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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ambassador of Nigeria Mr. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar to continue import of used machines

THE Ministry of Commerce said it will continue to permit imports of used machinery in 2019, as a special circumstance.

The ministry made the announcement yesterday, and said the move is aimed at reducing investment costs for industries, including small and medium enterprises.

Used machines can be imported only via the sea route; their service life must not exceed more than 10 years; and, second hand machines must be imported according to procedures to prevent environmental damage due to piling of unusable machines in the country, the ministry stated.

However, if a machine has the service life of more than 10 years but is in good condition for local SMEs, it will be given preference, the ministry stated.

It is also necessary that used machines identified for import are not performing at less than 80 per cent of their technical capacity, it stated.

The ministry has asked companies to mention the brand name, capacity, model year, country of origin, and fuel used by the machine when applying for import. The application must also include a recommendation from the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection and a pre-inspection certificate for the running condition of the machine, tested at the point of export six months before it arrives at the port, the ministry stated.

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State Counsellor receives Nigerian Ambassador

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, Ambassador of Nigeria to Myanmar at 11am on 31 January 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on the matters relating to promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, in areas such as liquefied natural gas production technology, sports sector, culture, film industry and coexistence among diverse ethnic groups.—MNA

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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 11th regular session holds 7th day meeting

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its second-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were answered, a motion tabled, reading of report, discussion and a motion tabled on bills.

Asterisk marked questions

The first asterisk marked question of the day was raised by U Khun Than Htoo of Hsihseng constituency on upgrading a 11 miles 6 furlong road linking Ponlaung Village cross road to Naung Htaw Village in Hsihseng Township that had been relied upon by 41 villages. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut answered that section wise budget to upgrade the road will be included in the nearest Union budget based on the detailed site visit and report by Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body on the requirement to upgrade the road, the analysis and recommendation of Shan State government and fund availability.

U Lar Mar Lay of Hsawlaw constituency on the other hand asked whether the 140 ft. long double frame Bailey bridge on the Hsawlaw-Lanse road, the Htandan Bridge between Maw Wei Village and Htandan Village was properly constructed and inspected as it was damaged in about eight months after con-



U Khun Than Htoo. PHOTO: MNA

struction was completed and if there will be any actions taken against the construction company or inspecting authorities. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied that Augusta Co., Ltd. start the construction of the bridge on 25 October 2017 and was completed on 6 March 2018. Township quality inspection committee and State Hluttaw representative inspected the bridge during and after the construction of the bridge and the construction of the bridge fully comply with the quality requirement. The reason the bridge was damaged was not due to inadequate or sub-standard construction but due to natural disaster, the extreme flow of the river during the raining season. As the company that constructed the bridge had conducted neces-



Maj-Gen Than Htut. PHOTO: MNA

sary repairs as required while the inspection committee and Hluttaw representative had conducted proper inspection during and after the bridge construction, there is no plan to take any action against the company or the inspection committee said the Deputy Minister. U Nay Lin Tun of Bokpyin constituency meanwhile asked if there is a plan to construct piers and village road for villages in the coastal and on islands of Taninthayi Region that are not connected with the Union road. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied that construction of piers are not covered by the ministry but for village road construction, it will be conducted based on site inspection and recommendation of the Region government.

Similarly questions raised

by Daw Aye Aye Mu (a) Daw Shar Mee of Kalay constituency, U Kyaw Soe of Bamauk constituency, U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency and U R Moe Hsi of Khaunglanphu constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung.

Motion to train teachers and budget for school feeding in kindergarten

Following the asterisk-marked questions session Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan constituency tabled and explained a motion urging the Union government to train qualified teachers for kindergarten children aged between three and five years and to allocate budget for school feeding in kindergarten. The motion was supported by Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw's agreement to accept and discuss the motion after obtaining the agreement of the Hluttaw and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Reading of report, discussion, decision and motion on bills

Next Pyithu Hluttaw Speak-

er informed the receipt of Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions Bill approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendment.

Bill Committee member U Steven read a report of the committee on the bill and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table amendment motion to register their names. Afterwards Bill Committee member Daw Mar Mar Khine explained to the Hluttaw about 2018 Gambling Bill returned by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments and after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the agreement of the Hluttaw. Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member Dr. Wai Phyo Aung then tabled a motion to submit the matter to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as there is a disagreement between the two Hluttaws on the bill so that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw can discuss and decide on the seven points where the two Hluttaws were in disagreement.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the matter will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The eighth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session will be continued on 4 February it is learnt.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 11th regular session holds 7th day meeting

THE eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its seventh-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were answered, a receipt of a bill announced and a bill discussed.

QNA Session

In the question and answer session U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 first asked if there is a plan to open a sub rural health centre in Rakhine State Kyauktaw Township, Kyeinchaung, Minthataung and Thayet Oat villages in fiscal year 2019-2020. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said a village sub rural health centre was planned in a place only four furlong from Kyeinchaung Village so in fact it can be said that one is being planned in Kyeinchaung Village. Minthataung Village has been expanded into sub rural health centre while Thatyet Oat Village



U Myint Naing. PHOTO: MNA

is under Nga/Ta Paung Village sub-rural health centre which has a full strength of health personnel. As it is within reach of health care services there is no requirement to open a sub rural health clinic in Thayet Oat Village replied the Union Minister.

U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 then asked if there is a plan to make the 420 ft. by 130 ft. empty land between No. 4 Basic Education High School,



Dr. Myint Htwe. PHOTO: MNA

ward administrator office, library and drinking water pond in Yangon Region, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Ward 93 into a sports ground for the ward. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said a letter from Yangon Region minister for development affairs had sent a letter on behalf of the Yangon Region government stating that the subject land is 22 plots of land in Ward 93 out of

which two were already being registered as privately owned land. The remaining 20 plots are still empty but since it is already being allocated as living plots there is no plan to make this land into a sports ground for the ward replied the Union Minister. The Hluttaw representative should coordinate with Yangon Region government about this land and if an agreement is reached on the matter fund can be allocated in 2019-2020 budget for this said the Union Minister.

Similarly a question raised by U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 on upgrading a rural health centre in Chin State, Thantlang Township was answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Hluttaw informed on receipt of Innovation Copyright Bill

After the question and answer session Amyotha Hluttaw

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed the Hluttaw on the receipt of Innovation Copyright Bill returned by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments after it was approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw and announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Hluttaw discusses Child Rights Bill

Next Child Rights Bill was discussed by Tatmadaw representatives Maj. Kyaw Moe Thwin, Maj. Kyaw Soe Oo, Maj. Thein Lwin Htay, Maj. Zaw Win Oo, Maj. Htat Lin, Maj. Thein Bo Bo Htwe and Maj. Moe Han.

The eighth-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 4 February, it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Second Coordination Meeting held for organizing 2019 Union Day



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the 2nd coordination meeting to organize 72nd Union Day Ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe, in his role as Chairman of the Central Committee for Convening the 72nd Union Day Ceremony, delivered the opening speech at the central committee's second coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Opening remarks

In his speech, the Vice President said that the present meeting was the second coordination meeting held for the successful organizing and holding of the 2019 72nd Anniversary Union Day. The 2019 72nd Anniversary Union Day Convening Central Committee have been formed with 14 members by the Office of the President on 23 November 2018 to successfully observe the day in accordance with the five national objectives and full political essence. An 18-member management committee and 14 sub-committees have been also formed.

The Vice President said the first coordination meeting held on 14 January reached 13 decisions and the committee and sub-committees were evidently implementing them. He said it was necessary to look at the 11 strengths and weaknesses scrutinized on 7 May 2018 relating to the 71st Union Day ceremony. He said it was necessary to correct the weaknesses and develop the

strengths by basing them on experiences gained. He said Union Day celebrations were held for upholding ethnic solidarity, national reconciliation, and achieving lasting peace speedily.

Defining Union spirit

He said the main component for ethnic solidarity was the 'Union spirit', which has been defined by successive generations. He said Union spirit used to be defined as 'an important aspect to cultivate no matter where a person was residing within the Union, as only the Union spirit was the one true nationalistic spirit every ethnic national must uphold'.

With the changing times, the Ministry of Information has defined the Union spirit as 'the mentality that keeps all ethnic nationals united through the most difficulty times.' In addition, it also meant 'the resolution that no matter where you live in the Union, we are all one family that lives on the same land and drink the same water of the country,' said the Vice President.

Significance of Union Day

He said independence was achieved after Bogyoke Aung San and ethnic national leaders held the Panglong conference of 12 February 1947 and signed the Panglong Agreement in unity. He said the Union Day that de-

picts the unity of ethnic national brothers and sisters has been held every year and this was the 72nd year. He said the results of the Panglong conference united all ethnic races and led to our gaining independence. He said all stakeholders were working for national reconciliation and lasting peace in Myanmar. He said taking lessons from the original Panglong conference, the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was being conducted with the belief and zeal to achieve lasting peace and it was everyone's knowledge that only peace would bring about development to the country.

Importance of maintaining Union Day celebrations

The Vice President said Myanmar was a Union that had many ethnic nationals, languages, culture, traditions and beliefs. Ethnic nationals living in different geographical locations were to maintain their cultural heritages and traditions so that they were not lost. That was why the cultures and traditions of ethnic nationals were protected, maintained and shown on Union Day for future generations to always remember. He said as Union Day was an annual ceremony, all the committees and sub-committees related to it must be diligent in performing their duties. He said

it was important to educate the public on the essence of the five national objectives. In that regard, the television, radio and published materials were the medium through which to disseminate this knowledge. He said it was important to portray the Union Government's efforts for ethnic solidarity, union peace, and national reconciliation.

