healthcare facilities in areas hit by the fighting in Sudan are out of service, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

The WHO said around 11 million people needed health assistance and voiced concerns about attempts to control ongoing epidemics of measles, malaria and dengue.

“About two-thirds of health facilities in affected areas are out of service,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference in Geneva.

“Repeated attacks on health facilities, medical warehouses, ambulances and

health workers are preventing patients and health workers from reaching hospitals.”

The WHO has verified 46 attacks on healthcare since the start of the fighting.

Since 15 April the army, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has been battling the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, after the two fell out in a power struggle.

Renewed artillery exchanges rocked greater Khartoum Wednesday as the warring generals resumed fighting just minutes after the latest US- and Saudi-brokered ceasefire expired. — AFP



A closed medical centre in southern Khartoum on 8 May 2023 as fighting continues between Sudan’s army and the paramilitary forces. **PHOTO: AFP**

Four in critical condition after Paris building blast

AN explosion potentially caused by a gas leak ripped through a building in central Paris on Wednesday, leaving four people fighting for their lives and causing a wave of destruction,

officials said.

Rescue workers were in the evening still searching the rubble for two missing individuals who had not been accounted for, according to French Interi-

or Minister Gerald Darmanin.

He told reporters at the scene that four seriously injured victims were in a life-threatening condition, while 33 others had sustained lesser injuries.

The blast was followed by a major fire which caused the building, housing a fashion school, to collapse in a historic district of the French capital.

Images showed wreckage

littering the area around the building, as the flames smouldered. Some 70 fire trucks and 270 firefighters battled the blaze. Nine doctors were also at the scene. — AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

France says Macron hopes to attend BRICS summit

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron hopes to attend a BRICS summit scheduled for August, his foreign minister said Tuesday, a meeting to which Russian leader Vladimir Putin has been invited.

Foreign minister Catherine Colonna said she had informed summit hosts South Africa Pretoria of Macron's "interest" in attending as an observer at the summit of a bloc which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"I informed my counterpart... of the President's availability and interest in pursuing dialogue that



South Africa will host the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China at the 15th BRICS Summit from 22 to 24 August 2023. The BRICS group brings together some 3.2 billion people. PHOTO: VCG/AFP

France maintains with the BRICS," Colonna said in response to a journalist's question during a visit to South Africa.

It is not common for

other foreign leaders to attend the bloc's meetings.

Macron's summit attendance "if it were to happen would be an innovation to the model of

BRICS participation that we've had up to this time," said South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor on Monday, adding that the decision on who gets invited lies with President Cyril Ramaphosa who is the current BRICS chairman.

Colonna said that such an invitation would have to be "in full respect of international law", in reference to the possible attendance of Putin.

The Russian leader has been invited to summit of the group that was created as a counterbalance to a western dominated international order. — AFP

High UK inflation piles pressure on Bank of England

BRITAIN'S annual inflation rate unexpectedly remained at 8.7 per cent in May, official data showed Wednesday, piling pressure on the Bank of England and government to act over soaring prices.

Markets had forecast a drop from April's level, while the BoE was already widely expected to raise interest rates again Thursday to combat an inflation rate which is the highest among G7 nations.

The latest data is a blow also for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who has made cutting inflation a priority for his Conservative government heading into a general election next year.

UK inflation had been expected to cool to 8.4 per cent last month while core inflation, which strips out food and energy costs, un-

expectedly jumped to 7.1 per cent in May.

"These numbers warn that inflationary pressures in the UK are not under control and call for further rate hikes which will further squeeze the British households," noted Ipek Ozkardeska, senior analyst at Swissquote Bank.

The BoE has already lifted borrowing costs to a 15-year high at 4.5 per cent in a bid to cool inflation.

This is set to rise further Thursday following a regular policy meeting in what would be the central bank's 13th rate increase in a row. "We know how much high inflation hurts families and businesses across the country," finance minister Jeremy Hunt said following the latest consumer prices index data. — AFP

Crypto a 'flawed system': BIS



This 27 January 2020 photo, shows a physical imitation of a bitcoin in Dortmund, western Germany. PHOTO: INA FASSBENDER / AFP / FILE

THE Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said Tuesday that decen-

tralised cryptocurrencies are a "flawed system" and instead supported the de-

velopment of a centralized alternative.

