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Second amendment to Labour Dispute Law discussed



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on the second amendment to the Settlement of the Labour Dispute Law, which became a disagreement between the two Hluttaws, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U TunTun Hein, deputy chairman, secretary, joint secretary, committee members of the Joint Bill

Committee, chairmen, secretaries and members of the Pyithu Hluttaw's Farmer and Worker Affairs committee and Amyotha Hluttaw's Local and Oversea Employment Committee, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Com-

mission members, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Office of the Union Attorney-General, and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Workshop on Complaints Mechanism held in Nay Pyi Taw

A WORKSHOP on National Complaints Mechanism kicked off yesterday morning, at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, with an opening address by Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population.

The workshop was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the International Labour Organization (ILO). It aims at elimination of forced labour and establishing a National Complaints Mechanism in Myanmar.

In his opening speech, Union Minister U Thein Swe said that the workshop was held with the aim of eliminating forced labour and establishing a mechanism in a way that befits Myanmar.

In an effort to eliminate forced labour, Myanmar signed an MoU with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002 and appointed a liaison

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Complaint lodged against illegal fishing near Taninthayi Coast

Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD)

The Fisheries Department has formed a committee to take action against illegal fishing by trawlers near Taninthayi coast, following a complaint lodged by

an MP.

The move came after a meeting of MPs, officials from the Fisheries Department, and local fishery businessmen on 14 December in Myeik about illegal

fishing, which has been hurting traditional fishing by local people.

"The local fishermen are relying on traditional fishing in inshore areas, and they cannot rely on fishing for their livelihood

today due to illegal fishing. They have voiced their concern over illegal commercial fishing by trawlers near Kyunsu Township. The trawlers have been coming from other areas. I have also raised

these concerns before the Hluttaw several times. But, effective action against illegal fishing is yet to be taken," Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Zaw Hein from Kyunsu Township. **SEE PAGE-10**

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Oxford Sayadaw Prof. Dr. Dhammasami delivers a sermon to the congregation at Union Attorney-General Office yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Oxford Sayadaw delivers Mindfulness, Law and Emotion sermon at Union Attorney-General Office

OXFORD Sayadaw Prof. Dr. Dhammasami delivered a sermon titled "Mindfulness, Law and Emotion" and conducted discussions about it at Union Attorney-General Office yesterday morning.

The sermon and discussion was attended by Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, departmental

heads, staffs and devotees. Questions raised by the audience were answered and explained by the Sayadaw.

Next, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and wife and

the audience donated cash and other donations to the Sayadaw and then the audience shared merit for donations made.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment as Permanent Secretary

The Union Government has appointed Director-General U Soe Thein of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, as Permanent Secretary of the same ministry.—■

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First ever EMS training centre opened in Nay Pyi Taw

MYANMAR'S first ever Emergency Medical Services training center was inaugurated at Zabuthiri Township Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said the emergency medical services training center will produce emergency responders for emergency health problems and accident victims, expressing his thanks to those who had strived toward establishing the centre.

America based Suu Foundation and Hong Kong based Prudence Foundation would

jointly provide teaching at the center. Myanmar has a huge number of people who were injured in road and traffic accidents and other emergency mishaps and it is important to conduct emergency first-aid on the spot and to systematically transport the victims to hospital.

According to 2016 figures, 24 per cent of such victims arrived to hospital by ambulances and the ministry bought 55 more ambulances in 2017.

Not only will the teachers of the center teach but advices from the attendees will be

requested to make the curriculum and teaching system more effective, said the Union minister.

Discussions will be held with experts to establish additional EMS Training Centers in Yangon and Mandalay regions.

As it is important to coordinate the first aid and emergency live saving works, emphasis must be made toward establishing a National Ambulance Network by including ambulances from civil society organizations, charity and philanthropic organizations.

Union Minister Dr. Myint

Htwe also urged the Medical Universities to conduct more courses on first aid and emergency live saving than the present. Certificates will be presented to those who finish a course in this training center and arrangements are being made to conduct refresher courses said the Union Minister.

University of Medicine 1 Rector Professor Dr. Zaw Wai Soe then explained about how the training center came about and what training courses will be conducted at the center.

Department of Human Resource for Health Direc-

tor-General Dr. Tin Tin Lay, Department of Food and Drug Administration Director-General Prof. Dr. Khin Zaw and University of Medicine 1 Rector Professor Dr. Zaw Wai Soe cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the training center.

The signboard of the training center was unveiled by Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Tin Tun and Department of Public Health and Medical Services acting Director-General Dr. Soe Oo.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe and departmental officials formally unveil the EMS training center signboard at Zabuthiri Township Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Workshop on Complaints Mechanism held in Nay Pyi Taw

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officer while signing Supplementary Understanding (SU) to establish complaints mechanism with the cooperation of relevant ministries. Myanmar signed an MoU with ILO in 2012, and set up a work committee aiming to carry out the grand strategy for the elimination of Forced Labour and drew up a Labour Affairs committee in 2018, and the project had been updated up to December, 2018.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has played a focal role for ten years to alleviate poverty in Myanmar; as a result, it was found that

the number of complaints has declined. As for the ministry, efforts are being made to eliminate the use of forced labour with the cooperation of ILO. He added that the workshop was held to set up a suitable mechanism for the country. All were urged to take part in sharing their knowledge and experience.

Then Liaison Officer of the ILO (Yangon Office) Mr. Rory Mungoven extended his greetings and all the attendees participated in the discussion. The workshop on Complaints Mechanism will be held till 18 January. —MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe delivers a speech at the workshop on complaints mechanism in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Bago takes steps to fight corruption via accountable administration, businesses



Panelists discuss accountability in different sectors of Myanmar at a workshop in Bago. PHOTO: MNA

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), with technical support from the UN Development Programme (UNDP), held a workshop under the title 'Accountable Administration and Businesses' in Bago yesterday.

Importance of anti-corruption measures

Chief Minister of Bago Region, U Win Thein, delivered a speech at the workshop. He said that in striving for good governance, everyone needs to make changes to become a government administration that has the full trust of the people. He said it is important to be free of corruption and bribery so that a clean government will emerge. He said it is important to adhere to the laid down rules and reg-

ulations with goodwill to dispel the four evils of corruption. He also mentioned it is important to maintain the ethics and integrity of our relevant departments. He said corruption in the modern world is linked to other crimes and is no longer limited to one country or region, but has become an international concern.

We must seize opportunity to combat corruption

Next, ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi delivered a speech. He said it is a rare opportunity for the entire country and its citizens that the ACC is capable of effectively eradicating corruption in accord with the guidelines set by the President. He said decades of corruption have greatly eroded the country's econo-

my, administrative, political and social sectors. Corruption destroys integrity and the integrity of the public who have lived through the decades of corruption is greatly damaged, said U Aung Kyi. He said he hopes the anti-corruption movements headed by ACC does not threaten anyone as this is opportunity to elevate the integrity of the nation, its people, and all its relevant sectors, should not be wasted.

U Aung Kyi said combating corruption instils honesty, accountability, transparency, fairness and inclusiveness within the hearts of all citizens, and these are the basic elements of a democratic administration system and a free and developed livelihood.

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Tatmadaw occupies temporary camp of AA insurgent group

A temporary camp of AA insurgent group located at about 5,000 meter southeast of Thayetpyin Village, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State was occupied by a Tatmadaw column on 16 January.

The Tatmadaw column discovered the temporary camp where about 50 AA insurgents were based. The Tatmadaw column engaged and occupied the temporary camp without any casualties on the Tatmadaw side

and found five dead AA insurgents, a M-22 and M-14 assault rifles and related accessories, 50 one-man foxholes and five two-man foxholes.

Tatmadaw will continue to engage AA insurgent group for regional stability and security, according to a news release from Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



564th ceremony held to donate cash to Shwedagon Pagoda, present certificates

Shwedagon Pagoda Trustee conducted a 564th ceremony to donate cash and present certificates to the donors at Shwedagon Pagoda platform near the old Buddha image hall of southern stairway yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, donors donated cash donation that was accepted by Trustee Board alternating chair and members and in return presented certificates of honors to the donors.

The donors, attendees and Trustee Board members then

took five precepts from Trustee Board Ovadacariya State Sangha Maha Nayaka member, Agga Maha Panita Agga Mahadavasaka Panita, Yangon Region, Bahan Township Nyaungdon Pali Takkatho Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pawara Bivamsa, shared merit, listened to a sermon and concluded the ceremony. A total of 160 donors donated 158 gold plates and cash totaling more than K 1,541 million it is learnt.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Donor family hands over cash donations to a member of Shwedagon Pagoda's Board of Trustees. **PHOTO: MNA**

First Big Bad Wolf book sale kicks off in Yangon

THE Big Bad Wolf Books 2019 — the first such event in Myanmar — kicks off yesterday with over 1 million English books from international distributors up for sale at a discount of 50-90 per cent. The 24-hour, 11-day sales event is held at Myanmar Event Park in Yangon, and will end on 28 January.

“This event is a milestone for Myanmar’s reading community. It will encourage young readers to read English books. Reading makes us productive. The more we read, the more enlightened we become. It also helps boost social interaction skills, knowledge and quality of life,” said U Myo Aung, the organizer of the Big Bad Wolf book sales festival.

“The socio-economic status of the people of our country is undergoing a change. The Big Bad Wolf Books sales event will feature over 1 million unused books. Readers will be able to buy English books at affordable prices at the event,” he said.

The sales festival will have

classics, science fiction, romance and aesthetic novels, comic books, colouring books, toolkits and other books concerned with business, agriculture, health, and cooking. The Big Bad Wolf Book Sale is also known as Asia’s biggest seller of augmented reality (AR) books and is the exclusive seller of Little Hippo AR books.

Little Hippo AR books use AR technology to help children read, play, and learn. They are designed to encourage children to read more by making reading fun.

Over 20,000 types or genres of books will be featured at the event. As the sale will be on 24 hours, students and those who are not free in the daytime will also be able to visit and buy books.

