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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 290, 11th Waning of Pyatho 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 31 January 2019



President U Win Myint accepts the credentials of newly-accredited Indian Ambassador Mr. Saurabh Kumar at the Presidential Palace yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint accepts credentials from Indian Ambassador

MR. SAURABH KUMAR, the newly-accredited Indian Ambassador presented his credentials to President U Win Myint, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Director-General U Thant Sin of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses improving, expanding agricultural and livestock exports

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MALI) continues to seek investment, loans, technology, human resources and infrastructure to produce value added goods and to locate foreign markets for export.

Deputy Minister for MALI U Hla Kyaw made this comment during his reply to a proposal submitted by Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency at the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

Daw Cho Cho urged the Union government to introduce methods that will assist the expansion of domestic agriculture and livestock businesses to produce products which meet international quality standards, and to export these products to global markets. MPs have begun discussing the motion.

The Deputy Minister said his ministry and departments are already undertaking ventures to carry out the suggestions mentioned in Daw Cho Cho's motion. He added that the motion supports and energizes their work and is appropriate for approval.

U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency explained that to bring about the changes described in the motion, it is necessary to share technologies with small-scale rice businesses in order to improve the nation's rice quality in a uniform manner.

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Pyithu Hluttaw discusses improving, expanding agricultural and livestock exports

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He also said the country needs to open training courses to find solutions to contract-based agricultural businesses, support rural areas in installing grain dryers and constructing warehouses and silos, increase trips for negotiating trade with markets selected for pulses, sesame and oil-yielding crops, and to establish a brand in that endeavor. He said Myanmar's associations for pulses, sesame and oil-yielding crops needs to expand their directives in order to ensure different stakeholders are represented. He added that Myanmar needs to boost research and development efforts to discover high quality and fast yielding species of crops. U Thant Zin Tun also made other points in support of the motion.

The motion was then discussed between U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency, U Kyaw Min Hlaing of Ottarathiri consti-



U Hla Kyaw.



Daw Cho Cho.



U Thant Zin Tun.



Dr. Tin Aung.

tuency, U Win Htoo of Namhsan constituency, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency, U Kyaw Myint of Taikkyi constituency, Dr. U Tin Aung of Kyaukse constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaukse constituency, U Paul Sai of Dimawhso constituency, and U Win Htut of Pyapon constituency.

U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, also responded to the motion. He said the Union

Government has already drawn up the National Export Strategy (NES) to implement the suggestions found in the motion. He also said they are now carrying out a half-year strategy for developing the trade sector by partnering with domestic and foreign organizations. He noted that they are encouraging foreign businesses, in order to place Myanmar's top exports as high-quality products and increase exports.

He further said the Ministry of Commerce is taking responsibility in acquiring capital investments and the required technology. He noted that the central trade department collects prospective regional products from micro, small and medium enterprises across the states and regions and sends them to commercial attaches stationed throughout the world, and to trade officials, in order to introduce them to the

global market.

The Speaker then asked the member for the opinion, who replied to have the motion approved. The Speaker then asked for the deliberation of the Hluttaw and the Hluttaw approved the motion.

The seventh-day meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will convene today. —Aye Aye Thant
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Amyotha Hluttaw

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

By Aung Ye Thwin,
Lu Maw (MNA)

THE sixth-day meeting of the 11th session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held, yesterday, in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Proposal to lift travel ban in Putao, Machanbaw, Nagmon, Panandin, Khaunglanphu townships

At the meeting, U J Yaw Wu of Kachin State constituency 1 asked the question if there was a plan to lift the travel ban issued in Putao, Machanbaw, Nagmon, Panandin, Khaunglanphu townships, Putao District, Kachin State, and a plan to permit home stays for the tourists who would make the trekking tours in isolated areas, due to the lack of hotels and lodgings in the area.

Regarding this query, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, U Ohn Maung, replied that although the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has no objection in lifting the travel ban for Putao, Machanbaw, Nagmon, Panandin and Khaunglanphu townships, the implementation process should be carried out in conformity with the regional



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

situation and the policies of the relevant ministries. He said his ministry was not in a position to specially permit home stays, but permission could be asked from the state chief minister, who would act as chairperson of the state or regional work committee on tourism.

Construction of offices, lock-ups and housing units for police personnel

Naw Christun (a) Dr. Arkar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7 asked if there was a plan to construct office buildings, lock-ups and housing units for the Myanmar Police Force, and to appoint additional police staff to

fill in an understaffed workforce in Thandaunggyi Township, Kayin State. Regarding this query, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that the allotment of funds that can make major renovations of the Myoma Police Station would be sought from the capital funds in 2018-2019 FY while asking for another funds from the capital funds in the 2019-2020 FY, which can build one-storey Township Police Station, one housing unit for Township Police Officer, a two-storey house with six compartments, a two-storey house with six compartments in Thandaung Police Station. Moreover arrangements would be made to

transfer 10 police personnel from Hpa-an to Myoma Police Station.

Upgrading the police outpost in Hinthada District, Ayeyawady

U Htein Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 4 asked if there was a plan to upgrade the police outpost in Thenu Village, Laymyathnar Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, in an effort to enforce the rule of law in the region. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that implementation process would be carried out to upgrade the police outpost in accordance with the rules and procedures.

Similarly, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut replied to queries raised by U Shangaww of Chin State constituency 2 and U Naing Thiha of Mon State constituency 7.

The Child Rights Bill discussion

U Htein Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 4 discussed the proposal for amending the Child Rights Bill, saying that a clause to the bill read like this: "to look after the child who is in need of protection (or) to detain the

child offenders in juvenile detention centres" in which the 'juvenile detention centres' should be substituted with 'youth correction centre'. According to Chapter 7, paragraph 23 of the bill, the legal marriage age for man and woman shall be prescribed in line with relevant standing laws and customary laws.

Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Tin Tun Aung suggested an amendment for sub-section (b), Section 21 of the same bill, saying that a parent or a guardian shall inform the relevant departments for birth-registration when a child is born at the hospital or maternity ward that is under the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Regarding the bill, Dr. Win Myint Chit of Bago Region constituency 8, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Lat of Bago Region constituency 3, Tatmadaw representative Maj Kyaw Phyoo Win, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 and U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 took part in the discussion.

The seventh-day meeting of the 11th session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw continues today.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

President U Win Myint accepts credentials from Hungarian Ambassador

MR. SZILVESZTER BUS, the newly-accredited Hungarian ambassador presented his credentials to President U Win Myint, in the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:45 am yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and U Thant Sin, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

President U Win Myint receives the newly-accredited Hungarian Ambassador Mr. Szilveszter Bus at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Launching ceremony for mushroom cultivation project to aid people living with disabilities in Ayeyawady Region

A CEREMONY launching the Home-based Mushroom Cultivation for Persons with Disabilities in Ayeyawady Region Project was held at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The ceremony was attended by Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Win Myat Aye said there are already laws in place that create opportunities for people living with disabilities (PLWDs) and protects them as well. He said this aids in stabilizing PLWDs' stance and development as part of the broader path to social coexistence, reconciliation, and peace.

The SWRR Minister said everyone needs to give a hand



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein and Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye pose for a documentary photo together with attendees at the mushroom cultivation project for PLWDs launching ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

in supporting PLWDs. He said support is not limited to monetary donations as it also encompasses education, healthcare, and social aspects and it is equally important to help them gain vocational skills. He said his ministry regu-

larly supports PLWDs across the country by collecting their names throughout the states and regions and conducting initial supportive measures.

The Union Minister said support from external organizations

are equally important, expressing his gratitude to Shwe Min Thar Foundation for supporting PLWDs from all avenues. He expressed his belief that the mushroom cultivation project organized by the foundation will effectively create job opportunities for PLWDs.

This project is organized by the Union government, APCD Foundation and Shwe Min Thar Foundation and was initiated on 29 May 2018, said the Union Minister. He said this project is a leading example for creating job opportunities for PLWDs and also energizes the Union government's performances.

This project will teach PLWDs how to cultivate mushrooms as a vocational skill for generating additional income. The project pe-

riod will take one year to facilitate the PLWDs to administer their mushroom cultivation on their own. The project will benefit a combined 132 PLWDs and their family members and the 8 mushroom farmers residing in the project area. He said the project will indirectly benefit about 700 PLWD family members as well.

This project will be implemented in the Ayeyawady Region's townships of Patheingyi, Yekyi, Danubyu, and Hinthada. The project aims to elevate the skills, capabilities, expertise, and financial management of PLWDs involved. It also aims to increase PLWDs' participation in the agricultural sector and their recognition as a valuable human resource in the economy. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Enterprise for Rakhine holds first meeting of the year

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD held its first meeting for this year at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said UEHRD was making efforts for socio economic development in Rakhine State, stressing the important linkages among 10 Task Forces of the UEHRD while they were implementing the tasks for development in Rakhine State.