The BIS, regarded as the central bank of central banks, backed "tokenization" or the conversion of money and other assets into digital tokens that can be traded on programmable platforms, saying it offers the promise of a "major leap" in the financial system.

Central banks and regulators have mostly been sceptical if not downright hostile to cryptocurrencies, which were

developed using digital blockchains, a technology that allowed for decentralised management of trad-

ing assets. Proponents of the technology lauded its decentralised structure and often anonymous transactions that took control out of the hands of government institutions like central banks.

But central banks have begun to test the waters of the technology, with the BIS taking a leading role. — AFP



A sign displays the price in pound sterling of food goods, including cucumbers, at a fruit and vegetable market in stall east London on 31 March 2023. PHOTO: SUSANNAH IRELAND / AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY.NO. (205N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (205N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HAIAN LINK VOY.NO. (0UV2EE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HAIAN LINK VOY.NO. (0UV2EE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA CGM ASIA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KYRI BAY VOY.NO. (202300183)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KYRI BAY VOY.NO. (202300183)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-6** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Netflix CEO says \$2.5 bln investment an ‘opportunity’ for S Korea

NETFLIX’S \$2.5 billion investment in South Korea is an “opportunity” for local business, the streaming giant’s CEO said Thursday, as he played down a dispute with local internet companies over network usage.

South Korea is one of Netflix’s biggest suppliers of television series and films, and boss Ted Sarandos said it was “investing for the long term” in the country, which has given the company global hits Squid Game and The Glory. Outlining how the \$2.5 billion — announced

in April in Washington while Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was on a state visit — would be spent, Sarandos praised the “amazing partnership between the Korean creative community and Netflix”. “But I believe we’re just scratching the surface of what’s possible,” he added, vowing to invest heavily in training South Korea’s next generation of storytellers, in addition to boosting funding for original shows.

“We have to invest in their talent collectively as an industry. Between 2022 and 2025, for example, one in five Netflix titles in Korea will have come from a first-time writer or director,” he said. — AFP



Fans hail ‘dark’ storyline as new Final Fantasy title released

THE eagerly awaited new game in the best-selling Final Fantasy franchise came out on Thursday, with fans hailing its high-spec action graphics and grown-up storyline.

“Final Fantasy XVI”, the latest title in the long-running Japanese series, was released on the PlayStation 5 and is expected to boost sales of the Sony console, analysts said.



The eagerly awaited new game in the best-selling Final Fantasy franchise came out on Thursday, with fans hailing its high-spec action graphics and grown-up storyline. PHOTO: AFP

Producer Naoki Yoshida has cited US television megahit “Game of Thrones” as inspiration for the game, an expansive tale of magical monsters controlled by warring factions. Violent fights and sex scenes feature alongside classic franchise tropes including missions to find crystals and cute running birds ridden by the characters.

In Tokyo, 37-year-old Naoto Nishimori, who stopped to pick up a copy

on his way to work, said he has played every game in the influential role-playing series.

He was happy when he heard that Yoshida — renowned for reviving the popular online title Final Fantasy XIV — had been picked to produce the new game. “I saw that and my hopes for this really went up. I have been really looking forward to this one,” he told AFP.

Yuan, a 21-year-old student who declined to give his surname, said he was attracted by the game’s storyline, which has a “darkness” that makes it “uniquely appealing”.

Final Fantasy is one of the world’s top-selling game franchises, with more than 173 million copies sold globally according to publisher Square Enix. — AFP

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 / Qtty 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

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Shwe Halofop	Shwe Sapar Paung Shin	Cyhalofop - Butyl 18% EC	Full	F 2021-3076

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address : Golden Key Co., Ltd.
No. 258/262, STRAND ROAD, 11th FLOOR,
CLASSIC STRAND CONDO, PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON, MYANMAR.
PH: 01371629

MYANMA Port Authority “NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.14 feet to 20.37 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of July 4th to July 7th, 2023. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Ads

TradeMark

Call

09251022355

09974424848

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, **OMO Family Co.Ltd** would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by **Pilarquim (Shanghai) Co.,Ltd** to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor **Marga Min Co.Ltd**. If any objection 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.

