TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement makes third donation to IDPs in Rakhine State
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Nearly 0.9m students to take matriculation exam this year
PAGE-2

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 301, 7th Waxing of Tabodwe 1380 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Monday, 11 February 2019

Literary seminar, book launch honor Sayargyi Minthuwun's legacy on 110th birth anniversary

Former President U Htin Kyaw speaks at the literary seminar marking the 110th birth anniversary of the late national poet and literary icon, Sayargyi Minthuwun. **PHOTO: MNA**

TO MARK the 110th birth anniversary of the late national poet and literary icon, Sayargyi Minthuwun, a literary seminar was organized yesterday at the Co-operative Business Center at the junction of the New University Avenue Road and Sayar San Road in Bahan Tsp, Yangon Region.

The seminar began with a video message from the State Counsellor, honoring the 110th birth anniversary of the late poet. Then, various artists sang 'Kabar-te-mi-sar-so-Minthuwun' composed by "Hna-lone-thar' with music provided by head musician Shan Tun (Myanmar Sar), in honor of the late poet.

Thereafter, the late poet's second eldest son and former president of Myanmar, U Htin Kyaw, delivered a speech and a film on Sayargyi Minthuwun's life was played.

Afterwards, U Khin Aye (a) Sayar Maung Khin Min (Danubyu), U Mya Win (Philosophy), U Aung Myint Oo, and U Nyi Min Nyo gave speeches honoring the national poet.

After the speeches, an entertainment program was held which included musical performances, including Byaw Than (dance), recital of children's poems, 'Kyay-zu-mae-dhukkha-tway-thu-myar' musical opera, and poem recitals, in addition to performances by singer Ye Htaik and Myo Shwe Mann Thar Phoe Chit Theatre Group.

Attending the event were former President U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and his wife, Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, MPs from the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, Sayargyi Minthuwun's family, and invited guests.

A book titled 'Thu-do-myin-thaw-Minthuwun' (How they see Minthuwun) was also launched at the national poet's 110th birth anniversary. —MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Mandalay hosts ethnic sales festival to commemorate 72nd Union Day

IN HONOR of the 72nd anniversary of Union Day, the eighth Ethnic Nationals Sales Festival was held in Mandalar Thiri sports grounds in Mandalay yesterday.

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin delivered a speech at the opening ceremony, saying that the ethnic sales festival was first organized in 2012 to commemorate the 65th Union Day. The first festival included Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Kokang, and Ta-aung (Palaung) ethnic races but has since expanded to include Bamar, Karen, Taungyo, Naga, Pa-O, Shan-ni, Inthar, Danu, Yaw, and Lisu ethnicities as well.

SEE PAGE-6

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
IPRD needs efforts to become country's force
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Myanmar opens 19th elephant camp in Magway Region
PAGE-6

BUSINESS
Foreign direct investments inflows top $1.59 bln in Oct-Feb
PAGE-5

Nearly 0.9m to take matriculation exam this year

ABOUT 890,000 students will take the matriculation examination this academic year, said Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi at a meeting with faculty members and staff of Yangon Technological University yesterday.

"In 2016, 650,000 candidates sat for the matriculation examination and over 100,000 passed it; in 2017, the number of candidates was 730,000 and the number of students who passed the exam was over 200,000; in 2018, the number of candidates was 830,000 and the number of students who passed the exam was over 250,000," the Minister said.

"According to the census, the population of five-year-olds is round about one million, and the number of children who have completed primary school is about 980,000," he said.

The Union Minister said: "The number of students at arts and science universities is 250,000, and the number of students pursuing arts or science studies through distance education is 530,000."

"The number of students at technological universities and computer science universities is 71,890; and the number of students enrolled at education colleges and education universities is 17,406," he said. Among the university graduates, 80 percent are female and only 20 percent are male, he said, and pointed out the importance of gender parity

He stressed the importance of producing graduates in accordance with local needs, and urged faculty members to launch websites highlighting the salient points about their institutions in English.

The Union Minister also dealt with matters relating to high-tech learning for improving competitiveness of graduates, research programs, advanced curriculum, project-based learning, hi-touch learning, real world applications, and world ranking and ASEAN ranking of the institutions of higher learning in Myanmar.

Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi addresses faculty of Yangon Technological University yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun also took part in the discussions. Rector of Yangon Technological University Dr. Myint Thein spoke about the YTU, and the Chair of Rectors Committee, Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, spoke about university autonomy Faculties and staff then joined in the discussions.