He added that to work for the

development in Rakhine State, the Rakhine State Peace, Stability and Development Committee, the Committee for Implementing Recommendations on Rakhine State and the Committee on Repatriation and Resettlement of Displaced People had already been formed. While working for development in Rakhine State with collective strength of Myanmar citizen at home and abroad and cooperation of friendly countries and organizations, the UEHRD needed to continue its efforts for getting more funds, said the Union Minister.

UEHRD has been spending its fund in conformity with the

financial rules and procedures as its accounts would be audited by the Office of the Union Auditor-General and an international audit firm, he added. The Union minister urged the meeting participants to explain about the UEHRD activities to all concerned as part its efforts for to get cooperation from the people, stakeholders and friendly countries.

Next, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Vice Chairman-2 of UEHRD, and U Soe Aung, Secretary of UEHRD, discussed points that should be taken into consideration for international relations and operations of the



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the UEHRD meeting 1/2019 held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEHRD. Afterwards, U Zaw Than Thin, Joint Secretary of UEHRD, reported on the ground situation while U Toe Oung, Advisor to the Chairperson, Information and Communications Direc-

tor U Kyaw Myaing and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin presented on the status of work done in their respective areas of responsibility. — MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai counterpart

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army, General Apirat-Kongsompong, at the Zeyathiri Beikman guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting they cordially discussed the solid relations established between the defence forces of Myanmar and Thailand, further strengthening of

close relations by adopting a spirit of kinship, the announcement made by Myanmar's Tatmadaw on 21 December 2018 to create opportunities for peace talks in the country, cooperation in drug eradication processes, exchanging culture, and cooperating in sports and medical sectors, according to information released by the Tatmadaw Office of the Commander-in-Chief. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with General Apirat Kongsompong, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE TATMAW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

MoHS, UNICEF sign agreement on 'The Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII)'

UNION Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Myint Htwe attended the Signing Ceremony of Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Sports and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on 'The Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII)', which was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe and UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Henrietta H. Fore signed the agreement on the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII).

Next, Ms. Henrietta H. Fore expressed words of appreciation to the Myanmar Government's commitment and increasing vaccine cost contribution from one million US dollar before to seven million US dollar in 2018. She mentioned that UNICEF would ensure the international procurement of vaccines to have an un-interrupted supply of vaccines and technical support for strengthening of cold chain system. Ms. Fore also stressed that the continued collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Sports and UNICEF would effectively protect all children in Myanmar from vaccine pre-



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe (Left) and UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Henrietta H. Fore (Right) signs the agreement on the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII). **PHOTO: MNA**

ventable diseases.

Afterwards, Union Minister mentioned the words of appreciation to UNICEF for this important signing event which is very important for long term perspective of Myanmar Immunization Program as well as for UNICEF's continuous support

for children's health in Myanmar. 'This is very important and a great benefit for children in Myanmar especially those lived in remote and undeserved areas by preventing diseases by immunization', said Union Minister.

Dr. Myint Htwe also re-

quested UNICEF to support the nutrition program as a top most priority. Finally Union Minister urged all the stakeholders to work collaboratively for the health and development of Myanmar children.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister

for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Sett Aung, senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, WHO representative to Myanmar, UNICEF Country Representative and the concerned officials.

Union Minister also met with CEO of Gavi The Vaccine Alliance, Dr. Seth Berkley yesterday and discussed in details on Immunization Program including cold chain system strengthening in Myanmar.

Union Minister mentioned that the Ministry of Health and Sports appreciated Gavi for giving funding support of 123 Million US dollar in Immunization System Strengthening for the period of 2019 to 2021.

He also ensured that the Ministry would effectively use every single dollar that was supported for the health of people.

Country-owned, gap-based strategies and new technologies for immunization program were also discussed at the meeting.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Crack at Taungnawin Dam poses no risk to public safety: authorities

THE Paukkaung Township authorities apprised local people of the current state of the Taungnawin Dam, which developed a crack on its earthen embankment after earthquakes in 2018, and asked residents not to worry as there is

currently no risk of the dam collapsing. U Win Naing, Bago Region Hluttaw MP, U Kyaw Htay, Bago Township Administrator, U Zaw Oo, the Pyay District Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, and other

officials met with people from two villages and five wards in Paukkaung.

The crack developed after four earthquakes hit Paukkaung Township in 2018.

The officials discussed the condition of the dam in detail

and said that the current state of the embankment does not pose any threat. The authorities are monitoring the situation round the clock, they said.

A geological assessment is being carried out with the use of technology, and based on the

findings, necessary steps will be taken for the maintenance and safety of the dam, said an official with the Irrigation Department.—Than Tun Aung (Paukkaung)

(Translated by GNLM)

Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest concludes

MYANMAR Ethnic Culture Fest concluded yesterday evening, with the speeches of Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Patron of Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association (MEEA) Dr. Aung Tun Thet.

In the conclusion event, MEEA's Honorary Patron Nai Thet Lwin presented the certificates of honor, and was accepted by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung and Director-General of Sport and Physical Education Department, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin then handed over certificates of honor to the representatives of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin,



Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Nai Thet Lwin addresses the closing ceremony of Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest at Kyaikkasan Sports Grounds in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Associations, and Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein presented representatives of Ta'ang

(Palaung), Pa-O, Danu, Kokang Self-Administrated zones the certificates of honors.

Afterwards, MEEA's Vice Chairman and General Secre-

tary thanked the event organizing committee and businesspersons who supported the event, and presented them the certificates of honor.

The event successfully concluded, after entertainments by artists.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Dr. Than Myint, traders' body head discuss smooth border trade, commodities exchange



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint holds talks with Daw Lwin Lwin Mar, the Chairperson of the Kunlong-Hopan-Chinshwehaw Traders' Association, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr. Than Myint, the Union Minister for Commerce, met with a delegation led by Daw Lwin Lwin Mar, the Chairperson of the Kunlong-Hopan-Chinshwehaw Traders' Association, yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they

discussed matters related to laying down rules, regulations, and procedures for setting up a commodities exchange for agricultural products; making border trade smooth; cooperation between the government and the private sector in solv-

ing challenges to border trade, including illegal trading; upgrading infrastructure, which is mainly required for border trade; and, ways to promote export of rice, corn, and sugar to China.

—MNA ■ (Translated to Kyaw Zin Tun)

Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs departs from Yangon

A delegation led by the Republic of Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ivica Dacic, left Yangon yesterday.

The delegation was seen off by Daw Kay Thi Soe, the Director-General of the Stra-

tegic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Serbian Ambassador Mr. Miodrag Nikolin and other officials, at the Yangon International Airport.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ivica Dacic seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Artists from Mekong-Lancang region exhibit handicraft souvenirs in Mandalay

Artists from six countries of Mekong-Lancang region exhibited their respective countries' handicraft souvenirs yesterday at Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp being held at Hotel Shwepyitha in Mandalay from 27 to 31 January.

The artists from the six countries; Myanmar, China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam; also purchased the Myanmar handicraft souvenirs

put on display for sale by the National University of Art and Culture, Mandalay.

In the afternoon, the youth artists performed their respective countries' traditional songs, and then they sang the song composed for the Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp together.

Afterwards, Daw Khin Kyi Pyar, Rector of National University of Art and Culture, Manda-

lay, presented flower bouquets to the youth artists, and group photos were taken.

To boost the tourism sector of Myanmar, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and Myanmar Souvenir Entrepreneurs Association also participated by opening a co-facilitated shop displaying the handicraft souvenirs from Myanmar ten traditional arts and crafts (Pan sè myo).

Regarding the event, Mr.

Saveng Seng Aphay, leader of Laos youth artist group, said his group has put the traditional clothing, objects, and musical instruments, representing their country on display.

"We also entertained with our traditional music and dances. As the six countries are very close neighbours, the cultures are very similar too," he said.

"We learnt more about traditional handicraft products of

other respective countries from the event. I'm also very proud of visiting the beautiful Mandalay City," he added.

In the evening, the youth artist group visited Mingun Pahtodawgyi in Sagaing and enjoyed the neighboring sceneries of the Sagaing Hill onboard a ship.—Min Htat Aung (Sub Printing House)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Work Coordination meeting for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 held

“The fifth National Work Coordination meeting for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025” was held on 30 January 2019, at Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was chaired by U Thaung Tun, Union Min-

ister for Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and was attended by Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and representatives of Ministries concerned with implementation of ASEAN Economic Community 2025. — MNA ■



Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun attends the Work Coordination meeting for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

ICOE holds separate meetings with historian Dr. Thant Myint-U, MNHRC



ICOE Chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manalo meets with historian Dr. Thant Myint-U in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE), established as part of the Union Government's initiative for reconciliation, peace, stability, and development in Rakhine State, is holding its sixth meeting from 29 to 31 January at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon. During the second day of the meeting yesterday, a

delegation led by ICOE Chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manalo met with historian Dr. Thant Myint-U in the morning and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Win Mra and its members in the afternoon at the Sedona Hotel.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Ministry of Information distributes radios to villages in Rakhine State

MINISTRY of Information handed over 67,880 radios to the Rakhine State Government yesterday, so that they may distribute the radios to people living in remote areas in Rakhine State.