The sale will also have a photo contest. Buyers can participate in the contest on Facebook by adding hashtags #SNAPANDWIN and/or #BIG-BADBOOKHAUL. Winners will be selected on 27 January,



People browse through a children's book booth at the Big Bad Wolf book sale in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

and will be awarded a 76x80 cm bookshelf. More details about the contest are available on the Big Bad Wolf Books MM Facebook page. The Big Bad Wolf Book Sale has partnered with CB Bank, for the first time. CB Bank will be the official bank for the

Yangon sale. All CB Bank card holders will get 5-per-cent cash-back, of up to K10,000, during the book sales event.

In addition, the Big Bad Wolf Book Sale event will also include a Red Readerhood Programme, under which readers can pur-

chase books and donate them at a booth located on the right of the cashier counter. The sale’s organizers will donate the books to 100 community libraries across the country, in cooperation with Save the Library.—GNLM ■ (Translated by EMM)



Ethnic youth excursion group pose for a photo in front of Myanmar Radio and Television building in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ethnic youth excursion group visits MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw on third day

AN ethnic youth excursion group that was in Nay Pyi Taw under the invitation and arrangement of Ministry of Border Affairs continued

their third day of the visit by visiting Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) yesterday morning. The group was accompanied by officials from Progress of Border Areas and National Races De-

partment. Officials from MRTV explained and show the processes of producing, editing and broadcasting news programs. A documentary on ethnic youth excursion group members performing traditional dances was also made.

Later in the afternoon the excursion group visited Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw where offi-

cials provided explanations and responded to questions raised by the excursion group members. From there the excursion group paid homage to Uppatasanti Pagoda and made donations. In the evening the excursion group went to Water Fountain Garden for rest and recreation it is learnt.—MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Deputy Minister for Information receives Yunnan Provincial Party delegation

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun received a delegation led by Mr. Zhao Jin, Member of the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee and Minister of Information of the province (Deputy Minister level of the State), at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed promoting the cooperation and friendship between China and Myanmar, especially in the cultural, business and social sectors through the media sector. – MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, meets with Mr. Zhao Jin of the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee and delegation in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Bago takes steps to fight corruption via accountable

FROM PAGE-3

The ACC works solely to eradicate corruption

Bribery, nepotism, embezzlement, theft, fraud, grafting, extortion, blackmail, influence peddling, abuse of discretion, favoritism, misuse of authority, are just some of the many forms of corruption the ACC is attempting to eradicate, said U Aung Kyi. He said the ACC's actions are done for the purpose of strengthening rightful discipline in accord with a democratic administration system, and are not targeted towards any particular individual or organization.

The World Bank, who works closely with government agencies and public-oriented organizations, defines corruption as: "Corruption is commonly defined as the abuse of public or corporate office for private gain." He said individuals who have received their authority from institutions set up with public motivation, participation, and tax payments, are obliged to perform their duties for benefit of the people. He

said anyone who misuses their authority and position to further the interests of themselves and their superiors may both be convicted of corruption. He said those atop the hierarchy must not only be free of corruption themselves but are required to guide their subordinates to be free from corruption too. He said this is called accountability in administration.

Corruption concerns everyone, not just government

Transparency International (TI), the global anti-corruption coalition, defines corruption as 'the abuse of entrusted power for private gain'. This encompasses businesses, humanitarian work, education institutions, civil society, inheritance, marriage, scholarships, promotions and assignments, and elections. It is important to note, said U Aung Kyi, that corruption is not limited to governments and their related organizations. It extends to private entities, businesses, and civil society, and no one is exempt from the Anti-Corruption Law. He said the best way to combat corruption

is to set up rules and guidelines to stymie it. U Aung Kyi said they have issued a reference framework for businesses to develop anti-corruption guidelines in Notification No. 14/2018. He said this is a foundation to enable businesses to upgrade to international ISO 37001 in the future. He said the ACC hopes to see a decrease in corruption towards the end of 2019 if the role of accountability in business and other administrative positions is elevated. He said they have received approval from the Office of the President for their action plans for 2019 in implementing the Strategic Plan against Corruption (2018-2021).

Cause of corruption in Myanmar

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi said the systematic corruption in Myanmar has at least three aspects to it: (1) there are corrupt officials in government and public organizations, (2) the people are engaging in bribery because there is no other alternative and it has become the norm, (3) those in authority have not been as account-

able as they should have been in addressing issues of corruption. This being the case, institutional leaders first need to exercise their authority in combating corruption, said U Aung Kyi. He said they must then accurately calculate the cost of corruption.

U Aung Kyi said corruption should not be measured by the sum of money involved, but rather by the scale of impact and losses it brought upon the nation and the people. He urged all institutional leaders to seize any opportunities to eliminate corruption and take full accountability in line with the Union government's strong political spirit.

Next on the agenda

Next, Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet gave a presentation under the topic of mutual accountability, covering anti-corruption measures, setting interrelated policies for anti-corruption among government, private and humanitarian organizations, and designing regional action plans.

The ACC Chairman and Bago Region Chief Minister then took a documentary photograph together with the attendees.

Workshop commences

The workshop then commenced with ACC member U Aung Than Myint discussing under the topic 'Anti-corruption efforts of the Commission', Bago Region minister for planning and finance U Nyunt Shwe and Dr. Tin Maung Than (Tint Ba Wa) on 'An accountable administrative sector', Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization Director-General U Aung Soe on 'Accountable administration for businesses', a representative from Media Press Council on 'Accountable media sector', a representative from UMFCI and one from MCRB on 'Accountable business sector', a local entrepreneur on 'Accountable entrepreneurship', and a representative from a civil service organization on 'Accountable CSO sector'. The afternoon part of the workshop held a Q&A session. The regional Chief Minister then evaluated the results of the discussions. Attending the workshop were ACC members, heads of departments from Bago Region and UNDP, CSOs, entrepreneurs, and members of the media. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Villages adjacent to Mann Oilfield join preliminary program on trash collection

MPRL E&P Pte Ltd, who are conducting oil and gas production work in joint venture with Myanma Oil & Gas Enterprise in Mann Oilfield, assisted adjacent villages with implementing a preliminary program on self-help trash collection during the first week of January 2019.

The program is part of their new Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) work. It aims to include local villagers in beautifying Mann Oilfield and adjacent areas, and to systematically

manage the collection of trash. The program will include village administrators from villages adjacent to Mann Oilfield, departmental officials, local populace, MPRL E&P CSR staff and village volunteers and will be implemented through January and February 2019.

In the preliminary stage, a tri-cycle garbage collection vehicle will collect garbage from 8 villages on designated dates and send it to the landfill in Minbu Tsp by the village wise village

administrator and villagers.

Also, on the second week of January, Trash Hero Minbu, MPRL E&P Mann Oilfield personnel, CSR staff, volunteers and local populace totaling 371 persons collected garbage thrown away along the road sides and cleared garbage dumps. About 262 tons of garbage was collected and sent to garbage dumps designated by the Minbu Township development committee while 203 tons of garbage were sent to a designated landfill near Nan Oo



PHOTO: MNA

and Auk Kyaung villages.

Depending upon the success of the preliminary program, the self-help trash collection system may become a long-term program. MPRL E&P CSR staff will also conduct information ses-

sions for local populace and students in basic education schools to discard their trash and garbage systematically and to cooperate and participate in maintaining the natural environment. – MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)

Peace Music Festival winners’ album ready for distribution

A launch ceremony for DVD production and distribution of 10 vocal contest winners of Peace Music Festival held by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) under the Ministry of Information was held at Studio (A), MRTV office on Pyay road in Yangon at 2 pm yesterday.

Firstly, MRTV Director (Music) U Toe Kyaw said, “Peace Music Festival competition started in July 2017 and it went to 11 towns and held 22 competitions, one town per week. The last competition was held on 10 December 2017

at People’s Park. Selected songs began recording and filming in March 2018. Besides MRTV, external film directors also supported in the filming. The DVD is ready for distribution. This is not commercial and we don’t give attention to profit and loss. We just intend to support the peace process with music.”

Songwriter U Myint Moe Aung explained regarding the winning songs included in the DVD and U Myo Swe from Excellent Music Distribution explained the status of DVD distribution.

The copyright holder for contested songs is MRTV and Excellent Music Distribution will start to distribute them on 24 February. The DVD will be available at Excellent Music Distribution, Myanmar Radio and Television Yangon Office and Nay Pyi Taw Office, Departments of Information and Public Relations in respective Regions and States, at the price of K3,500.

The album will include all 18 tracks in DVD format and separated into 9 tracks in CD format. The 14 tracks were played by



MRTV Director (Music) U Toe Kyaw introduces the music album of the winners of Peace Music Festival to the audience. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

State Orchestra and contemporary music and the remaining 4 tracks were created by respective Ohmmar Thant songwriters with their (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung) own bands. —Yi Yi Myint,



A photo contesting for My Beautiful Rakhine Photo Contest. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

“My Beautiful Rakhine” Photo Contest extends to 7 February

THE duration of the photo contest that raises the beauty of Rakhine State is extended to 7 February instead of 24 December 2018 from the original plan.

Organizer Ma Su Eaindray Lin from Mango Media said, “The contestants must capture the natural beauty, natural landscapes and the traditional culture of Rakhine State. The contest invites everyone in Myanmar and all the photos submissions are not allowed to be edited.”

Participants will have two ways to submit their entries; one by posting it on their social media accounts (publicly), Facebook and Instagram, by adding two required hashtags: #mybeautifulrakhine and #mpsrakhine. Submissions will be judged by a panel of expert photographers appointed by the Myanmar Photographic Society. In addition, cash prizes will be awarded, with the first-place winner receiving K1,000,000, the runner-up receiving K500,000, and (2) two third-place winner receiving K250,000, and 10 consolation prizes. “The contest is digital and these submissions will be featured on the contestants’ Facebook page as well as Instagram. We don’t factor in fake profiles. The contestants must participate with their real accounts. They will also be required to include the location of the photo. We don’t limit number of the submissions and we will choose the winners by searching with #mybeautifulrakhine and #mpsrakhine”, said Ma Su Eaindray Lin.

She then said regarding with the aim of the contest, “The image of Rakhine is seen to be declining. If we find with #rakhine, the worst images appear. So, we want Myanmar people to share both the lesser-known and well-known beauty and culture of the State. We will upload contested photos on our website. We want foreigners to know Rakhine is not like what they think.”