OMO FAMILY CO.LTD – 09-975798445

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of pesticide	Registration No.
1.	Pilar GA3 TB	Gibberellic acid 10% w/w	PGR	F2018-1632
2.	Pilarcyper	Cypermethrin 10% EC	Insecticide	F2015-512
3.	Pilar-Player	Difenoconazole 25% w/v EC	Fungicide	P2020-4814
4.	Pilar-Transmitter	Azoxystrobin	Fungicide	P2020-4880

India-US partnership will serve as driving engine for sustainable, inclusive global growth: PM Modi



Addressing the ‘Skilling for Future’ event at the National Science Foundation, PM Modi emphasised the need to nurture a pipeline of talent to sustain the growth momentum between the two countries. **PHOTO: ANI**

INDIA and the United States partnership will serve as the driving engine behind sustainable and inclusive global growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

Addressing the ‘Skilling for Future’ event at the National Science Foundation, PM Modi emphasized the need to nurture a pipeline of talent to sustain the growth momentum between the

two countries. “To maintain growth momentum, India and the US need a pipeline of talent. On the one hand, the US has top-class educational institutions and advanced technologies. On the other hand, India has the world’s biggest youth factory. That is why, I believe that the India-US partnership will prove to be the engine of sustainable and inclusive global growth,” PM Modi at the National Science Foundation in Alexandria, Virginia in the US.

Earlier on Wednesday, PM Modi arrived in Washington DC and received a ceremonial welcome as well as a Guard of Honour at the airbase. PM Modi will, later on, attend the state dinner to which he was invited by US President Joe Biden and the first lady.— ANI

Ireland’s debate on neutrality derailed by anti-NATO protest



Ireland has a long-standing policy of military neutrality. **PHOTO: AFP**

A public debate on Ireland’s international security policy, including its long-standing military neutrality, was disrupted by an anti-NATO demonstration in its opening session on Thursday. Protesters shouted “No to NATO” and unfurled a red banner reading “NATO wars

millions dead” moments before an address by foreign minister Micheal Martin at University College Cork. The consultation, which ends next Tuesday, follows the decision by previously non-aligned Finland and Sweden to reappraise decades of neutrality

in the face of Kremlin aggression. But the debate in Ireland over pursuing NATO membership has stoked passions and threatened to divert the course followed by successive governments since the outbreak of World War II. — AFP

Seven ASEAN Countries Join – Thai-Myanmar Talks a Success

CK Nayak-Press Association (India)

DESPITE the absence of three ASEAN countries, talks with the Myanmar Government initiated by Thailand were a “success” and participated by as many as nine countries including India and China, Thai media reports said. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand Don Pramudwinai held unofficial talks with some foreign ministers of ASEAN countries as well as Than Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Myanmar Government in Thailand on 19 June. In response to criticism that the caretaker government should wait for the new government to address the issue, Don said he cannot wait until the new government is in power. If there is an opportunity, everyone should contribute to addressing the issue as soon as possible. There must be constant discussions even if it is exhausting. We have to look after the interests of the country, he said. Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia did not attend. Both India and China sent representatives. In total nine countries participated, seven of them are ASEAN Members, one news agency reported.

Caretaker Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha said his government was not siding with any countries. He also defended Don’s action on Myanmar and rejected criticism that the caretaker government should not make such a move, even if some ASEAN foreign ministers oppose participation. The public sees that this could have an impact on the perception of ASEAN’s image and credibility. This matter is about finding a solution within ASEAN and it is necessary that we have talks. In the past, we all looked at different perspectives. We need to put ourselves in an appropriate position. In the past, we have followed our policy, which is to fully comply with the internal ASEAN resolutions on Myanmar. But if we look at it from a different angle, we would be more affected than others or not,” said Gen Prayut. PM Gen Prayut said that Thailand shares a long land border of over 3,000 kilometres with Myanmar and also has maritime boundaries. There is cross-border trade worth billions of dollars each year, and some gas and oil resources come from Myanmar. These matters need to be discussed, taking into account what Thailand has to lose, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ukrainian strike hits Crimea bridge

