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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Republic of Serbia First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Ivica Dacic, the Republic of Serbia First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

REPUBLIC of the Union of Myanmar State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the Republic of Serbia First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ivica Dacic at the Presidential Palace yesterday morning.

At the meeting promoting bilateral relations and economic cooperation in accordance with the historically long and friendly bilateral relations, conducting the established coordination meetings between the two foreign ministries on a regular basis, increasing bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual benefit in the international arena and cooperation in news media matters were openly discussed.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, officials from Office of the President and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— MNA ■ *(Trs: Zaw Min)*

Gov't takes steps to ease regulations in bid to attract foreign investment

UTHAUNG TUN, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, attended the second day of the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, and re-affirmed plans to establish standard operating procedures (SOPs) and a Land Bank to ease investment procedures.

The setting up of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, which was formed recently to attract foreign investment, is among the significant changes being made in Myanmar, said the Union Minister.

The ministry's MyCo System is offering online registration to companies, he added.

He also stressed the important role played by the youth in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, appreciating the aptitude displayed by Myanmar youths who achieved success in the Robot Olympics.

"Myanmar's enviable geographical location makes the country a strategic place as it is sitting between China and India, and both countries are developing at the highest pace. Understanding the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative, Myanmar is making the necessary investments to improve its infrastructure," said U Thaung Tun.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

MPs to discuss committee proposal for constitutional amendments

Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

THE third day of the 11th Regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held yesterday at 10 am in the Main Hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

An urgent proposal to form a joint Committee consisting of Hluttaw members in order to expeditiously implement the steps to be taken towards amending the 2008 Constitution

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyi Nyunt from Magway Region constituency 4 submitted an urgent proposal to form a joint Committee consisting of Hluttaw members in order to expeditiously implement the steps to be taken towards amending the 2008 Constitution.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt stated that amending provisions of the 2008 Constitution is an important task for the people of Myanmar in the current situation. This task needs to be noted by and decided by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He stated that when a review is made of the 2008 Constitution it is found that there are provisions in the Constitution which are not in conformity with democratic norms, inconsistent provisions within the Constitution, provisions that would impede the implementation of a genuine democratic Federal Union which is a sine qua non to establish internal peace.

In addition, U Aung Kyi Nyunt stated that there are also provisions in the Constitution which impede the establishment of a multiparty democracy, that unbalances the checks and balances required in the three pillars of democratic governance as well as provisions that do not provide for the equal protection of the laws of its citizens and also provisions which impair the holding of free and fair elections.

The best way to protect the Constitution is to draft a Constitution where the aspirations of the citizens and the indigenous people are implemented in the future State. In order to smoothly work towards such an outcome the main duty falls on the Legislative branch which is the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, U Aung Kyi Nyunt stated.

He continued to say that this is a time where under the auspices of the 21st century Panglong Conference to establish perpetual peace and national reconciliation it has already been agreed that the Union must be based on Democracy and Federalism. In order to smoothly implement such tasks and to achieve mutual confidence it is necessary to amend the Constitution.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt stated that he is making this solemn proposal in conformity with the wishes of the entire people of Myanmar and in order to review the 2008 Constitution a joint Committee should be urgently formed with suitable representatives of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. That Committee could consider issues in order to expeditiously implement the tasks of amending the Constitution. U Aung Kyi Nyunt explained that what he is proposing now does not involve or deal with Articles 433, 434, 435 in Chapter XII of the Constitution. He stated that he was not proposing a draft bill to amend the Constitution but only proposing a mechanism to systematically implement his proposal in conformity with Rule 66.

Dr Wei Phyo Aung.

Afterwards, the representative of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw from Thaketa constituency Dr Wei Phyo Aung spoke in support of the proposal. He stated that it has been over ten years since the 2008 Constitution was practised. Since more than a decade has passed since its implementation necessary changes should be made in order to keep up with the times. The people's representatives are conferred this duty under the democratic system and they should take into consideration the true wishes of the people and they would have the opportunity to do so in this era where it is now 'time for change' and discussions and review of the Constitution should be made in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He therefore supports the motion and urge the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to discuss the proposal.

Brig-Gen Maung Maung.

Representative from the Tatmadaw Brig-Gen Maung Maung stated that he was not asserting that the Constitution should not be changed. He agreed that it needs to be changed. Because of this agreement he was proposing that amendments should be made in conformity with the procedures. All of the representatives in the Hluttaw are here in accordance with the provisions of the 2008 Constitution. Procedural rule 135 states that a draft bill be first proposed that a joint committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw have to review the draft Bill. If a Committee were to be formed it would not be known which Articles or provisions of the Constitution would be reviewed, what would the Committee do and how expansively would the Committee consider such issues. Those in the Legislature should conduct their actions in accordance with the laws and procedures and Brigadier Maung Maung stated that this issue is not a task to be decided by votes.

After the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw stated that the statement of Brig-Gen Maung Maung is not accepted all the Tatmadaw personnel in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw stood up in protest.

Dr Myat Nyanna Soe.

The Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyanna Soe stated that at this moment it is not the case that a Bill to amend the Constitution is being submitted. Since a multiparty system is being practiced if a representative, or a group of political parties were to submit such a proposal it could have deviated from the wishes of the majority of the people, citizens and the indigenous people. This proposal could be discussed by all political parties (representatives) in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw including the Tatmadaw personnel. Hence it is in conformity with the laws, by laws and rules of the Hluttaw and therefore he solemnly requested the Speaker to put into effect that this proposal be decided by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw asked the views of the Hluttaw Members as to whether the proposal should be considered through the electronic voting system. There were 394 votes for, 17 against and 3 abstentions. As more than 1/3 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw members supported the proposal the Speaker announced that the Hluttaw has agreed to discuss the proposal.

The Speaker also stated that those Hluttaw representatives who wish to discuss the proposal can put forward their names.

It is learnt that the fourth day of the 11th regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 1 February 2019. ■

(Translated by Myint Zan)

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Replacement and reassignment of members of committees

AT the meeting Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat obtained the agreement of Hluttaw on replacing U Tin Htway of Waw constituency who was reassigned as chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee with U Aung Tin Lin of Natmauk constituency as member of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission member.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also informed and obtained the agreement of the Hluttaw on the replacing of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee members. Committee members U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency, U Lin Zaw Tun of Mongphyat constituency and Tatmadaw representative Brig-Gen Ye Naing Myo were being replaced by U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency, Daw Ni Ni Don of Paukkaung constituency, U Sit Aye of Taungtha constituency and U Kyaw Tint of Tatkon constituency.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives ROK Ambassador

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U T Khun Myat received Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa from the Republic of Korea at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting matters relating to strengthening relations between the governments, parliaments and the peoples of the two countries, cooperation in development and establishing friendship associations in the two parliaments were discussed in a friendly and open manner. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with ROK Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

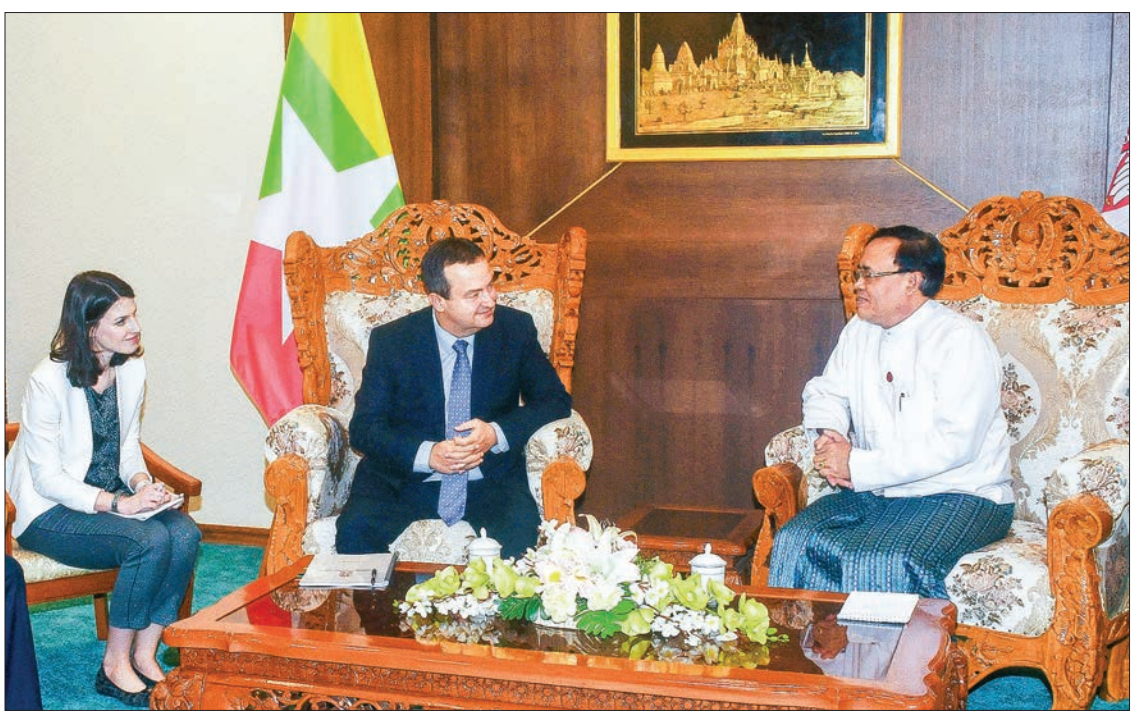
Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations receives Chairman of Japan – Myanmar Association