Myanmar Photographic Society announced that photos that concerned with State Policy, law, and that conflict with Myanmar culture, could possibly damage the culture, livelihood, and image of Rakhine State will not be considered by the board. Words, logos, and signs must not be posted on the contested photos. —Nyunt Ko Ko (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Arrival of foreign visitors to Myanmar

Sr.	Subject	Until December 2017	Until December 2018	Increase	Percentage
1.	Arrival by air	1,314,066	1,335,714	21,648	(+) 1.65%
2.	Arrival by cruise ship	6,940	9,370	2,430	(+) 35.01%
3.	Arrival at border gate and visit into the country	41,942	53,014	11,072	(+) 26.40%
	Visitors with visa	1,362,948	1,398,098	35,150	(+) 2.58%
4.	Visitors to the border area	2,080,185	2,153,330	73,145	(+) 3.52%
	Total	3,443,133	3,551,428	108,295	(+) 3.15%

Visitor arrivals by nationality

No.	Nationality	2017	2018	Difference	Percentage
1.	North America	87,153	76,122	-11,031	-12.66%
	America	73,085	65,057	-8,028	-10.98%
	Canada	14,068	11,065	-3,003	-21.35%
	Other Americas	12,592	10,786	-1,806	-14.34%
1.	West Europe	239,358	183,472	-55,886	-23.35%
	France	58,369	43,218	-15,151	-25.96%
	U.K.	47,717	36,609	-11,108	-23.28%
	Germany	39,952	28,838	-11,114	-27.82%
	Italy	18,242	16,855	-1,387	-7.60%
	Switzerland	13,694	10,019	-3,675	-26.84%
	Netherlands	13,558	9,428	-4,130	-30.46%
	Belgium	7,628	6,087	-1,541	-20.20%
	Austria	4,690	3,405	-1,285	-27.40%
	Spain	13,558	11,315	-2,243	-16.54%
10.	Others	21,950	17,698	-4,252	-19.37%
1.	East Europe	20,069	18,386	-1,683	-8.39%
	Russia	5,534	5,451	-83	-1.50%
2.	Others	14,535	12,935	-1,600	-11.01%
	Africa	5,866	4,346	-1,520	-25.91%
	Middle East	6,465	5,685	-780	-12.06%
1.	Asia	953,801	1,066,846	113,045	11.85%
	Thailand	273,889	291,231	17,342	6.33%
	China	212,642	297,400	84,758	39.86%
	Japan	101,484	104,376	2,892	2.85%
	Korea	65,829	72,852	7,023	10.67%
	Singapore	61,859	58,657	-3,202	-5.18%
	Viet Nam	58,919	53,329	-5,590	-9.49%
	Taiwan	36,499	35,685	-814	-2.23%
	India	41,623	43,281	1,658	3.98%
	Malaysia	47,010	47,632	622	1.32%
	Philippine	18,143	16,748	-1,395	-7.69%
11.	Others	35,904	45,655	9,751	27.16%
1.	Oceania	37,644	32,455	-5,189	-13.78%
	Australia	32,628	27,962	-4,666	-14.30%
	New Zealand	4,808	4,285	-523	-10.88%
3.	Others	208	208	0	0.00%
	TOTAL	1,362,948	1,398,098	35,150	2.58%

AA attacks will not affect Rakhine State Investment Forum: DICA Director-General

By Nyein Nyein

THE recent AA attacks will not affect the upcoming Rakhine State Investment Forum, said U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“The attacks occurred in Buthidaung and Maungdaw in northern Rakhine State. At present, those areas have not attracted investors. Other townships,

except those two, are stable and peaceful. We foresee no possible impact on the investment forum,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

The Rakhine Investment Forum will be held from 21 to 23 February at the Ngapali Beach, according to the DICA.

“The Japan government has shown interest in the forum and so, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan External Trade Organization are assisting in organizing it. Jap-

anese entrepreneurs will also attend the forum,” said U Aung Naing Oo. Investors are eyeing the manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, and prawn-breeding businesses in Rakhine State.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has been organizing investment fairs to attract local and international investors, and to ensure the states and regions develop more evenly. The Chin State Investment Forum will also be held at the

Myanmar Convention Center in Yangon on 16 March.

According to the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP), lack of infrastructure such as electric supply, transportation, and weak logistics pose hurdles to investment in Myanmar. The possible negative fallout from the political climate in the country, a sluggish economy, weak regulations, limited investments, uncertainty in the investment approval process,

poor promotion of investments, underdeveloped infrastructure and regulations, weak financing, and unskilled workers also act as barriers to investments in the country, the MIPP states. The MIPP has also listed the global economic climate and prospects, competitiveness in the ASEAN Economic Community, changing demand, erratic weather, and natural disasters as factors that affect investment in Myanmar. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Regional countries eye Myanmar's manufacturing sector

By Nyein Nyein

ASEAN countries are showing a keen interest in investing in Myanmar's manufacturing sector, said U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

He made the remarks at the ASEAN Business Collaboration event held at the Pan Pacific Yangon Hotel on 15 January.

“Regional countries have a strong interest in the manufacturing sector,” he said.

The ASEAN Business Collaboration event was organized by the International Business Promotion Center (IBPC) and the ASEAN embassies in Myanmar. Local and foreign entrepreneurs from the manufacturing, IT, technology, agriculture, infrastructure and construction, tourism, trading, retail, medical, and banking sectors also spoke at the event.

“The event will hopefully have a positive impact on local entrepreneurs. The speakers are performing an active role in their respective businesses and their foreign counterparts, who attended the event, were interested in Myanmar. The event aims to build a bridge between

local and foreign enterprises to allow flow of foreign investments into Myanmar,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

“The entrepreneurs in the regional countries are good models for us. They are leading in the manufacturing, infrastructure, IT, service, and agriculture sectors. Our businesses can grow in the short term with foreign technical assistance,” said U Aik Htun, chair of the IBPC.

Established in 1998, the IBPC has been hosting foreign delegations visiting Myanmar, participating in business-matching sessions, attending ambassadorial meetings, hosting networking dinners as well as taking part in exhibitions and gatherings. The IBPC has also been undertaking overseas trips to promote Myanmar, create greater awareness of its offerings, and pursue business partnerships.

The IBPC's main objective is to work independently with industry players who are interested in investing in or doing business with Myanmar. It organizes business delegations and roundtables to address queries from investors and help them find ways to work with businesses to realize their mutual potential. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A cargo vessel carrying containers docks at a terminal in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Maritime trade totals \$6.26 bln in Q1

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade in the first quarter of the current fiscal year was estimated at US\$6.26 billion, an increase of \$177 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 4 January, imports through the sea routes outperformed exports, with the value of exports totalling \$2.27 billion and imports reaching \$3.9 billion.

For the same period, the value of trade through the border camps exceeded \$2.16 billion. Border trade witnessed a drastic fall of \$71 million owing to tight confiscation and trade suspension by Myanmar's main trade partner, China.

The country's external trade topped \$8.4 billion, an increase of \$105 million from the same period of the previous FY.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products,

minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports to facilitate sea trade. The Yangon Port serves as the main gateway for maritime trade, with goods shipped through the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port.—Mon Mon ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MIC ensures firms do not flout registration norms for tax breaks

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) grants tax incentives to companies depending on the type of investment and works to ensure they do not repeatedly seek registration to take undue advantage, said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of the MIC.

“We have a series of assess-

ments to ensure there is no repetition of registration by a single company to take advantage of the tax incentive,” he said.

Foreign companies submit their proposals to the MIC to invest in manufacturing, agriculture, infrastructure, electricity, and telecommunication sectors. The commission grants them three-, five-, or seven-year tax incentives, depending on the

investments. “After the MIC screens the project proposals, it grants tax breaks. There are some investments that cannot be tax exempt. We have announced the prioritized sectors for investment. Businesses receive tax incentives depending on the development of the regions,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

“The MIC has set up an investment assessment division

and reviews the team's performance. Registered foreign corporations have to submit a report to the MIC every three months. The team checks if the company employs workers and imports goods as per its report,” according to the MIC.

If a foreign company is dissolved, the investment assessment division inspects the site and makes records.

“We inspect the business to check if it is actually meant for dissolution. Those companies which want to shut down have to put forward their report to the MIC,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

If dissolved companies want to restore their businesses, the MIC screens them strictly before granting them permission, according to the commission. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

We must work together to reach our destination

“MYANMAR is transitioning from an old system to a new and modern system. This requires us to break our old habits and forge new paths. Now is the time for every responsible official to work in unity so that we can reach our intended goal,” said President U Win Myint at a meeting with officials from the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive, the three pillars of democracy, in Kayah State yesterday. The meeting was held in Loikaw Township and was attended by the Kayah State cabinet, officials from the State Hluttaw and High Court, Hluttaw MPs (Pyithu, Amyotha, Kayah State), and officials from the state, district, and township departments.

The President has been regularly visiting the states and regions, urging and motivating officials to carry out the work of democratic transition and national reform in a uniform manner. He has instructed them to cast away old habits, obsolete methods, and ways of thinking, and to adopt new techniques to implement reforms that benefit the people.

We must strive for a constitution that is relevant to the democratic federal union that we all wish for.

The President said the unchanging truth of the world was that change was constant. Resisting change was going against nature and did not benefit anyone, he added.

“We must adapt to the changing trends in the world. The changes that support the country are based on a democratic system that has its roots in universal truths. This is why we need to strengthen our democratic system,” he said.

The legislative, the executive, and the judiciary are the main pillars of the democratic system that work for the benefit of the nation and its people. In our ever-changing world, we need to make changes depending on the situation and by involving the judiciary, and to do that we must first amend the constitution. We must strive for a constitution that is relevant to the democratic federal union that we all wish for.

The executive implements changes and reforms, and is therefore, quite important. This is why the President is prioritizing changes in the executive branch. But it is not enough to change policies or leaders at the executive level. For reforms to be successful, officials and staff at the grassroots level must also welcome change.

The President has said we must shed our old habits to change the nation and the people. When implementing changes, we need to gauge how much we have changed ourselves, as we can only change other people when we succeed in changing ourselves. Hence, the heads of departments need to assess how far the changes reflect in the habits and spirits of others.

We urge everyone to work together and use their own judgement so that we can implement changes and reforms faster, and move closer to achieving our goal of a democratic federal union.