The Union Minister and team also visited the Yangon Foreign Language University and Yangon Education University.—MNA ■

Kokang New Year celebrated in Mandalay

THE Kokang ethnic people held their New Year celebrations in the Buddhist Kokang Dhamma Building in Mandalay yesterday

Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Nai Thet Lwin, addressed the ceremony, saying it is important to safeguard the rights of ethnic nationals since our country is home to over a hundred ethnic races. He said more and more ethnic races across the country are celebrating their traditional festivals ever since the Law Protecting Ethnic Rights has been enacted. He said this will increase close relations between all ethnic races and unite them in speeding up the peace process so that we become closer to realizing our dream of a democratic federal Union.

Next, Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung delivered opening remarks and U Aung Win Khaing, a representative of the Kokang ethnic people, spoke words of gratitude.

Following this, cultural troupes performed traditional dances and the guests were treated to traditional Kokang dishes. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and officials cut ceremonial ribbons to formally open Kokang New Year celebrations. **PHOTO: MNA**

IPRD needs to make effort to emerge as a strong force: Dy Minister

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the annual IPRD meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun stressed the need for continuous efforts to help make the 28-year-old Information and Public Relations Department a strong force in the country.

Speaking at the IPRD annual meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, the minister said correct decisions must be made for future tasks after reviewing the accomplishments of the previous year.

"It is important to take into account the requirements of the changing era," he said.

"The IPRD must coordinate with local authorities, government departments, partner organizations, civil society groups, and internal and external NGOs to make community centres really useful for the public," he said.

"If possible, the centres must be equipped with fitness gear and accessories," he added.

The Deputy Minister spoke of the need to systematically maintain libraries, to compile and dispatch local news for public consumption in accord with media ethics, to express the public's voice at community talks, to conduct staff efficiency promotion courses, and to open multiplier courses for the spread of media and information literacy.

Director-General U Ye Naing of IPRD presented the department's accomplishments within a one-year period, advantages and weaknesses, and future work programs. He also looked into the requirements presented by heads of state and region offices.

The Deputy Minister made the concluding remarks.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Union Minister seeks means for tourism development

LAST YEAR saw the ease of visa restrictions for the convenience of visitors to Myanmar, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung at a tourism promotion meeting in Yangon yesterday.

The Union Minister also said, "This year, we are going to conduct visa relaxations for the visitors from the suitable countries of the West to boost the number of western tourists to Myanmar.

He said, "Myanmar has already formed the national and region-wise tourism promotion bodies and has allotted budget for the development of the industry. The action groups should systematically implement their tasks, and their expenditures must be in accordance with the financial rules and procedures."

Officials of the bodies to increase the number of tourist from Japan, South Korea, ASEAN, Europe and China and local tourists presented matters relating to digital marketing and future programs.

The Union Minister looked into the requirements.

In the evening, the Union Minister inspected the preparations for extending hospitality services course jointly conducted by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Luxemburg Development group of Luxemburg at a training school in Yangon.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, addresses a tourism promotion meeting in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trade with Singapore totals $896 mln in Q1

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Singapore in the first quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year topped US$896mln, an increase of nearly $30mln compared with the 2017-2018FY, according to monthly statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Imports always outperform exports in Myanmar-Singapore trade. Between October and December in the current FY, Myanmar imported goods worth $834mln from Singapore, while its exports to the island nation were worth almost $62mln.

Compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year, the value of bilateral exports has risen by $14.mln, while the value of imports has increased by $17.4mln.

At this time in the 2017-2018FY, bilateral trade totalled $866.3mln, with exports of $47.5mln and imports worth $816.8mln.

Myanmar's main exports to Singapore include agricultural and animal products, footwear, textile, clothing, minerals, and other products, while it imports foodstuff, rubber, plastics, fuel, capital goods, semi-finished goods, consumer products, metals, and chemicals.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), Myanmar-Singapore trade reached $1.997bln, an increase of over $130mln from the previous year. According to data from the Commerce Ministry, bilateral trade between the countries reached its peak of $4.89bln in the 2014-2015 FY. Trade between the two countries stood at $3.8bln in the last 2017-2018 financial year. The Myanmar Investment Commission has approved eight new investment projects, worth $606.64mln, from Singapore in the first quarter of the current FY. Singapore's investments in Myanmar during the mini-budget period stood at $724mln.—Shwe Khine

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

SWRR Ministry makes third donation to displaced persons in Rakhine State

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, (right), hands over monetary assistance for IDPs in Rakhine State to state social minister Dr. Chan Thar, (left), at a ceremony in An, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Chairman of the Working Committee for Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons and Improving Socioeconomic Development in Rakhine State, made a third donation of aid support to displaced persons fleeing from current conflicts in Rakhine State.