We must be well planned

The Vice President highlighted that it was important to complete all necessary preparations concerning accommodation, food, and logistics for the ethnic cultural troupes, ethnic affairs ministers, chairpersons and leaders of political parties, and leaders of ethnic armed organizations who have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) attending the Union Day ceremony.

Sub-committees need to have Plan A as well as Plan B for all matters related to holding of the 72nd Anniversary Union Day. In order to successfully hold the Union Day ceremony with full political essence all were urged to work together to make this year the best based on past years experiences, said the Vice President. He asked the attendees to discuss the implementation progress of the first coordination meeting's decisions.

Attendees begin discussions

Next, the Chairman of the Committee for Managing the 72nd Union Day Ceremony, Dr. Myo Aung, who is also the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, explained the progress of implementing the decisions from the first coordination meeting and preparations made for the upcoming ceremony.

This was followed by representatives from the committee and sub-committees explaining the progress of their respective assigned tasks. The Vice President gave his suggestions and comments to ensure proper coordination after which he gave his closing remarks.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Soe Win, and Nai Thet Lwin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, deputy ministers U Kyaw Myo, U Win Maw Tun, U Maung Maung Win, and U Hla Maw Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council members Col. Min Naung and U Aung Myin Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Command deputy commander Brig-Gen Maung Maung, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, senior Tatmadaw officers, the Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force, and departmental officials. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar Post provides nationwide services

MYANMAR POST of the Ministry of Transport and Communications is providing services at the reasonable prices through its 1,390 post offices nationwide.

The information on the services of the Myanmar Post is available on its www.myanmarpost.com.

Tracking parcels sent by Myanmar

Post's Express Service at www.myanmarpost.com, and Express Service to between Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay are provided at the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office,

Besides, the Myanmar Post's services include stamps sales, Ordinary Letter, Registered Letter, Ordinary

Money Order, Express Money Order, Registered Parcels, Domestic EMS, International EMS, Sales of Stamps, Rent of Post Box, Same Day Delivery, Home Town Product Delivery, Telegraph and Myanmar – DHL.

More information are available at 067-3420888.—MNA

Army, air, artillery and armor conduct joint military exercise in Meiktila cantonment



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes the joint military exercise conducted by troops of the Tatmadaw in Meiktila cantonment yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**



Artillery guns fire at target during a joint military exercise in Meiktila cantonment yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observed and inspected the Tatmadaw army and air joint military exercise of air, artillery and armored forces in Meiktila cantonment yesterday held with the aim towards security and defence of the country and to raise the capability of the armed forces.

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party were first briefed about the exercise by the commanding officer of the exercise.

After the briefing, infantry

and armored forces deployed to the assigned front line positions in battle-ready formations from the rearguard.

As this deployment was being conducted airborne forces and anti-terrorist forces attacked the target area while aircrafts, attack helicopters, artillery, multiple rocket launchers and infantry support heavy arms gave support, suppression and close-in fire support. The combine force of infantry and armored forces then attacked and occupied the targets.

The exercise concluded with the evacuation of casualties by

ambulances, and evacuation of seriously wounded personnel by helicopters and air drop of ration and ammunition for the forces that had occupied the targets.

In his address to the participants of the military exercise after the exercise, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that in the countries of the world, armed forces were conducting military exercises on their own or together with other armed forces in joint exercises. The Tatmadaw was performing the duty of defending the country and this had to be done through preparatory

and practice exercises. In modern warfare, the side with better air power and electronic warfare technologies would become the winner. Similarly, air-defence capability played an important role in modern warfare. As effectiveness and accuracy of the arms and ammunitions was also important, related forces were required to conduct continuous researches.

The entire Tatmadaw must be able to use these arms and ammunitions expertly so exercises must be conducted continuously. That was why the motto of "study, practice and follow up"

has been designated for the entire Tatmadaw to be battle ready, said the Senior General.

Following the address, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented cash presents to officers and troops of infantry and support forces.

Also present at the exercise were local news media and Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party cordially met and greeted the media personnel according to news released by the Office of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Attorney-General, UNDP (Myanmar) Country Director discuss justice, rule of law

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received UNDP (Myanmar) Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor and party at Union Attorney-General Office guest hall yesterday morning.

During the meeting works to be implemented in 2019 under the justice for the people strategic plan (2019-2023), second stage program of Union Attorney General's Toward Rule of Law Strategy first stage program that is ending in 2019, works of Rule of Law Centres opened by UNDP and International Development Law Organization (IDLO), continuing cooperation work for all to access justice and improve rule of law and technical support of UNDP were discussed.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with UNDP (Myanmar) Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor at the Union Attorney-General Office yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar to continue import of used machines

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The application must also include a recommendation from the Environmental Conservation Department.

The used machine must be manufactured by an industrialized and developed country using modern technology, it added.

The Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection will inspect imported machines to verify if they are in compliance with the application.

If a company is found breaking rules and procedures, action will be taken against it.—MNA ■ (Translated by GNLM)

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein receives IFES Vice President

Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein received International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Vice President Mr. Michael Svetlik at UEC Chairman Office guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting matters relating to producing electoral list with computer system through cooperation with IFES, studies

conducted of international elections, training courses conducted for newly organized election sub-commission chairmen and members, drawing up of strategic plans and policy for raising the role of women, status of work processes and cooperation of IFES toward successful holding of 2020 General Election were discussed.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



UEC U Hla Thein receives IFES Vice President Mr. Michael Svetlik in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung receives ethnic excursion group

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung received a visiting ethnic excursion group, the sixth such group, at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking to the visiting group the Union Minister said ethnic excursion groups were invited by Union Minister for Border Affairs since 2016 and this is the sixth such group to visit. Including this group a total of 670 ethnic national youths had visited. The youths are expected to use the experience gained in such visits to conduct effective regional development works in their regions. The aims of these visits are to establish and strengthen union spirit through mutual respect, friendship, understanding and trust. The Ministry of Border

Affairs is implementing basic infrastructures in every remote and difficult to travel border areas for the socio-economic development of the local populace. For the sustainable development, human resources development is being implemented in a balanced manner. The ministry places emphasis toward sustainable development of the entire country including states, regions as well as mountain and hill areas. Only then can the ethnic nationals in border area achieve equal and fair benefits. The country is implementing national reconciliation and peace process. The strength of the country lies within and through the collective strength of ethnic nationals based on national spirit, efforts must be made toward becoming



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung addresses the ethnic excursion group in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

a peaceful, stable, modern and developed union. You all are youthful and enthusiastic youths and as per the saying “today’s youth are tomorrow’s elders” you all will be shouldering the heavy responsibilities and duties for your

respective regions and thus must strive toward becoming bright and outstanding persons and are required to strive hard continuously said the Union Minister.

Next an ethnic national from the group gave a speech to ex-

press appreciation and thanks on behalf of the group and members of the excursion group performed traditional dances. The Union Minister in return presented commemorative gifts.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Deputy Information Minister receives senior Reuters officials



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun receives senior Reuters officials in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister of Information, received Ms. Gail Gove, Reuters Chief Counsel, and Mr. Matthew Tostevin, Reuters Bureau Chief of Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, at the Information Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 a.m. on Thursday.

At the meeting, they were able to exchange views on the prevailing situation of media in Myanmar openly and cordially.

Responsible officials from the Information Ministry were also present at the meeting.—MNA ■

Artists from Mekong-Lancang region observe Mandalay Yatanar Mall Gems & Jewellery Shopping Mall

ARTISTS from six countries of Mekong-Lancang region visited Mandalay Yatanar Mall Gems & Jewellery Shopping Mall in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay yesterday morning.

The young artists from six countries; Myanmar, China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam who already arrived in Mandalay attended a youth meeting at the National University of Art and Culture, Mandalay from 27 to 31 January.

After observing gems and jewelries at the mall, they departed for their respective countries.

Before their departure, youths expressed their feeling.

We got many new friends along with new knowledge. I feel complete on the Myanmar people’s kindness and friendship. On the last day, I feel interested on seeing Gems & Jewellery Shop-

ping Mall and I even asked one more hour to study it. Garnering such kind of chances is one of my hope said an artist from China.

Daw Khin Kyi Pyar, Rector of the University of Art and Culture, Mandalay said that the tour really gives infinity friendship between youths of the six countries. They got so many experiences too and I was happy when I saw they draw, sing and composing

the songs during their trip, she said.

As part of their tour the youth Artists also exhibited their respective countries’ handicraft souvenirs at Mekong-Lancang Cultural Exchange Youth Camp at Hotel Shwepyitha in Mandalay from 27 to 31 January.—Min Htet Aung (Sub-printing house) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Artists visit Mandalay Yatanar Mall. PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW

State Counsellor's portrait, patchwork quilt auctioned on final day of ethnic culture fest

ON the last day of Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest on 30 January, mainly organized by the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (MEEA), a portrait of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and a patchwork quilt woven with traditional patterns from various countries were auctioned off for funding movements towards reducing orphans.

The two items were put up for auction during the ceremony honoring donors by the Orphans Reduction and Protection Association (ORPA) (Myanmar) and the music festival.