Round Table discussion held on social security benefits and reform program

“The Social Security Board is striving to become a superior organization offering better healthcare and improved management, which employers and workers can rely on”:

U Maung Maung Aye, Director-General

By Khin Yadanar
PHOTO: May Oo Moe

(Continued from yesterday's Article)

THE MRTV broadcast a round table discussion as Part Three on social security benefits and the reform program. The panelists are U Maung Maung Aye, Director-General of Social Security Board (SSB), Daw Than Nu, Director of SSB, U Win Naing, Employers' Representative, Daw Phyto Sandar Soe, Workers' Representative, and Dr. Thein Than Htay, ILO National Project Coordinator.

Moderator: Please explain the point of view on behalf of the employers.

Employer's Representative: The plans and the programs are fine as the IT reform seemed to be very much instrumental. Sometimes, the employers encountered whether the workers were actually registered with SSB or otherwise as some of the citizen registration cards have been transferred from one person to another.

Therefore, it is difficult to get the SSB registration card for the worker. The intended reforms are very much beneficial as the employers are expecting and waiting for the medical reform as the workers would have the opportunity in taking medical treatment with much convenience and ease.

Moderator: Thank you. Kindly share the view from the workers' representative.

Workers' Representative: We welcomed the reforms and that I would like to urge our fellow workers in catching up with the newly introduced applications digital methods for workers benefits. Now, we could not stay behind these modern method and system as it could bring the advantages with ease and comfort.

In the future, the incoming and the outgoing mails would be delivered through the electronic system by using g-mail and e-mail making the moves faster and also

saved money. At that juncture, our fellow workers must join in the loop and catch up the system in time. Another factor that I would like to discuss is on the legal reform as the matter has been agreed between the employers, the workers and the government.

The definition and the interpretation on the terms such as the workers and the employers should be on a par with the modern time. Although our workers are left behind from the average norm of world standard, we could take advantage from such poor situation as we could avoid the mistakes that other workers foreign countries have had encountered.

We could shun away such errors and we could also transform ourselves into the right track. Our fellow workers must read more for knowledge and must have reform minded so that all workers could come together in crafting the principles, policies and guidelines. This information must be disseminated to all workers. For instance, we have technical experts in the affairs of the workers. On our part, we are not skillful and well versed on these subjects, but what we have in our hands could be utilized by working together.

Moderator: As we are talking about the reform, we would like to hear from the point of view of the ILO National Pro-

ject Coordinator. When the IT reform is put in place, we would be able to handle pension cases, no matter whether it is five million workers or eight million workers, and we also need to tackle by amending the law.

ILO Representative:

We are deeply involved in the reform process, and that I am of the view that the existing social security system was conceived and inherited last (60) years ago, however, the current scheme is moving ahead with the new enacted law.

In 2012-2013, the number of registered social security workers was (700,000) only, and that in April 2014, the number jumped to double within four years and stands out as (1.25) million. However, the number of staff members remained the same, and the speed and momentum of the existing system never accelerated in high gear. The social security organization is not a short term organization, but would stay on forever as long as the Union of Myanmar existed.

The contribution of the workers is to be maintained from year one to year sixty. Among the three types of social security categories, the family security category covers for (36) months contribution, and

that in the calculation, it would take time to browse (36) sheets of documents. Imagine, if we have to put the bulky documents into a chart, and that we all understand the matter very well.

IT system

In cooperation and collaboration with the ILO, we are going to set up the IT system as the reform plan with the international norm, a laudable scheme of the SSB, which is to be used by the employers as well as the workers.

The project would be operational in three years time, a multi-purpose system with all the information being provided by the employers that would be flowing into the SSB network for the benefits of the workers. The data and information in the system could be shared by all parties, and therefore, the system is collective in nature being agreed to implement by all sides.

In the administrative reform, we need to update the (60) years old procedures, and have plans to start pilot projects in

Yangon and Mandalay with some relaxation of difficult procedures. **Challenges**

When the IT reform is put in place, we would be able to handle pension cases, no matter whether it is five million workers or eight million workers, and that we also need to tackle by amending the law.

Finally, the series of reform such as the IT reform, the Administrative reform and then the legal reform are to be carried out without fail. At the same time, the medical reform must be considered as advised by the ILO. It should be handled in unhurried pace so as to avoid the pitfalls of other countries by taking lessons from them.

Our reform pattern of the SSB is reasonable as the employers, the workers, and the government agreed in implementing the plan, and that, in a few years time our social security system could open a new chapter in its chronicle.

Moderator: Please share the possible benefits after the reform.

Director-General: After completion of the reform, the benefits would go to the employers, the workers, and the government as all the establishments such as the SSB Headquarters, the branch offices, the hospitals, and the clinics in the country would be hooked up and looped in the IT network,

resulting with faster case works and smooth and easy functioning.

For example, the delivery of benefits, the condition of medical treatment, and the new contract with the private modern clinics would be all there in the system for the good of the workers.

Our paper based office system would be transformed into electronic based office system, which could have fresh streamlined design into the system of the government. Our law would be much similar with the international norm so that healthcare delivery is going to be better.

The contribution from the side of the employer as well as the registration of the workers would be faster due to e-payment system.

Better Service

The workers would be able to enjoy better healthcare service from 8 am to 8 pm from the clinics that we have signed with the private sector, resulting with the confidence and trust of the workers.

The workers would be happy in good health, shouldering the work performance with much better conditions, benefiting to all sides. In conclusion, I would like to say that the SSB is working hard for the success of the social projects, and that the drawbacks and the necessary tasks are being considered for solution.

When all the stakeholders such as the employers, the workers, and the government come together with the collaboration of the ILO, the aspired social security scheme would envelop the entire nationals in full confidence of the workers.

Our endeavors and objectives include better healthcare service delivery, tactful office management, and creating reliable organization of workers and employers.

In the past, our organization was centered and made focus on “SSB centric”, and now we have transformed into “client centric”, and that is my message to all relevant people in the nation.

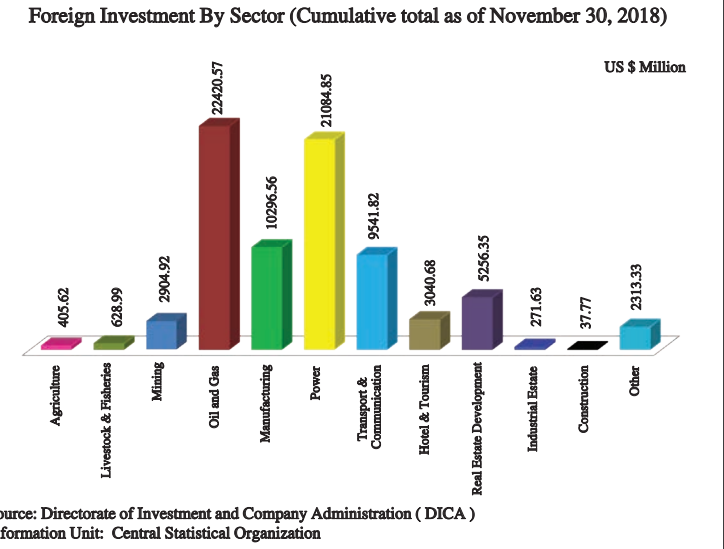
(End of round table discussion)

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Heads of service organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Than Aung Kyaw Deputy Director-General Department of Investment and Company Administration Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations	Director-General Department of Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
(2) Dr. Swe Swe Aung Deputy Director-General Legislative Vetting Department Union Attorney General Office	Director-General Legislative Vetting Department Union Attorney General Office



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Thursday 17 January 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST:

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Chin and Kayah states, (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Yangon Region, Northern Shan and Rakhine states and about January average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (-3°C) in Haka, (1°C) each in Heho and Ramthlo, (2°C) in Hsipaw, (3°C) each in Putao, Namhsan and Loilin, (4°C) each in Lashio, Kyaukse, Mongyan, Tiddim, Mogoke and Thandwe. **BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 18 January 2019: Likelihood of rain will be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Eastern Shan State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, (Northern & Southern)Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. **OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Northern Shan states. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 January 2019:** Generally fair weather. **FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 January 2019:** Generally fair weather. **FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 January 2019:** Generally fair weather.

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Complaint lodged against illegal fishing near Taninthayi Coast

FROM PAGE-1

He filed a complaint with the Fisheries Department after making an observation of the areas from 3 to 10 November, collecting information and evidence on the ground.

MP U Zaw Hein said during the trip, he saw 10 illegal trawlers, with names and numbers covered, fishing near Donnyaunghmai Village, near Domae Island and Mali Island.

The authorities will investigate the complaint and inspect whether trawlers are coming to inshore areas, according to the Fisheries Department.

"The areas mentioned in the complaint are inshore areas. And, it is illegal to cover the names and numbers of fishing boats. Now, we are finding out who owns the boats and business licenses for the boats," said U Myint Shwe, the Deputy Head of the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Department.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to curb illegal fishing

"Areas around the islands are considered inshore according to the existing law. But, some islands are located offshore. This can confuse people



One of the 10 trawlers found in inshore of Taninthayi Coast. **PHOTO: H/O BY TANINTHAYI DISTRICT FISHERY DEPARTMENT**

and lead to problems," said U Tin Ko Ko Oo, a member with a local civil society organization.

To effectively check illegal fishing, helmsmen and owners of boats must be fined instead of arresting workers, he said.

"If all fishing boats were ordered to install the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) by law, 70 per cent of this problem would have been resolved," he said.

The Fisheries Department is preparing to launch a program to install VMS on fishing boats in the 2019-2020 fishing season.

"Whenever we met with

local fishing businessmen and helmsmen, we advised them not to break the law and to fish in designated areas. We offered our help if they encountered difficulties in fishing. But, we will work on this complaint in the right way. If they are found guilty, effective action should be taken against them," said the Secretary of the Myeik District Fisheries Federation.

There are about 2,500 licensed boats for inshore fishing and 800 licensed boats for offshore fishing in Myeik District, which employ 16,000 workers.

Legal enforcement

The fisheries authorities briefed fishing companies and leaders of boats on fishing rules and directives at the One Stop Service Centre in Myeik in December, and before the boats went to sea, sought their promise not to break the law, according to the Fisheries Department.