On behalf of the ministry, U Myint Htwe, Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), handed over the radios to the Rakhine State Minister for Development Affairs, U Win Myint, at the office of the Rakhine State Government in Sittway at 9 am yesterday.

At the event, state minister U Win Myint delivered a speech, and MRTV Director-General U Myint Htwe explained the contribution of radios to villages in Rakhine State.

The MRTV broadcasts two radio programs in Myanmar and English and in 17 ethnic languages, including Rakhine language, from 5 am to 11 pm daily.

The MRTV also has 18 digital TV channels and there are 17 transmission stations for digital TV channels in Rakhine State.

The TV channel in Ra-

khine language broadcasts programmes of Rakhine traditional heritage and development.—Myo Myint, Maung Sein Lwin

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Over 67,880 radios handed over by Ministry of Information to Rakhine State Government. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**



Ethnic youth excursion group visits Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) station in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ethnic youth excursion group continues tour of Nay Pyi Taw on third day

AN ethnic youth excursion group currently on a visit to Nay Pyi Taw from the border areas continued their tour of the city on the third day of their trip yesterday.

The group is in Nay Pyi Taw at the invitation of and under an arrangement with the Ministry for Border Affairs.

The youth excursion group yesterday visited the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV)

offices with officials from the Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races.

Officials explained the processes involved in news editing and broadcasting at MRTV and the National Races Channel (NRC) to the group, and recorded traditional dances performed by the youth excursion group.

In the afternoon, the group

visited the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, and the Amyotha Hluttaw, where officials showed them around parliamentary buildings.

Later, the group headed to the Uppatasanti Pagoda to pay their respects and donate cash.

In the evening, they visited the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Royal Thai Army's Commander-in-Chief General Apirat Kongsompong

VICE-SENIOR General Soe Win received the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army, General Apirat Kongsompong, currently in Nay Pyi Taw at the invitation of the Vice-Senior General, at the Zeyathiri Beikman, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accorded a guard of honour, welcomed General Apirat Kongsompong in front of the Zeyathiri Beikman.

After taking the salute of

the Guard of Honour, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and General Apirat Kongsompong inspected the guard, followed by the bilateral introduction of senior military officers of both sides.

The Vice-Senior General then held talks with General Apirat Kongsompong at the Zeyathiri Beikman.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to strengthen the long-lasting friendship between the two

countries, exchanging information to combat chemicals used in manufacturing drugs along the border area, cooperation in combating human trafficking, security cooperation between the two Tatmadaws and cooperating in training programmes.

In the evening, Vice-Senior Soe Win hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation, according to news released from the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office.— MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Vice-Senior General Soe Win, (Right), meets with the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Apirat Kongsompong in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: COMMANDER IN CHIEF OFFICE**

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu receives Malaysian Ambassador

UNION MINISTER for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu received Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Zahairi Baharim at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

discussed matters related promoting investment in agricultural, fishery and livestock breeding sectors in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding-MoU, food production, trading and cooperation in technol-

ogy sector, exchange of trainees in research and development sectors, cooperation in pests control sector, win-win cooperation in investment in perennial and industrial crops and export of fishery products.—MNA



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu receives Malaysian Ambassador Mr. Zahairi Baharim in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives EU Ambassador



Thura U Shwe Mann (Right) EU Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt (Left) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union, yesterday at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they

exchanged views and openly discussed matters related to the collaboration in Myanmar's peace processes and cooperation in internal peace process of Myanmar to be rightly understood by the local and foreign communities.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Japanese giant enters insurance market

With the Insurance Business Regulatory Board (IBRB) giving the green light to foreign insurance companies entering the domestic market, the Tokio Marine Group, a major insurance company from Japan, set up shop in Myanmar on Tuesday.

To participate in the general insurance business more effectively, the Tokio Marine Insurance (Thailand) Public

Co. Ltd, a Thai-based subsidiary of the Tokio Marine Group, signed a Marine Cargo Reinsurance Agreement with Myanmar-based Grand Guardian Insurance Public Co. Ltd yesterday evening at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon.

The Tokio Marine Group is an international company that mainly provides general insurance cover.—GNLM ■

Exports of forest products rise \$46 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S exports of forest products have increased by US\$46 million from the 2017-2018FY to reach \$957 million in the current fiscal year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between October and mid-January in the current FY, there were no exports of forest products by the public sector.

Myanmar regularly exports commodities from seven major groups — agriculture, animal, aquaculture, and for-

est products, minerals, manufactured goods, and other miscellaneous products.

In the 2018-19 FY, the country has so far earned nearly \$4.4 billion through the export of goods from the seven groups.

Currently, bamboos and bamboo-based products made in Myanmar are being chiefly exported to Bangladesh, Pakistan, South Korea, and Singapore.—Shwe Khine

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Working together to bring positive change for future generations

“WORKING on early life development of children helps nurture and develop valuable and important human resources of our Union. In other words, it is not wasteful spending; it is, in fact, a strategic investment for the future.” This was the opening statement of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the High-Level Forum on ‘Realizing Myanmar’s Development Vision for Every Child’ held in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 January.

The future of a country depends on the emphasis placed on the next generation’s overall development. There are national strategies in place in Myanmar for working towards the development of the children of our country, as an investment in our nation’s future. While authorities concerned acknowledge that children’s affairs are important to the future of a nation, there has been a lack of strategic investment in the area.

. Just like we can shift a large rock if we work together as a group rather than individually, we can bring about great changes for the benefit of our future generations if we all work together.

be drawn not only to meet the requirements, but must also be implementable. It is very important for ministries and state and region governments to plan and conduct works that seek to include all people in annual projects and to ensure that there are connections and linkages.

Studies and discussions for securing the future of each child in Myanmar should be conducted across sectors to reduce childhood deaths, ensure registration of children at birth, ensure they have a healthy, warm, and safe life, enjoy equal opportunity in education, increase their time in school, and prevent human trafficking and recruitment of children into the military.

Everyone from the government and private sector must participate and work together to resolve the weaknesses and consolidate the strengths of each sector. Just like we can shift a large rock if we work together as a group rather than individually, we can bring about great changes for the benefit of our future generations if we all work together. And in doing so, we will ensure well-balanced physical and mental development of all the children in the country. ■■■

Investors, business tycoons, and magnates share outlook, ideas at Invest Myanmar Summit off to a great start

The Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 is off to a roaring start in Nay Pyi Taw, offering local and foreign investors opportunities for business and investment through a single window and one-stop facility, and a platform to interact with each other, obtain information, and exchange ideas one-on-one with the business elite.

Interviewed and written by Maw See and Htet Thu
Photo by Shwe Ko Lay and Aye Than

A compilation of interviews with investors, business tycoons and magnates are presented for the esteemed readers.

Dr. Maung Maung Lay (Vice President of UMFCCI)

It is not the usual prototype of the past like one way lectures. See eye to eye is going on among the sellers and the buyers. Some foreign and local business people are holding on “wait and see” attitude on the shift and swing of the investment and the peace progress of the country. As state economy shifted from socialist system to a new market economic era, a lot of people just stand by and see what is actually going on. Political stability is a prerequisite and that the government is doing the best. They stepped ahead only after assessing the stability.

Unlike the previous gatherings, this Summit 2019 offers an exclusive and unique platform for the buyers and the sellers. On the part of the sellers, they showcased about (200) projects including from the regions and the states.

On the part of the buyers, the experts and the skilled persons assessed the projects and advised to their respective investors and then contemplate for further talks direct with the regions and states chief ministers, if they are desirous to do business. The officials from customs and the land records are all there, waiting for the pragmatic business deals in a single venue.

The newest way of dealing brings confidence and trust and that 2019 foreign investment indicates the upswing with the paradigm of transparency.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet, (Economist)

In doing business it is vital to ensure profit, to take care of the people, and to conserve environment. Above all, the dignity, ethic and prestige are also necessary to incorporate. When we are welcoming investments from other countries, it is essential to have fine basic structure on economic,



Dr. Maung Maung Lay



Dr. Aung Tun Thet.



U Ye Aung Moe.



U Sithu Moe Myint.



U Maung Weik



Daw Khin Aye Win.



U Zaw Lin Aung.



U Kyaw Thet Hlaing.

political, and social matters. For the economic development of our own country, the political situation must be fair enough with the rule of law in good balance and equilibrium. Politics and social matters are to be taken into consideration for inviting foreign investors.

It is very much fundamental that the incoming investments must be in the interest and advantage of the people. Moreover, they should be in the health and education sectors. Another vital aspect is to achieve corruption free environment, which is impediment to the investors. All the government departments must move fast in their office functioning so as to garner investments.

In this new style of summit, foreign and local business people would surely come forward with open hearts and talk candidly, and therefore, I would like to urge to all stakeholders to get the best and most out of the summit.

U Ye Aung Moe (Director, Rakhine State, Directorate of Hotel and Tourism)

In Rakhine State, we have most popular resorts and destinations namely Ngapali Beach and Mrauk-U Cultural Heritage Site. We have many beautiful beaches similar to Ngapali Beach, adding more beauties at Gwa Township, Myanaung Island and Ramree Island.

