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State Counsellor attends Myanmar-Japan Concert 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra of the Myanma Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information and a band of Japanese musicians jointly conducted a concert at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi encouraged the musicians by her presence.

Those present at the concert were Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Union ministers, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and their wives, Ambassador of the Japan to

Myanmar and staff of the Japanese embassy, invited guests, departmental employees and their families, and music enthusiasts.

At the concert, Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, presented documents related to 19 musical instruments donated by the Japanese government to U Myint Htwe, Director-General of the MRTV.

After opening the concert by playing the national anthems of Myanmar and Japan, conductor Mr. Yunosuke Yamamoto and the National Symphony Orchestra entertained the audience with music.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi enjoys the entertainment of the Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra with Japan Concert 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Myanmar and Japanese musicians perform in the Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra with Japan concert 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards, Mr. Sato, Chairman of the Japan Foundation (Yangon) introduced the Japanese traditional musical instruments before musicians from the Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra, Japanese musicians and artistes from the Gitameik played the traditional music of Myanmar and Japan.

After the entertainment, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presented a bouquet of flowers to Mr. Yunosuke Yamamoto.

Next, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than presented a bouquet of flowers to Pianist Ms Kyoko Koyama.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Third-day meeting of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 11th session convenes

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

The third-day meeting of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 11th regular session was convened yesterday at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Q&A session

During the Hluttaw session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, a report was read out and a motion was tabled.

Giving land compensation for the land owners

U Aung Sein of Dawei constituency asked the Union Government if there was a plan to give land compensation for the land owners losing their plots of land in the Dawei-Myeik railroad track constructions, or to return the unused land that would not be used as a railroad tracks to the farmland owners.

Regarding this query, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that the Ministry of Trans-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

port and Communications would coordinate with the Thaninthayi Region government to deal with the issues of land compensation, in accordance with the procedures. Efforts would be made to transfer of unused land situated in the Thayatchaung-Thamoat Section to the original owners.

Reducing the port charges as an effort to boost

exports

U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency asked the Union Government that if there was a plan to reduce the port charges at the Yangon port, as an effort to boost exports. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said that although Myanma Port Authority is duty bound to earn massive money for the country, efforts

were being made to facilitate the workflow of the exporters and importers while making arrangements to collect the reasonable prices for them.

Q & A

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied the queries raised by U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency, U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency, Dr. U Aye Kyu of Labutta constituency and U Wun Hla of Nanyone constituency.

Approved Major Bridge Bill

Then Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat notified that the Hluttaw had received the approved Major Bridge bill sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments. Regarding this bill, Bill committee member U Zaw Win read out the report of

the bill, and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced that interested Hluttaw representatives should register their names to submit further amendments.

Reducing rabies infection

Dr. Than Aung Soe of Min-hla constituency tabled a motion on setting up a scheme, in cooperation with departments, local and international NGOs, to reduce rabies infection that can be transmitted to humans and animals. Dr. U Min Thein of Ye-U constituency supported the motion. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the Hluttaw was in agreement to accept the motion to make discussions. Then Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced that interested Hluttaw representatives should register their names to discuss the motion.

The fourth-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 25 January. ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw holds third-day meeting of its 11th session

MPs agree to discuss insolvency bill, enforcing section of the Oaths Act

By Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA)

THE third-day meeting of the 11th session of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. The assembly held a Q&A session on starred questions, submitted the Myanmar Insolvency Bill to the Hluttaw, and deliberated on accepting a motion.

Q&A: Revenue office in Thantlang Tsp, MEB branch upgrade in Hopan Tsp

U Bwe Khein from Chin State constituency 3 raised a question asking whether there are plans to reopen the much-needed township Internal Revenue Development office in Thantlang Township, Chin State. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Maung Maung Win, replied to the question. He said the revenue office for Thantlang Tsp is currently not included in the organization chart of the Internal Revenue Department but will be included as a C-level township office when the organization chart is revised. For the moment, Thantlang Tsp's revenue office will be temporarily placed in a



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

rented office space and staffed with civil servants from the Chin State Internal Revenue Department, said the deputy minister.

U Sai San Aung from Shan State constituency 12 raised a question on whether the branch office of Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) opened in Hopan Township, in Hopan District, Wa Self-administered Division, Shan State, will be upgraded into a township economic bank. Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win replied that there are no plans to upgrade the MEB branch in Hopan Tsp as of yet. He said the Hopan branch currently handles around 23 monetary transactions

and 9 cash withdrawals on a daily basis, and has 742 savings accounts. He said the MEB branch in Kunlong Tsp, about 13 miles from Hopan Tsp, has excellent roads and the workforce of the Hopan Tsp branch is able to handle the workload, hence there are no plans to upgrade the Hopan branch. He said they will continue monitoring the situation for a possible upgrade in the future if the workload were to increase.

Similarly, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, replied to questions raised by Dr. Zaw Lin Tun from Mon State constituency 9, U Lal Min Htan from Chin State consti-

Insolvency Bill put up for discussion

Justice U Mya Han of the Supreme Court of the Union introduced the Insolvency Bill to the assembly.

U Sai Tun Aung, member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, explained that his committee has discussed the bill in detail with experts and officials from relevant ministries, the Union Supreme Court, Central Bank of Myanmar, Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Office of the Union Attorney General, and the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission. Thus, he is submitting the bill for the Amyotha Hluttaw to give its approval, said U Sai Tun Aung.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then called for MPs interested in discussing the bill to enroll their names.

Agreement to discuss applying The Oaths Act

U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady

Region constituency 1 tabled a motion calling for judges, plaintiffs and witnesses of a lawsuit to swear an oath in the court of law so as to ensure a fair and just trial. U Soe Moe explained that the present situation in the country requires judges to administer swearing an oath in the courtroom to ensure a lawsuit is handled with adherence to existing laws and to gain public trust. He said plaintiffs and witnesses at present are not seen to be taking the oath with consistency. U Soe Moe said, to ensure proper exercise of the rule of law, the witness, interpreter, or juror shall make and oath, unless they are a Hindu or Muhammadan, or has an objection to making an oath, as enacted in Section 6 of The Oaths Act. The motion was seconded by U Kyaw Tote of Mandalay Region constituency 7. The Speaker gathered the resolution of the Hluttaw, gained agreement to accept and discuss the motion, and then called for MPs interested in discussing the motion to enroll their names. The fourth-day meeting of the eleventh session of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw will convene tomorrow. —■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

State Counsellor attends Myanmar-Japan Concert 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and officials pose for a documentary photo with the Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra and Japanese musicians. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Following this, Union ministers, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Deputy Minister for Information and the Japanese

Ambassador presented bouquets of flowers to the Japanese traditional music troupe, the Symphony Orchestra of Japan, Gitameik choir troupe, Insein choir troupe, the National Sym-

phony Orchestra of Myanmar and State Traditional Orchestra.

Later, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi posed for documentary photos together with the Speaker of the

Amyotha Hluttaw, Union ministers, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers, the Japanese Ambassador, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and musicians.

This concert was a collaborative effort between MRTV, the Japanese Embassy in Myanmar, and The Japan Foundation.—MNA

(Translated by AMS)

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy visits IDP camps in Rakhine State

A DELEGATION led by United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, visited the IDP camps in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday.

The delegation was accompanied by Rakhine State Electric Power, Industry and Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan and officials.

The UN Special Envoy and delegation first visited Kyain Ni Pyin and Anauk Ye villages where Islamic people are living, and interviewed them about the

current ground conditions on food, clothing, shelter, occupation, education, and health. They also met separately with the women and interviewed them about women's rights and health care. Afterwards, the UN Special Envoy and delegation explained about the processes of National Verification Card-NVC issued by the government to the people.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited Min Gan IDP camp in Sittway Town, where the people reported on their needs after the delegation requested them to openly discuss their current

conditions in food, clothing and shelter and other difficulties.

The Special Envoy and delegation then visited Hindu Maha Shiva Temple in Kyaung Tet Lan Ward, Sittway Town where Hindu people reported on their will to return to their places of origin and the needs for more job opportunities.

The delegation recorded the reports, and replied to the people that they will take the best approach in cooperation with the government.—Mg Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



UNSG's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener meets with local people at the IDP camp in Pauktaw, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Union Attorney-General receives MyJustice delegation



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with MyJustice delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received a MyJustice delegation led by team leader Ms. Caitlin Reiger at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Attorney-General said the cooperation between the Office of the Attorney-General and MyJustice in making efforts for helping the people gain justice and knowledge on legal affairs has brought fruitful results.