The Myanmar Marine Fishery Law is being modernized to meet the international standards, according to the Department of Fisheries. ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Man rewarded for handing over Pyu-era Buddha gold statue to authorities

THE Mandalay Archaeology and National Museum Department yesterday honored a man for handing over a Pyu-era Buddha gold statue to the department.

U Kyaw Than unearthed the 8.1-cm high statue, weighing 69 grams, in Myittha, Kyaukse District, and presented it to

the authorities on 26 November last year.

Daw Soe Soe Win, the Director of the Mandalay Archaeology and National Museum Department, presented over K 9 million to him as a reward for his honesty.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD) ■

(Translated by JT)



The gold statue unearthed in Myittha. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

China-Myanmar Cultural Week kicks off in Myanmar major cities

THE China-Myanmar Cultural Week kicked off 16 January in three major cities of Myanmar, Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.

The cultural week, aimed at further deepening the traditional friendship and strengthening

the cultural exchanges between China and Myanmar, features different kinds of exhibitions and art performances.

During the cultural week, which will last until 20 January, visitors are encouraged to take part in interactive experience

programs such as Chinese paper-cutting and embroidery.

As part of the cultural week, a special photo exhibition featuring the achievement of China's poverty alleviation efforts will be held on 19 January, followed by China-Myanmar

media forum focusing on the topic of "All media era: traditional media's dilemma and opportunities." A China-Myanmar Spring Festival gala will also take place on 19 January evening at Yangon's Skynet Studio. —Xinhua ■

UK PM May reaches out to rivals after winning confidence vote

LONDON—British Prime Minister Theresa May reached out to her opponents on Wednesday (Jan 16) after narrowly surviving a confidence vote sparked by the crushing defeat in parliament of her Brexit deal.

After a tumultuous 24 hours which she admitted voters might find “unsettling”, she conceded the divorce terms she struck with the EU had been roundly rejected, but vowed to work to find an alternative.

“Now MPs have made clear what they don’t want, we must all work constructively together to set out what parliament does want,” May said in a televised evening address to the nation.

On Tuesday, MPs dealt the prime minister the heaviest drubbing in modern British political history by rejecting the divorce agreement by a stunning 432 votes to 202.

But May emerged victorious on Wednesday night in a confidence vote triggered by the opposition Labour party, the first for 26 years, winning 325 votes to 306.

She set out a schedule of cross-party talks that began immediately with meetings with the Scottish nationalist, Welsh nationalist and the pro-EU Liberal Democrat leaders.

“We must find solutions that are negotiable and command sufficient support in this House,” she had told earlier told parliament.

However, opposition leaders set out a list of demands for co-operating, including discussing delaying Brexit beyond Mar 29, and ruling out the possibility that Britain crashes out without any deal at all.



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May delivers a statement to members of the media in Downing Street in London on 16 January, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

LATE NIGHT TALKS

May is working on the tightest-possible deadline as Britain prepares to leave the bloc that for half a century defined its economic and political relations with the rest of the world.

Her defeat sparked warnings from European leaders that the prospect of “no deal” had increased, with the potential for huge economic disruption on both sides of the Channel.

May must return to parliament on Monday with a Plan B that she and her team intend to negotiate with various MPs through the weekend.

But main opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said he would only meet May if she could “remove clearly, once and for all the prospect of the catastrophe of a no-deal Brexit”.

May said she was “disappointed” by Corbyn’s decision and stressed that “our door remains open”.

Ian Blackford of the Scottish National Party (SNP) said after meeting May late Wednesday that his 35-seat party would only hold “genuine” talks.

If she were prepared to consider delaying Brexit, ruling out “no deal” and the option of holding a second referendum, they would participate, he said in a letter afterwards.

May has flatly rejected a second vote.

DIVORCE DELAY?

May survived Wednesday thanks to the support of members of her Conservative Party and its Northern Irish allies in the Democratic Union Party.

But more than a third of the

Conservatives and all 10 DUP members of parliament voted against her Brexit arrangements on Tuesday - each for their own reason.

May will thus tread carefully as she tries to win over opposition lawmakers - many of whom want to remain in the EU - while also attempting to appease more hardened Brexit-backing coalition partners.

She stuck to two key principles on Wednesday: limiting EU migration and pursuing an independent trade policy.

Both points rule out Labour hopes of membership of an EU customs union or its single market. Yet she also hinted at the possibility of delaying Brexit.

May said the EU would allow this “if it was clear that there was a plan that was moving toward an agreed deal”.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greek PM wins confidence vote after Macedonia

IOW

ATHENS (Greece)—Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on Wednesday survived a confidence vote sparked by the collapse of his coalition over a planned name deal with Macedonia. A total of 151 lawmakers supported Tsipras’ government, including several independent MPs, the official count showed.—AFP ■

French govt calls for Ghosn to be replaced as Renault boss

PARIS (France)—The French government on Wednesday called for former Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn, who has spent the last two months in Japanese custody, to be replaced as head of carmaker Renault. Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire called for Renault’s board to meet “in the coming days” to pick a “new lasting leadership” to replace the fallen auto titan, who has been charged with under-declaring his income and aggravated breach of trust. The French state is Renault’s biggest shareholder, owning a 15-per cent stake.—AFP ■

Four Americans killed in Syria attack, including two troops: Pentagon

WASHINGTON (United States)—Four Americans, including two troops, were among those killed in a suicide attack in the northern Syrian city of Manbij on Wednesday, the Pentagon said. “Two US servicemembers, one Department of Defence civilian and one contractor supporting DoD were killed and three servicemembers were injured while conducting a local engagement in Manbij,” the US military’s Central Command said in a statement. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said several other people, including local civilians, were killed in the blast.—AFP ■

Venezuelan court jails rogue agents over detained parliament president

CARACAS (Venezuela)—A dozen intelligence service agents were sent to prison by a Venezuelan court on Wednesday over the brief detention of parliamentary president Juan Guaido, a judicial source said. The Caracas court remanded the agents in pre-trial detention after they were accused of “abuse of functions, illegitimate deprivation of liberty and association to commit a crime.”

Guaido was heading to a political rally outside the Venezuelan capital on Sunday when his car was stopped on a highway and he was briefly detained by the SEBIN agents.

President Nicolas Maduro’s government

denied any knowledge of the operation and initially claimed that four agents involved had been dismissed. Maduro branded the whole incident a “media circus” and accused the agents of conspiring with Venezuela’s opposition. Guaido, meanwhile, responded by mocking Maduro and questioning his control over the state’s security agencies.

“So Maduro no longer controls the armed forces because the chain of command was broken,” said Guaido. “Who is commanding the regime now? If they’re already admitting that they don’t control the state’s security agencies, there’s a serious problem at Miraflores,”

he added, referring to the presidential palace.

Guaido has been trying to attract support from the military as he leads the opposition bid to remove Maduro from power and set up a transitional government. But Maduro retains the backing of the military’s high command, which last week pledged “absolute loyalty.”

Guaido has promised an “amnesty” for any military that disavow Maduro and has called for a people’s protest next week.

The opposition-controlled National Assembly, which he leads, has been left ineffective since the Maduro loyalist-filled Supreme stripped it of all its powers in 2017.—AFP ■

Top N Korean official in Beijing en route to Washington: reports

SEOUL (South Korea)—A top North Korean official arrived in Beijing on Thursday, reports said, en route to Washington for talks with his US counterpart ahead of an expected summit between President Donald Trump and Pyongyang’s leader Kim Jong Un.

Kim Yong Chol, Kim’s right-hand man and the counterpart to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in denuclearisation talks, was seen getting into a vehicle at Beijing airport after flying in from Pyongyang, pictures showed.

He was due to leave the Chinese capital later Thursday for Washington,



Kim Yong Chol (r), a North Korean senior ruling party official and former intelligence chief, gets into a car upon his arrival at an airport in Beijing on 17 January, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

the South’s Yonhap news agency reported. He was expected to meet Pompeo on Friday before paying a courtesy call on Trump, it said, and appeared to be carrying another letter from his leader for the US com-

mander in chief.

Kim’s trip comes as expectations grow for a second US-North Korean summit after Kim Jong Un last week went to Beijing, long Pyongyang’s key ally, for talks with President Xi Jinping.

The summit, which observers say will probably be held in either Viet Nam or Thailand, is expected despite a lack of progress in denuclearisation negotiations.

At their first meeting in Singapore in June the two leaders signed a vaguely worded document in which Kim pledged to work towards “the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula”.

But progress has since stalled with the two sides disagreeing over what that means.

Pyongyang is seeking sanctions relief and rejects demands for what it calls its “unilateral” disarmament, while Washington insists that the punitive measures must stay in place until it gives up its nuclear arsenal.

Another North Korean official, Choe Son Hui, travelled through Beijing earlier this week en route to Sweden, where she could meet the US special representative on North Korea, Stephen Biegun. —AFP ■

One stitch at a time: weaving rehab for Viet Nam trafficking victims

QUAN BA (Viet Nam)—Thao Thi Van was just two when her mother disappeared during a trip to the market, likely taken by traffickers preying on women from the Hmong hill tribes of northern Viet Nam to sell as brides or into brothels in China.

Now aged 13 she is still haunted by the fate of her missing mother but has found some solace at a textile cooperative for marginalized women in the region.

“I have almost no friends at school because they tease me for having no mother. I envy those kids with a mum,” the slight teenager told AFP in tears. “I have fun working here because I can earn some money and no-one teases me,” Van said.

She’s been taken in by the older women she works with at the co-op, where she has earned a reputation as a skilled embroiderer. —AFP ■

Thailand signals more tolerant refugee policy after Saudi case

BANGKOK (Thailand)—Thailand’s immigration chief vowed on Wednesday not to force refugees to return home “involuntarily”, after a Saudi woman’s desperate plea for resettlement drew global attention to a country that does not recognise asylum seekers. The country is not a signatory to a UN convention on refugees and has long come under fire for holding them in detention centres or deporting them back to repressive regimes where they face prison or worse.

Many cases do not make headlines but that changed earlier this month when 18-year-old Saudi runaway Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun arrived in Bangkok and staved off deportation by barricading herself in a hotel at the airport, live-tweeting the standoff to an international audience.

She was handed over to the UN refugee agency within days and resettled to Canada within a week, where she was welcomed by Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland after landing in Toronto on Saturday.