A Ukrainian strike damaged a bridge that connects south Ukraine to the annexed Crimean peninsula, a Russian official said on Thursday as tensions again rose over a Moscow-held nuclear power plant. Fighting has increased in occupied parts of Ukraine’s south and east with the start of Kyiv’s long-awaited offensive and that has included strikes far behind enemy lines. “During the night a strike hit the Chongar bridge. There are no victims,” Sergei Aksyonov, the Russia-installed governor of Crimea, said on Telegram. The bridge connects Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, to a part of the Ukrainian region of Kherson that is held by Moscow. — AFP

China-France ties have global significance, China ready to expand two-way opening-up — Chinese premier

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang said Wednesday that France, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a major country with an independent spirit, is a comprehensive strategic partner of China, and China-France relations have maintained a high level of development and always carried global significance that goes far beyond the bilateral scope.

In April this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron reached a series of strategic consensus, outlining a beautiful blueprint for China-France comprehensive strategic partnership and pointing out the direction for China-France cooperation at bilateral, China-Europe and global levels, Li said upon his arrival in Paris for an official visit to France.

The premier said China is ready to work with France to expand two-way opening-up,



Chinese Premier Li Qiang arrives at the Paris Orly Airport in Paris, France, on 21 June 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

build more resilient industrial and supply chains between

China and France and between China and Europe, deepen peo-

ple-to-people exchanges and mutual learning, and jointly ad-

dress global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development, so as to inject new impetus into the sustained, sound and steady growth of China-France relations, and inject more confidence and strength into world peace, stability and development.

China is ready to work with France to turn the blueprint for the development of China-France relations drawn up by the two countries' heads of state into working plans and reality, Li said.

At the invitation of the French government, Li arrived at Paris Orly Airport on Wednesday afternoon by chartered plane to pay an official visit to France and attend the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact. State Councilor and Secretary-General of the State Council Wu Zhenglong, among other accompanying officials, arrived on the same plane. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pentagon leak suspect pleads not guilty

JACK Teixeira, the US airman accused of leaking top secret Pentagon documents in an online chat forum, pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges that could send him to prison for decades.

The 21-year-old Massachusetts Air National Guard IT specialist was arrested in April for allegedly orchestrating the most damaging leak of US classified documents in a decade.

He is facing six counts of retaining and transmitting national defence information. They each carry sentences of up to 10 years in prison. Teixeira appeared before Magistrate Judge David Hennessy in Worcester, Massachusetts, on Wednesday and entered a plea of not guilty to each of the charges, according to court documents.

His lawyer asked that Teixeira be released pending trial but the judge denied the request.

Teixeira is suspected of posting the documents — some dated as recently as early March — to a private chat group on the social media platform Discord. Some of the files later appeared on other sites, including Twitter, 4Chan and Telegram. —AFP

Britain's National Portrait Gallery reopens after 3-year renovation

THE National Portrait Gallery in London reopened to the public on Thursday following a three-year closure for renovation, seeking to make its updated collection more "representative" of modern Britain. An exhibition of previously unseen photographs by Paul McCartney is set to go on display following the refurbishment, which cost £41.3 million (\$52.8 million) and saw the creation of public spaces, a new visitor entrance and a learning centre.

The gallery also sought to "readdress the balance of what we show, to make it more inclusive and representative of Brit-



Catherine, Princess of Wales, attended the reopening of the National Portrait Gallery on 20 June. PHOTO: PAUL GROVER / POOL/AFP

ain today," chief curator Alison Smith said. She said that previously there were more portraits

of men than women and now "48 per cent of the works on display are female sitters". — AFP

Outrage boils year after deadly Spain-Morocco border crush

THE death of at least 23 migrants during an attempt to cross into Spain's North African enclave of Melilla from Morocco one year ago prompted an outcry over police actions, but advocates say no-one has been held responsible.