Auctions put up for orphans

The portrait of the State Counsellor was painted by artist U Kyi Soe and signed by the Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself. The patchwork quilt was created together by female ambassadors from ASEAN countries, the wives of ambassadors stationed in Myanmar, and the wives of embassy staff and foreign affairs, mixing different traditional patterns in a unified format. Daw Than Myint Aung, Vice-Chairperson 1 of the ORPA (Myanmar), said: "Our association provided the capital for building construction in Nay Pyi Taw for sheltering orphans and single mothers. We received

contributions from donors too. We are also auctioning a handwoven piece combining crafts from 10 ASEAN countries and the portrait (of the State Counsellor). This is all proceeds for constructing a building for orphans. If we have more donors in the future, we will use their donations for single mothers and their children." Both auctions won by sole bidder

Both the patchwork quilt and artwork were purchased by the highest bidder, Myat Myittar Mon Company, at K7.5 million and K40 million respectively.

The Managing Director of MMTM Co., Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Khine Khine Oo, said: "I've always had plans to make donations for orphaned children. I've already donated K150 million for the building to be constructed in Nay Pyi Taw at this ceremony. I received the urge to contribute more and so bid in both auctions. I also did this because I respect the State Counsellor. The donation will be used for the actual benefit of orphans, so it evoked my charitable spirit." Attending the ceremony were Dr. Shwe Hlwan, wife of Vice President U Henry Van Thio, U Soe Aung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-



The portrait of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, created by artist U Kyi Soe, put up for auction on the last day of Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest. **PHOTO: NAY LINN**

settlement and Chairman of the Committee for Constructing an Orphanage in Nay Pyi Taw, U Naing Ngan Linn, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs, officials from the Orphans Reduction and Protection Association, foreign ambassadors and their wives, embassy staff, donors and invited guests.

Donors for orphan reduction honored

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung delivered a speech at the ceremony, followed by ORPA (Myanmar) Chairperson, Daw May Yin Tun, explaining the founding of the

association and the construction of the orphanage in Nay Pyi Taw.

Next, Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, regional minister U Naing Ngan Linn, ORPA Chairperson, and officials conferred honorary certificates to donors of the three-storey building for orphans in Nay Pyi Taw. ORPA Vice-Chairperson 1 then spoke words of gratitude.

Singers Moh Moh Lwin and Sumo sang ORPA's song at the ceremony and music festival, together with performances by prominent singers Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein, Kaung Myat, Mi

Sandi, Aye Thin Cho Swe and others. The Orphans Reduction and Protection Association was established on 18 April 2018 and is an NGO providing support to orphans and benefitting women. Once the orphanage in Nay Pyi Taw, mentioned earlier, is completed, it will be handed over to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The orphanage will shelter newborns and children up to 6-months old and has plans to eventually shelter children up to ten years old. —Thi Thi Min (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu attends rural socioeconomic development meeting

A meeting was held at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to conclude development of small scale aquatic animal breeding program to raise the rural socio economy in the dry zone.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu spoke of setting up processes and putting efforts toward creating job opportunities, face and overcome climate changes for people living in the dry zones of Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions.

Small scale aquatic animal breeding program to raise the rural social life in dry zone is one of the five-year long programs in

the dry zone area and was drawn up starting from 2014 and implementation is conducted by JICA experts and Fisheries Department.

This program is based on the local people's actual requirements and is implementing breeding system of aquatic animals appropriate for the local situation, which includes small input breeding system such as rice-fish breeding system. A hard core fish breeding farmer group will be established and through this, develop quality fish fingerlings with an aim of spreading important and technical information and providing fish fingerlings.—MNA



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu observes the project plan for integrated farming. **PHOTO: NAY LINN**



PHOTO: MNA

Cambodian Deputy PM arrives to attend ministerial-level meeting

MR. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Kingdom of Cambodia, arrived Nay Pyi Taw at 7:20 pm yesterday to attend the 2nd ministerial level

meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and Cambodia.

The delegation led by Mr. Prak Sokhonn was welcomed by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secre-

tary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cambodian Ambassador Mr. Sok Chea and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

CBM Governor receives Siam Commercial Bank Public Company Limited (SCB)

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received President and CEO Mr. Arthid Nanthawithaya of Siam Commercial Bank Public Company Limited (SCB) at the CBM office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to development of banking services in Myanmar and effecting banking services with the use of the modern technology.—MNA ■



CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung receives Siam Commercial Bank Public Company Ltd. CEO. PHOTO: MNA

Investors can get tax break of 7 years for less developed regions: MIC Secy

THE tax holiday offered to investors in less developed regions cannot exceed 7 years under the Myanmar Investment Law, said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission. The MIC screens proposals for the flow of investments into the necessary sectors for the economic development of the country and equitable development of regions and states, and grants tax exemptions or relief.

Investors can enjoy a tax break for seven consecutive years in less developed regions that are designated as Zone 1, five

years in moderately developed regions identified as Zone 2, and three years in developed Regions labelled as Zone 3. At present, the MIC is offering a 7-year tax holiday in the less developed regions of Chin, Kayah, Kayin, and Rakhine states, said U Aung Naing Oo. “We have granted tax incentives of three to seven years as per the Myanmar Investment Law. All the townships in Chin, Kayah, Kayin, and Rakhine states have a seven-year tax exemption. Other regions and states have not been granted a seven-year tax break,” he said. The chair of Chin

State Chambers of Commerce and Industry requested a 10-year tax exemption in Chin State at the recent 23rd regular meeting with entrepreneurs, led by Vice President U Myint Swe, held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. For Chin State to attract domestic as well as foreign investment, the tax break must be increased to 10 years, he said. U Aung Naing Oo responded by saying that tax incentives exceeding 7 years are not allowed under the law. “The existing law does not allow tax incentives of over 7

years for those states. That can be done only if the law is amended. But Chin State enjoys other investment opportunities and relief compared with other regions and states,” he said. Chin State has basic infrastructure difficulties in terms of transportation and electricity. Those are the biggest challenges for investors. The State has not attracted investments in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, according to a research report on Opportunities and Challenges for Local Business Development in Chin State.—Nyein Nyein ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar to export bread, snacks with help of Korean firms

MYANMAR signed an agreement with two Korean companies for export of bread and snacks produced in the country at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon on 31 January.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein made the opening speech at the event. “As we conduct reforms in our country, cooperation between local and foreign entrepreneurs will help economic development as well as boost use of new technology. The agreement will help Myanmar snacks penetrate foreign markets,” he said. With plans to export Myanmar bread and snacks, Lotte Confectionery Co. Ltd, one of the top companies in South Korea, has acquired a stake in L&M Mayson Co. Ltd. Myanmar Mayson Industries Co. Ltd started operations in 1996, producing over 100 types of food products. In 2017, the company began exporting snacks to South Korea, China and Cambodia in collaboration with a Singapore snack company.—Myint Soe
(Translated by Hay Mar) ■

Fish export to China still poses challenges: MFF

WITH only one of the two species of Myanmar striped catfish registered for export to China, the Myanmar Fisheries Federation is seeking permission for legal export of the second species to help exporters.

Traditionally, Myanmar fish farms have bred two species of striped catfish, namely *Pangasius Bocourtic* and *Pangasius Hypophthalmus*, for export. Currently, Myanmar is breeding only *Pangasius Hypophthalmus* species on a commercial scale because *Pangasius Bocourtic* takes longer to breed and is easily susceptible to disease.

However, only the *Pangasius Bocourtic* species is registered for export to China, and so the Chinese authorities are rejecting *Pangasius Hypophthalmus* exported from Myanmar. According to the MFF, an official complaint has been sent to the Chinese government through the Myanmar embassy in China to resolve the problem, but the Chinese authorities are yet to grant permission for entry of *Pangasius Hypophthal-*



Workers handle produce at a fish processing factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

mus in their market, so, there are some constraints on exports of striped catfish from Myanmar.

The Myanmar government must make government-to-government contact to solve the problem, said the MFF. Currently, the complaint has been

raised only at the ministry level by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce.

“We have reported to the Fisheries Department on this issue. Acting on our report, the department sent an official letter

of complaint to China through the embassy of Myanmar. However, the Chinese authorities have not accepted the letter officially yet. Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce must approach the Chinese government to gain market access for Myanmar’s exports,”

said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of MFF. Myanmar shipped one container of *Pangasius Hypophthalmus* species as a trial export to China in September 2018, informally, because the species is not registered on the Chinese website, it is learnt.

Myanmar usually exports striped catfish species to China after slitting them on the back.

“Some exporter companies say that they export striped catfish informally, only through a mutual understanding, because China does not officially permit exports from Myanmar. If the process of export is delayed, it is our exporters who suffer great losses. Even under such a situation, we are continuing exports to promote trade. We have already reported to the minister on this issue. If the Union Government registers our export products on the Chinese website, we can export our products to China smoothly. We must learn a lesson from this crisis,” said U Win Kyaing.—Aye Yamone ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Every citizen is entitled to the same inherent rights

There are still places on earth where discrimination exists. As long as prejudice and ignorance are present in the minds of people, discrimination will prevail. Isolation, prejudice, and negligence can make people lonely and cause mental health issues such as insecurity and depression.

There are many groups of people who fall prey to discrimination, and one of these groups are people living with disabilities (PLWDs). Since the start of the 21st century, the world has begun adopting new approaches to better understand the rights of PLWDs. People are now making a commitment to ensure PLWDs full participation and equality in the world that we all coexist in.

Out of the 90 million PLWDs living in Southeast Asian countries, about 1.2 million are from Myanmar. According to the

World Health Organization's estimate, PLWDs make up 15 per cent of the world's population, and of them, about 60 per cent are women. All PLWDs face numerous hurdles in integrating into society.