"The Justice for the people" strategy plan would be implemented by the Rule of Law Department and the Coordinating Body for Justice Sector Affairs from 2019 to 2023, said the Union

Attorney-General.

Ms. Caitlin Reiger said MyJustice would extend its five-year program, pledging its assistance in spreading knowledge on legal affairs, legal aid, getting access to justice, and in laying down policies related with justice.

The two sides also exchanged views on cooperation between them.

Also present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, Director-General Dr. Thidar Oo and Deputy Director-General Dr. Su Su Hlaing.—MNA

(Translated by AMS)

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attends 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Brussels

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with EU Trade Commissioner, discusses matters related to GSP Scheme

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin arrived back this afternoon after attending the 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting which was held in Brussels, Belgium on 21 January 2019.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore as a Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations and Mrs. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the European Union.

During the Meeting, the Ministers reviewed the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations and exchanged views on matters related to cooperation on regional and international issues, recent developments in ASEAN and the EU, and elevation of the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations to a Strategic Partnership.

At the Lunch Retreat Session, the Union Minister updated the Meeting on the recent developments in Rakhine State in an informal setting. In his briefing, the Union Minister informed the Meeting of the cooperation between Myanmar and ASEAN in facilitating the repatriation process, preparations made by Myanmar for return of the verified displaced persons in accordance with the bilateral agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh, progress of the implementation of the MoU between Myanmar, the



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin poses for documentary photo together with delegates of the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNHCR and UNDP and ongoing work of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) to address the issue of accountability.

Regarding the cooperation with ASEAN, the Union Minister informed that the TOR of the AHA Needs Assessment Team was adopted during the visit of the ASEAN Secretary-General to Myanmar and the AHA Needs Assessment Team will conduct the preliminary needs assessment as well as the comprehensive needs assessment once the repatriation commences to identify possible areas of cooperation to facilitate the repatriation process. He also added that the AHA Centre will also provide Capacity Building Programme related to disaster management.

Furthermore, the Union Minister updated the Meeting that the Myanmar side has recently provided additional list of 603 verified displaced persons to the Bangladesh side and urged for the earliest resumption of the work for repatriation process.

The Union Minister also informed of the progress of the work of the ICOE which has been conducting evidence-based investigation independently and has publicly invited submissions to provide evidence of alleged human rights violations. The ICOE has also proposed to visit Cox's Bazar for evidence collection. He also informed of the continued provision of humanitarian assistance by the Government as well as by the ICRC and WFP despite temporary restriction on the works of the UN and INGOs in some areas of Rakhine State due to security concern.

At the Plenary Session, the Union Minister led discussion on the Agenda of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and strengthening of cooperation with the European Union in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III. The IAI was launched in 2000 aiming at narrowing the development gap within ASEAN to facilitate the ASEAN Community building and the integration process.

On the sidelines of the 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, the Union Minister had separate bilateral meetings with Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Tomáš Petříček, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Mr. Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Peter Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Mr. Stef Blok, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands where they cordially exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, strengthening of the existing bilateral relations and cooperation as well as recent developments surrounding Rakhine State.

The Union Minister also met with Ms. Cecilia Malmstrom, EU Commissioner for Trade and exchanged views on promotion of trade and investment between Myanmar and the EU as well as

on the review process on EU's GSP/EBA Scheme for Myanmar. At the meeting, the Union Minister pointed out the affects of the EU's withdrawal of the Scheme including negative socio-economic impacts on vulnerable people especially employees of garment industry and their dependents. He also briefed on the progress made by Myanmar in promoting human rights, and protecting labour and child rights and arrangements made for the visit of the EU trade delegation to Myanmar for third round of negotiation in February. He also apprised the Commissioner on Myanmar's efforts to address the issue of Rakhine State including its repeated calls to Bangladesh for the earliest commencement of the repatriation process in accordance with the bilateral agreements. He also explained about the existing arrangements to provide humanitarian assistance to the IDPs despite recent incidents in Rakhine State. — MNA

Union Minister U Min Thu receives Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar

U MIN THU, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, received a delegation led by Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to the reform processes of the ministry's administration.

Also present at the meet-

ing were Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, U Zaw Than Thin, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Thant Sin, and Acting Director-General of the General Administration Department U Myint Than. — MNA

(Translated by
Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, U Min Thu, meets with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives UNFPA Representative for Myanmar

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received UNFPA Representative for Myanmar Mr. Ramanathan Balakrishnan and party at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January.

During the meeting, matters relating to social protection works conducted by the ministry under Life-Cycle approach, UNFPA's cooperation and participation in disaster management, imple-

mentation works conducted at union and state/region levels after drawing up and confirmation of youth policy, status of drawing up violence against women law, activities conducted during 16-day campaign to combat violence against women, status of amending children's rights law and effective mental, moral and social support for victims of sexual violence were discussed.—MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with UNFPA Representative for Myanmar Mr. Ramanathan Balakrishnan in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

Experts finalize strategy for combating money laundering, financing of terrorism

THE Committee on Drafting the National Strategy for Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism held meeting No. 1/2019 at the Myanmar Police Force Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the meeting were committee chairman and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Maj-Gen Aung Thu, committee members including the deputy minister for planning and finance, the deputy attorney-general, a deputy governor from the Central Bank of Myanmar, a member of the Anti-Corruption Commission, and invited guests.

In his address, Maj-Gen Aung Thu said the aim and objectives of the strategy should be practical and attainable so that we can reduce the risks outlined in the national risk assessment. He said suggestions and advice from relevant

departments and organizations across the country will be added into the national strategy and will require actual implementation to follow. He urged the attendees to actively participate in the discussions for the draft strategy as it will be approved in the meeting.

Next, committee secretary Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win Thein, also head of the Anti-Financial Crime Division, explained the completed implementation of the previous meeting's decisions, the completed status of drafting the national strategy, and future processes to be approved by the committee. Attendees then provided suggestions for the draft strategy.

The national strategy (draft) will be submitted to the Union government for further procedures.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UEHRD holds first coordination meeting for 2019



Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet delivers the speech at the UEHRD's first coordination meeting for 2019 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) held its first coordination meeting with Task Forces for 2019 at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) building on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

UEHRD's Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet delivered the opening speech. He expressed his wish for Rakhine State's economy to develop further, stating that the stagnant economy in Rakhine contributed to numerous hardships. He urged busi-

nesses to support development of Rakhine's economy. He hoped that growing the economy would lead to solutions to the remaining social issues in Rakhine. He said there was also a need to focus on helping the local people currently living in Rakhine as the return of the displaced persons were being awaited. Next, U Toe Oung, Advisor to the UEHRD Chairperson discussed about auditing and financial procedures and finalization of the UEHRD annual report after which U Kyaw Myaing, Information and Communications Director spoke about coordination arrangements for presenting the activities of the various task

forces to be incorporated into the UEHRD annual report.

Discussion at the meeting also touched upon promoting economic development and tackling social issues in Rakhine State, the consequences of the 4 January attacks, accepting returnees and providing assistance to people currently living in the areas that had experienced conflicts in earlier years, the field operations task forces, their future activities, and financial matters.

Attending the meeting were officials from the ten UEHRD task forces, and members of the UEHRD committee.—Zaw Gyi ■
(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)



Local and foreign media personnel arrive in Sittway by Myanmar National Airlines yesterday for media coverage on the situation in Maungtaaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Local, foreign media personnel arrive in Sittway, Rakhine State

LOCAL and foreign media personnel arrived in Sittway by Myanmar National Airlines, yesterday afternoon, to gather news in Maungtaaw region of Rakhine State.

The media groups have been allowed access to Rakhine State one-time in 2016, eight times in 2017, six times in February, 2018, 15 times in the

arrangement of the Advisory Board for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, making a total of 30 times media tours. The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has been making arrangements for conducting two guided media trips per month within 2018.