UNION MINISTER for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun received Mr. Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of Japan – Myanmar Association yesterday at 4:30 PM at Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, building No.(1), in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, both sides cordially discussed matters relating to the investment in the sector of electricity and energy which is the utmost importance for the development of Myanmar and further cooperation between the two countries, Myanmar and Japan.—MNA ■

Union Minister U Thaung Tun holds talks with Japan - Myanmar Association Chairman Mr. Hideo Watanabe in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Republic of Serbia First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ivica Dacic in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received the Republic of Serbia First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ivica Dacic at the Union Minister's guest hall in Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on exchanging high level visits, conducting regular coordination between the two foreign ministries, increasing bilateral cooperation in sports, education, news media and culture and regional and international matters were discussed.

After the meeting the Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders between Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Republic of Serbia was signed by Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and the Republic of Serbia First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. IvicaDacic.

The agreement will enable the holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports of the two countries to get the duration of stay not exceeding 90 days and will facilitate travel procedure for the holders.

Later in the afternoon Union Minister for International Cooperation hosted a luncheon to the delegation led by Republic of Serbia First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

LIP Ministry, ILO evaluate labour migration projects

MINISTRY OF Labour, Immigration and Population and International Labour Organization (ILO) with the support of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Developing International Internal Migration Governance (DILM) and Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) hold a Labour Migration Stakeholders meeting at Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe addresses Labour Migration Stakeholders meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 January 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

In his address at the meeting Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said this meeting was held with the aims of evaluating 2018 ILO Labour Migration projects, modifying works and strategies of 2019 Labour Migration projects with suggestion of stakeholders and obtaining approval of the 2019 work programs. Labour Migration Stakeholders meetings were held since 2016 to provide suggestions in Labour Migration projects and to share project works.

The relation between Myanmar and ILO is clearly seen to be progressing in a positive way through mutual cooperation and understanding. The UN organization is setting up appropriate policies and work processes to press on in raising the protection of the rights of migrant labour and to reduce social and economic expenses in labour migration.

Creating job opportunities in the world is becoming important and Myanmar government is setting up and implementing reform work processes while placing emphasis on development of socio-economic of the people, create jobs for anyone who can work to reduce poverty and to create appropriate works for them. Policy related to labour that are appropriate for development of qualified human resources were established and implemented in accordance to the nation's development policy and courses on systematic management of job opportunities appropriate to the labour resources were conducted to create skilled and discipline workforce and sustainable job opportunities said the Union Minister.

Next, ILO Liaison Officer Mr. Rory Mugoven and an official from LIFT delivered messages of greetings.

The opening ceremony was attended by Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws representatives, departmental heads, officials from ILO-Yangon, representatives of civil society organisations and invited guests. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Gov't takes steps to ease regulations in bid to attract foreign investment

Union Minister U Thaung Tun take part in discussion at the Invest Myanmar Summit in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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When it comes to making and receiving investments, a win-win situation is important for both sides, and all need to work together to achieve it, he said.

Regarding the situation in Rakhine, U Thaung Tun said the Union Government understands the situation in the State and has formed the Central Committee led by the State Counsellor to focus on implementing peace, stability, and development in the state. It has also set up the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State (UEHRD), the committee for repatriation and resettlement of displaced people in Rakhine State, and the Rakhine State Advisory Commission led by Dr. Kofi Annan, and is carrying out development works in the state.

Lack of development is one of the main challenges faced by the state, and it is important to work for the development of the state rather than trading blame, he said.

The Union Minister also praised the investors in Rakhine State, especially in the agriculture, production, education and health sectors, and called attention to the Investment Forum in Rakhine State, which will be held next month.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Thaung Tun replied to queries raised by participants of the summit. — MNA ■

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

MOHS, Gavi discuss improving vaccination works in Myanmar

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe met with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance Chief Executive Officer Dr. Seth Berkley and Senior Country Manager Mr. Dirk Gehi at Ministry of Heatlh and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting vaccination for disease free and healthy children, supports provided by Gavi group in the vaccination works, status of strengthening Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance and to improve vaccination coverage by prioritizing ethnic national regions were discussed.

After the meeting the Union Minister attended the Signing Ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health and Sports and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on 'The Vaccine Independence Initiative-VII held in Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. The Union Minister and UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Henrietta H. Fore signed the MoU at the Signing Ceremony. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe holds talks with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance Chief Executive Officer Dr. Seth Berkley and Senior Country Manager Mr. Dirk Gehi in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information urges broad participation in upcoming Children's Literary Festival in Bago

THE Ministry of Information and Bago Region Government coordinated a meeting in Bago yesterday in preparation for the holding of the Children's Literary Festival at Bago University, to be held from 28 to 30 March.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said the reason for organizing children's literary festivals at universities and convocation halls is to enable children to be exposed to the atmosphere at the universities and to have the opportunity to envy university students.

Children's literary festivals have been held successfully throughout the country thanks to the efforts made not only by the Ministry of Information, but also by the Ministry of Education, respective region and state governments, as well as cooperation by town officials and donors, said Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the coordination meeting for holding Children's Literary Festival at Bago University from 28 to 30 March in Bago yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

He also urged various departments to cooperate in conducting a similar festival in Bago.

Further, the Union minister urged officials to invite alumni and town elders to participate in the festival.

Regarding the booths at the festival, the Union minister called for setting up not only those booths representing governmental departments and the university, but also to seek the participation of ethnic businessmen and ethnic traditional cultural groups.

Afterwards, U Win Thein, Chief Minister of Bago Region, pledged that the Bago Region Government provide assistance for holding the festival meeting with success.

At the meeting, Bago Region Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister Daw Naw Pwe Say and Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing reported on arrangements for holding the children's literary festival and Secretary of the Bago Region Government U Toe Win on work plan for the festival.

Those attendees at the meeting also took part in the discussion.

Following the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein visited the Bago University.

Bago's Children's Literature Festival will be held from 28 to 30 March. — Hein Htet (Bago) ■

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe addresses opening ceremony of MRCS 81st Central Council Meeting

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the opening speech at the 81st Central Council Meeting of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 Jaunary 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended and addressed the opening ceremony of the 81st Central Council Meeting of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) was held at the assembly hall of MRCS head quarter in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister called on the MRCS to lay down work plans and objectives with innovative vision as part of its efforts for speeding up its work, for quick response to emergency situation and in cooperating with the ministry. Based on the experience of the previous year, the possible situations that can be faced in the future are to be envisioned and practical strategies, work processes and plans are to be drawn and implemented.

Review the work of the past year and strengthen the weaknesses. Do more where required and reduce where there are excesses. The views and suggestions of the people on the ground are to be taken into consideration said the Union Minister.

Next MRCS President Prof. Dr. Daw Mya Thu explained about the society's works in 2018 and future works.

Afterwards Union Minister presented honorary medals and document of honors to full time central council member U Khin Maung Hla, U Myo Min Naung and U Bone Kyaw who had served for ten years as central council members and Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein presented document of honors to donors – Coca Cola Company and U Tin Maung (Sandi officinal material). The 81st Central Council Meeting will be held for two days, it is learnt. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar concludes visit

UNITED Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener departed from Yangon by air last night.

The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy was seen off at the Yangon International airport by U Zaw Phyo Win, Deputy Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department and U Zaw Tun Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA ■

PHOTO: MNA

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 11th session 3rd day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Joint Public Accounts Committee report 2/2019 read and motion tabled

Next Joint Public Accounts Committee's findings and comments report 2/2019 on the status of 2018 tax revenue for the six months of 2018 April to September sent by Union Government was read by committee Joint Secretary Dr. Sai Hseng Kyauk Hsam and a motion tabled for the Hluttaw to discuss the report.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Hluttaw approves Joint Public Accounts Committee report 1/2019

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained and discussed about Joint Public Accounts Committee findings and comments report 1/2019 on publishing 2018 Medium-term Debt Management Strategy as well as discussion of the Hluttaw representatives.