The Union Government is regularly providing necessary aid and support to the Rakhine ethnic nationals and local residents temporarily seeking refuge away from recent conflicts. The Union Government donated monetary aid for two-weeks' worth of rice in December 2018 in its first donation. The second donation on 11 January 2019 saw the SWRR Minister and officials handing over monetary aid for a month's worth of rice, and blankets, mattresses and tarpaulin for 4,470 people, and half a month worth of aid.

The ministry also handed over K42.768 million to the Rakhine State Government through the state's social minister Dr. Chan Thar to provide rice to 4.752 local IDPs for one month at the town hall in An, Rakhine State, yesterday

Rakhine State Government and related departments will work together to send cash assistance to the IDPs.

The ministry announced that it is committed to providing necessary aid to IDPs and informed the IDPs to contact its hot-lines 067-3404666, 067-3404777 for any requirements.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာဖွာယူစတ်ရှလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way.
HOTLINE
09-974424114

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with your name and title.

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

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, gives K13.27 mln for social support in An, Rakhine

"INITIAL provisions for people with disabilities have already been made after the enactment of the law and bylaws connected with them," said Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, at An in Rakhine State yesterday.

Speaking at a ceremony for assisting the vulnerable in the town, Dr Win Myat Aye, who is also the Chair of the Committee for Rehabilitation and Socioeconomic Development of Rakhine Region, said, "The provision of assistance for the disabled, in fact, is the channeling of public funds back to the people."

"The ministry is opening mother circles (child nurseries), daycare centres, and pre-primary schools for children through the adoption of an infant care and development strategy," he said.

"The ministry is also implementing preparatory measures for risk management, quick response programs, and rehabilitation undertakings for ensuring a better situation," the minister said, urging local people, the Government, and social organizations to join hands to maintain peace and stability, which is essential for socioeconomic progress.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye greets families in An Township, Rakhine State during a ceremony to provide assistance. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for SWRR, U Soe Aung, and the Minister for Social Welfare of Rakhine State, Dr. Chan Tha, were also present at the ceremony.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye presented Ks7.35 million to Myo Oo, the monastery and youth development centre, Ks1.4 million to self-reliant pre-primary schools, Ks300,000 each to social welfare associations, a free funeral service association, a blood donation association, a pensioners' welfare association, the Chin Language and Culture Association of An and youth welfare associations, and nearly Ks1.82 to three child nurseries. Officials gave words of thanks. The ministry presented a total of nearly Ks13.27 million for child nurseries and welfare organizations in the town.—MNA

Six tons of illegal teak seized in Taikkyi

FOREST officials on Saturday seized six tons of illegally harvested teak timber in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region, according to the Forest Department.

Around 4.20 p.m. on 9 February, a combined team of forest police and members of the forest department stopped and searched a six-wheeled truck loaded with six tons of rough-sawn teak timber. The truck was heading away from Thayawaddy Township, and was stopped near zth filling station beside Pyay Road. The timber was confiscated, but the driver and the co-driver fled the scene.

Police have lodged a case and are continuing their investigations to arrest them.

Officials have been making a concerted effort to clamp down on illegal timber trade. —Tun Hlaing (Myaing) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Kitchen fire guts four homes in Magway, no casualties

A fire gutted four homes after a resident reportedly left a kitchen stove unattended in a village near Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu Township of Magway Region on Saturday, according to the Minbu District Fire Services Department. There were no casualties.

The fire broke out around 5.07 p.m. at the home of Aung Naing Thu of Phaya Village after he reportedly left a stove unattended and went outside. The blaze spread quickly to neighbouring homes.

The fire destroyed four homes causing an estimated damage of Ks160,000.

With the support of residents, firefighters brought the blaze under control by 5.35 p.m. The Township Fire Services Department brought in two fire engines to fight the fire.

Action is being taken against Aung Naing Thu for fire-related negligence and recklessness, in violation of existing laws. —Myo Myat (Minbu) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Firefighters working on the scene.
PHOTO: MYO MYAT (MINBU)

FDI inflows top $1.59 bln in Oct-Feb

FOREIGN direct investments flowing into Myanmar between 1 October and 4 February in the current fiscal year exceeded US$1.59 billion, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

During the four-month period, a total of 92 foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements to invest in the country, bringing in a capital of over $1 billion. Overall, foreign direct investments of $1.59 billion flowed into the country in the October-February period, including expansion of capital and investments of over $102 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Fourteen foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements for projects with capitals of $60.6 million at the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting held on 4 February. The foreign enterprises were approved and endorsed by the Myanmar Investment Commission and the Yangon Region Investment Committee. They will be engaged in manufacturing, livestock and fisheries, and other service sectors, creating 11,684 jobs. The existing foreign enterprises have also recruited 1,000 new employees. The MIC is targeting to attract $5.8 billion in foreign investments in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.—GNLM ■