A total of 17 media person-

nel from Tokyo Shinbun, The Mainichi Newspaper, Sankei Shinbun, Nippon TV, TBS, AFP, Wall Street Journal, MI Radio, MITV, MRTV and MNA are participating in the trip, and they will collect news in Maungtaaw region of Rakhine State until 25 January.—Myo Myint (MNA) ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Nay Pyi Taw Midwifery Training School confers diploma certificates on 45 midwives



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe addresses the 2nd batch of midwife graduates from Midwifery Training School in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

MIDWIFERY Training School, Nay Pyi Taw conferred diploma certificates on 45 midwives who successfully completed midwifery diploma course, at the Myanmar International Convention Centre- II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

This was the 2nd graduation ceremony of the Midwifery Training School, Nay Pyi Taw, for midwives, and was attended by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

In his speech at the ceremony, the Union Minister instructed midwives to follow the Codes of Ethic in providing health care, and to perceive the well-being of all people as their own, to have everlasting unity among the midwives and other pledges included in the nursing oath.

The role of midwives working at the frontlines of practical

health care implementation plays an equally important role with other medical staff. There are 8,043 students studying three-year nursing diploma course, and 1,703 students studying two-year midwifery diploma course in 2018-2019 academic year. The role and quality development of nurses and midwives are the ministry's priority, he added.

The ministry has done, in cooperation with World Health Organization-WHO, preparation for developing syllabus and teaching methodology and providing teaching materials. Midwives have opportunities to join the nursing science course. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Course is now preparing to be opened soon.

Those who have obtained Bachelor of Science in Nursing can join the Master and PhD

courses, and those who have obtained Bachelor of Science in Midwifery can join the Master of Public Health Course. Therefore, midwives must try to upgrade their English proficiency skills to join the Master and PhD courses, the union minister said.

He also urged midwifery training schools to improve in theoretical and practical teaching and learning processes by maintaining the current systematic management guidelines and disciplines of the schools. Midwives are actively carrying out to achieve better health indexes, and their role in health indexes, including maternal death, child mortality and public health processes, are very important, the Union Minister said.

Afterwards, the Principal of Midwifery Training School, Nay Pyi Taw, explained the future processes of the school, and then presented certificates to the 45 midwives who successfully completed the course.

Also present at the meeting were Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Ministry of Health and Sports' Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein and officials, tutors and the parents of the diploma recipient midwives. —MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, received a delegation led by Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama yesterday at the Hluttaw Building (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and openly discussed matters related to le-

gal affairs, and the two nations' bilateral relationship and cooperation.

Also present at the meeting were member of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U San Shwe Aung and officials from the office.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trade Mark

Call
Thin Thin May,

09251022355,
09974424848

China transfers fund for 19 projects to be implemented in Myanmar under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund

U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr. Hong Liang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the agreement on the transfer of fund for the projects under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2018 batch), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the morning of 23rd January (Wednesday) 2019.

The Permanent Secretaries and Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant Ministries, and officials from the Embassy of the Peoples' Republic of China in Yangon attended the signing ceremony.

China will transfer US\$ 7.3 million to Myanmar for 19 projects to be implemented in Myanmar by the eight Ministries in the sectors of agriculture, water resources, education, research and social security.

China provided USD 2.4 million to Myanmar for 10 Mekong-Lancang Special Fund projects (2017 batch) in the sectors of agriculture, cultural and connectivity in 2018.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was established by the initiative of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the 17th ASEAN-China Summit held in Myanmar in 2014 to foster cooperation in sustainable development of the Mekong region.

It is a sub-regional cooperation framework officially

launched in 2016 among six Mekong-Lancang countries comprising Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation primarily focused on five priority areas, namely; connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, and agriculture and poverty reduction. It has been expanded to other areas such as education, culture and health, lately.

The Mekong-Lancang Special Fund under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework was established in 2017 in order to provide financial assistance to the development efforts of six Mekong countries. —MNA



U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Right) exchanges the agreements for transferring funding with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Chairman of the CTUM



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds a meeting with U Maung Maung, Chairman of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar, and delegation in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received a delegation led by U Maung Maung, Chairman of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar (CTUM), yesterday morning, at his ministry's meeting room in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Thein Swe said that they came to know the requirements of the employers and the employees, and would carry out maintaining peaceful and stability working environment while conducting the trilateral meetings among the Government, employers and employees.

The ministry was also aware of the important role of both labourers and the employers, and it is of great im-

portance to build a good workplace relationship among the Government, employers and labourers. Moreover it was duty bound to build good workplace relationship and stability. Arrangements were being made to conduct the training classes for labour laws, with a view to empowering their skills.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population have been adopting the laws prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw while holding a coordination meeting with Hluttaw committees for legal affairs. Plans are under way to draw up the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law (draft) and which would be submitted to the Hluttaw if it needed amendments. The proposal should

be in line with the standards of International Labour Organization (ILO) and Direct Contract Mission Report-DCM, and a solution could be made through the triplets co-operation, aiming to solve the withdrawal of the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) rights imposed by EU.

Then the Union Minister U Thein Swe hold talks with Chairman and members of the CTUM and discussed the proposals for changes on labour-related draft laws, problems arising in formation trade unions. Following this, the Union Minister and Director-General of the Labour Department U Win Shein took part in the discussion and clarified the matters. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Peace Commission Chairman receives Chinese special envoy

DR. TIN MYO WIN, Chairman of the Peace Commission, received a delegation led by Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center-NRPC on Shweli Road, Yangon

yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to Myanmar's peace processes, stability and development in the regions. —Nyunt Ko Ko

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win meets with PRC Special Envoy Mr. Sun Guoxiang in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Police seize WY/R stimulant tablets in Maungtaw

AN anti-drug police squad in Maungtaw confiscated two ownerless gunny sacks containing 194,805 WY/R stimulant tablets from the house where no one lives, owned by Gura San, 58, in Kyet Yoe Pyin Village, Maungtaw Township on Tuesday. The drugs are estimated at K 389.61 million of street values.

On the same day, police from law enforcement zone No.6, Maungtaw Township also seized a plastic bucket contained 29,250 WY tablets from

a man escaped by swimming to the side of Bangladesh, during their patrol with two vessels. The seized drugs are approximately worth K 58.5 million.

The two cases were filed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law at the related police station in Maungtaw to apprehend those who connected with the cases, according to police source.—GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee Chairman receives Ms. Margaret Wachenfeld from MCRB

PYITHU Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee Chairman U Tin Maung Win received Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business – MCRB's Ms. Margaret Wachenfeld and delegation at Hluttaw Building (I-9) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters

related to protecting information and data with the use of Information and Communications Technology- ICT, DOs and Don'ts of cyber security, Myanmar economic sector to become a responsible business and Communication laws and policies in Myanmar. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee meets with Ms. Margaret Wachenfeld and delegation from Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Uphold rules of success to build a federal democratic union

HERE are four basic ingredients of success: chanda (intention, purpose, desire, or zeal), viriya (diligence and will), citta (right intent and attitude,) and vimansa, or panna (wisdom).

These transcendent values should be a source of inspiration for us all to achieve success in our lives.

The people of the country have a strong will to build a peaceful and developed democratic federal union. Just strong will is not enough to reach the goal. We need strong diligence. The four principles can guide us to reach our goal.

The four principles expound universal truths. There is no substitute for action. But action cannot deliver the desired result without perseverance.

Likewise, an action without wisdom can pull us off the road to success.

The four basic values can guide all people to work together to reach the goal of a peaceful and developed federal democratic union. All people, in their own capacity, have the chance to practice the four principles. We believe that if we channelize our capacities in the right way, we can reach our goal within a short time.

Meanwhile, our people need to heighten the spirit of cooperation and make collaborative efforts for development, making the best use of emerging opportunities, and understanding why our country lagged behind in development compared with neighboring countries.

All ethnic nationals in the Union need to show unity. This is the requirement of the present moment. It is a historical requirement and a preparation for the future. Those who live together in the Union need to work together, for better

or worse, to overcome the challenges the country is facing at present.

The opportunity is now in the hands of all of us. The historical duty of establishing a democratic federal union for our future generations is now resting on our shoulders.

All citizens must work in unison to bring about peace and development. Only then can we build a democratic federal union sooner than expected. So, let's double our efforts with courage and use the four bases of mental power to achieve our goal.

The opportunity is now in the hands of all of us. The historical duty of establishing a democratic federal union for our future generations is now resting on our shoulders...