The rights of persons living with disabilities have come under the attention of the UN agencies and international organizations. Myanmar and other ASEAN countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) and are working together to uphold them.

People living with disabilities are facing difficulties and obstacles in their daily life not because of the disability itself, but because of their surroundings, physical and mental attitudes, and other barriers. The truth is society has the obligation to cultivate empathy and willingness to help and protect each of its members, including PLWDs.

While people living with disabilities are normally ignored by society, they usually have a greater will to accomplish things than ordinary people. They have the tenacity to improve their selves and their surroundings. All they need is recognition and cooperation from the rest of the society.

In the present times, PLWDs enjoy more inclusivity than they used to, and the motion to include them in the political sphere is a welcome move. The General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA) drafted the ASEAN Enabling Master plan 2025 and released it on 3 December 2018, making it a regional policy. We believe this will create more opportunities and increase inclusion of PLWDs.

We see that the role of PLWDs in society is steadily increasing as the world continues to encourage and embrace them. We believe that in the not so distant future, PLWDs will have a greater involvement in the sustainable development goals for 2030.



Achieving Zero Hunger and Ending Poverty by 2030

Htun Tin Htun

All over the world countries are implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Myanmar has approved the balanced Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) a few months ago. MSDP has three main pillars, five goals, and 28 strategies with designated project implementation programs under each strategy. There are a total of 251 work processes. MSDP processes will be implemented as a living document.

MSDP was drawn up in coordination with the United Nations' sustainable development goals, Myanmar's 12-point economic policy, ASEAN economic community, Greater Mekong Sub-region strategy framework, as well as implementation of various international and regional pledges made by the Union Government. In other words, these sustainable development goals are based on our requirements and will be implemented as prioritized processes in accord with the country's situation.

Almost 80 per cent of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas where most are dependent on agriculture. Agriculture is the single largest employer in the world, with agricultural growth in low-income and agrarian economies being at least twice as effective as growth in other sectors in reducing hunger and poverty.

Climate change, loss of biodiversity and other pressures have already reached rates of change that threaten the capacity of the Earth's ecosystems. Hundreds of millions of people who manage agricultural and food systems constitute the largest group of natural resource managers on earth. Investing in small producers, family farmers, fisher folk, livestock breeders, forest users, rural workers and indigenous peoples can promote growth and development of agriculture in rural areas. Ending poverty and zeroing hunger is viable and affordable and this task is of paramount importance for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Vulnerable people who mostly live in areas prone to natural disasters or protracted conflict are directly affected by limited food access and production, undermining efforts to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and

poverty. Achieving sustainable development would need resilient policies, which range from rehabilitating flood-damaged waterways to planting climate resilient crops and developing capacities, can sustain the livelihoods of the most vulnerable. Investing in rural development, establishing social protection systems, building rural-urban linkages and focusing on boosting the incomes of the critical agents of change – smallholder family farmers, foresters, fisher folk, rural youth and women – is key to achieving inclusive and equitable growth while tackling the root causes of hunger and poverty. Nothing is impossible to the people of this world with eagerness and strong mindset, coupled with work hard (effort), will (mind) and wisdom (predominant factors). Given the mounting pressure on global ecosystems, the food production increase must be achieved in a sustainable and environmentally sound way.

Zealous and concerted efforts of the people of this planet will make them reach the zenith and efforts making the impossible possible. Everyone in this planet needs nutrients and food provides such nutrients for their survival and longevity. Rural women make up almost half of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, but they own less land and lack access to resources. Observation



Agricultural experts monitor corn plantation which is threatened by pests in Dimawso. PHOTO: YIRAL

lute water scarcity by 2025. Up to now, there has been insufficient investment specifically targeting the food security and nutrition of the extreme poor, who are largely rural people. New recent study conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) - the UN Rome-based agencies, estimates the cost of additional investments needed to eliminate extreme hunger and poverty to be US\$265 Billion per year between 2016 and 2030, which is equivalent to 0.31% of global GDP. Governments therefore are responsible and need to

ering in a new era of sustainable development. Noteworthy of the fact that feeding a growing global population while nurturing the planet will be a monumental challenge, but it can be achieved by transforming food systems and agriculture, embracing sustainable living and working practices, improving governance and securing the political will to act. Daily management decisions of those who farm, keep livestock, fish, manage forests, and run agribusinesses are important key to global food security and the health of the world's ecosystems.

It is nice to read a quote of José Graziano da Silva - FAO Director-General - that reads "The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals hunger targets by many countries shows that we can indeed eliminate the scourge of hunger in our lifetime. This is at the very heart of the new sustainable development agenda: freeing the world of poverty and hunger, and leaving no one behind. We can do it. We can be the Zero Hunger generation." Development of agriculture and productivity enhancement with environmentally sound and good agricultural practice is of great importance to feed everyone in this planet.

If the aquaculture, the fastest growing food sector is developed in a regulated and environmentally and socially responsible way, aquaculture intensification has the potential to produce the fish needed to meet the demand for safe and highly nutritious food by a growing population. Noteworthy of the fact that the battle to end poverty must be fought also in rural areas, where people

depend directly or indirectly on farming, fisheries or forestry for incomes as well as food and hunger is no longer an issue of insufficient global supplies, but mainly of lack of access to the means to produce or purchase food. Growing global population with accelerating urbanization and a deteriorating natural resource base means more people to feed with less water, farmland and rural labour.

People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership are five important elements to be considered in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030. Our people of this planet need partnership for development, peace, stability, security and prosperity in various ways and means.

A very important thing is to feed the world sustainably, producers need to grow more food while reducing negative environmental impacts such as soil, water and nutrient loss, greenhouse gas emissions, and degradation of ecosystems. Every year, the world loses or wastes about a third of the food it produces, it is learnt and practices of the reduction of such losses or wastes using modern technologies and facilities are our great concern. Recent evidence suggests that climate change, biodiversity loss and other pressures have already reached rates of change that threaten the capacity of the Earth's ecosystems.

The hundreds of millions of people who manage agricultural and food systems constitute the largest group of natural resource managers on earth. Youth and women play crucial role in the

achievement of zeroing hunger and ending poverty which are the two important Sustainable Development Goals in their respective area in this world by 2030.

Myanmar and SDG Goals

Myanmar is facing challenges to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and equitable development among the nations.

We are making endeavours to achieve equitable and inclusive economic and financial growth for the benefit of the people of Myanmar. We firmly believe that it is as important to share prosperity and equitable distribution of benefits among the citizens of a particular country as it is important among the nations in the global community.

As the SDGs' Goal Number 10 reflects the need to "Reduce inequality within and among countries" the concept of growth with equity, equitable development and sustainable development has become a crucial challenge for all of us.

We need to create 'win-win' strategies from the prevailing world economic system through our regional economic integration endeavor so that the benefits of international economic integration can be widely shared among us.

We must also adopt different strategies to improve our cooperation to create a sense of ASEAN Community among the nations of the world. We also see the importance of a more comprehensive and effective collaboration with international organisations, including the United Nations, the World Bank and the IMF.

We must strengthen our cooperation to face global challenges, including climate change, energy sufficiency, food security, infrastructure development and enhanced regional connectivity.

We recognize the need to ensure that the benefits of growth are shared equitably among our peoples. We also believe that better regional cooperation and integration will support greater market access and transfer of advanced technologies. Let's address common challenges in order to produce good results and positive achievements. ■

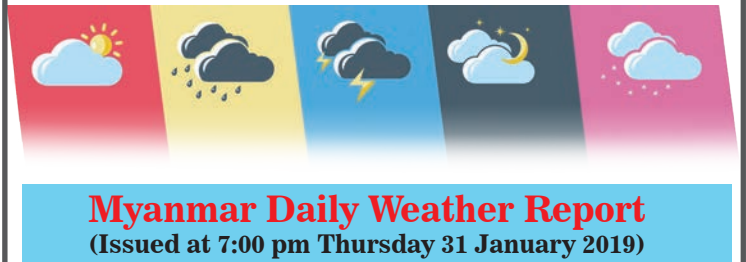
(GNLM also contributes to this article)

Reference: FAO Website and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



72nd Anniversary (2019) Union Day National Objectives

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



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1st February, 2019: Light rain is likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (24) miles north-northeast of Mawlaik), latitude 23.98°N, longitude 94.51°E, depth (60) kilometers, about (20) miles southeast of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (05)hr (43)min (00)sec M.S.T on 31 January, 2019.

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Nyaungyan style building to house world's largest drum

CONSTRUCTION of a building to house the world's largest drum has begun at the Raja Manisula Pagoda in Sagaing, according to the pagoda's Board of Trustees.

"The building will be constructed in the style of the Nyaungyan Era. (1605-1752) Construction work started on 27 January," said U Ni Tin, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The work is scheduled to be completed by 20 March and the building is expected to cost around K 50 million, he added.

The building has been designed by well-known traditional architect U Win Maung, also known as Tampawadi U Win Maung.

Upon completion, the building will be 30 feet wide and 70 feet high.

According to Saya Pwel Myanmar Instrument Enterprise, the world's biggest drum has been carved from Kokko (Albizia lebeck) tree wood. The drum measures 128



World's largest drum is constructed in Indaw Township. **PHOTO: KO MIN (INDAW)**

inches in length and 64 inches in height. The face of the drum is about 54 inches in diameter. The drumhead, or drum skin, has been made from two layers

of buffalo hide, while the drum's ropes have been made from 18 sheets of cowhide.