A cargo ship ahchored at Thilawa Port, which is an important facility for maritime trading. **PHOTO : MNA**

OSSC for gold, jewelry trade still on trial run

ALTHOUGH the One-Stop Service Centre (OSSC) for import and export of gold and jewelry opened in September, it is still on a trial run and is yet to be operational, said Dr. Ye Thu Aung, the managing director of a public gold company. "We have been carrying out trials to run the business with interested traders. But we are still facing a slew of challenges," said Dr. Ye Thu Aung.

"The OSSC is on trial stage as withholding tax is set at 2 per cent. Traders have put forward a request to the government to reduce the withholding tax. The operating of OSSC is positively related to the government's move on taxation," said Dr. Ye Thu Aung. "The OSSC for import and export of gold and jewelry has been opened. However, trade barriers are hindering them from starting business. This being so, we are trying to reduce the tax somehow and coordinating with the private sector to set a fair tax rate. As tax is the only source of government revenue, we are trying to strike a balance between the two parties," said U Min Min Oo, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The OSSC was launched at Culture Valley in People's Park, Yangon, on 24 September.— Nyein Nyein
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sino-Myanmar trade touches $2.5 bln in Q1

THE value of Myanmar's trade with China in the first quarter of the current fiscal year totalled US$2.5 billion, with exports valued at $998 million and imports worth $1.5 billion, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce. During the period, Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries showed the highest growth, closely followed by its bilateral trade with China.

The value of bilateral trade with China was $6 billion in the last mini-budget period, $11.78 billion in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, $10.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY, $10.9 billion in the 2015-16FY, $9.7 billion in the 2014-2015FY, $7 billion in the 2013-2014FY, $4.95 billion in the 2012-2013FY, and $5 billion in the 2011-2012FY Myanmar exports rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products, and electronic tools. In the first quarter, 33 projects from China were approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission and investment committees of regions and states. China brought capital of $106.26 million into the country, including expansion of investments by existing enterprises, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—GNLM

Domestic investments reach K725.9 bln in current fiscal year

BETWEEN 1 October and 4 February in the current fiscal year, Myanmar investors made investments worth K725.9.6 billion and US$249.9 million, including capital expansion by existing enterprises, according to a recent press statement released by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

During the four-month period, 66 local enterprises were permitted to invest in various sectors with an estimated capital of over K564.6 billion and $210.8 million. Investments flowed into real estate, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, construction, industrial estate, energy, mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other service sectors, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. At a meeting held on 4 February, 13 domestic enterprises with an estimated capital of K257.9 billion and $110.8 million were approved by the MIC and the investment committees of Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions, and Mon and Rakhine states. They will be investing in the manufacturing, livestock and fisheries, hotel and tourism, minerals, and other sectors, creating over 3,000 jobs.

With the government having introduced a quicker way to set up a business in Myanmar, investors can apply to the MIC or the state and region investment committees for endorsement of their investment proposal, depending on the business type.

Under the Myanmar Investment Law, to fast-track verification of investment projects, the region and state investment committees can endorse proposals with a capital of not more than $5 million (K6,000 million).

Some projects no longer need MIC approval, while some businesses that are of strategic inportant to the government require an MIC permit. Also, those businesses that have large capital investments exceeding $5 million and can have a possible impact on the environment and local community need to be passed by the DICA proposal assessment team. Projects involving State-owned land, or designated by the Government also need MIC approval.—GNLM ■

Myanmar-Thailand border trade reaches $ 1.2 bln

BILATERAL border trade between Myanmar and Thailand totalled $1.2 billion this fiscal year, between 1 October 2018 and 1 February 2019, which included $832.6 million in exports and $336.7 million in imports, according to official statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar delivers goods to Thailand through its sea routes, as well as cross-border gates. Myanmar-Thailand border trade includes Tachilek border trade camp in Shan State, Myawady border trade camp in Kayin State, Kawthaung border trade camp, Myeik border trade camp, Htikhee border trade camp, Mawtaung border trade camp in Taninthayi Region and Maese border trade camp in Kayah State.

Among all border trade camps, the Htikhee gate saw the largest value of trade, reaching $692.5 million during the period, followed by Myawady with $281.6 million, Myeik with $82.9 million and Kawthaung at $79.8 million.