For the development of tourism industry, the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism and the Rakhine State Government are trying the best in their cooperation. Investments are also welcomed at the agriculture, animal breeding, fisheries, and industrial sectors. In the upcoming February 2019, we have arranged the Rakhine State Investment Fair at Ngapali Beach Resort, where we would offer business opportunity and investment prospects.

U Sithu Moe Myint, Executive Director and Country Manager MPRL E & P Group of Companies

At this summit 2019, we have presented the services regarding Block A-6 that of MPRL E&P which played a key role in the successful exploration and production of hydrocarbon resources in Myanmar.

The efforts to improve oil production in Mann field have supplied the nation with a more cost effective means for domestic oil consumption. The offshore exploration success in block A-6 has brought the nation one step closer towards accessing a long term sustainable energy supply for future electrical power generation needs.

We also presented offshore logistic station to support block A-6. We are now in the initial pro-

cess for the production of natural gas as we have accomplished the project in the Ayeyawaddy Region. We have planned to produce natural gas in the next five years.

The project being categorized at the offshore Block A - 6 is sophisticated, superior and hard scheme as it stands out at 21st project and the previous projects are listed as 20 projects on this planet. As the project has been earmarked for five years timeframe, it could be referred as very fast scheme.

For the successful implementation, we need to establish offshore logistic station as we have had to rely on the stations owned by Singaporean companies which incurred unnecessary expenses. Therefore, we have build offshore logistic station within two years which would surely aids and assists the Block A - 6 mission.

As the geographical feature and situation of Myanmar is very much strategic in the connectivity of the region, we intend to acquire multi-purpose offshore deep sea port with a broader vision.

U Maung Weik, Chairman, Sae Paing Development Limited

The speech delivered by the State Counselor is excellent as she invited the investors, and that the entire circumstances and conditions in Myanmar are fine. It is very much heartening that

all the government departments are ready to offer helping hands and the relevant chief ministers of regions and states are ready to give concessions as much as they could.

I am of the view that many investors are coming in. The year 2019 is much better than the previous years, however, we may have difficulties before us, and we must address to overcome the challenges. The investment is in the upsurge and that we need to organize more forums similar to this summit 2019.

The State Counsellor, the union ministers, the prime ministers have invited the local and foreign investors to come in and invest with trust, and that is indeed very much encouraging to the possible investors.

The assumptions and opinions viewed by some people are not correct that the local companies would have disadvantage and drawback when the foreign investors come and invest in the country.

We are the hosts and we know our country much more than the foreigners. We could work out for the greater good of the country and further development. We have our own advantages and they have their own benefits. We could combine these potentials. We have now invited the foreign investors, and that our local in-

vestors must also come forward. We need to elevate the local investors. Such forums should be organized once every six months or every year so that the intimacy and closeness could be created among the leaders and the business people. I would like to urge to conduct more summits.

Daw Khin Aye Win, Managing Director, STI Myanmar University

At this summit, we have introduced and presented educational services that we have already registered at the MIC. STI Myanmar University, formerly known as STI Education, was founded in Myanmar in early 2006 with the commitment of providing academic programs at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

It comprises of four major Faculties such as the Faculty of Business, Faculty of Health Science, Faculty of Education & Linguistics and Faculty of Engineering.

It is one of the top private education providers in Myanmar conducting courses in business and finance, engineering, human resource management, education and English proficiency programs, in collaboration with international universities and the National Management University under the Ministry of Education, Myanmar. Mainly, we are providing education in collaboration with the UK.

At a time when the Basic Education Law is being enacted along with the by-laws, rules and regulations, then we have planned to establish a top notch quality private university on a par with the universities in the neighboring countries. We intend to accept the international students at our university while we are striving the nation building so that all the students could acquire the culture of Myanmar and its tradition at the university. This vision is in line with the educational guidelines being spelled out by the State Counsellor.

The people from the regions and the states gathered here and presented many investment opportunities including the plans of foreign and local investors. As we can see all the investment opportunities at the same venue, it is very much beneficial.

U Zaw Lin Aung, Managing Director, Kanbawza Bank

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President

Order 4/2019

10th Waning of Pyatho, 1380 ME
(30 January 2019)

Kachin State Minister transferred

IN accordance with the provisions stated in article 262, Sub-section (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 8 (g) of Region or State Government Law, U Nay Win, Kachin State Minister for Development Affairs has been transferred as Kachin State Minister for Social Affairs.

Sd/ -

Win Myint
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President

Order 5/2019

10th Waning of Pyatho, 1380 ME
(30 January 2019)

Kachin State Ministers appointed

IN accordance with the provisions stated in article 262, Sub-section (f), article 264, sub-section (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 19 (c), Section 82 (c) of the Union Government Law and Section 8 (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as State Ministers of the State Ministries shown against each of their names.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (1) U Kyaw Kyaw Win | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation |
| (2) U La Sai | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation |
| (3) U Naw Li (a) Za Khaung Kham Yal | Ministry of Development Affairs |

Sd/ -

Win Myint
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Our Kanbawza Bank is presenting KBZ Pay at this summit, which provides (100) per cent financial service. KBZ Bank brings the customer a mobile wallet which makes transferring money, paying for goods, mobile top-up easy and quick. Send money, receive money and many more banking functions in an instant and all safely secured on the phone of the client. Moreover, the digital banking system and service is on the agenda.

U Kyaw Thet Hlaing, (Vice President, Myanmar Developer Association)

The forum is an excellent discussion as the international investors could have the entire spectrum of presentation of Myanmar by themselves at the single show. It disseminated the job opportunities in addition to the

stability of the sectors in political, economy, and economic principles which is being truly encouraged by the government.

They could feel the sentiments of the public in welcoming the investors, and therefore, such forum should be organized as much as possible. Myanmar Investment Law, Rules and Myanmar Companies Law being enacted and prescribed have been spread out across the globe which needs some space and time to be convinced by the international investors.

They are sure to understand and convinced that it is worth trying to invest in Myanmar and sure to rush in on time. For the time being, we need to go on with this type of summit and presentation from time to time as much as we could.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Thailand sends 83 illegal migrant workers back to Myanmar

THE Thai authorities sent 83 illegal migrant workers back to Myanmar via Kawthoung on 29 January. The workers' border passes were found to have expired and they were not holding any other official documents.

The 83 workers were warmly welcomed by personnel from the district and the township levels of General Administration Department, the Labor, Immigration, and Population Department, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division and the township Labor Department. The Public Health Department provided health checkups to the workers. Currently, the authorities are making arrangements to send them back to their homes.

Most of the migrant workers



Illegal migrant workers arriving back home from Thailand in Kawthoung on the Thai-Myanmar border.

PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

ers are from the Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, Yangon, and Bago regions, and Mon and Rakhine

states. A total of 816 illegal migrant workers have been officially handed over to the Myanmar

authorities till now.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

About 500,000 tourists visit Mandalay in 2018

OVER 3.5 million tourists visited Myanmar in 2018, with about 492,097 travellers heading to the Mandalay Region, according to official statistics from the Mandalay Region's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Tourists who visited Mandalay were mostly from China, France, Thailand, and Germany. They visited some well-known landmarks such as the U Bein bridge, the Taungthaman lake, the Kuthodaw pagoda, the Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace, the

Maha Muni Buddha Image, the around Mandalay hill, and other ancient buildings and pagodas in the region.

According to statistics from the Mandalay Region's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the region hosted 75,727 tourists in 2010, 99,016 tourists in 2011, 160,975 tourists in 2012, 219,518 tourists in 2013, 242,566 tourists in 2014, 306,432 tourists in 2015, 385,031 tourists in 2016, 483,784 tourists in 2017, and 492,097 tourists in 2018.

In 2018, about 1,335,714 tourists arrived in Myanmar



Tourists visit an ancient Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay. **PHOTO: THAN MIN ZAW (IPRD)**

via air, 9,370 travellers came to the country on board cruise ships, and 53,014 tourists entered the country through the border gates. A total of 3,551,428 tourists visited My-

anmar, of which 1,398,098 tourists travelled to the country on a visa, while 2,153,330 tourists gained entry with a border pass.—Than Min Zaw (IPRD) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Sales of Pathein umbrellas up in NyaungU as tourist arrivals surge



A traditional umbrella making workshop shows the typical Pathein umbrellas. **PHOTO: KYAW KYAW (MAHLAING)**

MOST tourists visiting the Bagan-NyaungU area have been browsing through shops selling the Pathein Htee, or Myanmar traditional umbrella, in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region.

There are 220 villages in

the 91 village-tracts of NyaungU Township. Most of the villagers living in the area subsist on agriculture and farming. Some of the villagers make farming implements, paintings, and sculpture to earn a livelihood.

"Most of the tourists are

visiting the Bagan NyaungU, which is an ancient city of tourist interest with several temples and pagodas. Whenever they visit NyaungU, travellers buy locally produced souvenirs. Often, tourists visit shops where they can see and purchase Pathein umbrellas. Pathein umbrellas are manufactured in Pathein Township and sold in NyaungU, where there is a good market for them," said Ko Naing Lin, who owns a Pathein umbrella shop in NyaungU.