Qunun said she suffered abuse in the ultra-conservative kingdom and refused to see family members who came

to Thailand after her flight.

The lightning-fast processing of her case was unprecedented for Thailand and was overseen almost from start to finish by immigration chief Surachate Hakparn, a blunt-talking media-savvy official nicknamed “Big Joke” who was recently appointed to the role and vowed reforms.

‘International norms’

Responding to questions about Thailand’s treatment of refugees, Surachate told an audience at the foreign correspondents’ club he would take a new approach and that under his supervision “there will be no one involuntarily sent back to the country if they don’t want to go back”. He added that as chief of the department, “we will now follow international norms”.

But the claims were met with scepticism given the November arrest in Thailand of refugee footballer Hakeem Alarabi, who had been granted permanent residency in Australia but was stopped at the airport in Bangkok while trying to go on vacation. —AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (4/2019)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	IFB-041(18-19)	Rock Bits & PDC Bits (14) Items	US\$
(b)	DMP/L-164(18-19)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (700 igpm x 700 ft head), 185 KW (2) Sets	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-165(18-19)	Spares for 12 VAT 27 Waukesha Engine & MH 64 Compressor (24) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-166(18-19)	Spares for P 9390 GSI Waukesha Engine and Gemini E 604 Compressor (6) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-167(18-19)	Spares for F 2895 GSI Waukesha Engine and Ariel JGE 2 Compressor (9) Items	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-168(18-19)	Spares for H 2475 G Waukesha Engine and KB-2 Compressor (19) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-169(18-19)	AJAX DPC 600 Engine and Compressor Spares (11) Items	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-170(18-19)	Spares for P 9390 GL Waukesha Engine, MH 64 Cooper and JGK-4 Ariel Compressor (8) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-171(18-19)	Data Acquisition, Interpretation Workstation and Data Processing Center (4) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from 17 January 2019. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation 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 14:00 pm on 13 February 2019.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 13-2-2019, 14:00 pm

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

Transferring Distributors Registered Pesticides

Distributor of the following pesticides, registered by BASF Myanmar Limited is transferring from Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Co., Ltd. to BASF Myanmar Limited. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogon, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Permit	Reg. No.
1	Phantom 240 SC	Chlorfenapyr 21.44% w/w SC	Provisional	2016-3047
2.	Fendona SC	Alpha cypermethrin 10% w/w SC	Provisional	2016-3048
3	Abate 1 SG	Temephos 1.1 w/w SG	Full	F2016-693

BASF Myanmar Limited
Phone: 01544041



This handout video grab from the Japan Meteorological Agency's live webcam on 17 January, 2019 shows an eruption on Kuchinoerabu Island in Yakushima, Kagoshima prefecture. **PHOTO: AFP**

Volcano erupts on small Japan island

TOKYO (Japan) — ADDS quotes from local official, government spokesman, local resident, background on past eruptions

A Japanese volcano erupted on Thursday, spewing ash and smoke six kilometres into the air over a small southern island.

There were no reports of injuries or damage from the eruption on Kuchinoerabu, in the far south of Japan. A local official said there had been no evacuations on the island, which is home to just 109 people.

Images broadcast by NHK showed large plumes of ash and grey smoke billowing above the island, which has regularly been affected by eruptions.

“We heard a huge explosion and there was shaking like an earthquake,” a resident told the

broadcaster. The meteorological agency said the eruption occurred shortly after it had issued a new warning.

“There have been eruptions there since last year but we sent an alert out (this morning) for this latest eruption as it will have a wider impact,” said Jun Fujimatsu, an official at the agency’s volcanic activity division.

“We have maintained a level three warning, which means a ban on entering the volcano area,” he told AFP. “There are several craters at the volcano... The danger zone is two kilometres (1.2 miles) from the Shindake crater,” he added.

“We do not think the latest eruption will engulf the entire island.”

Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said

the plume of smoke and ash from the eruption rose 6,000 metres. “But there is no impact on the community and no injury or damage has been reported,” he told reporters.

There are currently “71 households comprising 109 people living on the island, including some who are just a few kilometres from the crater,” local official Shogo Sado told AFP.

He confirmed no evacuations had yet been ordered but said preparations were being made in case it became necessary to move people, some of whom are elderly and frail.

In 2015, all 140 people living on the island were evacuated after a violent eruption that sent black clouds up as high as 9,000 metres (29,500 feet) and produced a five-minute

volcanic quake. Japan, with scores of active volcanoes, sits on the so-called Pacific “Ring of Fire”, where a large proportion of the world’s earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are recorded. In January 2018, a Japanese soldier was killed and several other people injured after an eruption near a popular ski resort northwest of Tokyo.

On 27 September, 2014, Japan suffered its deadliest eruption in almost 90 years when Mount Ontake, in central Nagano prefecture, burst unexpectedly to life.

Dozens of people were killed in the shock eruption, which occurred as the peak was packed with hikers out to see the region’s spectacular autumn colours.

—AFP ■

Bird sparks a flap on Singapore to London flight

SINGAPORE — A bird caused a flap on a Singapore to London flight after it suddenly appeared in the plane’s business class section 12 hours into the journey, an airline said on Tuesday.

A video circulating on social media showed the bird perched on top of a headrest, about two hours before the flight was due to arrive in the British capital.

An initial attempt by a member of cabin crew on the Singapore Airlines flight to catch the creature failed — prompting some of the passengers to join the hunt. “It was subsequently caught by cabin crew with the assistance of some of the passengers on board and handed over to authorities in charge of animal quarantine upon the aircraft’s arrival in London,” the airline said in a statement.—AFP ■

Request for Expression of Interest
Consulting Services for the Agricultural Development Unit (ADU)
Contract Ref: AFD-02

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a financing from the French Development Agency (AFD) for the Irrigated Agriculture Inclusive Development Project (IAIDP), and intends to use part of the funds thereof for payments under the following contract package: Consulting Services for the Agricultural Development Unit (ADU).

The Consultant services of the Agricultural Development Unit (ADU) will be responsible for providing technical assistance to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) at the Union, regional, district and township levels.

The consultancy service is divided into two (2) stages.

The 1st stage is the preparation of the “Agricultural Support Assessment and Delivery Strategy” and preparation of 5 Front line centers (FCs)’ construction. Stage1 will be under a lump sum type of contract with an implementation period of 8 months.

Stage 2 services will commence after successful completion of Stage 1 and will be implemented under a time- based contract with implementation period 60 months.

The ADU Consultant will preferably be a consortium that may involve a combination of consulting firms, international and/or local NGOs, and possibly are search organization.

For more detailed information, any interested firm can refer to the Terms of Reference, which may be obtained upon request to iaidp.mm@gmail.com.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below no later than **20th February 2019 at 16:30 (Myanmar Standard Time)**.

Hard Copy:
To,
U Tint Lwin
Director (Procurement Branch)
Irrigation & Water Utilization Management Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation
Office No.43, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Soft Copy to:
tlwin4.irr@gmail.com and
CC to: iaidp.mm@gmail.com, zarkyaw@gmail.com,
ukhinzaw1984@gmail.com

Note: Consultant Selection Committee reserves the right to reject any delay submission of EOI after deadline.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (118 N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (118 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (006N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (006N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V LORENTZOS
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LORENTZOS VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LIMITED
Phone No: 2301928

Long-absent Japanese wagyu introduced to Aussie chefs at cooking demo

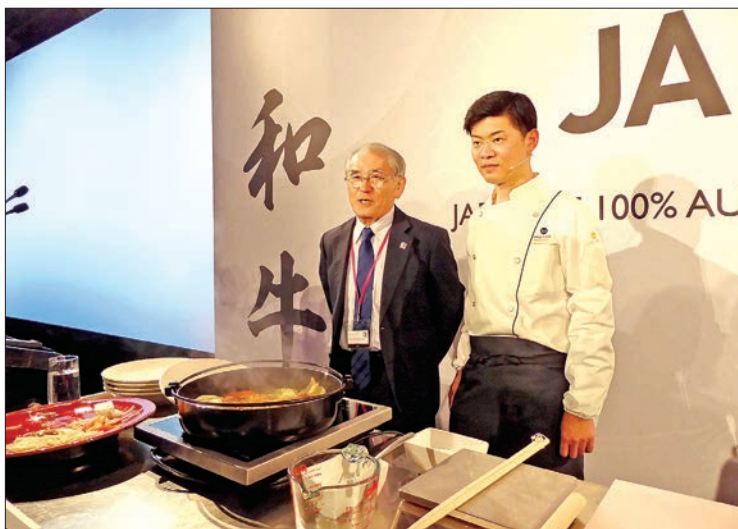
SYDNEY—Australian chefs, restaurateurs and beef producers were treated to a Japanese wagyu beef cooking demonstration and seminar in Sydney on Wednesday.

The event followed the high-end meat's reintroduction to Australia in July after a 17-year hiatus, as the government rescinded an import ban on all Japanese beef products imposed due to the discovery of mad cow disease in 2001.

Roughly 200 people attended the Matching Seminar for Professionals of Authentic Japanese Wagyu Beef event, sponsored by the Japan Livestock Products Export Promotion Council, which aimed to introduce professionals to Japanese wagyu's particular qualities.

Council chairman Tsuyoshi Hishinuma said Australia has already imported almost 10 tons of Japanese wagyu between July and November, last year.

Hishinuma admitted that the high price of Japanese wagyu, which is recognized as



Meat specialist, Noriaki Numamoto (r), and Chairman of the Japan Livestock Products Export Promotion Council, Tsuyoshi Hishinuma, pose for a photo following a Japanese wagyu cooking demonstration in Sydney on 16 January 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO**

a delicacy around the world for its high marble-scoring, meant that the product "may not sell like hotcakes" but insisted that Australians would still enjoy it.

"Australia is famous for its beef, but I hope they try it and enjoy." Daniel Abou-Chedid, a participant who owns a food truck and catering business, said the flavor of Japanese

wagyu is "completely different" from that of Australian-raised wagyu, and that diners only need a small amount to be satisfied. "It's like if you eat an expensive truffle chocolate. You only need one and you're satisfied." The 33-year-old said he would consider serving Japanese wagyu as part of a wedding menu.—Kyodo News ■

Female imperial family members to be barred from key succession rite

TOKYO — The government decided Thursday only male adult imperial family members will attend one of the key ceremonies to mark Crown Prince Naruhito's ascension to the throne on May 1, following the example set by Emperor Akihito's enthronement in 1989. The government will allow only male adults from the imperial family to attend the ceremony

because the Imperial Household Law stipulates that only males can ascend the throne and minor members customarily do not take part in succession rites.