Some 2,000 migrants —

many from conflict-torn Sudan — stormed the metres-high fence that seals off Melilla from Morocco on 24 June 2022, and clashed with border officers, according to Spanish authorities.

Despite the clamour over the way Moroccan and Spanish police

repelled them, no authorities in either country have been officially accused of wrongdoing.

"There is total impunity," Miguel Urban Crespo, a far-left Spanish member of the European parliament who has pushed for greater accountability in the

case, told AFP.

"It's a terrible precedent for Europe, for Spain." The death toll from last year's tragedy — at least 23 according to Morocco, at least 37 according to Amnesty and independent experts — was the worst in years of attempted

migrant crossings into Melilla.

At least 76 other migrants were missing, according to rights groups. Morocco said some migrants died after falling from the fence while others suffocated as people panicked and a stampede started. — AFP

China-France ties have global significance, China ready to expand two-way opening-up — Chinese premier



SPORT

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.

Myanmar face India in Group E of AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers

MYANMAR futsal team is included in Group E of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers with India, according to the drawing-lots ceremony held for the tourney.

Team Myanmar is placed in Group E along with India, Kyrgyzstan, and Palestine.

In the qualifiers, 31 teams are divided into

four groups of seven teams and one group of three teams totalling eight groups.

Myanmar national futsal team head coach Mr Bunlert Charoenwong expressed his feeling about the situation that came out of the drawing-lots ceremony.

"I am satisfied with the results of the group division. But all the countries are playing futsal well and have strong teams, so I cannot take it lightly. We will prepare the team to the best of our ability," the head coach said.

The futsal qualifiers will be held in the first week of October, and the Myanmar national futsal team has been training since 19 June, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

— KZL



Olympic chief criticizes Ukraine for 'sanctioning' its own athletes

OLYMPIC chief Thomas Bach on Thursday criticized the Ukrainian government for "sanctioning" its own athletes by not allowing them to compete in recent global competitions.

Athletes from Russia and Belarus have faced sanctions from a multitude of sports since Russia invaded Ukraine in February last year.

As Moscow's assault on Ukraine stretches into a second year, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended allowing athletes from Russia and Moscow ally Belarus to compete as individual neutrals in international com-

petitions.

Their presence has led to boycotts by Ukrainian athletes.

"At the respective judo and taekwondo championships, the Ukrainian athletes were absent," Bach said in a speech to the 140th IOC Session in Lausanne.

"Why? Because they had not been allowed to participate following the instructions of the Ukrainian sports ministry. In other words, the Ukrainian athletes are being sanctioned by their own government for the war that has been started by the Russian and Belarusian governments." — AFP

Man City's Gundogan set to join Barcelona: reports

MANCHESTER City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan is set to leave the treble winners to join Barcelona on a free transfer, according to reports on Wednesday.

Gundogan is believed to have been offered a three-year deal by Barcelona and is expected to complete his move to the Spanish champions when his City contract expires at the end of June.

City were reported to have been willing to give their 32-year-old captain a new one-year contract with the option of a further 12 months.

But Gundogan's impending move to the Camp Nou was revealed on the same day City agreed a £30 million (\$38 million) deal to sign Chelsea midfielder Mateo Kovacic.

Kovacic's versatility and experience would help compensate for the loss of the influential Gundogan, whose leadership and knack for scoring crucial goals played a key role in City's success in Pep Guardiola's reign.

Gundogan netted twice in City's FA Cup final victory over Manchester United this season before Guardiola's Premier League champions went on to beat Inter Milan in the Champions League final.

The Germany international played 51 games this term, scoring 11 goals including six in his last seven appearances during the tense treble run-in.

City are only the second English side to win all three major trophies in a single season.

Gundogan will be fondly remembered by City fans as one of the understated touchstones of their club's golden era.

The former Borussia Dortmund midfielder has won five Premier League titles, two FA Cups, four League Cups and the Champions League in his seven years at City. — AFP



Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan is reportedly set to join Barcelona. PHOTO: AFP