Following this Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman U Aung Min tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to approve and accept the report 1/2019.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw's approval of the report after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Hluttaw decides on bills

After this the Hluttaw tabled motions and discussed by paragraph Myanmar Gemstone Bill and a bill to amend the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law returned with comments by the President and decided on it.

Hluttaw discusses National Education Policy Commission six-month report

Following the decision on the bills, National Education Policy Commission report on works conducted during the six-month period (10 April 2018 to 9 October 2018) was discussed by Dr. Hla Moe of Aungmyethazan constituency, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11, U Aung Hlaing Win of Mingaladon constituency, Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago Region constituency 5, U Sein Han of Kanma constituency, Dr. Than Win of Mandalay Region constituency 1, Dr. Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency, U Win Myint of Magway Region constituency 8, U Shwe Hla @ U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun constituency, Daw Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7 and Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj Htin Lin Oo. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp launched

News – Min Htat Aung (Mann Sub Printing House)
Photo – Aung Phyo Kyaw

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko presents a gift to a group leader from Mekong - Lancang at the Cultural Exchange Youth Camp event.

OPENING ceremony of Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp jointly hosted by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) was held at Mandalay Hotel Shwepyitha yesterday morning.

The event kicks off with playing of the Lancang-Mekong theme song. In his opening remark Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko said Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand and China were depending on and living together in the Mekong-Lancang basin since years past and member countries were still facing challenges in constructing basic infrastructures, raising industrial works and sustainable development works in economy and social.

As cooperation mechanism among the six member countries need to be raised as soon as possible, meeting of artistes from the six countries was being held. Furthermore, at this age, it is important to strengthen and increase mutual understanding through exchange of culture social environs such as religion, language, traditions, practices and transparency.

As such this project is being initiated with an aim to establish a Mekong-Lancang cultural exchange region through cooperation of cultural groups and youth artistes from six member countries of Mekong-Lancang region. When Mekong-Lancang region countries conduct projects with Mekong-Lancang special fund, drawing up of the projects and requesting of funds are done according to three pillars and five cooperation sectors of Sanya Declaration.

The three pillars are public policy and security; economic and sustainable development; and social, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges and the five cooperation sectors are connectivity; expand production capacity; cross border economic cooperation; cooperation in sustainable water resources management and utilization; and cooperation in agriculture and poverty reduction.

Myanmar was granted permission to conduct ten projects by five ministries with Mekong-Lancang first special fund and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is conducting two projects. These two projects are workshop on Managing Cultural Heritage in Lancang-Mekong Countries to be organized by Department of Archaeology and National Museum in February 2019 and this Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp organized by Culture and National University of Art and Culture (Mandalay).

On behalf of the Republic of Union of Myanmar Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Union Minister thanked the Government of the People's Republic of China that assisted toward holding the Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp and artistes youth representatives from Lancang-Mekong countries who cooperated enthusiastically. It is hoped that through this event artistes from Lancang-Mekong countries increase friendship, trust, realize the value and respect the cultures of others, cooperate and exchange new views and ideas said the Union Minister.

Next, Mandalay Region minister for agriculture, livestock and irrigation Dr. Soe Than spoke of his happiness and honor for holding the Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp in the cultural capital of Mandalay.

Afterwards, Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Chairman Ministry of Foreign Affairs International Organisations and Economic Department Director General U Chan Aye delivered speeches.

Following the speeches entertainments were performed by students from National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) and group leaders from Lancang-Mekong Cooperation member countries were presented with commemorative gifts. Artistes youth and officials from six member countries of Lancang-Mekong region then took commemorative group photo.

Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp will be held from 27 to 31 January in Mandalay Hotel Shwepyitha and is attended by groups from six Mekong-Lancang countries with each group consisting of four youth artistes and one group leader. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar, Israel discuss ways of cooperation in agriculture

UNION MINISTER for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu received Israel Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Ronen Gilor at the ministry's guest hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting technical cooperation between Israel and Myanmar Yezin Agricultural University, status of conducting water management and irrigation test plots, irrigating crops, using fertilizers, teaching temperature control technology in universities of the two countries, increasing cooperation in research and conducting agriculture technology cooperation projects were discussed. ––MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu meets with Israel Ambassador Mr. Ronen Gilor in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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ELEVATED LIVING IN MYANMAR'S BEST ADDRESS

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30 JANUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Myanmar is open for investment

AS Southeast Asia's final frontier market, Myanmar has no dearth of investment opportunities. There is a growing domestic market, abundant natural resources, cheap labour, and great agricultural potential.

Myanmar not only possesses significant potential for agricultural production, it also has rich reserves of minerals and natural gas.

Business opportunities in the country are abundant in proportion to the critical need for foreign direct investment.

We recently launched the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) which aims to attract more than US$200 billion in investment through responsible and the quality business over the next 20 years, to help Myanmar's transition to a middle-income country.

"I stand here to reaffirm our commitment to continue our reform and to build an investment-friendly environment," said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 January.

> We only ask investors to ensure that they make responsible investments by incorporating environmental, social and governance factors in their undertakings.

Our priority investment areas include agriculture and related services, production of value-added goods from agricultural products, livestock production, breeding and production of fishery products, export promotion industries, import substitution industries, power sector, logistics industries, education services, healthcare industry, construction of affordable housing, and establishment of industrial estates.

We have created a business environment conducive to mutually beneficial investments by simplifying business rules and regulations, and welcoming all forms of responsible investment: public and private, national and global, in the form of capital as well as capacity.

We do not want to be a resource-exporting country. The only resource that we want to truly develop is human resources.

With a fairly large population of 53 million, half of whom are aged 30 or below, Myanmar also has a sizeable and expanding internal market which will surely benefit from greater cooperation and integration with external markets.

Therefore, we must increase collaboration with the private sector, an important partner and the most reliable engine for growth.

In addition, we have the opportunity to play a major role in supporting the expansion of trade and investment across the Asia-Pacific region and even the world, by offering access to the Indian and Pacific Oceans via the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, as well as to the neighboring economies of Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and, of course, China.

The World Bank has acknowledged the positive change in Myanmar's investment climate brought about by the current reforms and those implemented in 2017, the year we earned the Star Reformer Award. But we cannot and will not rest on our laurels.

We will continue to strive to improve the investment climate.

We only ask investors to ensure that they make responsible investments by incorporating environmental, social and governance factors in their undertakings.

We are confident that investing in Myanmar will bring good returns to investors.

■■■

Hailing 72nd Anniversary of Union Day

The sublime spectacle of the Union spirit

By Maung Nyein Aye

BELIEVING with firm conviction of international boundaries, we all are residing in the Union of Myanmar with awesome wonder in the spirit of a nation as a large family like brothers and sisters of various ethnic nationalities.

Assessing in a broader aspect on the ethnic nationalities in shaping into a nation, we are related to each other that could be seen in the chronicle of the Union.

Geographical situation

In the recorded history of the world, the people moved to new places where the grass is greener and have comfortable landscape. Naturally, people loved good soil and fresh water with fine weather where abundant harvests prevail, and called it home.

Large population moved to such places and settled down, and that Myanmar is one of the lands that people rushed in for settlements. Since the ancient times, the population to become Myanmar people had moved to that place, and the landscape of the whole areas is stable and secure for habitation in terms of geographical situation until today.

To be noted

At the southern end of the harbor lies the beautiful cape, named for King Bayint Naung, a Burmese monarch, and that Khakaborazi Snowcapped Mountain is believed to be Myanmar's highest mountain in the north, and with its height of 5,881. The peak is enclosed within Khakaborazi National Park.

Maungdaw is a town in Rakhine State, in the western part of Myanmar, and that Kyaing Tong is far from the rest of Myanmar in the heart of the Golden Triangle in the far east of Shan State. Kyaing Tong is set in the far east of the country.

Location

Myanmar is situated in Southeast Asia and located between latitudes 09 32'N and 28 31'N and longitudes 92 10'E and 101 11'E.

Kyaing Tong is situated near Mekong River, and that Tropic of Cancer runs near Ma Bane, Kut Khaing, Ta Gaung and Tiddim. The East Longitude 96 degree is the most remarkable line, where the time of noon in Myanmar is being slotted on.