But excluding female members could be viewed as being out of touch with the times.

In contrast, the government will allow female Cabinet ministers to participate in the rite on

the grounds that they are unrelated to the imperial succession and would be attending as observers.

Currently, the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has only one female minister -- Satsumi Katayama, in charge of regional revitalization. She would be allowed to attend the ceremony if she remains in the post. —Kyodo News ■

Dozens injured on day one of Indian bull-wrestling festival

MADURAI (India)—Dozens of young men were injured on the first day of a traditional bull-wrestling festival in southern India that has attracted the ire of animal activists, officials said on Wednesday.

During the Jallikattu festival in Tamil Nadu bulls festooned with marigolds are released from pens and men try to grab their horns to win prizes such as scooters and whitegoods.

Critics say the bulls are fed alcohol and chilli powder is thrown in their faces to agitate

them before the clash. Organizers insist the animals are not mistreated.

Nearly 500 bulls and a similar number of "tamers" were involved on the opening day of the festival in Madurai, said S Natarajan, a government official from the city.

"Forty nine people were injured yesterday. Nine were taken to hospital for minor injuries," he told AFP.

Wednesday's festivities will see almost double the number of bulls and competitors in the ring,

Natarajan added.

In past years, competitors have been gored to death by bulls.

India's Supreme Court outlawed Jallikattu in 2016 after a plea by animal rights groups but Tamil Nadu insisted Jallikattu was a crucial part of its culture and identity.

Growing tensions in the state capital Chennai, and other cities, led Prime Minister Narendra Modi to issue an executive order that the centuries-old festival go ahead.—AFP ■

Rock and roll nuns to perform for pope in Panama

LIMA (Peru)—With millions of YouTube views and hits on Spotify and iTunes, a group of young nun rockers play one of their biggest gigs next week, and thousands of Catholics, including the pope himself, will lap it up. It may be rock and roll, but Twisted Sister they ain't, and sex and drugs are not an option for the Sisters of the Servants of the Plan of God. They play their brand of melodic rock in their traditional habits. "We're young sisters," says 37-year-old guitarist Sister Ivonne of the band, which includes members from Chile, Japan, Ecuador, China and Costa Rica. "This is another form of bringing our evangelical message, showing our strength—that's to say, it's also music that we like, it shows a lot about who we are." Known as "Siervas" or Servants, the band plays catchy Christian songs that sound indistinguishable from many of their peers in mainstream rock. But the appearance is very different, rock's grunge and glad rags giving way to the nuns' tried and trusted black and white habits and veils on stage.

YouTube hit

With a half-dozen slickly produced videos on YouTube, Siervas has built an international following as it communicates its message of "love, joy, hope." Their "Trust in God" music video, which features the nuns playing on a helipad atop a Lima skyscraper, went viral on YouTube with nearly two million views.

And now, the Peru-based sisters will play at the World Youth



Eight of the nine members of religious musica band "Siervas" (Servants), known as the "rock nuns" pose for a picture during a rehearsal in Lima on 14 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Day celebrations, a gathering of global Catholic youth in Panama presided over by Pope Francis. The message at the heart of their music? "We want to reach as many people as possible, and if the pope is included in that, we're more than satisfied," said Ivonne, who pens much of the lyrics. The 11-member band, which performs in Spanish, has previously played for crowds at Francis' visits to Mexico and Peru.

Not just music

"We're not just working in music, but we take the word of God and his consolation to the prisons, to the disabled," said Sister Daniela, the drummer from Costa Rica. Tuesdays, when they are back in Peru, they bring food to the homeless on the streets. The group will gig at a women's prison during the trip to Panama. They will also play at a children's cancer hospital and schools. "We go to the women's prisons to listen to them. All they ask is to be listened to and to know God has forgiven them," said Camila, the 22-year-old Peruvian guitarist. The band, which has so far visited 11 countries, including the United States, was formed in Lima in 2014 when the young musician nuns from different nationalities came together, said 24-year-old Sister Arisa, from Japan. "It was God's plan that we come together," said Arisa, a violinist. After months of rehearsal, they held their first concert in the auditorium of the General Command of the Army, helping raise funds for a house for the order in Angola. The band has undergone several changes to its lineup since 2014, as sisters leave to fulfill their missionary role. "Until now we have not been able to talk to the pope, we would love it if he approaches us," said Ivonne, from Chile.

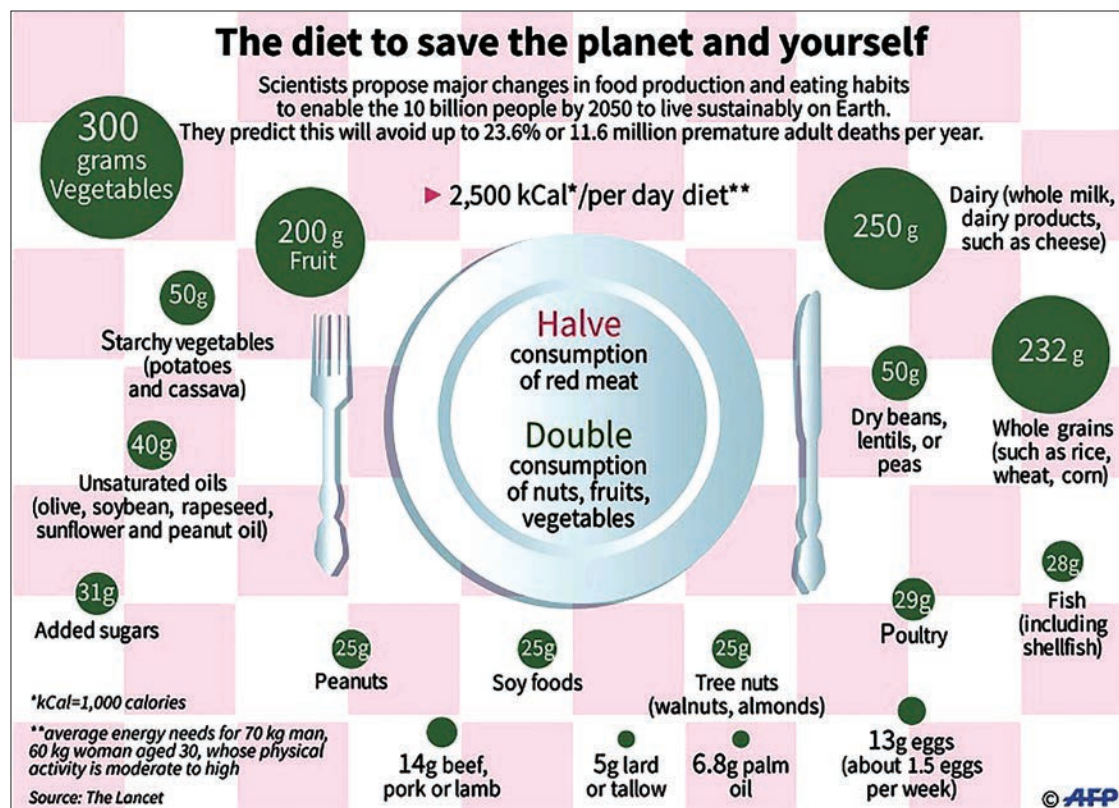
"I wouldn't know what to say, I think I would faint."—AFP ■

Human diet causing ‘catastrophic’ damage to planet: study

PARIS (France)—The way humanity produces and eats food must radically change to avoid millions of deaths and “catastrophic” damage to the planet, according to a landmark study published on Thursday. The key to both goals is a dramatic shift in the global diet—roughly half as much sugar and red meat, and twice as many vegetables, fruits and nuts, a consortium of three dozen researchers concluded in *The Lancet*, a medical journal.

“We are in a catastrophic situation,” co-author Tim Lang, a professor at the University of London and policy lead for the EAT-Lancet Commission that compiled the 50-page study, told AFP. Currently, nearly a billion people are hungry and another two billion are eating too much of the wrong foods, causing epidemics of obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Unhealthy diets account for up to 11 million avoidable premature deaths every year, according to the most recent Global Disease Burden report.

At the same time the global food system is the single largest emitter of greenhouse gases, the biggest driver of biodiversity loss, and the main cause of deadly algae blooms along coasts and inland waterways. Agriculture—



The diet to save the planet and yourself, according the Lancet medical journal. PHOTO: AFP

which has transformed nearly half the planet’s land surface—also uses up about 70 per cent of the global fresh water supply. “To have any chance of feeding 10 billion people in 2050 within planetary boundaries”—the limits on Earth’s capacity to absorb human activity—“we must adopt a healthy diet, slash food waste, and invest in technologies that reduce environmental impacts,” said co-author Johan Rockstrom, director of

the Potsdam Institute for Climate Change Impact Research.

Where’s the beef?

“It is doable but it will take nothing less than global agricultural revolution,” he told AFP. The cornerstone of “the great food transformation” called for in the study is a template human diet of about 2500 calories per day. “We are not saying everyone has to eat in the same way,” Lang said by

phone. “But broadly—especially in the rich world—it means a reduction of meat and dairy, and a major increase in plant consumption.”

The diet allows for about seven grammes (a quarter of an ounce) of red meat per day, and up to 14. A typical hamburger patty, by comparison, is 125 to 150 grammes. For most rich nations, and many emerging ones such as China and Brazil, this would represent a drastic five-to-ten-fold re-

duction. Beef is the main culprit. Not only do cattle pass massive quantities of planet-warming methane, huge swathes of carbon-absorbing forests—mostly in Brazil—are cut down every year to make room for them. “For climate, we know that coal is the low-hanging fruit, the dirtiest of fossil fuels,” said Rockstrom. “On the food side, the equivalent is grain-fed beef.” It takes at least five kilos of grain to produce a kilo of meat. And once that steak or lamb chop hits the plate, about 30 per cent will wind up in the garbage bin. Dairy is also limited to about one cup (250 grammes) of whole milk—or its equivalent in cheese or yoghurt—per day, and only one or two eggs per week.