"My brother in Pathein sends the umbrellas to me and I sell them in NyaungU Township," said Ko Naing Lin.

These days, Pathein umbrellas are selling well in the town of NyaungU because of an increase in tourist arrivals in Ba-

gan region. Pathein umbrellas are also being ordered by hotels. Most of the hotels and restaurants in the NyaungU Township use Pathein umbrellas as decor. Some tourists also like to get photos taken with the Pathein umbrellas.

One Pathein umbrella is currently selling for K3,000 to K70,000 per unit, depending on the design and size. Pathein umbrellas mostly sell well between March and October.

Compared with last year, the number of tourists visiting the Bagan Archaeological Zone has increased this year. Tourists visiting the Bagan Archaeological Zone have to shell out an entry fee of K25,000 per person.—Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Volume of rice, broken rice exports tops 1.9 mln metric tons in Apr-Jan



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE volume of rice and broken rice exports between 1 April, 2018 and 18 January, 2019 is estimated to have crossed 1.9 million metric tons, worth about US\$642.7 million, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

In the nine months since April 2018, Myanmar has shipped over 1.6 million metric tons of rice worth \$547 million to 46 countries. Meanwhile, the country has exported over 323,190 metric tons of broken rice to 21 countries, earning \$95.58 million.

Border trade remains relatively high compared with sea trade when it comes to rice exports, accounting for 51.6 per cent of the total exports. The export of rice through the border checkpoints has fetched an estimated \$335 million. Meanwhile, maritime trade has generated an income of \$307.59 million.

The value of rice and broken rice exports in the April-January period has dropped compared to the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The decline in trade

through the border channel has been attributed to China's tight confiscation of some agro products, including rice, since the second week of October 2018.

The trade capacity through the maritime channel is limited owing to shipping problems, port logistics, financial constraints, and currency fluctuation.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar exported 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth \$1.13 billion.—Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports of finished goods by private sector up nearly \$780 mln; public sector sees decline

EXPORTS of finished industrial goods by the private sector increased by US\$779 million, while shipments from the public sector registered a decline of \$303 million between 1 October and 18 January in the 2018-2019 financial year compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Exports of finished industrial goods reached \$2.3 billion in the three months from October, recording a significant increase of over \$476 million from \$1.85 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's manufactur-

ing sector is largely concentrated in garments and textiles on the Cutting-Making-Packaging (CMP) basis which contribute to the country's GDP to some extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as a promising one in the export sector. The export value of CMP was only \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but the income from exports tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, according to the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018 held on 12 September.

In the last mini-budget period (April-September), exports of clothes made under the CMP system were valued at \$2.27 billion, double the fig-

ure recorded in the previous year.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar's apparel, followed by the European Union. Local entrepreneurs have expressed concerns over the possibility of the EU revoking the Generalized Scheme of Preference, as it can also hurt the manufacturing industry.

There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, which employ more than 300,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labour countries such as Myanmar.

The manufacturing sector is likely to retain its top ranking in terms of FDI inflows in the current financial year.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Low-cost affordable apartments to be sold in Ayeyawady Region

LOW-COST affordable apartments built in Ward 14, Patheingyi Town, Ayeyawady region, by Ohnmar Danti Real Estate and Pyi Taw Thar Real Property will be put on sale beginning of 4 February, according to the apartment selling committee.

The housing projects were implemented by the Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction.

Prospective buyers can make an outright purchase, or open an account with the Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB) and make a 30-per cent down payment for the apartments.

"The low-cost and affordable apartments, which were constructed in Patheingyi Township, will be sold to those who can make an outright purchase or those who opt to pay in instalments. Those who choose to pay in instalments need to open an account with the CHDB. Application forms for the apartments will be sold from 4 February. Apartments can be purchased outright from 4 February on a first come, first served basis. Buyers making an outright purchase will have to deposit the money with the bank. If they produce a bank statement, they will be allowed to stay in the

apartments temporarily and they will get the title once they make the full payment," said U Sithu San, the deputy director of the apartment selling committee.

A total of 24 apartment buildings have been constructed by Pyi Taw Thar Real Estate. Meanwhile, seven buildings of six floors with eight apartment units on each level and nine buildings of five floors with six apartment units on each level have been constructed by Ohnmar Danti Housing Estate in Patheingyi Town.

"Now, we don't have any limitations. Earlier, only those who had bank accounts could buy apartments. Now, buyers don't need to open an account. If they pay cash, they can buy an apartment outright. But, if they wish to buy with credit, they need to open a bank account," he said.

The committee will sell the apartments to buyers who wish to make an outright purchase from 4 to 28 February. Buyers who opt for the instalment plan need to register with the Urban and Housing Development Department during the same period.

The housing units will be sold through a lottery system to buyers who opt for the instalment plan.—Aye Yamone

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Sugar mill, power plant planned in Katha Tsp by 2021; to create over 70,000 jobs

A project is under way to construct a sugar mill and a biomass power plant in Katha Township over the next two years which will help create around 70,000 jobs for locals, said U Than Zaw Oo, the secretary of the Sagaing Region Investment Committee.

"Myanmar's Greatwall Foodstuff Industrial Co. Ltd and Yunnan Province-based Hong Kong International Sugar Engineering Company Limited will jointly set up the sugar mill and biomass power plant in Pyindaunglay village of Katha Township, Sagaing Region. The construction is slated to be completed in two years," he said.

The two entities will invest a capital of US\$120 million in the sugar mill, which will have a daily crushing capacity of 10,000 tons of sugarcane. The biomass plant, which will produce 60 megawatts of power, will pull in a capital of

\$80 million.

As Phase I, the Sagaing Region government signed an agreement with investors for projects worth \$200 million at the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 held at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw, said U Than Zaw Oo.

"The sugar mill construction project is scheduled from 2019 to 2020, and the mill is slated to run in 2021. Once the mill starts operation, a total of 55,000 jobs will be offered to locals, including sugarcane workers, general workers, wage workers, and factory staff. In addition to sugar, organic fertilizer will also be produced," he said.

"Similarly, the power plant will be constructed within two years. It will be located beside the sugar mill and employ 18,600 workers," said U Than Zaw Oo.—Myo Win Tun

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Photo taken on 14 December, 2018, shows the house of Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies Co, in Vancouver, Canada. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Huawei exec makes court appearance after US extradition request

VANCOUVER (Canada) — Meng Wanzhou, a top executive of China's Huawei Technologies Co, made her first appearance in a Vancouver court on Tuesday, a day after the United States Department of Justice formally requested her extradition over US sanctions violations.

Meng, 46, chief financial officer of Huawei and the daughter of the company's founder Ren Zhengfei, and her legal team requested to formally change one of the parties that is financially responsible for her bail during the hearing Tuesday morning, according to Canadian media.

The judge allowed Meng to restore realtor Robert Cheng and his wife as sureties.

Though a 6 February hearing was previously scheduled to determine future court dates, the judge on Tuesday rescheduled it to 6 March, as Canada's minister of justice will de-

cide whether to approve the US extradition request by 1 March.

Canadian authorities arrested Meng on 1 December during a flight transfer at the request of US authorities and she has been under house arrest in her suburban Vancouver home since a judge granted her a C\$10 million (\$7.5 million) bail on 11 December.

Meng's bail terms include wearing an ankle monitor, remaining inside her home between 11 pm and 6 am and around-the-clock surveillance.

On Monday, the Justice Department unsealed criminal charges against the Chinese telecommunications giant as well as Meng and two affiliates in connection with bank fraud in breach of US sanctions on Iran. In a separate case, the US department has also charged Huawei with stealing trade secrets from T-Mobile USA Inc. —Kyodo News ■

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Dated 31st January 2019 lmm@kcyangon.com

Japan gov't urged by lawmakers to take action against S Korea

TOKYO — Lawmakers from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party on Wednesday intensified calls on Japan's government to act against South Korea, as the two countries have been locked in fierce historical and military disputes in recent months.

At a meeting of Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers well versed in diplomacy, Japan's ambassador to South Korea, Yasumasa Nagamine, explained the current status of bilateral ties, while noting it is important for Tokyo to keep communicating with Seoul and to manage differences.

Still, a chorus of hawkish requests came from lawmakers of the ruling party, with one attendee saying, "What the Japanese public wants are swift countermeasures. The government needs to show its resolute stance by recalling Mr Nagamine."

South Korea's top court ruled in favor of South Korean plaintiffs seeking compensation



Lawmakers from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party attend a meeting at its headquarters in Tokyo on 30 January, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

from Japanese firms for forced labor during Japan's rule of the Korean Peninsula between 1910 and 1945. Japan promptly criticized the rulings, handed down in October and November, as breaching "international law," based on the view that the nations settled the issue of compensation in 1965. Nagamine told the lawmakers that Tokyo has been calling on Seoul to engage in bilateral talks based on the 1965 accord to resolve their dispute.