Geography

The country covers an area of 677,000 square kilometers (261,228 square miles) ranging 936 kilometers (581 miles) from the east to west and 2051 kilometers (1275 miles) from north to south.

It is a land of hills and valleys and is rimmed in the north, east and west by mountain ranges forming a giant horseshoe. Enclosed within the mountain barriers are the flat lands of Ayeyawaddy, Chindwin and Sittaung River valleys where most of the country's agricultural land and population are concentrated.

The Myanmar Standard Time, taken as on East Longitude 97 degree 30', is 6 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich meantime.

Country with spacious land

Myanmar is the second largest country in South East Asia with (167) million acres of land, larger than Japan and double the size of Britain. The country accommodated her people with comfortable land spaces for many years.

Myanmar has a long coastal line of (1,385) miles from Naff River to King Bayunt Naung Cape in the south. The country is bordered by China to the north and northeast, Laos to the east, Thailand to the southeast, the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal to the south and southwest, Bangladesh to the west, and India to the northwest. It has international boundary of (3800) miles.

Adorable Structure

Myanmar consists of 14 states and regions; or 7 states representing the areas of 7 main ethnic nationalities and 7 regions. All 7 states 1, whilst the regions are mainly plain areas with the exception of Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Regions.

States and Regions are structured as follows.

Ayeyawaddy Region; Bago Region; Chin State; Kachin State; Kayah State; Kayin State; Magway Region; Mandalay Region; Mon State; Rakhine State; Shan State; Sagaing Region; Tanintharyi Region; Yangon Region; Nay Pyi Taw Area.

Looking at states in clockwise, we can see Rakhine State; Chin State; Kachin State; Shan State; Kayah State; Kayin State, and Mon State in a horseshoe shape. Up and inside, we can find Sagaing Region; Mandalay Region; Magway Region. We can see Bago Region; Yangon Region; Ayeyawaddy Region, down and inside, and Tanintharyi Region in the lower part of the country. On the world map, it is like a human form of the head, the body, the waist line, and the limbs.

Good Feature

Geographical structure and physical condition of Myanmar is very much resembled like a human being, and moreover, the heart and soul of the nation has all the natural functioning capacities of the anatomy of an individual.

Being defended by mountains as well as high lands, they are like the natural warriors of the country with the Bago Yoma Mountain standing tall in the middle.

The famous and mighty Ayeyawaddy River is flowing as the life blood of the nation with the sister rivers namely Chindwin River, Sittaung River, Sanlween River and other rivers running down from north to south.

> The notion of 'one heart, one soul, one nation forever, one aim, one goal, one determination for all' must be deeply ingrained in the minds of all the citizens of the country.

The head like feature of the country stands out with the snowcapped mountain Khakaborazi with the elevated level of over (19,000) feet rising up in the sky along with Gamlang Razi Mountain, showing the natural beauty.

Natural Gifts

Snowcapped mountains, deep valleys, twists and turns of the rivers and creeks, and all the splendors of lakes large and small can be enjoyed in the country.

We have different types of landscape such as that of dry-zone, plain, wetland area, mountain, mountain range, cliff, coast, littoral zone, shrub-land, forest, rainforest, woodland walks, jungle, moors and rough lands.

The Shan Hills, also known as Shan Highland, elevated (3,000) to (5,000) feet, is a vast mountainous zone that extends through Yunnan to Myanmar and Thailand. The whole region is made up of numerous mountain ranges separated mostly by narrow valleys as well as a few broader intermountain basins.

Inle Lake is in the Shan Hills of Myanmar. At its southwestern edge, Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda with gilded Buddha statues. In the hills, near the market town of Indein, the Shwe Inn Dein Pagoda resembles a field of gold spires.

Myanmar Leg-Rowers are seen at Inle Lake. With an acrobat's alertness, an Intha fisherman stands upright with one leg locked around a beautiful long oar and the other foot firmly gripping the flat bed of his boat as he rows along the lake.

There are many mountains in Myanmar coming down from Himalayan Mountains standing tall as defence columns with the fertile lands namely Bago Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawaddy Region. Since the inception of Mighty Ayeyawaddy River, it has created deltic region with excellent soil for cultivation, especially rice crops.

Balanced Prosperity

With all the available rivers and creeks in the whole of the country, many dams and reservoirs have been built, releasing water for cultivation and generating electricity.

Myanmar is well endowed with forests and other natural resources. Forests cover about 40% of the total land area. They are traditionally classified into two categories such as reserved forests and unclassified (or public) forests. Forest exploitation is controlled by law, but the government allows rural communities to use various forest products.

The sea in the southern part of Myanmar has abundant resources and creates fine weather to the country.

With regard to Myanmar gemstones, the first thing that springs to mind is high quality rubies and sapphires from Mogok in the Mandalay Region.

The jade trade in Myanmar consists of the mining, distribution, and manufacture of the variety of jade, called jadeite, which is produced in the nation.

As Myanmar still have plenty of vast lands in the country, it could provide its people with space of comfort without the worrisome of food, clothing and shelter.

By fully utilizing the natural resources with modern technology, the nation is poised for development.

Stability

The boundary demarcations of Myanmar and the geographical condition of the country indicate the fine and secured sovereign status, as a nation requires solid and firm grounds of her territorial integrity. The adorable geographical condition must remain intact for the sovereignty and independence of a nation.

One heart one soul

Sovereignty is the power of a state to do everything necessary to govern itself, such as making, executing, and applying laws; imposing and collecting taxes; making war and peace; and forming treaties or engaging in commerce with foreign nations.

Therefore, the notion of 'one heart, one soul, one nation forever, one aim, one goal, one determination for all' must be deeply ingrained in the minds of all the citizens of the country. Let us united and save the beauty of our nation and land from vulnerability so that we stayed on in the land of awesome wonder in the spirit of Union.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