Push back

At the same time, the diet calls for a more than 100 per cent increase in legumes such as peas and lentils, along with vegetables, fruits and nuts. Grains are considered to be less healthy sources of nutrients. “We can no longer feed our population a healthy diet while balancing planetary resources,” said *The Lancet* editor-in-chief Richard Horton.

“For the first time in 200,000 years of human history, we are severely out of sync with the planet and Nature.” — AFP ■

China’s moon cotton experiment ends in freezing lunar night

BEIJING — A cotton seedling that sprouted on the moon has been left to die as China’s historic lunar lander continues a freezing night-time nap that will last as long as two earth weeks, scientists said.

The Chinese space agency announced earlier this week that the seed had germinated inside a special canister aboard the Chang’e-4 probe, after the spacecraft on 3 January made the first-ever landing on the far side of the moon.

The mini biosphere—which operated for over 212 hours—was shut down as planned on Saturday, said Chongqing University, which designed the experiment.

The lander also carried potato and arabidopsis seeds—a plant of the mustard family—as well as fruit fly eggs and yeast.

Temperatures inside the

ecosystem were expected to plunge below minus 52 degrees Celsius (minus 61.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and the organisms will be “in a frozen state”, the university said in a statement on Tuesday.

The experiment ended hours before Chang’e-4 entered “sleep mode” on Sunday as the first lunar night fell since the probe’s landing. Temperatures plummet to about minus 170 degrees Celsius (minus 274 degrees Fahrenheit).

A lunar night lasts for about two earth weeks, after which the probe is expected to wake up, the statement said.

“Life in the canister would not survive the lunar night,” XieGengxin, who led the design of the experiment, told the official Xinhua news agency.

Once the temperatures start to rise next month, the organisms will be allowed to

“slowly decompose” in the permanently sealed canister.

Chang’e-4 is also equipped with instruments developed by scientists from Sweden, Germany and China to study the lunar environment, cosmic radiation and the interaction between solar wind and the moon’s surface.

The lander released a rover, dubbed Yutu-2 (Jade Rabbit), that will perform experiments in the Von Karman Crater.

China’s space agency said it is planning four more lunar missions, confirming the launch of a probe by the end of the year to bring back samples from the moon.

Beijing wants to establish a lunar research base one day, possibly using 3D printing technology to build facilities, the agency said Monday. —Xinhua ■

Intel vet takes wheel of self-driving car startup Zoox

SAN FRANCISCO (United States)—Intel vet Aicha Evans will lead self-driving car startup Zoox from next month, becoming a rare high-profile black chief executive in a Silicon Valley.

The Senegal native will become head of Zoox, and a member of the startup’s board starting on 26 February.

“I’m thrilled to join Zoox and challenge the status quo with an autonomous mobility system built from the ground up,” Evans said in a statement.

“Mobility is approaching a major inflection point, and Zoox has set itself apart from entrenched players.”

Technology titans including Alphabet and Uber along with major automakers have been racing to get self-driving vehicles, or platforms helping power them, to market.

Based in Foster City near San Francisco, Zoox was founded in 2014 with a mission to build a “fleet of fully autonomous, battery electric, zero-emission vehicles that are purpose-built and optimized for ridesharing in cities.”

Zoox has raised more than \$750 million in financing and boasts a team of more than 700 people. “Our team has made incredible progress since we started in 2014,” said Zoox co-founder and chief technology officer Jesse Levinson. “I’m excited to partner with Aicha as we forge our own path and show the world what the next generation of mobility looks like.”

Evans is going to Zoox after spending 12 years at US chipmaker Intel, where her most recent role was that of chief strategy officer.—AFP ■

Myanmar U-23 team to get new football head coach soon

THE new head coach of the Myanmar U-23 national football team will soon assume office, according to a statement from the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) on Wednesday.

U Kyi Lwin, who served as the head coach of the team, was replaced with Bulgarian coach, Mr. Velizar Popov, during an MFF press conference on Wednesday.

U Kyi Lwin helped the national U-23 team win the silver medal in the 2015 Southeast Asian Games in Singapore.

“Mr. Velizar Popov will fit in well with the MFF’s four-year strategic plan,” said the technical director of the MFF, Mr. Eric Abrams.

“While a brilliant coach, U Kyi Lwin does not have a UEFA-A license, and he will be in a better position after he gets the license,” he said.



Bulgarian coach, Mr Velizar Popov will serve as head coach of the U-23 Myanmar National Football Team. **PHOTO:MFF**

“The MFF would like to thank U Kyi Lwin for all his efforts in the Myanmar team’s successes and wishes him success in future,” he added.

The MFF is hoping the new head coach will meet the requirement and understand the philosophy of the Myanmar team, including their playing

style, and will guide them to success in the SEA Games and international matches.

“Velizar Popov is an experienced head coach and served with the Maldives national team in 2015. He is a UEFA professional license holder,” said a source with the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

First round of Myanmar Futsal League concludes

THE first round of the Myanmar Futsal League 2018 came to an end with victories for the MIC, VUC, and GV Athletic teams.

The National Indoor Stadium-1 (NIS I) was packed with futsal fans from Yangon during all matches.

After the first round of matches, the MIC FC emerged as the half-season champion by

winning all matches, scoring 33 points. The VUC FC placed second with 10 wins and one draw, earning 30 points. The GV Athletic FC placed third with 7 wins and 4 losses, with a total score of 21.

The second round of the league will begin on 22 January, according to the MFF Futsal committee. In the earlier Week 11 matches, the MIC FC beat

Pyay United FC by 15-0, the VUC FC beat Comrade FC by 20-3, the AMM FC beat Titan XII FC by 5-2, while the GV Athletic FC beat UPT FC by 6-0. Meanwhile, the Myanmar Football Federation’s U-19 futsal team beat the White Colour FC, while the Myoma YTD FC beat Shwe Myawady FC by 5-2, respectively.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Sharapova claims underdog status against Wozniacki

MELBOURNE (Australia)—Maria Sharapova has declared herself the underdog in her blockbuster third round clash with Australian Open defending champion Caroline Wozniacki, despite having five Grand Slam titles to the Dane’s one. Sharapova has struggled since returning from a drugs ban in 2017 and is seeded 30th at the tournament, while Wozniacki is third seed after claiming her maiden major at Melbourne Park last year.

But the 31-year-old Russian has been in sizzling form at this year’s tournament, showing glimpses of her ruthless best in dropping only three games in the first two rounds. Asked who was favourite for Friday’s match,

Sharapova conceded she was the underdog. “Relatively speaking on paper, if you’re looking at numbers, yeah, absolutely,” she said.

“She’s number three in the world. I mean, I think that speaks for itself in terms of her game, her confidence, everything else.” “She loves playing here, loves everything about this tournament. Certainly have a tough match ahead of me,” she added. Sharapova and Wozniacki have met 10 times, with the record 6-4 in the Russian’s favour. But their most recent clash was in 2015, when Sharapova was still at her peak and the Dane was yet to win her coveted maiden Slam, which she has credited with boosting her confidence.

“We haven’t played each

other in a long time. It’s tough to tell,” Sharapova said when asked to assess the match up. There is no love lost between the pair. Wozniacki questioned the way the WTA handled Sharapova’s return from a 15-month ban for failing a drugs test and was furious when she was bumped from the show court in favour of the Russian at the 2017 US Open. It prompted a withering response from Sharapova after Wozniacki’s elimination: “I’m in the fourth round. I don’t know where she is.” The Dane returned fire last year, saying she wanted to be an example for young players. “I’m very passionate about drug use because I’ve spent so many years fighting fair,” she said.—AFP ■

Ronaldo seals Italian Super Cup for Juventus

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia)—Cristiano Ronaldo scored the only goal to hand Juventus their first trophy of the season with a 1-0 win over ten-man AC Milan in the Italian Super Cup on Wednesday in Saudi Arabia. Ronaldo—signed by the Italian giants last year from Real Madrid as they target a first Champions League title since 1996—headed in a 61st-minute winner. AC Milan played the last quarter of an hour a man down after Ivorian midfielder Franck Kessie saw red for a bad tackle on Emre Can.

“I have my first title with Juventus so I’m happy,” said the Portuguese star who now has 28 trophies including five Champions League and league titles from England and Spain, and a European Championship with Portugal.

“I really wanted this, to get off to a good start in 2019.

“This is only the start, we’ll take it one step at a time. We’ve got this cup, now we must keep working hard to achieve the next trophy,” warned Ronaldo.

The match had been overshadowed by controversy with calls for it to be relocated over human rights issues in Saudi Arabia with women only allowed to attend the game if they were accompanied by a man.

Italian football league president Gaetano Micciche hailed the match as a success, with reports there were up to 15,000 women among the 62,000 crowd in the stadium. “It was a wonderful evening, a festival of sport in a full stadium,” said Micciche. “I hope



Juventus’ Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his goal during their Supercoppa Italiana final between Juventus and AC Milan at the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah on 16 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

that it’s the starting point for social evolution in this country.”

On the pitch the players suffered in the heat with temperatures hitting 25 degrees Celsius amid freezing conditions in northern Italy. In the end Juventus came away with a record eighth Super Cup title, one more than AC Milan who have won seven. “It was very hot and the important thing was to win,” said coach Massimiliano Allegri who won the trophy for the second time, having lost to AC Milan in 2016 and Lazio last year.

“Ronaldo? We always say the same thing... that’s why we signed him. He is decisive and scores big goals, but the whole team put in a good performance.” AC Milan forward Gonzalo Higuain only played the final 20 minutes against his parent club, ahead of a touted move to Chelsea, having moved away from Turin to make way for Ronaldo last summer. Coach Gennaro Gattuso said the Argentine was suffering from a fever and missed the team photo because they were afraid he would infect other players. “It might seem like a joke, but it’s true. Higuain wasn’t in the picture when the Saudi Prince came to visit because I was afraid the virus would spread among the other players, so that was my decision.” “He had a fever last night, we did everything to get him better, but he didn’t play much, so I preferred a fresher player.” Milan’s best shot on goal was a Patrick Cutrone effort after the break with their hopes dwindling after Kessie’s sending off. “We had to climb a mountain and we tried,” said Gattuso.—AFP ■