Roundtable discussion held on the ways and means in carrying out the research activities by the students

"We need to focus on research if we are to keep up with technological advances in the international arena";

Professor Dr. Thae Maung Maung

The MRTV broadcast round table discussion on the ways and means being carried out at the research activities by the students. The panelists are Dr. Than Htaik Soe, Principal of BEHS (11) in Aung Myay Thar San Township, Mandalay Region; Professor Dr. Ni Ni Than, Chemistry Department of Yangon University; Rector Dr. Theingi, Technological University (Thanlyin); Dr. Than Than Win, Deputy Director-General of Higher Education Department; Dr. Phyu Phyu Win, Deputy Director-General, Department of Research and Innovation; Dr. Thae Maung Maung, Professor (Head of Department), Department of UAV Research, Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University (MAEU).

Written by Naing Lynn Kyi

(Continued from the article appeared on 22 January)

Moderator: Please explain on the view of the Department of Research and Innovation.

Dr. Phyu Phyu Win: For the students at the Basic Education High Schools, we introduced interesting research subjects at the science exhibitions and raised their interests.

We have several plans to support and assist research from the first year to the final year at the university level, and the last two-three months of the final year are mostly dedicated to do practical research.

For the Ph. D and Masters' Degree, the students visited our university as we have signed the Memorandum of Understanding with other universities in carrying out such research works. We allowed the students to use all the devices and paraphernalia of our university.

Moderator: Please explain the objectives of Cooperation among Universities in doing research.

Dr. Phyu Phyu Win: Technology is very much vital for the development of a country, and that we need to carry out re-



Dr. Than Htaik Soe.



Dr. Theingi.



Dr. Thae Maung Maung.



Dr. Ni Ni Than.

search and innovative works.

Therefore, we have implemented the collaboration works with the University Research Institute involving many professionals in the research field doing diverse tasks for the development of the country. Such collaboration has benefitted in many ways including solving the problems as well as reducing the cost incurred for the research works.

Elevating in creation

While engaging in the collaboration work, they have acquired the team work experience, elevating the capability, enriching information, and raising new ideas, and above all, it raises the self confidence of the students.

Moreover, their capability in the research works is being elevated, enabling them to write and read research papers of international standard, getting

the benefits of copyrights and at the same time uplifting the image of the university.

Assisting Research Works

Our department could provide in the research for renewable energy such as that of solar energy and bio gas including the lighting with the construction of batteries, and also in the technology of electronic research.

We could also provide that of chemical base agricultural produce, that of medicinal plants, and that of Nano-technology, and that of the required equipments for the practical research works.

Moderator: Please explain the stages for the university level and the state level with regards to the research works for national development.

The Department of UAV Research, Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University (MAEU), has already created own design on unmanned aerial vehicle of seven types and now in practical use for the country such as that for the use in survey of lands, for the use in spraying pesticides for the farm lands, and the crop surveys.

In our research department, we have experimented the flight for (20) miles without a pilot, and that starting from 2014 we have flown the unmanned aerial vehicle for (192) kilometers in the assessment for mapping out aerial survey for the construction of (500) KVA high powered line of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy from Toungoo to Phayar Gye.

By using the unmanned

Working on the development tasks

When choosing a topic, it is necessary to choose the theme



Dr. Than Than Win



Dr. Phyu Phyu Win.

that covers all subjects related to many universities so that the research work would bring better benefits and support the interest of the nation.

The Department of UAV Research, Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University (MAEU), has already created own design on unmanned aerial vehicle of seven types and now in practical use for the country such as that for the use in survey of lands, for the use in spraying pesticides for the farm lands, and the crop surveys.

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By using the unmanned

aerial vehicle as a new technology, we are taking aerial survey of detailed information and mapping. These innovation tasks are beneficial to the country.

In the aftermath of Bagan earthquake, we have contributed in the tasks such as that of the survey in the whole of Bagan-Nyaung U area, the damage assessment, the supporting data and information for world heritage at the request of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and the Ministry of Education.

Moreover, in collaboration with the INGOs and the FAO, we have constructed four unmanned aerial vehicles for the use of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in crop survey.

Likewise, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, we are involved in the disaster management and relief works and damage assessment survey

in Magway Region, Chin State and Bago Region.

We are also assisting the Ministry of Construction in the survey of sites for the construction of bridges.

Recently at the request of the Mandalay City Development Committee, our Ministry of Education is assisting through our department in the survey of (48,000) acres over Mandalay Metropolitan in the production of aerial mapping, in connection with the tasks that of city development plans, that of smart city scheme, and e-government.

These are the university level research tasks being undertaken for the benefits and advantages of the country.

Our research works with regards to unmanned aerial vehicles are collaborating with the government departments as well as local and foreign companies through the methods of PPP system, and moreover, our department is contributing revenues to the country's coffers through the project implementation tasks.

Moderator: Kindly fill in more information if there is any.

Dr. Theingi: For all the greater good of the students at the basic education level as well as university level, we are desirous for the creation of the Research Support Center in the country.

Moreover, a strong research committee should be established in quest of soliciting research funds locally as well as from foreign countries.

The last wish and desire is the formation of a broader National Research Council by rallying round all the research entities in the country in carrying out research activities with unity, harmony and strength.

Moderator: Thank you very much.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

International Day of Education

(24 January 2019)

UNESCO

EDUCATION is a fundamental human right, a public good and a public responsibility. It transforms lives by driving economic and social development. It promotes peace, tolerance and social inclusion. It is key to eradicating poverty. And it enables children and young people to fulfil their potential.

It was to reaffirm these fundamental principles and to recognize the capital role of education in "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", that in December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as the International Day of Education.

Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to which the international community, including Myanmar, has committed itself calls for universal early childhood, primary and secondary education for all. To achieve this goal, we must expand access to quality education for every child and youth, end discrimination at all levels in the education system and dramatically improve the quality of education and learning outcomes.

Myanmar continues to face challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), which aims at ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. At least 12% of primary and lower secondary age children are out-of-school, with over 30% out-of-school children in Rakhine State making it the highest in the country. These are usually the poorest, most marginalized children living in remote areas and impacted by protracted conflicts and crises. One-fourth of those who are 15 years and older (around 9 million) are unable to read and write. Only around 17% completed upper secondary education.

Despite these somber statistics, there is also good news. Myanmar has been implementing a wide range of reforms for its education system in alignment with SDG4 since launching its National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) 2016–2021 which comprises nine transformational shifts for reforming each sub-sector of education. With the development of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) in 2018, Myanmar has also integrated the SDGs in the country's national development priorities.

With a view to making quality education work for everyone, it is imperative for global cooperation and collective action, by promoting inclusion and equity at every level, to leave no one behind. This calls for special attention to girls, migrants, displaced persons and refugees; children and youth with disabilities; to support teachers and make education and training more responsive to the needs of the learners. It urgently requires scaled up domestic resources and international aid, because the cost of not investing in education will lead to greater divides, inequalities and exclusion across societies.

In particular, it cannot be emphasized enough that teachers are key to achieving quality education for all. To ensure that all children, regardless of their backgrounds and abilities, are prepared to learn and take their place in society, teachers must receive effective training and support that equip them to respond to the needs of all students, including the most marginalised.

The upgrade of pre-service teacher education from two-year diploma programmes to four-year degree programmes in Myanmar is an important initiative that UNESCO has been supporting the Ministry of Education to implement. Teachers must receive quality initial teacher education, effective induction into the profession, and have opportunities for high-quality professional development to hone their skills throughout their careers. They must also demonstrate to the public that teaching is a valued profession by providing decent salaries and improving working conditions for educators at all levels of education.

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS

Zaw Min

Zaw Htet Oo

Win Ko Ko Aung

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ye Htut Tin,

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),

nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

Hay Mar Tin Win,

Ei Myat Mon

Kyaw Zin Lin

Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER

Nyein Nyein Ei,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,

Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01) 8604529,

Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,

Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,

Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com

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Global Earth Public Co. Ltd plans share issue

GLOBAL Earth Public Co. Ltd, set up for striped catfish-farming, is working to determine the initial value of stock prices for a share issue, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

The public company will be under the leadership of the MFF. Currently, it is consulting with economists, financial technicians, and lawyers about the share issue, it was learnt at the regular meeting of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation held on 22 January.

"If we invite shareholders, we want to give them an incentive by offering them a slice of potential profit. Therefore, we are doing this. We plan to start fish processing factory in 2019. I believe the factory will take

at least eight months. So, we cannot start our fish-farming project as expected. I want to nurture a culture of cooperation whether shareholders are fish-farming professionals or not," said Dr Toe Nandar Tin, the Vice Chairwoman of the MFF.