Lord Buddha's sermons and verses, and images of gods

paying homage to Buddha's footprint have been carved on the exterior of the drum.—Ko Min (Indaw)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Seismometers installed in four tsps in Sagaing

TO help scientists monitor tectonic movement in Myanmar and along the Kabaw Fault, seismometers have been set up in Lahe Town in the Naga Self-Administered Zone, Kaunghein Village in Khamti Township, Mhotaut Village in Homalin Township, and Pinlebu Township in the last week of January.

Mr. Sippl Christian Anton from the German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ) and U Myat Min Aung, deputy

officer of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, worked together to install seismometers in Lahe Township on 28 January.

On the same day, Mr. Bernd Dieter Schurr from GFZ and U Than from the Nay Pyi Taw Meteorology and Hydrology Department installed seismometers near the Mhotaut Village monastery.

"The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and the GFZ worked together to set up

seismometers in Lahe Town and Khamti Town. Four experts from GFZ installed seismometers in the four locations. In August 2017, the Earth Observatory of Singapore, the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, and the Meteorology and Hydrology Department jointly installed seismometers in the Zeephyugon ward of Khamti Town," said U Chit Htway Tun, the head of Khamti Township's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

With the aim of reducing earthquake hazards and improve detection of seismic activity, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department is installing 33 seismometers in Chin State, and Sagaing and Mandalay regions. The seismometers are being installed in cooperation with the University of Missouri, Columbia University, and Louisiana State University. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Forest officials arrest 24 suspected illegal loggers in five days

THE Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation arrested 24 people in five days for their involvement in illegal logging and related trade, and confiscated over 890 tons of illegally harvested timber.

Between 23 and 27 January, the Forest Department

seized 891 tons of illegally harvested timber and rough-sawn lumber, including 439.4 tons of teak, 134.6 tons of hardwood, and 317.2 tons of other timber in raids across the states and regions. Forest officials also confiscated 29 vehicles involved in illegal timber trade.

The suspects arrested in the operations will be charged

according to the country's forestry laws.

In a separate case on 29 January, the Katha Township Forest Department seized three boats loaded with 24 logs of illegally harvested timber, weighing 43.154 tons, in the Ayeyawady River near Hsinkondaing Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region. They are con-

tinuing their investigations to arrest those involved in the case.

The forest authorities have been making concerted efforts to crack down on illegal timber trade in the country.—Myo Thu Hein/Lu Aung (Katha)

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Five foreign journalists arrested in Venezuela

CARACAS (Venezuela) — Venezuelan authorities have detained five foreign journalists covering the standoff with opposition forces seeking the ouster of President Nicolas Maduro. Two others, from Chile, were deported as the crisis spilled over to

hit journalists covering the oil-rich but economically crippled nation's latest taste of crisis. Two of the detained are from France, two from Colombia and one from Spain. The latter three worked for the Spanish na-

tional news agency Efe and had all come from Colombia to cover the growing turmoil. Their detention was reported by the Efe bureau chief in Venezuela, Nelida Fernandez. Two French journalists working for a TV program called Quotidien

were detained Tuesday while filming outside the presidential palace, diplomatic sources said. A local producer working with them was also detained. Two Chilean TV journalists were detained Tuesday night near the pres-

idential palace and held for 14 hours before being expelled from the country, Chilean Foreign Minister Roberto Ampuero said. The reason stated for their arrest was that they had been working in a "security zone," he said. "This is what dictatorships do.

Stomp on freedom of the press," the minister wrote on Twitter. In recent years, several foreign journalists have been detained or kicked out of the country on grounds that they did not have press passes. —AFP ■

Malaysia enthrones new king after historic abdication

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) — Malaysia on Thursday installed a new king, Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, after the last monarch abdicated in a historic first following his reported marriage to a Russian ex-beauty queen. In a ceremony steeped in pomp and centuries of tradition, the sports-loving sultan, dressed in aqua blue formal wear, took the oath of office at the national palace in Kuala Lumpur. The ceremony was televised nationally and attended by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and hundreds of guests decked out in Islamic finery.

Before being sworn in at the palace, the 59-year-old, who is also the ceremonial ruler of central Pahang state, was given a welcome at the national parliament and inspected a guard of honour.

His predecessor, Sultan Muhammad V, stepped aside this month following just two years on the throne after he went on medical leave. Reports then surfaced he had married a former Miss Moscow.

No official reason was given for his abdication, but it was the first time a king had stepped aside before the end of his term in the



This handout photo taken and released by Malaysia's Department of Information on 31 January, 2019 shows the sixth Sultan of Pahang, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Sultan Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah, (l), and Queen Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Al-Marhum Al-Mutawakkil Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj, (r), waving to well-wishers at a military airport in Kuantan, Pahang, before departing to Kuala Lumpur for the official oath taking ceremony as the 16th King of Malaysia. PHOTO: AFP

Muslim-majority country. Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy with a unique arrangement where the national throne changes hands every five years between royal rulers of the country's nine states.

Pahang was next in line for the throne after Muhammad V stepped down, and Sultan Abdullah was formally chosen as the country's 16th king by Malaysia's royal families last week. The new king is an avid athlete who holds a string of positions

on sporting bodies. He is on the council of world football governing body FIFA, president of the Asian Hockey Association, and used to be the head of the Football Association of Malaysia.

After attending school in Malaysia, the keen polo player went on to study in Britain where he attended the Sandhurst military academy, according to a biography published on official news agency Bernama.

Despite the merely ceremonial role, Malaysia's Islamic royalty command

great respect, especially from Muslim Malays, the country's majority group, and criticising them is strictly forbidden.

Portraits of the king and queen adorn government buildings throughout the country. The king is also the symbolic head of Islam in the nation, as well as the nominal chief of the military. Malaysia's sultans trace a lineage back to the 15th century. The king is referred to as Yang di-Pertuan Agong, or "He Who Is Made Lord". — AFP ■

Mexican president declares 'drug war' over

MEXICO CITY (Mexico) — Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador declared the country's war on drugs over Wednesday, saying his government would no longer prioritize using the army to capture cartel kingpins.

However, critics ques-

tioned the announcement, pointing out that the leftist president has not taken the army off the streets as he pledged during his campaign, and is proposing the creation of a national guard that opponents say would permanently militarize the country.

Mexico has deployed its army since 2006 to fight its powerful drug cartels.

But the strategy has been widely criticized. Although it has led to the capture of a string of high-profile kingpins, it has also been accompanied by a tidal wave of violence,

as the fragmented cartels wage war on each other and the army.

Asked in his daily press briefing if his government had taken down any kingpins since he took office in December, Lopez Obrador said that was no longer the strategy.—AFP ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 1st February, 2019

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM

Contract Title : Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Adaptation Villages in Mandalay for National Electrification Project

Reference No: MOEE-NEP/C1-W14/19

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W14/19 for Adaptation Villages in Mandalay.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W14/19 for Adaptation Villages in Mandalay in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding MOEE-NEP/C1-W14 /19 process for Mandalay is:

Lot 1: Pyin Oo Lwin & Kyaukse District - 66 villages

Lot 2: Meiktila & Yamethin District - 102 villages

Lot 3: Myingyan & Nyaung Oo District - 74 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 4th March, 2019 (10:00 A.M.)- Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by "Bid-Security"

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: Project Manager

Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy City: Nay Pyi Taw

Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone: +95 67 3431175

Facsimile number: +95 67 3431176

Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

US, China resume trade talks with a chill in the air

WASHINGTON (United States) — Top US and Chinese trade officials returned to the bargaining table Wednesday, working to avoid a sharp escalation in the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

At the head of a 30-person delegation from Beijing, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He greeted his counterpart, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, against the backdrop of Washington's prosecution of Chinese telecoms giant Huawei, which has outraged Beijing and infused the negotiations with uncertainty.

The two sides have just a month remaining in a 90-day truce declared in December. Should the talks fail, US import duties on \$200 billion in Chinese imports are due to more than double on 2 March — something economists say could help knock the wind out of the global econ-



Beijing's trade envoy Liu He (L) meets with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer (R) at the Eisenhower Building near the White House. **PHOTO: AFP**

omy's sails. The world's two largest economies are battling for nothing less than future dominance in critical high-tech industries, according to Lighthizer, the lead US negotiator. A little over three years ago, Beijing launched a strategic plan dubbed "Made in China 2025" that aimed to make the nation the global leader in aerospace, robot-

ics, artificial intelligence, new-generation autos and other areas — sectors US officials say now represent the "crown jewels" of American technology and innovation. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he favors a healthy Chinese economy, but not at the expense of American business and know-how. Specifically, US

officials are attacking Chinese trade practices they say are unfair, spotlighting the forced transfer of Amer-

ican technology through requirements that foreign companies form joint ventures with local firms, as

well as the alleged theft of American intellectual property through hacking.

To pressure Beijing, the White House has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports.

Beijing hit back with duties on virtually every product it buys from the United States, about \$110 billion in goods annually.

Given the complexity of the issues, a finished agreement is unlikely to emerge from the two days of talks in Washington this week. But US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Tuesday he expected "significant progress," and noted the governments had time left remaining in their truce. —AFP ■

Invitation for Open Tender Ministry of Construction Department of Rural Road Development

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Grant from the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW bank) through the Ministry of Construction towards the cost of Rural Development Programme - Phase IV.