72nd Anniversary (2019) Union Day National Objectives

1. All ethnic nationals to work with collective strength for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, perpetuation of national sovereignty; and to work for preservation and protection of the above.
2. To strive for the emergence of a Constitution that is in alignment and harmony with the Democratic Federal Union.
3. To strive for the success of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panlong and thence till the success of the internal peace process.
4. All union nationals to cooperate and work in "Unity and Harmony" for rule of law and for the people to be secure and free from danger.
5. All union citizens to be able to enjoy good education and adequate health care protection.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Tuesday 29 January 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain have been scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, isolated in Kachin and Chin states. Weather has been partly cloudy in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Shan and Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (3°C) below January average temperature in Taninthayi Region, (2°C) above January average temperatures in Lower Sagaing and Bago regions and Kayah State, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Kachin and Chin states and about January average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (3°C) in Heho, (4°C) in Haka, (5°C) in Nyaungshwe, (6°C) each in Hsipaw and Pinlaung and (7°C) in Nawnghkio. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Mawlaik (0.24)inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal and a few cloud elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 30 January 2019: Rain will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, Northern Shan and Chin states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions, (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Rakhine and Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 January 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 January 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 January 2019: Partly cloudy.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 4/2019
8th Waning of Pyatho, 1380 ME
(28 January 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 26 January 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Ma Mi Toke living in Ma Pyin Village, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State, selling illegal drugs.	On 20-1-2019, police searched Ma Mi Toke (a) Ma Nan Moe Aye's house in Ma Pyin Village, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State, then police found out 88/1 stimulant tablets. A case has been opened with Ma Mi Toke (a) Ma Nan Moe Aye, Na Ma Sa (Loneton) MaYa(Pa) 4/2019 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Myo Haung Ward, Beelu Myo Village, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State.	On 24-1-2019, police searched in the paddy fields of Myo Haung Ward, Beelu Myo Village, Mohnyin Tsp, then police searched for Moe Oo, 30, daughter of U San Thaung, and found out 88/1 stimulant tablets, together with Tun Nu, 40, son of U Aung Htwe, lived in Kantawgone village. A case has been opened with MaMaSa(Moehyin), MaYa (Pa) 11/2019 under Section 16 (C) /21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Pauk Si, selling narcotic drugs at his house in Butar (A), No.1 Ward, Shwebo Tsp, Sagaing Region.	On 21-1-2019, police searched Hla Moe @ Pauksi, 40, daughter of U Nyunt Shaung, whose house in Butar (A) Ward, No. 1 Ward, Shwebo Tsp, Sagaing Region, and found out 88/1 stimulant tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa(Shwebo), MaYa(Pa)2/2019 under Section 18(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Myint Aung, selling illegal drugs in ThaYaung Village, Phaungpyin Tsp, Sagaing Region.	On 26-1-2019, police searched Myint Aung, 40, son of U Aung Tin, and found out heroine, together with Min Aung, 30, son of U Ohn Thein, at his house. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin) MaYa (Pa) 6/2019 under Section 16(C)/20(A)/21of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Daw Ei Yat, who lives at No. (4/28), Ward 4, Lamaing, Yay Tsp, Mon State, together with Ahnyone and his wife Ma Khin San Win, selling illegal drugs.	On 23-1-2019, police searched Daw Ei Yat @ Daw Hla Tin, living at No. (4/28), Ward 4, Lamaing, Yay Tsp, Mon State, and found WY stimulant tablets at his house. Police searched Thein Han @ Ah Nyone, 42, son of U Maung Pyu and found WY stimulant tablets and ICE at No. 4/27, Ward 4, Lamaing, Yay Tsp, Mon State. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Lamaing) MaYa (Pa) 4/2019 under Section 19-A/20(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Thet Oo, Naing Oo, Nway Oo, Wing Ohn Chit and Myo Thandar Tun, selling illegal drugs in Zayyawaddy 2nd Street, 13 Ward, Thakayta Tsp, Yangon Region.	On 25-01-2019, police searched Thet Oo, 59, son of U Tun Kyi, living in 2nd Zayyawaddy, 10/South, 13 Ward, Thakayta Tsp, together with his sons Naing Oo who is 31, and Nway Oo who is 29, Ma Zin Mi Mi Oo @ Wine Ohn Chit, 20, daughter of U Min Thiha, living at 2102 (A), Zayawaddy 2nd Street. It was found out that they bought it from Myo Thandar Tun, 25, daughter of U Aung Kyi Tun. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Takayta) MaYa (Pa) 1/2019 under Section 19(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Ward 4, Group 10 on hill, Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp, Northern Shan State.	So far 37 cases have been opened files as of last weeks, 35 men and 3 women have been arresting, together with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 20-01-2019, police searched Aik Ngo, 28, son of U Aik Saing, and Aik Sam, 45, son of U Maw Hein, and found 88/1 stimulant tablets and herorin. A case has been opened with MaMaSa(Kutkai) MaYa(Pa)11/2019 under Section 19(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 25-01-2019, police searched Ma Le Site Yin, 23, daughter of U Le Shwin Paung, together with Arr Kyu@Yan Khite Kyu, 36, son of U Tan Kwe Ann, and 88/1 stimulant tablets. A case has been opened with Ma MaMaSa(Kutkai) MaYa(Pa)12/2019 under Section 19(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Payar Phyu ward, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State.	So far 6 cases have been opened files as of last weeks, 12 men have been arresting, together with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 22-01-2019, police searched Yan Htet Tin Win, 18, son of U Aung Tint, living at No. 206, Pannaykyar Street, Payarphyu Ward, Taungyi Tsp. It was found out that Nyi Nyi Htwe, 17, Ward 15, Yayayekwin Ward, and Zaw Nyein Thu, 17, son of U Law Oo, together with WY stimulant tablets and opium. A case has been opened with four of them in accordance with NaMaSa(Taunggyi) MaYa(Pa)11/2019 under Section 19(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information receiving of Daw Aye Aung selling illegal drugs in the Zatsu Ward, Hsipaw Tsp, Northern Shan State.	On 21-01-2019, police searched Daw Aye Aung @ Thidar Aung, 46, daughter of U Bahar Du, living in Zatsu Ward, Hspw Tsp, it was found out that Ma Htet Htet Naing, 19, daughter of U Kyaw Naing Tun and Ma Tadar Myo Lwin, 19, daughter of U Myo Lwin, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets.and opium. A case has been opened with NaMaSa(Hsipaw) MaYa(Pa)1/2019 under Section 19(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Zaw Min Oo who lives at 3/3, Aung San Street, Ward 3, Kyaukme Tsp, and Northern Shan State, selling illegal drugs.	On 25-01-2019, police searched Zaw Min Oo @ Sakhan Koneyi, 35, son of U Sai Aik Lone, and arrested him, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa(Kyaukme) MaYa(Pa) 6/2019 under Section 19(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law
11	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Pya Chaung Village, Ngwe Oo tract, Mabein Tsp, Northern Shan State.	On 25-01-2019, police searched Sal Bo's house in Pya Chaung Village, Ngwe Oo tract, Mabein Tsp, and discovered Sawbo, 41, son of U Bo Oo, together with opium. A case has been opened with NaMaSa(Mabein) MaYa(Pa) 8/2019 under Section 16(C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law
12	Information received of Aung Paing Oo living at No. 3, 3rd Street, Ward 3, Maubin Tsp, Ayeyarwady Region.	On 22-01-2019, police searched the house of Aung Paing Oo, 44, son of U Aung Myint Swe, and arrested him, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets and marijuana. Police found Moe Aung, 27, son of U Kyaw Soe, of selling illegal drugs. A case has been opened with NaMaSa(Maubin) MaYa(Pa) 3/2019 under Section 19(A)/20(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	Information received of Than Htwe Soe, living at 67, Bogyoke Road, Yonegyi Ward, Hinthada Tsp, Ayeyarwady Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 25-01-2019, police searched Than Htwe Soe's house at at 67, Bogyoke Road, Yonegyi Ward, Hinthada Tsp, Ayeyarwady Region, then police discovered Than Htwe Soe, 50, son of U Sit Kway, together with marijuana. A case has been opened with NaMaSa(Hinthada) MaYa(Pa) 1/2019 under Section 16 (c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 479 cases have been opened as of 26-1-2019, and 632 men and 119 women have been arrested with seizures of 5,673.92 g of heroin, 67.141 g of ICE, 38,606.44 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18,795.28 g of speciosa powder, 7,273.99 g of speciosa, 211,693 stimulant tablets, 3,8764.04 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 278.06 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 3.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 14 firearms, 211 different bullets, and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.

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Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

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4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.
During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates.
In Myothit Ward, Myitkyina Tsp, Kachin State, one man was arrested with 41963 stimulant tablets, 1796 g of heroin and a car. In Sal mile village, Mohnyin Township, two men were arrested with 5130 stimulant tablets and 1111 g of Heroin. In Kyauk-thwetaung village, Hpakant Townshp, a man was arrested with 2000 stimulant tablets, a motorbike. Investigation was made at his house, where police found out 76000 stimulant tablets, 990 g of heroin. In Wakah village, a man was arrested with 2755 stimulant tablets, 100 g of heroin. While police was patrolling on the Ponchaung Bridge, Ponchaung village, Shartaw Township, Kayah State, a man was arrested with 1925 stimulant tablets and a motorbike. On Zaythabyin-Kyarkalaythwar road Kayin State, police arrested a man, together with 975 stimulant tablets, a motorbike. In Razadarit Street, Myaingthayar ward, Mawlamyine, one man was arrested with 668 stimulant tablets. In Kyetyonepyin village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, investigation team had found a total of 194805 stimulant tablets. Investigation team had found 29250 stimulant tablets near the Naf River, Rakhine State. In Ward 3, Kunling Township, Shan State, one woman was arrested with 1625 stimulant tablets, 17200 g raw opium. At the Oriental Toll gate in Lashio Township, four people were arrested with 7800 stimulants, 132 g heroin, a motor car. On the Muse-Mandalay Highway, two people were arrested with 100000 stimulant tablets, one motor car. Near the Oriental Toll gate, two people were arrested together with 10000 stimulant tablets. In the Pansankya village, Kungtung Township, a woman was arrested together with 1603 stimulant tablets. Ohntaw village, Sagaing Region, a woman was arrested with 499 stimulant tablets. On the road to Kawlin Township, two people were arrested together with 1000 stimulant tablets and two motor bikes. Near the Tawpone village, Pinlebu Township, one man was arrested with 570 stimulant tablets, 1306.4 g raw opium and one motorbike. At Ward C, Longlon Township, Taninthayi Region, three men were arrested with 7840 stimulant tablets. One man who lived in Yanmyolon village, Magway Region, was arrested with 115 stimulants. In the Myauksetyeik village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, one man was arrested with 20 bottles of Diazepam Injection, 0.002 g of heroin and 11 motorbikes. At the 16-mile gate, Mandalay Region, two women were arrested with 2000 stimulant tablets and 550 g of opium. Near the Leigyi Bridge, Mogok Township, two men were arrested with 440 stimulant tablets, 2490 g of heroin, low-quality opium 16 g and a motorcar. At a hotel in Kuthoseik Ward, Mingalartaungnyunt Township, four men were arrested with 1014 stimulant tablets and 15 g of ICE. Ward 1, Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region, one woman was arrested with 656 stimulant tabets, 2.41 g of stimulant powder, 34.34 g of marijuana. Pawthoke village, Kawthaung Township, an illegal Thailand man was arrested with 900 stimulant tablets and ICE 4 g.
There have been 3 measures of ammunition. In Market ward, Hsisang Township, Shan State, a man was arrested with 9800 stimulant tablets, one revolver, 9 mm bullets and one grenade, a Vigo car. One man was arrested with 17 stimulant tablets, one revolver, 12 bullets and one pistol. In Tharyargone village, Kungtung Township, one man was arrested with 220 stimulant tablets and one home-made gun.
There have been 257 cases being opened between 20-1-2019 and 26-1-2019, and 305 men and 47 women have been arrested. Seizures were made of 7587.738 g of heroin, 89.44 g of ICE, 24.75 g of low-quality opium, 19474.291 g of opium, 9 g of opium block, 0.1 liter of Toluene, 534474 stimulant tablets, 2.41 g of stimulant tablet powder, 489.59 g of marijuana, 20 Diazepan Injestiction, 4 guns, 16 bullets, two bullet caskets and one handgrenade.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Auto telephone No.	—067-590200
Fax Phone No.	— 067-590233
Email Address	— antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Ethnic youth to promote friendly ties in Nay Pyi Taw