"We plan to manage

issues of (bilateral) concern in a future-oriented way and keep communication with the South Korean side," the envoy said.

On the South Korean navy's alleged targeting of its fire-control radar on a Japanese patrol plane, Nagamine said Seoul's responses have "lacked composure." But he said the incident should not harm relations between Japanese and South Korean defense authorities.

Japan and South Korea have traded barbs over the

20 December radar lock-on incident, with both sides presenting visual evidence to support their claims.

South Korea has denied Japan's claim that a fire-control radar—intended to measure the direction and distance of an object before launching an attack—was used. The South Korean military has also accused Japan's Self-Defence Forces of making multiple low-altitude flights near South Korean navy ships, a claim denied by Japan. —Kyodo News ■

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Hundreds of schools to shut as toxic smog cloaks Bangkok

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Toxic smog forced Bangkok authorities to issue an unprecedented order to shut nearly 450 schools on Wednesday, as authorities struggle to manage a pollution crisis that has stirred widespread concern.

The Thai capital has been shrouded in murky haze for weeks, forcing residents to don masks and sparking social media criticism of the uneven response by the government.

Reasons given for the lingering pall include exhaust from traffic, unfettered construction, the burning of crop stubble, and pollution from factories getting trapped in the city.

Authorities have seeded clouds to provoke



The sun is seen rising from behind buildings in downtown Bangkok on 30 January, 2019. Nearly 450 schools across Bangkok were set for closure later 30 January due to toxic smog, after an unprecedented order by city authorities struggling to manage a pollution crisis that has stirred widespread public concern. **PHOTO: AFP**

rain, sprayed overpasses with water to catch micro-pollutants and even asked people not to burn

incense sticks and paper during Chinese New Year celebrations. The measures so

far have provoked derision from many Bangkok residents, while stocks of pollution

masks have run out in many shops.

But on Wednesday, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration stepped up its health warnings, ordering all 437 city-controlled public schools to close from lunchtime through Friday, while designating 1,500 square kilometres (580 square miles) of the city a “control area”.

“The situation will be bad until February 3 to 4, so I decided to close schools,” said Bangkok governor Aswin Kwanmuang, adding he hoped the move would also empty the road of cars on the school run.

Three to four of the city’s districts are “severely hit with smog”, he added.

Fleets of drones are set to be deployed to dis-

perse sugary liquid solution to help clear the air of microscopic particles.

It is not clear how effective that will be given the scale of the smog cloaking the city.

Aswin also said City Hall may soon issue a warning against exercising in parks.

Air Visual, an independent online air quality index (AQI) monitor, on Thursday pegged Bangkok at the “unhealthy” level of 171, up from 156 mid-month.

The measurements are higher than some cities in China but well below the Indian capital New Delhi.

Greenpeace Thailand country director Tara Buakamsri said the levels in Bangkok were the worst in “at least a year”.—AFP ■

Dangerous arctic chill sweeps over US Midwest

CHICAGO (United States) — Tens of millions of people in the United States are bracing for a potentially life-threatening deep arctic chill forecast to hit swaths of the country on Wednesday.

Companies have told their workers to stay home, schools are closed and hundreds of flights have been canceled. The US Postal Service — known for its commitment to bringing the mail whatever the

weather — has even reportedly suspended deliveries in Iowa due to the severe cold.

Temperatures in almost a dozen states stretching more than 1,200 miles (1,930 kilometres) from the Dakotas to Ohio were forecast to be the coldest in a generation, if not on record. “One of the coldest arctic air mass intrusions in recent memory is surging south into the Upper Midwest before spreading

across much of the eastern two-thirds of the country,” the National Weather Service said. “Expect frigid temperatures, bitterly cold and life-threatening wind chills, likely leading to widespread record lows and low maximum temperatures from the Upper Midwest to the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley.” The cause is a swirl of arctic air that broke away from the polar vortex that usually encircles the North Pole. —AFP ■

ပိုးသတ်ဆေးဖြန့်ဖြူးသူ ပြောင်းလဲခြင်းအတွက် ကြေငြာခြင်း

Seven Seven One Co., Ltd မှ ဖြန့်ဖြူးသူအဖြစ် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသော Chengdu Kelilong Bio-Chemistry Company Inc., ၏ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ပိုးသတ်ဆေး (၂) မျိုးအား Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co. Ltd သို့ လွှဲပြောင်းဖြန့်ဖြူးမည်ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ကန့်ကွက်ရန်ရှိပါက ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး သီးနှံကာကွယ်ရေးဌာနခွဲ၊ အနောက်ကြို့ကုန်း၊ အင်းစိန်မြို့သို့ ကြေငြာသည့်နေ့မှ (၁၄) ရက်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ် အကြောင်းကြားပေးပါရန် အသိပေးကြေညာ အပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပိုးသတ်ဆေး ကုန်သွယ်မှုအမည်	အဆိပ်ရှိပစ္စည်း	မှတ်ပုံတင် အမျိုးအစား	မှတ်ပုံတင် အမှတ်
(၁)	Trustco Quick 15 EC	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 15%EC	Provisional Reg:	P2018-4068
(၂)	Trustco Clear 430 SC	Tebuconazole 430 g/l SC	Provisional Reg:	P2018-4219

Seven Seven One Co., Ltd ဖုန်း ၀၉-၄၂၁၁၁၁၇၉၇

ပိုးသတ်ဆေးဖြန့်ဖြူးသူ ပြောင်းလဲခြင်းအတွက် ကြေငြာခြင်း

Seven Seven One Co., Ltd မှ ဖြန့်ဖြူးသူအဖြစ် Hunan Agriculture University Heartable Chemurgy Co., Ltd ၏ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ပိုးသတ်ဆေး (၄) မျိုးအား Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co. Ltd သို့ လွှဲပြောင်းဖြန့်ဖြူးမည်ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ကန့်ကွက်ရန်ရှိပါက ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး သီးနှံကာကွယ်ရေးဌာနခွဲ၊ အနောက်ကြို့ကုန်း၊ အင်းစိန်မြို့သို့ ကြေငြာသည့်နေ့မှ (၁၄) ရက်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ် အကြောင်းကြားပေးပါရန် အသိပေးကြေညာ အပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပိုးသတ်ဆေး ကုန်သွယ်မှုအမည်	အဆိပ်ရှိပစ္စည်း	မှတ်ပုံတင် အမျိုးအစား	မှတ်ပုံတင် အမှတ်
(၁)	Trustco Combines 50 WP	Isoprocarb 35 % + Pymetrozine 15% WP	Experimental Reg:	E2018-4081
(၂)	Trustco Riceguard 25 WP	Bispyribac-sodium 20% + Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 5% WP	Experimental Reg:	E2018-4085
(၃)	Trustco Pendim 330 EC	Pendimethalin 330g/l EC	Provisional Reg:	P2018-4082
(၄)	Trustco Defender 30WP	Difenoconazole 30% WP	Provisional Reg:	P2018-4469

Seven Seven One Co., Ltd ဖုန်း ၀၉-၄၂၁၁၁၁၇၉၇

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HARTA VOY. NO. (KHAR 0031N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HARTA VOY. NO. (KHAR 0031N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO. (1903 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO. (1903 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (088N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (088N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-01-2019 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.

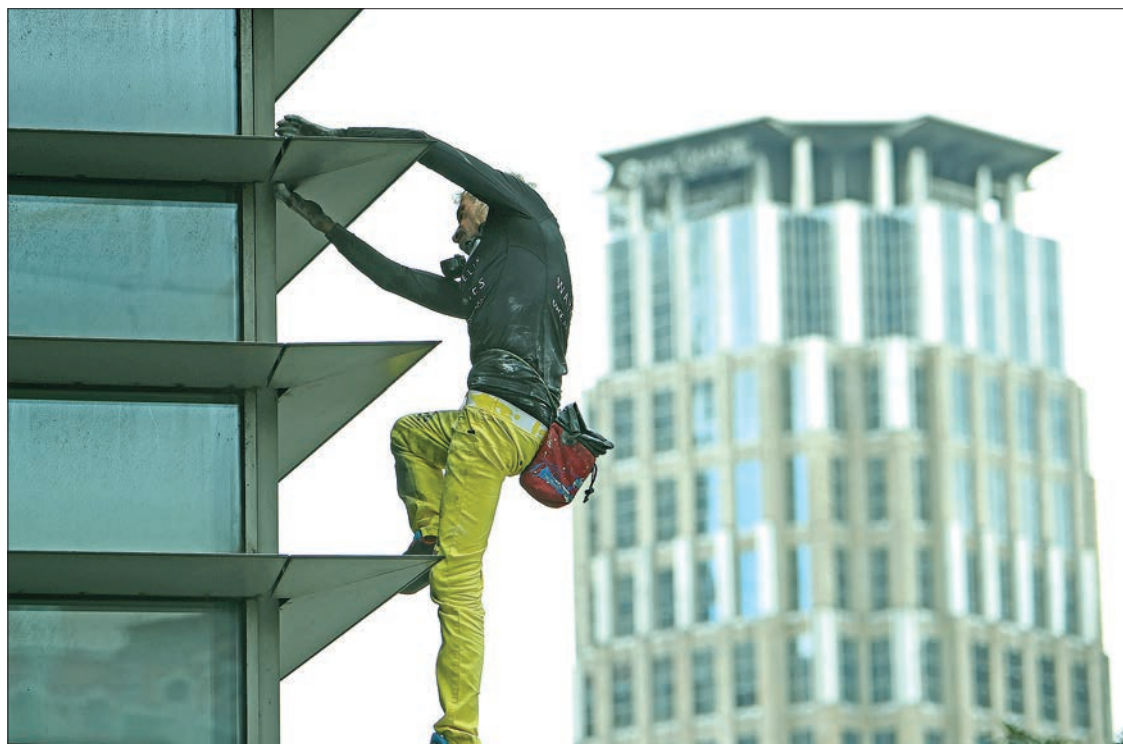
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

‘French Spiderman’ arrested after scaling Manila skyscraper

MANILA (Philippines)—French urban freeclimber Alain Robert was arrested on Tuesday, police said, after he scaled one of Manila’s tallest towers in his latest high-risk ascent. The 56-year old adventurer dubbed the “French spiderman” climbed the 47-storey GT Tower without safety equipment, leaving watchers on the ground staring in amazement.