2. Department of Rural Road Development under Ministry of Construction intends to implement, with contract system, the construction of bituminous roads and bridges along the roads in Taunggyi District and Loilem District, Shan State. Rural roads express as follow:

No	Township	Lot No	Road Name	Road Type	Length (Km)
(i)	Pinlaung	TP-1A	Hle Gon-Moene Tharabu Road	DBST	7.80
(ii)	Pinlaung	TP-1B	Moene Tharabu-Kyar Dun Road	DBST	6.50
(iii)	Pinlaung	TP-1C	Kyar Dun- In Dain Road	DBST	5.10
(iv)	Pinlaung	TP-3A	Naung Pi - Ti Lon Road	DBST	11.40
(v)	Pinlaung	TP-3B	Ti Lon - Moe Oo Road	DBST	10.25
(vi)	Pinlaung	TP-3C	Moe Oo - Nam Pha Mu Road	DBST	11.35
(vii)	Loilem	LL-1A	Mingalar Oo - Ti Hay Road/bridge	DBST/Concrete	2.10

3. Procurement will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures and under the laws and regulations governing public procurement within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

4. Interested companies may obtain further information and may inspect the complete bidding documents, and may purchase a set of the documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK-65000 at International Relationship and Legal division of Department of Rural Road Development.

5. A pre-bid conference will be held in the Meeting Room of the DRRD at (25-3-2019) at 10:00AM. Each bidder is invited to attend the conference with maximum two representatives.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before (18-3-2018). Late bids will be rejected.

7. Interested companies may obtain further information at following address:

Daw Tin Moe Myint
Deputy Director General
Department of Rural Road Development
Yan Aung (2) Yard, North of (200) Bedded Hospital, Pyinmana,
Tel/Fax: 067-24821
Email: rbbdrd@gmail.com, ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com

EIA Study of Exploration Drilling in Onshore Blocks RSF-5 by Eni

Eni Myanmar B.V. (Eni) is planning to conduct an Exploration Drilling in Myanmar Onshore Block RSF-5, located in Magway Region, Myanmar. This is scheduled to commence in October 2019 and finishing in March 2020. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed activity is currently being prepared by Eni Myanmar, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), and Sustainable Environment Myanmar (SEM) and will be submitted to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) in June 2019. After the EIA report is completed, it will be publically viewable on Eni's website as follows: https://www.eni.com/en_IT/media/focus-on/eni-myanmar.page.

In the meantime, questions and comments can be submitted to Eni in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: info.enimyanmar@eni.com.

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by SHANGHAI E-TONG CHEMICAL CO., LTD are transferring from 7 Star Agro Power Co., Ltd to Myanmar Golden Byter Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following pesticides within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No
1	E-T WEAPON	Bensulfuron-methyl 4% + Quanclorac 28% WP	Provisional	P2018-4280
2.	E-T ONI	Pendimethalin 32.5EC	Provisional	P2018-4281

7 Star Agro Power Co., Ltd

Room No 204, Building No 1007, Kantharyar Junction, Thudammar Road, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by JINGSU PESTICIDE RESEARCH INSTITUTE CO., LTD are transferring from CLOSE FRIEND CO., LTD to MYANMAR GOLDEN BYTER CO., LTD. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following pesticides within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No
1	HEXA SUYAN 5SC	Hexaconazole 5% EC	Provisional	P2018-4221

CLOSE FRIEND CO., LTD

No 827/A, Thumngalar Road, (7) Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Arctic air sends temperatures well below zero in midwest US

CHICAGO (United States) — A brutal cold wave hit the American Midwest on Wednesday, bringing temperatures lower than those in Antarctica, grounding flights, closing schools and businesses— and raising fears of hypothermia.

Mail deliveries were suspended and people encouraged to stay home in nearly a dozen US states where the mercury plunged into the negative double digits, the worst freeze to grip the region in a generation.

US media attributed at least five deaths since the weekend to the freezing conditions and a major snowstorm that preceded the blast of Arctic air gripping the region.

The phenomenon caused surreal scenes throughout the region, such as steam rising off the waters of Lake Michigan, parts of Niagara Falls solidified into frozen stillness, and blocks of ice covering the river winding through downtown Chicago.

America's third city was in the direct path of the harsh weather and experienced its second-cold-est day ever. Chicago was on track to break new records overnight when temperatures were forecast to reach their lowest points in the early hours Thursday.

"This is a historic cold, obviously," Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel told a Wednesday night news



A man takes a photo of Lake Michigan and the skyline as temperatures dropped to -20 degrees F (-29 °C) in Chicago. **PHOTO: AFP**

conference. "They are life-threatening temperatures, and they should be treated accordingly," he cautioned.

The morning temperature in the Windy City was -22 degrees Fahrenheit (-30 °C Celsius), which felt like -50 degrees (-46 °C Celsius) with wind chill. It was colder than Alaska's state capital and even colder than parts of Antarctica.

"It feels like being close to dry ice," Leon Gilbert, 31, told AFP. "I can feel my skin tighten up."

Unlike most Chicago residents, Gilbert was required to report to his job at a Starbucks on a downtown street largely devoid of its usual bustle of people and traffic. Sandwich shop manager Daniel Gonzalez, 37, also reported to work — at 5:00 am. "I have two shirts on... I have a hoodie,

I have my big winter coat, I have a face mask and a skullcap and still cold," Gonzalez told AFP.

At Chicago's O'Hare airport, a major regional hub for airlines, ground crews struggled with freezing equipment and were told to avoid spending more than 15 minutes at a time exposed to the cold, causing delays for flights that managed to take off.

More than 1,800 flights were canceled at Chicago's two major airports, while rail operator Amtrak scrapped train services from its hub in the city.

Homeless at risk

The US Postal Service suspended deliveries in parts of Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, the Dakotas and Nebraska.

The cause of the sub-zero chill affecting tens

of millions of Americans was a swirl of Arctic air that broke away from the polar vortex that usually encircles the North Pole.

The National Weather Service said temperatures would remain 25 to 45 degrees below average through Thursday, with wind chill values as low as -25 to -55 degrees Fahrenheit (-32 to -48 °C Celsius).

"The dangerously cold wind chills could cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as five minutes," NWS said.

Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin implemented emergency measures.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer said government offices would remain closed through Thursday.

Nonessential employees would stay home. —AFP ■

Invitation for Request for Quotation (RFQ)

Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites eligible firm to submit the proposal for "EMF Test Equipment for RF Networks" as part of the Telecom Sector Reform Project supported by the World Bank's Loan. The deadline for submission of RFQ is March 4th, 2019 by 13:00 PM (Myanmar Standard Time).

Attention:

Director General
Posts and Telecommunications Department,
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Office Building Number 2
Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 407438
Email: monitoringptd2018@gmail.com

The detail information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) and it can be downloaded at PTD Website: <https://www.ptd.gov.mm>.

CHANNEL VAS MYANMAR LIMITED (Under Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM DEBTS

Take Notice that the creditors of the above-named Company are required to send their names, addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their attorneys, if any, to the undersigned Liquidator at address mentioned below in person or by their attorneys to come in and prove their said debts or claims on or before 28th February, 2019 or in default thereof they will be excluded from the settlement of such debts and claims.

DawThaung Mya Wai
LL.B, DA, DCA
Liquidator
Room No. (2D), Rose Condominium,
No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road,
Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Law and

CHANNEL VAS MYANMAR LIMITED

[Under Sections 345 & 348]

The Special General Meeting of Channel VAS Myanmar Limited duly held and convened on 31- 1- 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at No. 180, 8th Floor, Taw Win Myanmar Condominium, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the following resolutions were passed unanimously as Special Resolutions:

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

- (1) Resolved that the Company be and is hereby wound up voluntarily under Members' Voluntary Winding up.
- (2) Resolved that Daw Thaung Mya Wai(LL.B, DA, DCA), holder of Citizenship Scrutiny Card No. 12/ Tha Ga Ka(Naing)-143470, Manager of WIN Consulting Limited of Room No. (2D), Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar be and is hereby appointed as Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up and be authorized to carry on the business of the Company to such extent and for such period as may be necessary for the beneficial winding up thereof and be granted such other powers as may be deemed fit or proper.

By order of the Board,
Mr. Shiv Bhagwan Falod
Director
Channel VAS Myanmar Limited

Advertise with us/ Hot Line:
09974424848

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V WISDOM

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V WISDOM VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.S.T.L-3 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 K EXPRESS CO LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (119 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (119 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (007 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (007 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Ice instruments melt musical boundaries in Italian Alps

PASSO DEL TONALE (Italy)—When Tim Linhart started making instruments from ice they were more likely to explode with a bang than produce music, but things have come a long way since then.

Today, the US-born artist is in charge of an ice orchestra of local musicians playing a series of concerts at sub-zero temperatures in a vast, custom-built igloo high in the Italian Alps. “I made snow and ice sculptures in the ski resort where I’m from in New Mexico (for 16 years)... and then I decided it would be cool to make a sculpture of a violin,” Linhart, 59, told AFP. “I heard the sound coming from inside and thought ‘wow this is super exciting, if I just tighten up the strings a little bit more it would be louder,’” he recalled. Over-tightening the strings, however, caused the instrument to shatter into little pieces, he recounted.

“But I had heard enough, it was the beginning,” said Linhart, his large frame treading nimbly among the delicate instruments on stage in the igloo.