The public company is expected to invest over US\$100 Million to implement the project. Currently, work will begin on the cold storage factory, which will have a capacity of 200 tons. "To implement the fish-farming project in Kung-yangon in Yangon Region, we don't have permission from the regional government to use the land," said a source.

The striped catfish-farming project will be implemented on

land which was owned by the chairman of the MFF in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region. Global Earth Public Co. Ltd was legally registered at the end of 2018.

"The fish production process will have to be conducted as per international standards. We have established a public company because production costs will be high. Global Earth Public Co. Ltd is planning to export striped catfish. It will also renovate the cold storage and feed factory," said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the MFF.

"The main thing is that the company will need more labourers for farming, cold storage, and feed factory. So, the project will create job opportunities for

local people," he said.

"We will issue shares in two phases. In the first phase, the company's share value will be set, and in the second phase, investors will be invited to buy the shares," he said.

"Currently, the fish farming project is being implemented. Therefore, we will invite entrepreneurs and people who are interested in investing in farming," said U Win Kyaing.

"Although we had submitted a proposal to the government to implement the fish-farming project on a 1,000-acre plot of land in the first month of 2018, the authorities asked us to implement the project on a small scale initially," he added.—Aye Yamon ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Gold embroidery industry remains alive in Mandalay

THE gold embroidery industry is still surviving in the Mandalay Region. Although a traditional and popular craft of Myanmar, gold embroidery is not included in the 'Ten Flowers', a metaphorical name for traditional Myanmar arts and crafts.

The art of painting, called Panchi in Myanmar parlance, is essential to the gold embroidery craft.

"The craftwork was exported earlier, but now has a market only in the country. Gold embroidery is used in Myanmar traditional ceremonies such as noviciation and in office decor," said Daw Chaw, a gold embroidery business owner from Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay.

"The basic raw material



Artisans embroider the tapestry with gold thread and pearls in workshop-store in Mandalay. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

used in gold embroidery is velvet. The embroidery may also incorporate other materials such as pearls, beads, quills, and

sequins. Most of the raw materials for gold embroidery can be bought easily in Amarapura and Mandalay.

In modern times, the embroidery is usually seen on caps, hats, coats, blankets, shirts, denim jeans, suits, stockings, and golf shirts," she said.

The price of gold embroidery work depends on the design and the size. Although small-sized pieces can be finished within a day, specially ordered large-sized pieces take time. Besides, the price of arts and crafts is expected to be high.

Gold embroidery crafts are selling for K 20,000 to over K 1 million, depending on the design and size. Although tourists are interested in observing how gold embroidery work is done, the number of potential buyers is very small.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Thai university students set for Myanmar traditional medicine production excursion

A group of 70 people, including professors and students, from the Rajmangala University of Technology Krungthep (RMUTK), Thailand, arrived in Myanmar yesterday to observe how traditional medicines are produced in the country.

The students will go on an excursion to the Ah Ba Hta pharmaceutical factory located on Myoh Part Street, Ywar Ma (West) Ward, Insein Township, Yangon.

"The Ah Ba Hta inhaler is famous in Thailand. Most people in

Thailand are using the Ah Ba Hta inhaler. We would like to study how traditional medicines can get a market share amidst western medicines, which are the most popular in modern times. We would also like to learn how the factory produces traditional medicines," said Mr. Jaruta Kiti-rakorn from RMUTK, Thailand.

Among Myanmar traditional medicines, the Ah Ba Hta inhaler has already been certified by the Thailand Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Therefore, RMUTK University

students are interested in learning about the production of the inhaler.

"We have permitted the university students to observe our factory as the Thailand commercial attaché has made a request to us. Most of the Thai people like to use Ah Ba Hta inhaler. Thailand's FDA has officially issued an FDA certificate for Ah Ba Hta.

Additionally, India has also offered to distribute the inhaler in its domestic market. We plan to set up a factory in India and

distribute the Ah Ba Hta inhaler across India," said Dr. Thurein Naing Aung Hein from the Ah Ba Hta traditional medicine production. "We are trying our best to promote our research section," he said adding that Myanmar needs a better policy for the development of the traditional medicine sector.

"With the country developing, we expect Myanmar traditional medicines to find a place in the international market," he added.—Ko Htet ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Fish factories, farms prepare for SFDA testing to resume exports to Saudi Arabia: MFF

By Aye Yamone

THE Fisheries Department will meet with officials from the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), the Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association, 25 fish factories that cater to the Saudi market, and stakeholders in the supply chain to prepare for Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) testing to resume exports to Saudi Arabia.

"We have a two-month timeline to make preparations for passing the SFDA test. Once we are ready, we will send an invitation to the SFDA in March. We have submitted this to the relevant authorities," said U Thet Naing, the Deputy Director of the Quality Control and Research Division under the Fisheries Department.

"We will first compile a list to show fish are supplied by which factories and harvested from which farm ponds. Then, we will make further inspections of the whole production process to the export channel. The list will be finalized in February. Additionally, we will inspect fish ponds to check whether they are using Good Aquaculture Practices or not, in cooperation with the livestock division," said U Thet Naing.

The Fisheries Department will inspect fish processing fac-



Workers processing fish to export at a marine product factory. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

tories and fish farms and also carry out other necessary safety measures. Myanmar companies which are currently exporting fish to Saudi Arabia have to register online in advance, as per Saudi norms.

Concerning Saudi Arabia's suspension of fish importation from Myanmar, a delegation led by Dr. Khin Zaw, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, went to Saudi and negotiated the matter with SFDA officials in December, 2018.

The delegation that visited Saudi Arabia between 19 and 23 December 2018 was the first ever commercial mission sent to the country, and included officials from the MFF, the Trade Department, the Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association, and cold storages.

"In December, the SFDA and the Fisheries Department negotiated that matter. The negotiating process and planning was a bit late. Had the negotiation been carried out sooner, Sau-

di-Myanmar trade would have been on the regular path now. Saudi has strict regulations related to food and drugs so we cannot export our products to them as per previous norms. They are importing goods in accordance with the prescribed standards and regulations. Those standards affect not just Myanmar, but all countries exporting goods to Saudi," said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the MFF.

"The companies and cold storages will need to strictly adhere to the Saudi import criteria.

And then, they will have to register with Saudi authorities. They will be given the green light to enter the Saudi market depending on the results of the testing," he said.

Following Saudi's suspension of imports of farmed fish, fish farmers are sending their produce to the local markets. As a result, they have suffered some losses. The volume of fish farming also declined in 2018. At present, rohu's entry into local markets has hiked up fish prices. Once the export channel to Saudi is reopened, farms and factories may face the requirement to fulfill export demand.

At present, the Saudi market accounts for 30 per cent of Myanmar's farm-raised fish exports and 40 per cent of rohu exports.

In January 2018, a delegation of regulators, including the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture, the SFDA, and the Saudi Aquaculture Society, went to Viet Nam to learn 24 fish and prawn factories that export fishery products to Saudi Arabia.

Only nine factories were found compliant with food safety norms. Thus, Saudi restricted fishery imports from Viet Nam from 1 March, 2018. In addition, Saudi Arabia suspended fishery imports from Myanmar, Bangladesh, and India from April, 2018. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

EU demand drives up colored sesame seeds prices

THE prices of colored sesame seeds have doubled this year on the back of increasing demand from countries in the European Union, according to the Agriculture and Market Information Agency. With strong demand in EU markets for organically grown sesame or sesame with low pesticide content from Myanmar, colored sesame seeds are fetching a good price this year, according to the Trade Promotion Department. Myanmar ships sesame seeds to markets in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland in the EU.

The EU markets prefer organically grown sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official with the Trade Promotion Department. Additionally, Japan

prefers Myanmar's black sesame seeds cultivated with good agricultural practices (GAP) and purchases them after quality assessment. China also purchases colored sesame seeds from Myanmar. In 2017, the prices of colored sesame seeds were K2,200 per viss for white sesame, K2,120 for brown sesame, and K2,110 for black sesame. In 2018, the prices rose to K4,350 for white sesame, K4,020 for brown sesame, and K5,020 for black sesame. This year, the prices are higher compared with last year, said traders.