“This is my path, this is my way of living. It is as important to me as eating, sleeping. I need that. It keeps me alive,” he told reporters after completing the climb. Police were less enthusiastic about the stunt and took him into custody as soon as he reached the ground after the roughly two-hour climb up and down the building. He is being held on a charge of public disturbance but will post bail on Wednesday, his lawyer Howard Calleja told AFP on Tuesday night. Robert has scaled more than 100 structures without ropes or other safety equipment, setting a record for “most buildings climbed unassisted” according to Guinness World Records.



French urban free-climber Alain Robert, popularly known as the “French Spiderman”, is pictured on the side of the 47-storey GT Tower in Manila’s financial district of Makati on 29 January, 2019. The 56-year old adventurer climbed the 47-storey GT Tower without safety equipment, leaving watchers on the ground staring agape. **PHOTO: AFP**

His successes include many of the world’s tallest skyscrapers and iconic buildings, such as the Eiffel Tower, the Sydney Opera House, the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur and the Burj Khalifa in Dubai—where he used suction de-

vices and a safety rope as it has no hand or footholds. However, in June he was foiled when he attempted to ascend a Seoul skyscraper, getting more than halfway up the 123-storey Lotte World Tower before security forced him to abort. Robert said

he first intended to scale the GT Tower on Saturday but changed his mind when he saw building security men armed with guns, normal in the Philippines but not in most of the 70 countries where he said he had climbed. —AFP ■

Axes, armour, torches: Vikings feast on Scottish island

LERWICK (United Kingdom)—Vikings partied in Scotland’s Shetland Islands on Tuesday in the annual “Up Helly Aa” festival, featuring a parade of men in suits of armour torching a wooden ship.

The event—which means “long winter’s end” in Old Norse—has taken place in the port of Lerwick, around 125 miles (200 kilometres) northwest of mainland Scotland, on the last Tuesday in January every year since the early 1890s to celebrate the region’s Viking heritage.

“It means a lot to Shetlanders and people in Lerwick that we can do this festival,” John Nicolson, one of the organisers, told AFP.

“It’s really steeped in Viking history here.”

The 48-year-old is the figurehead for this year’s festival—known as the “Guizer Jarl”—leading a “Jarl Squad” of dozens of Vikings for the day and hundreds of other dressed up “guizers”.

“I’ve been looking forward to it for 13 years,” said Nicolson, a self-employed decorator who has been on the 17-strong organizing committee all that time.

“There’s only been a few guys that have been (Guizer Jarl), so it’s a great privilege.”

The Jarl dons the same suit of armour—comprising helmet, breastplate, shield, axe, dagger and belt—each year. But in a closely guarded secret, he chooses the design for his and his squad’s other garments, representing a different character from the Norse Sagas stories each time. The formidable looking crew spent on Tuesday parading through the town, before a torchlit procession of hundreds led the burning down of the replica longship—and celebratory parties were expected to last until dawn.

The festivities take place regardless of conditions on the far-flung islands—which sit in the North Atlantic Ocean on the same latitude as southern Greenland. “There’s no postponement for weather,” said Nicolson. “It’ll be what it’ll be, and we’ll just carry on.” —AFP ■

Berlin filmfest unveils starry lineup



This year’s edition of the Berlin Film Festival will be the last led by Dieter Kosslick, who is handing over the reins after 18 years. **PHOTO: AFP**

BERLIN (Germany)—New movies starring Diane Kruger, Martin Freeman and Catherine Deneuve and features directed by Hollywood actors Jonah Hill and Casey Affleck will take the spotlight at next month’s Berlin film festival. The 11-day Berlinale, now in its 69th year, figures along with Cannes and Venice among Europe’s A-list festivals. It will present some 400 movies from around the world before wrapping up on 17 February. This year’s edition will be the last led by Dieter Kosslick, who

is handing over the reins after 18 years. “The audio-visual world is in major, major turmoil and we’ll have to see where the journey takes us,” Kosslick, 70, told reporters, referring to competition from streaming giants such as Netflix.

“But I think in future, film festivals will be more important than ever because you will see movies that you can’t see anywhere else (on a big screen). I think they (streaming and festivals) will co-exist.”

Seventeen films will vie for

the Berlinale’s Golden and Silver Bear prizes, including a record seven by female directors such as Polish veteran Agnieszka Holland and Denmark’s Lone Scherfig (“An Education”). Scherfig will open the festival on 7 February with the bittersweet drama “The Kindness of Strangers” set in New York and starring Zoe Kazan, Andreas Riseborough and Bill Nighy. French star Juliette Binoche will lead a jury including fellow Oscar winner Sebastian Lelio of Chile (“A Fantastic Woman”), British actress/director/producer Trudie Styler, Museum of Modern Art curator Rajendra Roy, German actress Sandra Hueller (“Toni Erdmann”) and US critic Justin Chang. Kruger and Freeman are expected on Berlin’s red carpet for the premiere of Israeli spy thriller “The Operative” by Yuval Adler.

Society without women

Outside the main showcase, Affleck will premiere “Light of My Life”, a dystopian drama starring Elisabeth Moss (“The Handmaid’s Tale”) and set in a society without women. Hill’s di-

rectorial debut “Mid90s” will also screen in the Panorama sidebar section alongside “Skin”, starring Jamie Bell, about the US neo-Nazi scene and “The Souvenir” featuring Tilda Swinton and her real-life daughter Honor Swinton Byrne. Deneuve leads the cast of “Farewell to the Night” directed by Andre Techine and screening out of competition.

Turkish-German director Fatih Akin, who won a Golden Globe last year for his terrorism drama “In the Fade” starring Kruger, will premiere “The Golden Glove” about a killer in his hometown Hamburg. China will be represented in competition with two features, “One Second” by Zhang Yimou and “So Long, My Son” by festival favourite Wang Xiaoshuai.

After winning the Golden Lion top prize at the Venice film festival in September with “Roma”, Netflix will enter the fray in Berlin for the first time with “Elisa and Marcela” by Spain’s Isabel Coixet. Last year’s Golden Bear winner was the sex docudrama “Touch Me Not” by Romania’s Adina Pintilie. —AFP ■

Lowering blood pressure cuts risk of cognitive impairment: study

TAMPA (United States)—Aggressive treatment to lower blood pressure in older people has been shown to cut the risk of developing mild cognitive impairment, a risk factor for dementia, US researchers said on Monday.

While the findings in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) did not find any significant impact on the likelihood of developing dementia, experts said the trial offers a glimmer of hope as the world's population ages and dementia becomes a growing concern.

Dementia, including its most common, form, Alzheimer's disease, is expected to affect 115 million people worldwide by 2050. So far, the world's best scientific minds have not found a way to reliably prevent, cure or treat dementia. But some research has suggested that high blood pressure—which affects three-quarters of people

over 75—might be a modifiable risk factor. For the the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT), more than 9,300 people aged 50 and older with high blood pressure (systolic blood pressure of between 130 and 180 mm Hg) were randomized to receive different interventions.

Some received intensive blood pressure control, with medications that targeted 120 mm Hg. Others aimed for a more standard treatment goal of less than 140 mm Hg. Patients were followed for about five years and given a battery of cognitive tests. In the intensive treatment group, 149 participants were deemed to have probable dementia, compared with 176 participants in the standard treatment group. In other words, the intensive blood pressure control “did not significantly reduce the incidence of probable dementia,” said the study.

However, researchers were



Some research has suggested that high blood pressure might be a modifiable risk factor in the development of dementia. **PHOTO: AFP**

cautiously optimistic about a secondary finding, that mild cognitive impairment occurred in far fewer participants in the intensive treatment group—287 compared to 353 participants in the standard treatment group. “This is the first trial, to our knowledge, to demonstrate an intervention that significantly reduces the occurrence of MCI, a well-established risk factor for dementia,” said the study.