Musicians perform with ice instruments during a concert in the “Ice Dome” on Presena Gacier, Tonale Pass, near Trento in northern Italy on 17 January 2018. PHOTO: AFP

‘Only setback is they melt’

In the Passo Paradiso winter sports station at an altitude of 2,600 metres (8,500 feet), instruments still at times spontaneously implode due to the brittleness of the ice, but less frequently. And when they do, it’s not altogether a lost

cause. “Then you know you’re as close to the edge of ice music as you can get,” Linhart said. Here, the artist has built a violin, viola, timpani drum set, xylophone, double bass, mandolin, cello and even his own invention, the giant Rolandophone, a huge percussion

pipe instrument, all from ice. After moulding front and back plates, Linhart uses a white-ice mix of water and snow to build the instrument’s walls, around a metal backbone, over which the strings are stretched and tightened. A mandolin takes five or six days

to make, bigger instruments can take months. “It’s a great material because you can both grow it and cut it away, and it’s free,” said Linhart. “The only setback is that it melts above freezing.” Because of their weight, some of the instruments are played while suspended from mountaineering carabiners attached to steel cables drilled into the ceiling of the 200-seater igloo. For storage, many are kept in niches carved out of the igloo walls.

Strength in fragility

Cellist Nicola Segatta, who helped build his own instrument out of ice, says their sound is “more crystalline” than the classic wooden instruments. “They’re incredibly fragile. When you’re building them there’s the constant risk that they’ll disintegrate into a thousand pieces,” said the musician, who had been part of the orchestra that day. But the intensity of the music produced by the ice instruments brings out a strong emotional reaction in the audience, in counterpoint to their fragility, he added. —AFP ■

From Rings to Ringo: Peter Jackson helms Beatles documentary



Peter Jackson says his new documentary on the Beatles will provide ‘unprecedented’ insight into the band’s creative process. PHOTO: AFP

WELLINGTON (New Zealand) —Acclaimed “Lord of the Rings” director Peter Jackson announced Thursday he is working on a documentary detailing the making of The Beatles’ classic album “Let It Be” 50 years ago. The New Zealander said the film was based on 55 hours of never-before-seen footage and 140 hours of audio from the Fab Four’s recording sessions. Jackson said it provided an unprecedented insight into to band’s creative process and their interactions in the studio. “This movie will be the ultimate fly-on-the-wall experience that Beatles fans have long dreamt about,” he said in a statement. “It’s like a time machine transports us back to 1969 and we get to sit in the studio watching these four friends make great music together.”

“Let It Be” was recorded in January 1969 but not released until May the following year after The Beatles put out “Abbey Road” and subsequently split, making it the final album the band released.

The footage was originally shot for a television special that never materialised. Instead, some of it was used in a Michael Lindsay-Hogg documentary also titled “Let It Be”.

Fans have long believed the album’s creation was marred by the rivalries and infighting that eventually tore the band apart but Jackson said that was a myth. —AFP ■

‘Real change’ for Latinos in Hollywood? Gina Rodriguez hopes so

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Gina Rodriguez, the Golden Globe-winning star of TV comedy “Jane the Virgin,” said she wept when she heard the Oscar nominations, and saw “Roma” star Yalitza Aparicio’s name on the list. For one of the first times, Rodriguez said she felt seen, along with many other Latinos working to be noticed in Hollywood and reflected in that work. “Oh my god, I am so proud,” the 34-year-old Rodriguez told AFP in an interview. “To have a Latina out there, my whole heart—my whole heart exploded.”

If she strikes gold on 24 February, Aparicio would be the first Hispanic woman to win the best actress Oscar—a sea change that Rodriguez hopes to be part of with her new film “Miss Bala.”

The film—a remake of a 2011 Mexican flick that hits US theaters on Friday—has been adapted as a “fun action movie” to appeal to a more global audience, Rodriguez said. But the difference is that the star is a woman—and a Latina to boot.

“Miss Bala” tells the story of a Latina living in Los Angeles who travels to the Mexican border city of Tijuana to help a friend

competing in a beauty contest—and finds herself mixed up in the dark world of drug trafficking.

As the bullets fly and explosions ring out—all with a good dose of exaggeration—Gloria (Rodriguez) discovers she is a woman capable of doing things she never imagined possible, including using a firearm.

Importantly, 95 per cent of the cast and crew is Latino—that’s pretty rare for a Hollywood production, but Rodriguez is hoping it will become more of a norm.

“I believe that if we Latinos and Latinas come together and support ‘Miss Bala’, then we’ll see real change. We won’t have just one movie—we’ll have many more movies,” she said. “I think the studios will stand up and start putting money behind films with Latinos and Latinas, in front of and behind the camera.”

To create change, ‘do it yourself’

The film’s director, Catherine Hardwicke, is one of the rare non-Latinos on the crew. But she grew up in the border city of McAllen, Texas with “the richness of both cultures.”

“I’m not really Mexican but

I’m not really American,” Hardwicke, who directed the first “Twilight” film, told AFP, adding that she injected much of that “identity thing” into the film.

The internal conflict is seen in Gloria, who doesn’t speak Spanish all that well, and in the villainous Lino (Ismael Cruz Cordova). The character grew up on both sides of the border and says at one point in the film that he is too Mexican for the US and too much of a “gringo” for Mexico.

Rodriguez, who was born in Chicago to Puerto Rican parents, says she feels the same way sometimes. While she has won film roles in “Deepwater Horizon” and “Annihilation,” she says the road has not been easy.

“I was 32 years old when I booked ‘Miss Bala.’ I hadn’t had an opportunity up until then that looked like ‘Miss Bala.’ And since then, I haven’t had an opportunity. So that’s how you know it’s super rare,” she said. She cites actresses Rita Moreno—one of the rare entertainers with EGOT status, having won an Emmy, Grammy, Tony and Oscar (for best supporting actress)—and Lupe Ontiveros as trailblazers for people like her. —AFP ■

Antibiotic resistant “superbug” genes found in High Arctic: study

LONDON—Antibiotic resistant “superbug” genes originated in India were found in the High Arctic, a new study has shown. The genes associated with resistance to antibiotics were discovered in soil samples from the Kongsfjorden region, a remote place in the High Arctic, said a study published in the academic journal *Environment International* on Monday. Some of the detected genes, which are almost certainly not “local” to the Arctic, can confer resistance to multiple drugs.

The discovery confirmed the spread of blaNDM-1 (called New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1) into the High Arctic. By far, a total of 131 such genes have been discovered by scientists,

including the one first detected in urban India in 2008. Since British scientists found the “superbug” in New Delhi’s public water supply later, the resistant genes have been found in over 100 countries, including new variants. It is estimated that some 70 percent of bacteria that cause infections are resistant to at least one antibiotic used to treat them, largely fueled by their overuse.

“What humans have done through excess use of antibiotics on global scale is accelerate the rate of evolution, creating a new world of resistant strains that never existed before,” said David Graham, professor of Ecosystems Engineering at Newcastle University in Britain. —Xinhua ■

Tesla posts higher earnings but still falls short

SAN FRANCISCO (United States)—Electric carmaker Tesla posted another quarter of higher earnings on Wednesday but fell short of expectations after announcing another round of job cuts earlier in the month.

But the company’s irascible founder Elon Musk remained upbeat, telling investors that 2018 was its “most successful” year as well as its most challenging. He also predicted sales would climb 50 per cent this year, even if there were a global recession.

“Even in a recession, worldwide demand is over 500,000,” Musk said on a conference call. In a strong economy, that demand would be 700,000 to 800,000 units of the Model 3 and as production increases, it will bring down the price. “We’re optimistic about being profitable in the first quarter, not by a lot,” he said, “and for all quarters going forward.”

While the trendsetting auto company said it expected production of its less expensive Model 3

to “grow substantially” this year, it was under pressure from growing competition and hiccups at its factory. Musk said the plan for this year was to improve customer service, to allow quick repairs for minor issues, and to finish the “lightning” fast construction of the Shanghai factory to start production by the end of the year.

Once that is up and running, “it should allow us to get to a 10,000 units a week rate or close to it.” Musk also said the company could unveil an electric pickup later this year. “We might be ready to unveil that this summer,” he said.

Branching out from its current stable of sedans, he said the company planned to add an SUV, the Model Y, in 2020, the same year it also expects to begin sales of an electric semi-tractor-trailer.

A tough year

In addition, Musk said the company was fine-tuning logistics as it boost sales in China and Europe. But the US-China

trade talks currently underway in Washington mean the situation is in flux, so the carmaker is trying to ship as fast as possible to avoid potential tariff increases.

“We don’t know what’s going to happen with the trade negotiations so we have to get those cars to China as fast as possible,” Musk said. Rival automakers such as General Motors and Volkswagen are introducing more electric models that are priced competitively, a dynamic made possible by their fleets of conventional autos, including sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks, which have high profit margins. The tough year has forced Tesla to have more financial discipline, Musk said, and it ended the year with \$3.7 billion in cash on hand.