"The combination of growth in sesame seeds acreage and GAP has helped increase exports. Farmers who used GAP reaped the benefit," said export-

ers. Magway is the first region to adopt GAP for sesame farming. In 2017, sesame growers from 50 villages of Magway, Minbu, Minhla, and Natmauk townships used GAP to farm over 3,000 acres of land. Last year, sesame acreage reached about 3,500 acres, with the expansion of plantations to some villages in Yenangyoung, Myothit, and Magway townships, according to the Network Activities Group (NAG). Sesame crops are cultivated throughout the year. The Magway Region, which is referred to as the 'oil pot' of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The crop is also cultivated in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CP Motor Myanmar to manufacture motorbikes in Mandalay

CP Motor Myanmar, the affiliate company of Chareon Pokaphan-CP Group, Thailand's largest conglomerates, launched its three different models in Mandalay on 20 January.

"In order to meet the demand for transportation in different regions in Myanmar, CPM has confidently established the

manufacturing factory in Mandalay in 2017, with the production capacity of 100,000 units per year," said the statement released by the company. CPM is the first foreign company that obtains the license from Myanmar Investment Commission for manufacturing and distributing motorcycles in Myanmar.—Aung Thant Khaing



International Day of Education

FROM PAGE-9

In addition to a strong and qualified teaching force, a well-designed curriculum is equally important in ensuring quality education. In pre-service teacher education, a competency-based curriculum, which is in line with international practice, will be implemented to help student teachers not only learn the subject content but also acquire and apply

the knowledge, skills and attitudes to situations they encounter in everyday life. This learner-centered curriculum strengthens the competencies of student teachers to prepare them for the effective delivery of the new basic education curriculum impacting nine million basic education students.

Viet Nam, which performed above OECD average in the Program for International Student As-

essment (PISA) in 2015, underwent a key shift in education policy relating to teacher professional development and competency-based curriculum development in 2000s. Their experience can shed light on the importance of investing in teachers and curriculum to improve quality of education.

On this International Day of Education, UNESCO calls upon the Government and the people of

Myanmar as well as the international community to make education a leading priority for sustainable development, so that all children and young people, no matter their circumstances, can secure their right to quality education and a better future.

Each and every one of us have a stake in education, let us act together to fulfil its promise for all children of Myanmar.

■

Fire in Sangyoung Tsp kills three

A fire broke out in a teashop early on Wednesday morning in Sangyoung Township, Yangon, and spread to a nearby 6-storey apartment building, claiming three lives.

The fire started after a gas cylinder was turned on at the Ngwe Taung teashop, located on Baho Road, between Kyaiklat and Pantanaw Street, Sangyoung Township. The teashop is owned by U Mya Khine. The fire spread to a neighbouring apartment building located on the corner of the Baho Road and Pantanaw Street around 5:35 a.m. The Level 2 fire fighters group rushed to the site. A total of 100 firefighters, 26 fire engines, and 9 support vehicles brought the blaze under control by 5:58 a.m. It was fully extinguished by 6:01 a.m.

One man and two women were killed in the fire. Their bodies were taken to the Yangon General Hospital, according to the Fire Services Department. The police are investigating the case. — Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)

(Translated by La Wonn)

ROK donates 250 tonnes of rice to Rakhine State

ACCORDING to the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement, the Republic of Korea (ROK) donated 250 tonnes of rice to Rakhine State Government with a ceremony at the government's office yesterday.

During the ceremony, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said, "Both the Union Government and the Rakhine State Government are trying to change the condition of the Rakhine State for the better, including achieving the peace."

We would like to request the ROK to take cooperate with us. We are targeting the development of the Rakhine State while performing the peace process. We believe that every developmental process can lead to peace. Instability is concerned with just a part of Rakhine State. This is a very important fact for the international community to understand," he added.

The state Chief Minister also promised to send the donated bags of rice to the places in Rakhine State that have the most need.

Afterwards, the ROK ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Lee Sang Hwa, explained the aim of the donation.

Next, Deputy Director-General of Department of Agriculture, U Aye Ko Ko, also stated that according to the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement, implementation processes of the rice by ROK and the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation are for the development of the agricultural sector in Rakhine State.

The ROK ambassador then donated the 250 tonnes of rice to the state Chief Minister, who gave honorary certificates to the ambassador in return.

Similarly, the ROK also donated 267 tonnes of rice in 2017.

After the ceremony, the state Chief Minister also discussed Rakhine State's developmental processes with the delegation led by the ROK ambassador. —Myo Myint (MNA)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Cruise ship MS Amadea docks in Thilawa

THE MS Amadea cruise ship docked at Myanmar Integrated Port Limited (MIPL) port in Thilawa Harbor yesterday. The German cruise ship is the

first ship to visit Myanmar in 2019's open season.

The MS Amadea arrived in Myanmar from Trincomalee port in Sri Lanka and will depart for

Phuket Port in Thailand at 3:30 pm tomorrow. The cruise ship has 495 passengers on board, most of them German, and a cabin crew of 305 members. The

passengers will be visiting around Yangon City and Bagan. The cruise ship has also brought along the cast from famous German TV series 'Dream Boat', who will be filming some scenes in Yangon.

This is the 126th cruise ship handled by Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Company. In 2018, 17 cruise ships visited Myanmar, including ships from Japan and other western countries. Officials estimate there will 16 or more cruise ships visiting Myanmar this year, with most of them coming from America. There are also cruise ships visiting the Myeik Archipelago. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



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BY ITS ATTORNEY
Dated: 21 / 01 /2019

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (235 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (235 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-01-2019 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

World to miss 2020 climate ‘turning point’: analysis

PARIS (France) — The world is on course to miss its “best chance” of preventing runaway climate change by ensuring global greenhouse gas emissions peak in 2020, researchers warned on Tuesday.

Even as Earth is buffeted by superstorms, droughts and flooding made worse by rising seas, and as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally, an analysis by the World Resources Institute showed that current efforts to limit temperature increases are falling well short.

In 2017, experts identified six key milestones that mankind must hit by 2020 if the Paris climate goal of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) is to have a fighting chance of being met.

They include radical changes to how we get our electricity, and to how goods and services are dis-



Scientific consensus is hardening that in order for Earth to avoid the worst scourges of climate change, emissions must peak by 2020 and drastically reduce thereafter.
PHOTO: AFP

tributed worldwide. Chief among these are an immediate phasing out of fossil fuels, including a total halt to new coal power plant construction within two years, as well as an end to dirty energy subsidies.

The WRI on Tuesday said that achieving the 2020 goals was Earth’s “best chance” of honouring the

Paris deal goals. Some progress has been made in renewable energy and green finance, it said, but headway was deemed “insufficient” across a host of sectors.

“One thing from energy — where things are going much better — is how renewable energy is progressing,” said Hel-

en Mountford, the WRI’s vice president for climate change and economics.

Renewables such as wind and solar now account for roughly 25 per cent of global electricity production, not too far from the 2020 goal of 30 per cent.

But the world remains seriously off course when it comes to the phasing out of

greenhouse gas-producing fossil fuels.

The Mission 2020 campaign says no new coal-fired power plants should be constructed after the end of next year, and advises that all existing coal power stations should be in the process of being retired by then.

While the pace of expansion has slowed, the world is still seeing a net gain in coal capacity. More than 28 gigawatts of coal power was retired from the global grid last year — but 65 gigawatts was added.

“We are seeing new builds outpacing the retirements,” said Mountford.

Subsidies sticking point

Scientific consensus is hardening that for Earth to avoid the direst consequences of climate change, emissions must peak by 2020 and drastically reduce thereafter.

The WRI said this was the “best chance” for the

global economy to be carbon neutral by mid-century and to stay beneath the 1.5°C threshold.

Fossil fuel subsidies must also be entirely eliminated by 2020 to stay on track to the Paris goals, it said.

The subsidies have declined from \$443 billion in 2010 to \$373 billion in 2015, but major economies are yet to make good on their commitments to phase out the funding.

“Subsidies for coal, oil, and gas essentially act as a negative carbon price, reducing the costs for these polluting substances and taking up funding that could instead be used for other expenditures, including investment in sustainable development,” the WRI said. It also called for better transparency and reporting by governments and the private sector to allow for more targeted green action to take place.—AFP ■

China slashes ship emissions in three busy water areas

GUANGZHOU — China’s three busy water bodies have recorded “considerable reductions” in ship emissions since 2015 when vessels there were put under stricter emissions limits.