An accompanying editorial in JAMA by Kristine Yaffe of

the University of California, San Francisco, also emphasized the possibility that more research could confirm the technique as an effective prevention strategy. “For older adults, almost all of whom have concern about being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, SPRINT MIND offers great hope,” she wrote. “The study demonstrates that among those with hypertension, intensive SBP control can reduce the development of cog-

nitive impairment.” She called for studying the approach along with other vascular health efforts, such as physical activity, and prevention. Maria Carrillo, chief science officer of the Alzheimer's Association, which is funding a two-year extension of the study to further probe any effects on dementia, called the findings “the strongest evidence to date about reducing risk of mild cognitive impairment through the treatment of high blood pressure. —AFP ■



Russian cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russian cosmonauts conducting 300 scientific experiments on orbital outpost

MOSCOW—Russian cosmonauts working on the International Space Station (ISS) are conducting 295 scientific experiments, Chief Designer for Crewed Space Systems, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yevgeny Mikrin said on Tuesday. “Currently, the program includes 295 experiments,” the chief designer said at the 43rd readings on cosmonautics devoted to Soviet Rocket Designer Sergei Korolyov. The cosmonauts are conducting the research in six areas: physical-chemical studies, the exploration of the Earth and outer space, the study of humans, space biology and bio-technology, the technology of exploring outer space, and also the work to popularize space research, Mikrin said. In particular, it was proven during the biological experiments that the plants grown in the conditions of a space flight do not lose their reproductive functions. The cosmonauts also tested promising materials aboard the ISS for the creation of space hardware. They also studied various systems of the human's body up to the cellular level. The 43rd Korolyov readings opened at the Bauman Moscow State Technical University on January 29 in memory of Academician Sergei Korolyov and other outstanding domestic scientists who helped Russia make a breakthrough in outer space exploration. The readings will run through 1 February. —Tass ■

China to launch 10 BeiDou satellites in 2019

BEIJING—China will send 10 satellites to join the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) through seven separate launches this year, the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) announced on Tuesday.

The launches will help complete the BDS global network by 2020, said Shang Zhi, director of the Space Department of the CASC, at a press conference, where the Blue Book of China Aerospace Science and Technology Activities was released.

According to the blue book, a total of 18 BeiDou satellites were launched in 2018, marking the completion of the BDS-3 primary system. The navigation system has started to provide global service. As an important achievement during the past 40 years of reform and opening-up, the BDS has also been widely used to serve

China's economic development.

More than 6,000 fishing boats in the eastern province of Zhejiang have been installed with the BDS ship movement monitoring system, which helps them improve positioning accuracy and promptness, according to the blue book. About 6.17 million vehicles, 35,000 postal and express delivery vehicles and 80,000 buses in 36 major cities have been installed or are compatible with the BDS. The system is also used in homemade civilian aircraft, it says.

China Post has equipped its postal vehicles with 30,000 BDS terminals and connected them with the BDS-based information management platform. E-commerce giant JD.com also arms 1,500 logistics vehicles and 2,000 couriers with smart BDS terminals, according to the blue book.

The BDS is also widely used to serve the country's agricultural

production. An automatic driving system for agricultural vehicles has been put into large-scale application across the country, while the farming supervision platform based on the navigation system has served more than 50,000 farm machines and facilities.

China began to construct its navigation system, named after the Chinese term for the Big Dipper constellation, in the 1990s and started serving the Asia-Pacific region in 2012.

By the end of 2018, there were a total of 33 BDS satellites operating in orbit, including 15 BDS-2 satellites and 18 BDS-3 satellites. Compared with the BDS-2 system, the technologies of the BDS-3 system have been greatly improved. The communications, data transmission, and ranging among satellites can be achieved through inter-satellite links. —Xinhua ■

Scientists develop artificial skin that can feel body movement

WASHINGTON—Researchers from the United States and Canada have developed a kind of sensor that could make artificial skin feel body movement, according to a study published on Monday. The study in the journal *Advanced Materials* said the sensor can mimic the sensing properties of skin. It can detect pressure and vibration and may help burn victims “feel” the surrounding world one day, according to researchers from University of Connecticut and University of Toronto.

The sensor is equipped with a silicone tube wrapped in a copper wire and filled with a special fluid made of tiny particles of iron oxide just one billionth of a meter long. The tiny particles rub around the inside of the silicone tube and create an electric current and the copper wire surrounding the silicone tube picks up the current as a signal, according to the study. When this tube is bumped by something experiencing pressure, the nano particles move and the electric signal changes. —Xinhua ■

Myanmar teams to play friendlies against Albirex Niigata FC

THE Myanmar national U-22 and U-19 football teams will play friendly matches against the Albirex Niigata Singapore F.C., the Singapore Premier League champions, at the Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The friendly matches will help Myanmar teams hone their skills ahead of the upcoming international football tournaments.

Albirex Niigata Singapore F.C. mainly comprises talented Japanese players and has just four Singaporean players.

The main team, the Albirex Niigata F.C., is based in Japan, with the satellite team play-

ing in the Singapore Premier League. The Singapore team has claimed three consecutive championship titles in the league in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

The team has garnered four titles in the knock up cup and another four in a local league cup.

The Singaporean football club will leave for Myanmar on 6 March and arrive in Yangon on 7 March, said a source with the MFF.

Myanmar's U-22 national football team will play a friendly match against Albirex Niigata Singapore F.C. on 7 March, while the Myanmar U-19 national football team's match will take place on 9 March, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Albirex Niigata Singapore F.C celebrates the victory with the fans in Singapore. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Shan United, Yadanarbon matches to be broadcast live on MRTV-4

TWO Myanmar National League matches — Shan United vs Hantharwady United and Yadanarbon F.C. vs Magwe F.C. — slated for this week will be broadcast live on the MRTV-4 channel, according to a statement from the MNL.

The Yadanarbon F.C. will play against the Magwe F.C. at 3.30 p.m. on 2 February at the Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay.

Shan United will take on Hantharwady United at the home stadium of the Hantharwady United in the Bago Region.

A total of six matches are

scheduled for this week. While two will be broadcast live on MRTV-4, the remaining four will be streamed live on MNL's host broadcaster My Sports' Facebook page, the MNL stated. The match lineup for this week includes Yangon United vs Zwegapin United at Thuwunna Stadium on 1 March, Sagaing United vs Chinland F.C. at Monywa Stadium on 2 March, Ayeyawady United vs Dagon at Thuwunna Stadium on 3 March, and Southern Myanmar vs Rakhine United at Waitharli Stadium on 3 March.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Qatar smash UAE 4-0 to reach AFC Asian Cup final for first time

ABU DHABI—Qatar will take on Japan on their first ever AFC Asian Cup final after stunning the hosts United Arab Emirates 4-0 here on Tuesday. The victory put Qatar to be the first team without conceding a single goal from their first six games at a single Asian Cup tournament. "We didn't concede a goal in six games, it's one of the main keys why we qualified for the final," said Qatar coach Felix Sanchez. "Our defence gave us many good opportunities in the counterattack. I am very satisfied with the result and congratulations to the players for their big ef-

fort." Almoez Ali scored his eighth goal of the tournament in the first half, going level with Iranian legend Ali Daei's record of 8 goals in a single Asian Cup. "Of course Almoez had a great performance tonight, he made an individual achievement but we know that he couldn't make it without all the other players in our team. We are playing as a team," Sanchez said. Qatar made the first threat after 12 minutes as midfielder Salem Al Hajri smashed an effort outside the box which was parried by the UAE keeper Khalid Eisa Bilal.—Xinhua ■

Man City give Liverpool title boost with shock Newcastle loss

NEWCASTLE (United Kingdom)—Manchester City handed the advantage firmly to Liverpool in the Premier League title race as they surrendered the lead in a stunning 2-1 loss away to Newcastle United on Tuesday. Pep Guardiola's second-placed side looked likely to keep the pressure on Jurgen Klopp's leaders as Sergio Ague- ro got them off to an ideal start in the Spaniard's 100th league game in charge by scoring the fastest goal of the season just

seconds into the action at St James' Park.

But Newcastle staged an unlikely comeback to ease their relegation fears thanks to Salomon Rondon's 66th-minute equaliser, the first goal City had conceded for more than 10 hours, before Matt Ritchie struck the winner from the penalty spot with 10 minutes remaining after Fernandinho's foul on youngster Sean Longstaff. It means Liverpool, who could have been only a point

ahead of their main rivals on their return to action, can extend their lead at the top to an imposing seven points with victory over Leicester at Anfield on Wednesday. Such a scenario looked unlikely when Aguero continued his amazing scoring record against the Tyneside club with his 15th goal in 13 games against the Magpies, more than any player has scored against an opponent for a single club in the Premier League. —AFP ■



Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Ague- ro (l) is tackled by Newcastle United's Swiss defender Fabian Schar (r) during the English Premier League football match between Newcastle United and Manchester City at St James' Park in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, north east England on 29 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**