A DELEGATION of 150 ethnic people from remote areas began an excursion to foster better ties with a visit to Nay Pyi Taw 28 January.

The group is making tour several destinations from 28-31 January, under an arrangement with the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The ministry has arranged the program with the aim of enhancing friendship and understanding among ethnic people.

Ethnic youth excursion group pose for a documentary photo in front of the Maha Setkya Yanthi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

As part of the sixth ethnic youth excursion program, the 150-member group comprising 30 people each from the Naga Self-Administered Zone, Mon State, Kachin State, Shan State (North), and Taninthayi Region visited the Maha Bawdi Pagoda (Buddha Gaya), the Department of Agricultural Research in Yezin, the Zoological Garden, and the Safari Park in Nay Pyi Taw. They were accompanied by officials from the Department of Development for Border Areas and National Races. Then, they paid a visit to the Maha Setkya Yanthi Pagoda yesterday morning and donated cash.

Thereafter, they headed to the Mausoleum for Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw). Later, the group visited the Defence Services Museum, where they viewed documentary photos of the peace process, other military documents, and weapons.—MNA ■

(*Translated by JT*)

Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp 2019 Forum in Mandalay

THE Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp 2019 Forum, organized by National University of Arts and Culture, Mandalay, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in collaboration with the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay branch) and the Mandalay Region government, was held at the Shwe Pyi Tha hotel in Mandalay on 28 January.

The forum was attended by over 200 people, including officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay branch), and the Mandalay Region government, and representatives from China, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar, and representatives from the cultural and tourism industry.

Mekong-Lancang countries such as Cambodia, China, and Laos conducted paper-reading sessions on the 'Traditional Culture of Lancang-Mekong Region' at the forum.

At the event, Mekong-Lancang countries also discussed sustainable development goals in relation with the culture and tourism industry, promoting their culture and tourism industries, increasing cooperation on managing the tourism route along the Mekong-Lancang border, and providing technological assistance, and ensuring successful cooperation. They also formulated future plans and shared information about their culture and tourism industries. —MNA ■

(*Translated by Hay Mar*)

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

FDA conducting surprise checks every month on drinking water plants in four townships

By Nyein Nyein

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been carrying out surprise inspections at drinking water plants in four townships of Yangon Region every month, said Dr. Min Wun, the head of FDA (Yangon).

"The plan is expected to cover the whole region, so, the FDA is inspecting factories in four townships in the four districts of Yangon Region. We are checking three or four factories in each township. The inspection is not concerned with any complaint. We are just making surprise checks on factories," he said.

During the inspections, officials with the FDA have been checking whether factories are producing drinking water in line with good manufacturing practices (GMP). Factories which are failing to follow GMP are being disqualified and production is being temporarily halted. The factories are being permitted to resume business once they pass an assessment and are found complying with the standard guidelines.

"We inspected around 16 factories this month. We have not made the monthly report yet. Some factories have been terminated. Some businesses changed their production process, bringing it in line with purification procedures and GMP guidelines, and then, they were permitted to restore production," said Dr. Min Wun.

Additionally, acting on complaints from the public, the FDA inspected two drinking water factories namely Kaung Kaung and Shwe Myanmar brands. The officials found the some factories were running without production certificates and were not complying with GMP guidelines.

"The unlawful factories were directed not to distribute their water. If they are found to violate rules and regulations, action will be taken against them under the existing laws," according to Yangon Region FDA.

At present, the Yangon FDA has increased the frequency of inspections to clamp down on unregistered factories. Consumers are also being encourage to buy only FDA-certified drinking water and lodge complaints against it if they find any unlicensed businesses. "We can easily detect legal and illegal distributors. For example, if a water bottle is tagged with the FDA certificate number on the label, it has been approved by the FDA. Illegal distributors do not mention their business address on the label, while some labels include only a phone number and a brand name. Consumer must check how clean the water bottle is, and avoid using water bottles without proper labels. The public must file a complaint if they find unlicensed manufacturers running their business in the market," said Dr. Min Wun.

The FDA Yangon inspected 16 drinking water factories in December and found two were running their businesses without a licence. Of the remaining factories, 11 were disqualified for not following GMP guidelines and were temporarily shut down, while three cleared the inspection, according to data from FDA Yangon.

There are about 400 drinking water enterprises approved by the FDA in Yangon.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Bat cave conservation area is home to 1.1 mln bats, 99 bird species: research

AN estimated 1.1 million bats and 99 species of birds have been registered in the bat cave conservation area in Kanbalu Township of Sagaing Region, according to a research paper.

The Forest Department teamed up with the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar Program) to carry out research on the population size of bats dwelling in the bat cave conservation area.

The count was conducted between 16 and 19 January.

The research found the bat cave conservation area is home to an estimated 1.1 million bats. Additionally, 99 species of birds, including rare and endangered species, have also been recorded in the area. Bats generally eat insects, while some can eat flowers and fruits.

The entrance of Bat Cave in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: NYI TU**

They play a significant role in controlling insect populations and contribute to the ecosystem. —Nyi Tu

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over 360 people killed in road accidents in Magway in one year

A TOTAL OF 367 deaths were reported in road accidents in Magway Region in 2018, according to the region's traffic and road safety council.

According to the council's report, 386 people were killed and 2,844 injured in 1,602 road mishaps in 2017, while 367 people died and 2,799 were injured in 1,610 accident cases reported in Magway Region in 2018.

"When we analyse the accident records, we found that in most cases people were driving vehicles after consuming alcohol and flouting traffic rules. In some cases, we found people were not using helmets while driving their motorbikes. To reduce the number of road accidents, the traffic police are conducting awareness talks regularly and distributing pamphlets to the public," said U Tin Nwe Oo, the Minister of Construction and Transportation in Magway Region. The traffic police have filed charges against suspected reckless drivers at any time under sections 279, 337, 338 and 304 (A) of the Penal Code.—Zeyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Domestic gold price hits record high tracking positive global trend

By Nyein Nyein

WITH the price of the yellow metal strengthening in the global markets, domestic gold prices too have registered an increase to touch a record high of K1,059,000 per tical (0.578 ounce) on 28 January, said U Ohn Myaing, the general secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

"As a consequence of the rising global gold price, the price of domestic gold has also increased. But we are lucky that the US dollar rate has remained cool in the local market, although the global gold price is on the rise. Otherwise, the price of domestic gold could have crossed K1,060,000 per tical," said U Ohn Myaing.

The price of domestic gold has been gradually increasing in the local market since mid- December on the back of the positive trend in global gold prices.