And the company continues to dominate the electric vehicle market, he said. Total revenues rose to \$7.23 billion in the fourth quarter, beating expectations, but earnings per share fell short at \$1.93. —AFP ■

Early human cousins may have been jewellers: study



University of Oxford/Max Planck Institute images of a bone fragment of a female—known as ‘Denisova 11’—born of a Neanderthal mother and a Denisovan father. The bone was found in 2012 by Russian archaeologists at Denisova Cave in Siberia. **PHOTO: AFP**

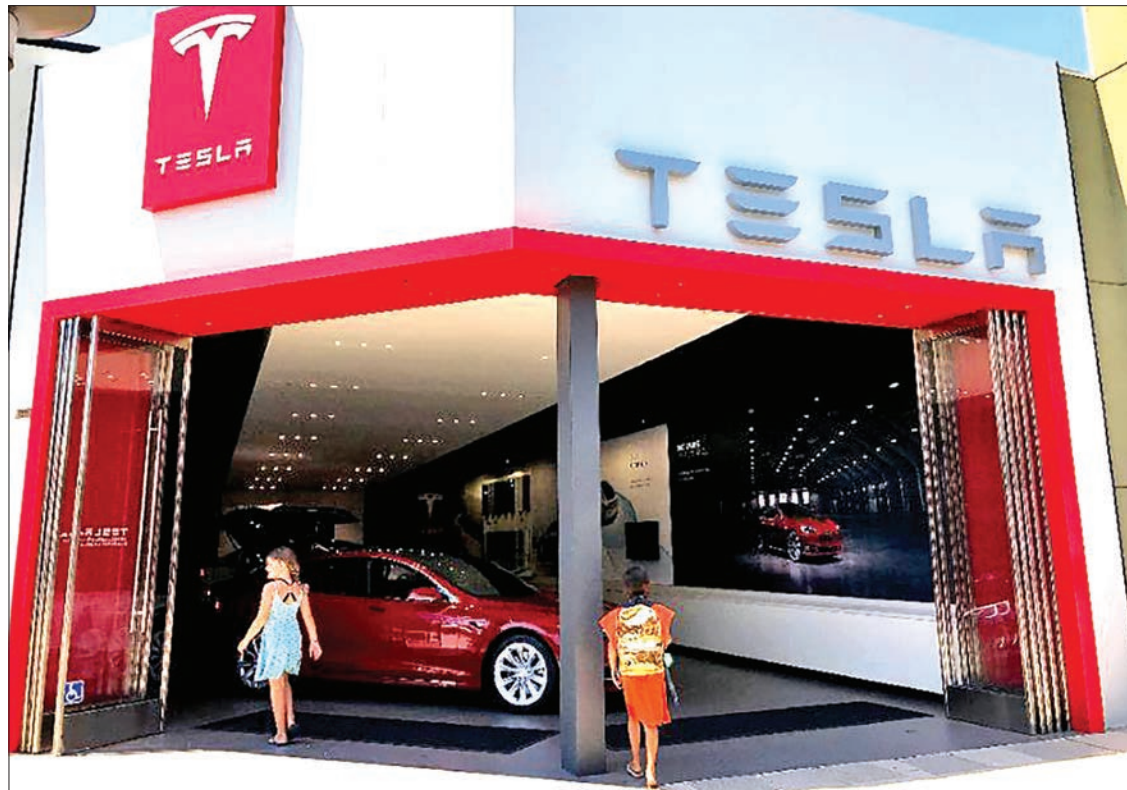
PARIS (France)—A rare species of primitive human roamed the forests of Eurasia 200,000 years ago and may have made tools and even jewellery, according to new research published Wednesday. Denisovans—a cousin of Neanderthals—were discovered in 2010 when scientists working in a cave in southern Siberia obtained a finger bone of a girl belonging to a previously unidentified group of humans.

Because they have so far only been located at the Denisova Cave, far less is known about them than their more famous relatives Neanderthals, who executed sophisticated hunting strategies in groups, made fire, tools and clothing. In dual papers published in the journal *Nature*, two international teams of scientists now argue Denisovans inhabited the cave as far back as 200,000 years ago. To arrive at that conclusion they needed to overcome several hurdles that make dating prototypical man especially tricky. “The big challenge is that the human remains themselves are microscopic—the biggest one is 2 cm high and they are really difficult to date because they all fall either just at or beyond the reach of radiocarbon dating,” Tom Higham, director of the Oxford University Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit and study author told AFP.

Carbon dating, which uses the half-life of radioactive carbon isotopes to show the age of organic matter, is only reliable on specimens up to roughly 50,000 years old. Higham and the team unearthed several previously undiscovered bone fragments and managed to obtain a DNA sample from one of them. They then used a mathematical model comprised of available carbon data, as well as sediment dating, genomic mutation rates and archeological information to determine with high certainty when the Denisovans inhabited their eponymous dwelling. “200,000 years ago, maybe older up until about 50,000 when Denisovans disappear from the site,” said Higham.

Jewellery, tools

As well as human remains, researchers found perforated animal teeth possibly used as necklaces, bone tools, ostrich shell beads and stone-worked bracelets—all artefacts previously only associated with modern humans and, more recently, Neanderthals. In the absence of any other hominid remains in the areas of the cave where the objects were found, Higham said “the most likely explanation” was that they were the work of Denisovans. “The earliest (objects) date back to 49,000 years ago, which is the earliest evidence we have of this type of behaviour in northern Eurasia, if not the entire Eurasian continent,” he said. “The evidence suggests that the most likely explanation is that Denisovans are making them.” If confirmed, the finding could transform what we know about how our ancestors survived and socialised. The Denisova Cave last made headlines in August with the discovery of Denny, a half-Neanderthal half-Denisovan hybrid who was the first evidence of inter-breeding among those two early human species. —AFP ■



Trendsetting electric carmaker Tesla is upbeat about production of its Model 3 this year. **PHOTO: AFP**

Confident of 3-point win against Zwekapin: Yan Aung Kyaw

YAN Aung Kyaw, Yangon United captain and former national football team midfielder, said he was confident of a win against Zwekapin United F.C. in the Week 4 National League match scheduled for 4 p.m. today at the Thuwunna Stadium, according to a statement from the Yangon United F.C.

"With each team bringing its best game, we have had to fight hard for each win," said Yan Aung Kyaw.

"We are in top form and have prepared a strong defense. I would like to invite all fans to cheer us. We will show what we are made of, and take three points," he said. Yangon beat Zwekapin United in both rounds of the previous season in 2018.

"Zwekapin played very well. But, I think, the reason they lost was they did not make good use of their chances.

As for us, we are focusing only on our team and scoring



Yangon United captain and former national football team player Yan Aung Kyaw. PHOTO:YUFC

three points," he said.

Yangon United is leading the table with 6 points after winning

2 and losing 1 of the 3 matches it has played so far. Zwekapin United is placed 8th with 4 points

from 3 matches, which ended with 1 win, 1 draw, and 1 loss.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

U-22 national football team selects 5 players from Shan United

AS part of preparations for the upcoming AFF U-22 Championship 2019, the Myanmar national football federation recently picked five young and talented players from former Myanmar National League champion Shan United, said a source with the Taunggyi-based football club.

The five players are goal-

keeper Phone Thitsar Min, defender Ye Min Thu, defender Hein Phyto Win, midfielder Zwe Thet Paing, and midfielder Htet Phyto Wai, according to a statement from the football club.

The players are energetic, active, strong, and can play all positions, said an official with the football club.

The Myanmar U-22 men's football team plans to compete in the AFF U-22 Championship 2019, which will be hosted by Cambodia from 17 to 26 February, and the provisional squad comprising 28 players was announced on 29 January.

The team lineup includes five players from Yangon, four

from Yadanarbon, and talented young players from Magwe F.C., Ayeyawady United, Hantawady United, MFF U-19, and ISPE.

The Myanmar U-22 team will start their training session in the first week of February, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Pressure on Ireland as World Cup adds extra edge to Six Nations

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Ireland's status as one of the favourites to win this year's World Cup in Japan will be put to the test with the defence of their Six Nations crown. France and Wales launch Europe's elite annual international championship in Paris on Friday before Grand Slam champions Ireland face England in Dublin a day later in a hugely anticipated clash.

The southern hemisphere 'big three' of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, whose collective hold on the World Cup has been broken only by England's 2003 triumph, have often been snippy about the quality of rugby on display during the Six Nations, even if they've been envious of its passionate and capacity crowds. But this year's edition could be one of the most high-calibre yet. Three of the world's four top-ranked teams—Ireland, Wales and England—are involved, with Scotland and France more than capable of making their presence felt. Ireland, yet to reach a World Cup semi-final, have long liked to portray themselves as 'plucky underdogs'.

But following their maiden home win over world champions New Zealand in November, they are no longer fooling anyone, least of all themselves, especially when the gifted Jonathan Sexton is pulling the strings at fly-half. Not since France in 1998, however, have a side completed back-to-back Grand Slams.—AFP ■

Sole survivors: Qatar plot Japan ambush in Asian final

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates)—While Japan have the Asian Cup pedigree, Qatar's over-achieving players might just feel that their name is on the trophy after a record-breaking run to their first-ever final. Against the backdrop of simmering political tension, the Qatari players were pelted with plastic bottles—and even shoes—by furious local fans in a 4-0 semi-final thrashing of the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi. After surviving that ordeal, the 2022 World Cup hosts believe they have nothing to fear from Japan.

"We have already realised a dream that the whole country had," said striker Almoez Ali, who equalled Ali Daei's record of eight goals in a single Asian Cup against the hosts on Tuesday.

"We will need patience in the final but if we are pa-



The 2022 World Cup hosts believe they have nothing to fear from the Blue Samurai. PHOTO:AFP

tient, we have a chance of being champions." Japan, who captured the last of their record four Asian titles in 2011, upset tournament favourites Iran 3-0 in Monday's first semi-final and appear to be peaking at just the right time.

After threatening to bore crowds to death in their first five games, the Blue Samurai go into Friday's final in the UAE capital unbeaten in 11 matches since Hajime Moriyasu took over as coach after last year's World Cup.

Yuya Osako's controversial second-half double floored Iran, and consequently Moriyasu's new-look Japan are suddenly being tipped to go all the way.

"We talked about going to war before we came out here," said captain Maya Yoshida, part of the Japan side which scooped the title eight years ago.—AFP ■