Oxysulfide and particulate emissions from ships in the Bohai Sea area, the Yangtze River

Delta and the Pearl River Delta in 2018 were 33 per cent and 22 per cent lower than those of 2015, said Cao Desheng, director of the maritime affairs bureau of the Ministry of Transport.

The reductions were achieved following actions to cut ships’ fuel consumption and pollution in the

regions, Cao said Sunday at a maritime affairs conference in the city of Shaoguan, Guangdong Province.

The ministry in December 2015 set up ship emission control zones in the three water bodies in a drive to improve air quality, particularly in port cities in the zones.—Xinhua

Notice for Change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor have been changed for the following herbicide manufactured by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co.,Ltd.

Sr.	Trade name	Active ingredient	Registration type	Registration no.
1	Sable 69 EW	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 6.9% EW	Provisional	2015-2506

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co. Ltd., No.(95), Padonma Street, Dagon township, Yangon.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0115N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0115N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (123 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (123 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0157-470N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0157-470N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest aims to exchange business, culture, friendship in one location



Dr. Aung Tun Thet.



U La Phai Kunsar.



Daw Saw Khin Tint.



U Aung Gyi.



Daw Jar Nu.



Mai Tun Kyaw.

By Thi Thi Min

THE Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest is coming to the Kyaikkasan Sports Grounds in Tamway Township, Yangon Region and will take place from 25 to 30 January. Mainly facilitated by the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association (MEEA), the culture fest aims to display the traditions, cultures and unity of all the ethnic brothers and sisters of Myanmar.

The culture fest will involve traditional dances from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan ethnicities, in addition to displays of their culture, way of life, traditional accessories and items of everyday use, and booths selling local products, all in one location.

The following are interviews with MEEA members and booth owners at the culture fest.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet (MEEA Patron)

The MEEA was established because the new government administration is prioritizing peace, which has its basis in economy. From an economic perspective there is a cycle of instability leading to stunted development and vice versa. We requested the State Counsellor to permit us to conduct business for peace. Holding the 21st Century Panglong for peace talks is one matter, while on the other hand, we must consider how to drive economic development. The upcoming culture fest is a gathering of ethnic entrepreneurs. There are 135 main ethnicities in our country and we want them to conduct business in a uniform manner.

Each of the ethnic entrepreneurs – the Mon, Pa-O, and Wa for example – have their own special qualities and services. If they can penetrate the global market then economic development will follow suit. I am thankful for the existence of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in this government



Officials erecting Manaw Shadung at Kyaikkasan Grounds for the Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest.

PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN (MIRROR)

administration. We are mainly operating under that ministry. I'm also pleased to be holding the culture festival at Kyaikkasan Grounds since it was used to celebrate National Day.

There will be a manaw festival at this culture fest, and we will have lethwei matches and a Miss pageant. Another important element of the fest is the food. Each ethnic race has its own unique food. It's one of aspirations for Myanmar's ethnic cuisine to spread across the international community. Our ethnic races have unique food, textiles, and handicrafts. We must start from here to reach out onto the global stage.

I want our country to develop, succeed, and achieve peace. This culture fest is a peace festival in a way. I want to impart a word of warning though. I don't want our efforts in organizing this ethnic culture fest to flibuster. Don't stop your efforts at the festival. Continue the momentum. We have plans to invite foreign guests and emissaries. We will notify the embassies. The outside world only knows of the issues of Myanmar. They don't normally see the peace. We want to show them things are not like what they imagine it to be. One of our main issues is occurring only in the western part of Rakhine. The rest of the State is peaceful. Kachin

has conflicts too but there are many areas where it is peaceful. I hope the culture fest will also strengthen relations between our ethnic people.

U La Phai Kunsar (MEEA Vice Chairman 1)

Our MEEA is leading this ethnic culture fest. We aim to gather all our ethnic races in one place and showcase their businesses and culture and deepen bonds between them. This is the first event of its kind for ethnic entrepreneurs and businesses. It is in our association's objectives to facilitate the emergence of more ethnic entrepreneurs. This is because when choosing whether to carry out peace or economic development first, it is in our objectives to do them both simultaneously. This applies to education too. Economic development will lead to better education, which in turn will lead to an increase in skills and capabilities of the national workforce.

We are leading with Kachin this year and we will be going through the ethnic races alphabetically. We don't have a set month or season for holding future culture fests. We'll plan according to a suitable time.

Daw Saw Khin Tint (Chairperson of Rakhine Literature and Culture Association)

I'm contributing to this cul-

ture fest on behalf of the Rakhine Entrepreneurs Association. We will be displaying attractive destinations for foreign tourists such as our special economic zone and Nay Pu Taung. There will be displays of prominent Rakhine Thingyan festivals including a never-before-seen display of Rakhine hair knots. There are 64 documented Rakhine style hair knots and Sayamagyi Daw Saw Mone Hnyin has recorded 33 styles. We will be displaying all 64 styles at the culture fest; a result of 20 years of research. We will also be displaying 40 baung daws (traditional headwear) from the Kingdom of Dhanyawadi to the Kingdom of MraukU. There will be Rakhine kyin (a traditional wrestling sport), displays of traditional clothing and designs, plus a Rakhine marriage setting in one of the houses. We used the ordinary khamauk (conical hat) in our decorations. They only cost K2,000-2,500 each but they are very much a part of the everyday life of Rakhine people.

U Aung Gyi (Chairman of Sagaing Region Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association)

I'm in my sixties and this is the first I've seen an event of this nature. It will bring all the ethnic races together in one

place and allow exchange of culture, friendship, and business. By coming to this culture fest, you will be able to witness the close relations our ethnic races have with each other. You will see the peace process and economic development we are working for are in tandem; one must be going well to support the other, and this applies to both sides.

Daw Kay Jar Nu (Entertainment Subcommittee)

We are in charge of the entertainment section of the culture fest. There will be artistic performances, musicals, traditional dances and songs. There's also going to be a Miss Ethnic Myanmar 2019 pageant. We've picked 41 contestants for it, with at least three candidates from each ethnic race. The final will be held on the 29th. There's a Kayin don yein dance on the 28th. There's also a manaw dance. It's appropriate because every ethnic national can participate in that dance. The entertainment programs will start from 6 pm every evening and continue to 11 pm. There's no admission fee so please do come.

Mai Tun Kyaw (Yangon Ta'ang Youth Organization, Palaung Self-Administered Zone culture exhibit)

This exhibit has our traditional objects on display. We also have local products from our region. We're going to show some travel destinations via a projector and give detailed explanations. You can purchase our regional products at our sales booth. We will also display our traditional dance and songs. This culture fest allows us to strengthen relations and discover more of each other's way of life. ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Tokyo airport tests driverless bus to shuttle visitors

TOKYO (Japan)—Visitors pouring into Japan's Haneda airport for the Tokyo Olympics next year may find themselves ferried to and from planes on driverless buses, currently being tested at the major hub.

Six Japanese firms, including national carrier ANA, jointly started a 10-day experiment with a self-driving prototype minibus last week.

On Tuesday, officials allowed a sneak peak at the automated transportation, which is being tested with a safety driver in the front seat.

The "driver" sat with his white-gloved hands hovering above the wheel, ready to take control if need be, but otherwise allowing the bus to wend the route on its own.

"Our hope is to be able to offer users autonomous buses by the Tokyo 2020 Olympics," said ANA project chief Tadakatsu Yamaguchi.

The vehicle holds a maximum of 10 people and cruises along a route connecting two terminals at a speed of up to 30 kilometres (19 miles) per hour using GPS and magnetic markers on the road. Project officials did not immediately detail the cost of the system or how many people they expect to eventually transport with the buses. Japan is hoping the 2020 Games will be a chance to showcase cutting edge tech projects in the country, but autonomous transport is also an important sector for a nation suffering labour shortages and a shrinking, ageing population.

"The decline in the population puts us at risk of no longer being able to carry out operations and that is why we are now pushing to introduce new autonomous mobility technologies so we can guarantee good operations with less staff," said Yamaguchi.—AFP ■



Journalists look at a driverless bus during an open test drive demonstration at Tokyo's Haneda International Airport on 22 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Blue Origin to make 10th flight test of space tourist rocket

WASHINGTON (United States)—Blue Origin, the rocket company headed by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, is poised to launch the 10th test flight of its unmanned New Shepard rocket on Wednesday as it competes with Virgin Galactic to become the first to carry tourists on brief visits to space.