The domestic gold price reached a record high of K1,050,000 per tical on 4 January, and touched another record of K1,059,000 per tical on 28 January, according to gold traders. "Now, the global gold price is skyrocketing. Currently, the gold price is set at over US$1,300 per ounce in the global market. The rise in domestic gold price is due to the increase in the global gold price. An increase of one dollar in the global gold price translates to an average increase of K180-200 in domestic prices," said U Myo Myint, the Chairman of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

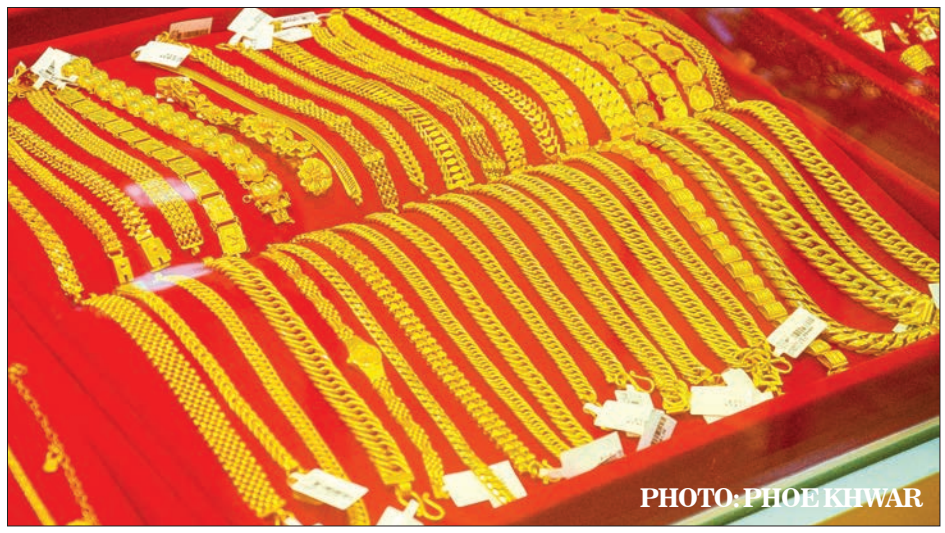

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Moreover, there is a high demand for gold in the local market, he added. The price of domestic gold reached K1,040,000 per tical on 31 October from a low of K969,000 per tical on 1 October.

The price of local gold declined to K1,027,100 per tical on 30 November from K1,044,500 per tical on 2 November. The price of gold increased to K1,043,000 per tical on 29 December from Ks987,000 per tical on 4 December, according to a gold dealer.

Starting from 21 July, 2017, domestic gold price has remained above K900,000 per tical. With the rise in the global gold price, the domestic price also peaked at K1,047,700 million on 20 September, 2017, after touching a high of K989,000 in August the same year.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Muse rice depot to close during Chinese New Year

By Nyein Nyein

THE Muse rice depot will be closed for 12 days when merchants stop purchasing rice from Myanmar during the Chinese New Year.

"The Muse rice depot will be temporarily closed from 1 to 12 February. The export of rice will completely stop because there are no Chinese traders to purchase rice from Myanmar. They have already returned to their native regions. The only thing we can do is store the bags of rice at warehouses," said U Min Thein, vice chairman of the Muse rice depots association.

"Myanmar mainly exports some agricultural products to China via the Muse border trade camp along the Myanmar-China border. During the Chinese New Year, exports of rice, sugar and corn, which are mainly exported to China, will be completely stopped", he added.

Although there will be regular sales of rice in the market, the price of rice is likely to decline because of the three year imposition of taxes on exported rice by the European Union, said U Than Oo, secretary of the Bayintnaung commodity depot.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

"There will be no sale in the market during the New Year holidays. On the other hand, the price of rice has been declining since Myanmar was faced with economic sanctions imposed by the EU. Therefore, the merchants are only storing rice by purchasing it at a lower price," said U Than Oo.

The volume of rice exports has declined since October 2018 because of the intensified crackdown on Myanmar's exported rice in China, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

From April to December 2018, Myanmar exported over 1.7 million tons of rice to China, a decrease of over 800,000 tons of rice compared to the same period last year, according to the official statistics released by the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Last year, Myanmar exported over 3.6 million tons of rice, nearly half of which were exported to China through the border gate.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(5/2019)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-172(18-19)	Spares for 3rd Stages SAFE Compressor (HP) (9) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-173(18-19)	Spares for 3rd Stages Intermech Compressor (6) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-174(18-19)	2", 3", 4" & 6" Pipe Fittings and Accessories (11) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-175(18-19)	Accessories for Gas Control & Metering System (13) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-176(18-19)	Geological Survey Instrument & Field Equipment, Mud Testing Equipment and Mud Logging Unit (14) Items	Ks
(f)	IFB-042(18-19)	Mud Logging Unit (3) Items	US$

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricty and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from **29 January 2019**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm** on **25 February 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **25-2-2019, 14:00 pm**

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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (903W/905E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (903W/905E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (009 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (009 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-01-2019 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.

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

Ethnic Culture Festival in Yangon

Kachin ethnic dance troupe performs traditional Manaw dance at the Ethnic Culture Festival in Yangon which end today. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Kachin ethnic dance troupe performs traditional Manaw dance at the Ethnic Culture Festival in Yangon which end today. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Kachin ethnic women demonstrate traditional weaving at the Ethnic Culture Festival in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

'Glass' tops N America box office for second week

LOS ANGELES (United States) — M Night Shyamalan's latest thriller "Glass" bested the competition at the North American box office for a second straight weekend, taking in $18.9 million, industry figures showed on Monday.

The film unites the narratives of the director's "Unbreakable" (2000) and "Split" (2016), and stars Bruce Willis, Samuel L Jackson and James McAvoy.

The second and third spots at the box office remained unchanged from last weekend.

Buddy drama "The Upside" — starring Bryan Cranston as a wealthy quadriplegic who hires ex-convict Kevin Hart as his caretaker — earned $11.9 million.

Superhero flick "Aquaman," starring Jason Momoa as the underwater king, hauled in another $7.3 million.

It has now generated $1.09 billion in global box office revenues, making it the largest DC Comics adaptation of all time, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations.

A new release from Fox, "The Kid Who Would Be King," placed fourth with $7.2 million for the three-day weekend.

That would be a "potentially disastrous result for a film that cost over $60 million" to make, according to Variety.

The movie stars Louis Ashbourne Serkis (son of Andy Serkis, Gollum in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy) as a boy living in modern times who stumbles upon King Arthur's legendary sword Excalibur. It has drawn largely positive reviews.

In fifth spot — and hanging strong in its seventh week out — was Sony's "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," with takings of $6.1 million. The film is the favourite to win an Oscar for best animated feature next month.

Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were:

"Green Book" ($5.5 million)

"A Dog's Way Home" ($5.1 million)

"Serenity" ($4.4 million)

"Escape Room" ($4.1 million)

"Mary Poppins Returns" ($3.3 million).—AFP ■

(l-r) Actors Sarah Paulson, James McAvoy, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson attend the premiere of Universal Pictures' "Glass" at SVA Theatre on 15 January, 2019 in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chris Brown's accuser files complaint after police photo leaked

PARIS (France) — A woman who accused US singer Chris Brown of rape has filed a new complaint in France after her police photo was leaked on the internet, a judicial source said on Monday.

The 25-year-old woman, identified in media reports as "Karima", alleges that the image, taken by police as she filed the complaint, was posted on social media.

An investigation for violation of judicial secrets, violation of a professional secret and distribution of images or information on the identity of a victim of sexual aggression, has been launched by the Paris prosecutor's office, the source said.

The woman's lawyer, Jean-Marc Descoubes, said the photograph in question was taken by police to be used only in connection with the investigation.

"We have reasons to believe that someone took a photo of the photo of my client during a detention or a hearing and it is circulating on social media," Descoubes told AFP.—AFP ■

Russian scientists test world's first aluminum engine

NOVOSIBIRSK — Scientists of Novosibirsk State Technical University have tested the world's first internal-combustion engine fully made of aluminum. The test results will enable scientists to design a smaller engine, Professor of the Aircraft-and Helicopter-Making Chair at the University's Aircraft Faculty Ilya Zverkov told TASS on Monday.

As was reported earlier, the University's scientists designed the world's first engine fully made of aluminum and weighing about 200 kg. The engine that uses standard automobile gasoline was expected to be mounted on Yak-52 two-seat planes whose old engines have used up their potential.

"During the trials, flaws were detected in the engine's design and, considering these faults, we will design a new engine smaller by its dimensions. We do not give up the basic ideas and the task is to obtain the stated characteristics by the [engine's] capacity and firmness," Zverkov said, adding that the improved engine would be designed and tested in the summer of this year.

The use of aluminum instead of steel has enabled scientists to cut the engine's weight by 30-40% compared to the standard steel engines of the comparable capacity. At the same time, the new engine's rated capacity has risen by 40 horsepower to 400 hp while fuel consumption has dropped by about 15%

The engine's development is being financed using the Domestic Aviation Revival Fund. Novosibirsk State Technical University is also receiving scientific and technological assistance from the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics at the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

As the University's press office reports, all the basic details of the new engine will be cast in aluminum in Novosibirsk, which will make it possible to give up imported components that were used in the experimental engine. In a perspective, this will allow using the engine on aircraft of the Russian Air Force.