The liftoff is scheduled for 8:50 am Central time (1450 GMT) from a Texas launchpad. The rocket will be carrying several science experiments for NASA. The small rocket crossed the frontier of space last year, which is internationally agreed to be 62 miles (100

kilometres) above Earth, known as the Karman Line.

New Shepard reached a height of 66 miles (107 km) in April 2018. The spacecraft is designed to one day carry up to six passengers for a journey lasting a total of 11 minutes. Virgin Galactic, headed by British billionaire Richard Branson, is also working on a vessel of its own to carry tourists to space. On 13 December, 2018, Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, VSS Unity, flew higher than it ever had before, surpassing what the US Air Force considers the boundary of space, and marking the first manned flight to space from US soil

since 2011. The spaceship made it to a peak height of 51.4 miles (82.7 kilometres). The US Air Force considers the space boundary to be at 50 miles. The brief, suborbital flight—with two pilots on board—was a key milestone for the company which is striving to send tourists to space at a cost of \$250,000 per seat.

Neither Blue Origin or Virgin Galactic is ready to board their first paying passengers, but both are targeting the first such flights this year. Blue Origin has not yet announced the ticket price to ride on its New Shepard spaceflights.—AFP ■

IN Picture

Women cosmonauts that made history in Russia's quest to explore space



Yelena Serova became the first female Russian cosmonaut to visit the International Space Station on 26 September 2014. Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos is putting together a team of female cosmonauts to conduct flights into outer space, a source in the space industry said earlier. Only four women have traveled into orbit in the history of Soviet and Russian space exploration: Valentina Tereshkova (1963), Svetlana Savitskaya (1982, 1984), Yelena Kondakova (1994, 1997) and Yelena Serova (2014). Yelena Serova became the first Russian woman cosmonaut to set out on a long space flight in the past 20 years. Russian women in space - in photo gallery by TASS. **PHOTO: TASS**

Bleeding risks may offset aspirin's benefit vs heart disease

TAMPA (United States)—Should healthy people take aspirin to ward off heart disease? The notion has been controversial, and the medical advice mixed. But a review of scientific data on the topic on Tuesday showed that any benefits are slight, and are counterbalanced by a matching rise in bleeding risks. Aspirin is a blood thinner and can help prevent clots that may lead to heart attack or stroke. But aspirin also boosts the risk of hemorrhage in the brain, stomach and intestines.

"When considering the totality of evidence, cardiovascular benefits associated with aspirin were modest and equally balanced by major bleeding events," said the report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The meta-analysis examined 10 prior studies involving a total of more than 164,000 people with an average age of 62. Comparing aspirin users to those who don't take aspirin, researchers found "significant reductions" in

strokes, heart attacks and deaths from cardiovascular disease among those who took aspirin.

Aspirin use was also linked to an increased risk of "major bleeding events compared with no aspirin," it said. Statistically, the benefits were close to the risks. If 10,000 people without heart disease took no aspirin for a year, 61 of them would have a heart attack or stroke, explained Kevin McConway, emeritus professor of applied statistics at The Open University. If 10,000 similar people took aspirin for a year, 57 of them would have a heart attack or stroke.

"Only four fewer in 10,000, but that still has some importance given how common such diseases are and how serious cardiovascular disease is," said McConway, who was not involved in the study. Heart disease is the top killer of people worldwide, taking 17.9 million lives around the planet each year, for one-third of all deaths, says the World Health Organization.—AFP ■



Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova hits a return against Serena Williams of the US during their women's singles quarter-final match on day ten of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 23 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Serena dumped as Pliskova reaches Open semis

MELBOURNE (Australia)—Serena Williams was sensationally bundled out of the Australian Open on Wednesday after an epic three-set fight with Czech seventh seed Karolina Pliskova for a semi-final spot.

Pliskova won 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 to set up a final four clash with Japanese fourth seed Naomi Osaka, ending the American great's dream of claiming a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title at Melbourne Park this year.

The 26-year-old survived four match points in a rollercoaster third set that Williams led 5-1 before collapsing to defeat in two hours 10 minutes.

"I was almost in the locker room, now I'm standing here as the winner. It's a great feeling," an exhausted Pliskova said.

"My mind was in the locker room. I wasn't playing very well in the third set but I thought let's try, this game at 5-2. She got a little bit shaky in the end so I took my chances and I won."

Williams, 37, had blazed through the early stages of the tournament, seeing off world number one Simona Halep in the fourth round.

But against Pliskova she lacked the intensity she had previously displayed and was soon trailing for the first time during her campaign after a slew of uncharacteristic errors.

Pliskova, who entered this year's tournament on a high after winning the Brisbane International warm-up, came out firing and out served Williams to take the first set.

Williams rebounded in the second set before imploding in the third when she had the finish line in sight.

Former world number one Pliskova has made the quarter-finals in her last two appearances at Melbourne Park and made the final at the US Open in 2016.

She has been a regular in the second week of Grand Slams in recent years, reaching the quarters or better six times since late 2016, but is still searching for a breakthrough win.

The Czech said the win over Williams was a huge confidence booster before facing US Open champion Osaka.

"She's dangerous but nobody is more dangerous than Serena," she said.—AFP ■

AFF U-22 championship: Time changed for Group B matches

THE time slots for Group B matches of the Asian Football Federation's U-22 Championship 2019, starting 18 February, which Myanmar is scheduled to participate in, have been changed, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) yesterday.

As per the new schedule, the match between Myanmar and Indonesia on 18 February

will now take place at 3 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. As a result, Myanmar's opponents Malaysia and host Cambodia will play against each other at 6 p.m. the same day.

The time slot for the match between host Cambodia and Myanmar on 20 February has also been changed to 6 p.m. instead of 3 p.m., said a source with the MFF.

Hence, Indonesia will take on Malaysia at 3 p.m. the same day, said the source.

A total of nine teams will be participating in the tourney. Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, and host Cambodia are in Group B.

Defending champion Thailand, Asian football star Viet Nam, the Philippines, Laos, and Timor Leste have been placed in Group A.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Sylla leads list of top goal scorers in Week 2 of MNL

WITH Week 2 of the Myanmar National League 2019 concluding, Yangon United striker Sylla Sekou is leading the list of top goal scorers with a total of four goals.

Sylla scored two goals this week in the match against Chinland F.C. and two more in the

previous week's match against Hantharwady United F.C.

Shan United striker Maycon Rogerio is next on the list, with a total of three goals.

Htoo Aung from Southern Myanmar F.C., Kyi Lin from the Yangon United F.C., Sameul from

Rakhine United F.C., Soe Myat Thu from Dagon F.C., Myanmar national team's young football star Win Naing Tun from Yadanarbon F.C., and Yan Paing Soe from Ayeyawady United F.C. are tied for the third place, with two goals each.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Koreans lurk for 'public enemy' Qatar in Asian Cup quarters

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates)—Title-chasing South Korea dodged a bullet to reach the Asian Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday, while Qatar toppled Iraq 1-0 in a full-blooded Gulf clash.

The Koreans were taken to extra time by tiny Bahrain in Dubai where a thumping header from substitute Kim Jin-su earned them a 2-1 win and dragged the tournament co-favourites through to face Qatar—the team local fans love to hate.

"It was a tough game," said South Korea captain Son Heung-min after the Taeguk Warriors reached the quarter-finals for the seventh straight time. "It's all about attitude as well, and I'm a bit un-

happy with our performance—I think we're better than that." South Korea's quest to end 59 years of Asian Cup hurt looked to be safely on track when Hwang Hee-chan pounced on a loose ball to lash home two minutes before half-time.

Mohamed Al Romaihi equalised with a poacher's strike 13 minutes from time to send a shiver through a Korean side under enormous pressure to improve on their runners-up finish in 2015.

But normal service was resumed in extra time when right-back Lee Yong's pinpoint cross invited Kim to come steaming in at the back post to score with an unstoppable header.—AFP ■



Bahrain's midfielder Ali Madan (l) marks South Korea's forward Heung-min Son (c) during the 2019 AFC Asian Cup Round of 16 football match between South Korea and Bahrain at the Rashid Stadium in Dubai on 22 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**