Earlier, aluminum was already used in aircraft and auto engines but its parts operating under the high load are now made of steel. **PHOTO: AFP**

Earlier, aluminum was already used in aircraft and auto engines but its parts operating under the high load are now made of steel. However, the Novosibirsk scientists have employed the plasma-electrolytic oxidation technology, under which aluminum parts are treated by plasma discharges, which results in a thin layer of aluminum oxide known as the corundum forming on the surface of an aluminum item. The corundum is known for its high firmness and melting temperature and that is why precisely aluminum parts with the corundum surface have made it possible to replace steel items in the engine.—Tass ■

iPhone FaceTime bug lets callers eavesdrop

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — A newly discovered FaceTime bug lets people hear and even see those they are reaching out to on iPhones using the video calling software, sparking privacy fears.

The bug, initially outlined by Apple product and review website 9to5Mac.com, was reported by several media outlets.

A video posted at Twitter account @BmManski showing how simple it is to take advantage of the flaw and listen in on an iPhone being called using FaceTime logged nearly two million views and was shared 14,000 times by late evening in California.

Some Twitter users offered advice to disable the FaceTime application until a fix was in place.

An Apple support page listed Group FaceTime calling as "temporarily unavailable" as of 7:16 PM here (03:16 GMT) due to an ongoing "issue" that was not specified.

An Apple statement quoted in US media said the iPhone maker was aware of this issue and has "identified a fix that will be released in a software update later this week."

An Apple Inc. employee demonstrates FaceTime, a video chat application on the newly-announced iPhone 4, at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco on 7 June, 2010. **PHOTO: AFP**

When a phone number is dialed on FaceTime — the iPhone's internet-based voice and video calling feature — the caller can swipe up from the bottom of the screen and tap an option to add a person, according to video demonstrations.

If a caller enters their number as also being the added caller, a group call begins even though the person being called has not answered yet.

The caller can then eavesdrop on the person being called, and in some demonstrations peek through the front-facing camera. Declining a call breaks the connection. "Disable FaceTime for now until Apple fixes," Twitter co-founder and chief executive Jack Dorsey advised in a tweet.

Dorsey's message included a forwarded post by technologist Andy Baio. "Want to see a really bad bug?" Baio asked in his post.

"You can FaceTime any iOS device running 12.1 and listen in remotely—WITHOUT THE OTHER PERSON ANSWERING THE CALL."

Apple did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

FaceTime software enables voice or video calls using iPhones, iPads, iPod Touch, and Macintosh computers.— AFP ■

Scientists find why feathered dinosaurs in China cannot fly like birds

WASHINGTON — Chinese and American scientists found that Anchiornis, one of the earliest feathered dinosaurs, cannot fly like modern birds due to lacking of a kind of protein in its feathers.

The study published on Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* showed that a protein called beta-keratin gave modern birds special bio-mechanical properties to fly, such as flexibility, elasticity and strength, but the Anchiornis lacked those properties.

Pan Yanhong from Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and American researchers examined fossilized feathers using high-resolution microscopy and determine the molecular composition of those feathers.

They found that Anchiornis feathers were made mainly of thicker alpha-keratins rather than thinner beta-keratins, although they contain some of the molecular structures of beta ones.

The modern bird feathers are composed primarily of flexible beta-keratins and at certain time during the evolution of feathers, one of the beta-keratin genes was deleted, making the protein slightly smaller, according to the researchers.

Anchiornis, a small, feathered, four-winged dinosaur that lived in China around 160 million years ago, is a key link as dinosaurs transformed into birds.

The gene deletion, according to the researchers, happened around 145 million years ago, millions of years later than Anchiornis lived, so this kind of feathered dinosaurs had no shortened protein form to give them functional flight feathers.

"The data also give us more information about how feathers evolved to enable flight," said the paper's co-author Mary Schweitzer, professor of biological sciences at North Carolina State University.—Xinhua ■

Korean 'Monster' Kim signs for Beijing despite Watford bid

SHANGHAI (China) — South Korean defender Kim "Monster" Min-jae on Tuesday snubbed interest from the Premier League and the advice of his team-mates to sign for Beijing Guoan in China.

The 22-year-old centre-back, whose club Jeonbuk Motors said they had received a bid from Watford reported to be about $8 million, instead plumped for the Chinese Super League (CSL).

Guoan, who finished fourth in the CSL last season after falling out of the title race, announced Kim's signing but did not disclose the size of the transfer fee.

Coached by Germany's Roger Schmidt, Guoan will be hoping the established international can stiffen a leaky defence that conceded 45 goals in the CSL last season.

Kim missed the 2018 World Cup because of injury but is a stalwart of the South Korean side and was in the team for their surprise 1-0 loss to Qatar in the Asian Cup quarter-finals last week.

Kim, whose "Monster" nickname stems from his powerful physique, had put all talk of his next move off while at the tournament in the United Arab Emirates.

But team-mates had encouraged him to take his chance and follow in the footsteps of Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min, who has excelled in the Premier League.

Even Korean players plying their trade in the CSL had told the defender to go to England.

"I thought that he was going to China but then I heard good news and I hope he can make the better choice," said Kwon Kyung-won, who plays for Tianjin, after Watford's interest surfaced.

China is attractive to Asian players because of its high wages and proximity to home.—AFP ■

South Korea's defender Kim Min-jae celebrates after scoring a goal during the 2019 AFC Asian Cup group C football match between South Korea and China at the al-Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi on 16 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova. **PHOTO:AFP**

Sharapova wins her 1st WTA match in Russia for 13 years

MOSCOW — Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova claimed her first WTA victory in her country for 13 years in the first round of the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy on Monday.

Sharapova, five-time Grand Slam winner, beat Daria Gavrilova of Australia 6-0, 6-4 to make the second round. She will next face her compatriot Daria Kasatkina. Sharapova had only met Kasatkina once when she won in straight sets in Montreal in August.

Sharapova has rarely played the Russian tour events during her career, and when she has she's never got past the quarterfinals. — Xinhua ■

Keane links up with O'Neill at Nottingham Forest

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Roy Keane will once again link up with Martin O'Neill to become Nottingham Forest assistant manager, the Championship club announced on Monday.

The 47-year-old was part of the backroom staff during O'Neill's five-year spell in charge of the Republic of Ireland between 2013 and 2018.

Keane, like O'Neill, is a favourite at the City Ground as a former player. He made more than 100 appearances for the club between 1990 and 1993 before moving to Manchester United, where he won seven Premier League titles.

"Obviously, I had great memories of my career here as a player, the club gave me my chance and I will always remember them for that," Keane told the club's website. "But it is a different challenge now and I am in a different position coaching the players. I am looking forward to it, a huge challenge ahead and 20 years out of the Premier League. It will be tough but I am looking forward to it." Keane joins with Forest four points off the playoff places in ninth after a first victory under O'Neill, who was appointed as manager earlier this month, over Wigan on Saturday. The former Ireland captain has experience of working in the Championship as he guided Sunderland back to the Premier League during his first season in charge at the Stadium of Light in 2006 before resigning in December 2008 and then went on to manage Ipswich from 2009 to 2011. However, his most recent role was working under O'Neill as Ireland reached the last 16 of Euro 2016 but failed to qualify for last year's World Cup.—AFP ■

Holders Chelsea draw Man Utd in FA Cup fifth round

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Defending champions Chelsea will host Manchester United in the fifth round of the FA Cup, while fourth-division side Newport County could meet Manchester City.

United defeated Arsenal in the fourth round last week to record an eighth straight victory under caretaker boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer but face another tough tie after Monday's draw paired them with Maurizio Sarri's Chelsea.

Welsh club Newport, who are 14th in League Two, forced a replay at home to Middlesbrough after scoring an injury-time equaliser in a 1-1 draw at the Riverside over the weekend.

Newport beat Premier League opponents Leicester in round three and could book a clash with Pep Guardiola's City if they upset Boro in next week's replay.

Only seven top-flight sides remain in contention, with Crystal Palace handed a trip to Doncaster and Watford away to Portsmouth or QPR, while Wolves and Brighton face fourth-round replays.

Full draw for the fifth round of the English FA Cup conducted on Monday:

Bristol City v Shrewsbury or Wolves
AFC Wimbledon v Millwall
Doncaster v Crystal Palace
Middlesbrough or Newport County v Manchester City
Chelsea v Manchester United
Swansea City v Barnet or Brentford
Portsmouth or QPR v Watford
Brighton or West Brom v Derby

— Ties to be played from 15-18 February.—AFP ■