The trade value from all border crossings between 1 October 2018 and 1 February 2019 exceeded $3.2 billion, increasing by $203 million over the same period last year.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products, such as crab, fish and shrimp, as well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut and turmeric, while consumer goods, cosmetic machinery, food products, agricultural equipment and track cars are imported into the country from Thailand. Myanmar has opened camps on its borders to carry out trade with China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh. Most of the trade camps are located along the long border with Thailand, but the largest trade volume is carried out through its border with China.—GNLM
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar opens 19th elephant camp in Magway Region

THE government is opening elephant protection camps to increase the earnings of the State through green business or sustainable business that is not harmful to the natural environment, said Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win yesterday at the opening of the country's 19th elephant protection camp.

"One of the results is the flourishing of community-based elephant tourism that effectively harness the giant mammals, and generate jobs for mahouts and locals," he added.

The Shwesettaw Mann Chaung Elephant Protection Camp lies in Minbu Township, Magway Division.

"Myanmar has been protecting elephants since the time of its monarchs. The country used elephants in religious ceremonies, auspicious occasions, national defence, battles, transport and timber extraction," the Union Minister said.

Elephant-used timber extraction is internationally acknowledged as the least environmentally harmful means, he noted, adding, "The Ministry has significantly reduced timber production, when compared with the past, for the everlasting of forest resources and for maintaining the ecosystem." The Union Minister thanked the region government for providing funds for the success of the camp.

The camp was formally opened after the speech made by Chief Minister of Magway Region U Aung Moe Nyo.

The Union Minister looked around the camp and coordinated arrangements for the healthcare of elephants, social needs of the staff, safety and convenience of visitors, systematic waste disposal system, and hosting of workshops and trainings on environmental conservation in the future.

The camp keeps 15 elephants and has 14 sleeping quarters for visitors who can ride or feed the giant mammals.

Union Minister U Ohn Win inspects the layout of Shwesettaw Mann Chaung Elephant Protection Camp in Minbu Township, Magway Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister and team then inspected a joint-venture coal mine outside the Padaung-Pyawbwe forest reserve in Minbu Township, and No 25 saw mill of Myanma Timber Enterprise in Ngaphe Township,

During inspection of a 30-acre village fuel-wood plantation in Minbu Township, the Union Minister met with locals. He urged officials to make a feasibility study to build a dam as suggested by the locals, and to report the finds back to him.

The Union Minister and party visited forest plantations set up in the townships with various purposes during the trip in Magway Region.—MNA ■ *(Translated by TMT)*

Construction Ministry inaugurates upgraded Hmawby-Taikkyi road

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw delivers the speech at the inauguration of the upgraded Hmawby-Taikkyi road. **PHOTO : MNA**

THE upgraded 48 feet, four-way Hmawby-Taikkyi concrete road section of the Yangon-Pyay Road was officially opened in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region yesterday. The construction of the road section was undertaken by Max Highway Co. Ltd under the B.O.T system.

Union Minister U Han Zaw spoke at the ceremony. He said the participation of B.O.T companies in the construction process of the country's roads and bridges will allow government spending to be focused on education, healthcare, and social sectors.

The Union Minister said Myanmar's first B.O.T project was initiated in 1996 on the Lashio-Muse road section and as of now, there are 25 ethnic B.O.T companies undertaking projects for upgrading 3,264 miles of roads throughout the country. He said B.O.T companies need to operate in line with international standards to achieve success as a PPP system.

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivered a speech and a video on the Hmawby-Taikkyi road upgrade process was shown. U Zaw Zaw, Chairman of Max Myanmar Co. Ltd, then explained the B.O.T system procedures and a local resident delivered words of gratitude. Officials present then cut ribbons and formally opened the road section. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Mandalay hosts ethnic sales ...

FROM PAGE-1

The Union Minister expressed his delight for having the opportunity to attend the festival and said the occasion will further strengthen ethnic solidarity He urged all ethnic nationals to strengthen their unity so that we may swiftly implement the democratic federal Union for our country

Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung also delivered speech expressing his belief that Mandalay Region has more close relations than anywhere else in the country as it has eighteen ethnic groups coexisting in the region.

Next, U Nai Maung Myint, chair of the committee for organizing the festival, delivered a gratitude speech and the Union Minister, Chief Minister and officials cut ceremonial ribbons and opened the festival. The Union Minister and Chief Minister then observed the booths and encouraged owners of booths displaying regional products and traditional accessories and ethnic cuisine.

The Ethnic Nationals Sales Festival will be held until today and tomorrow, from 9 am to 11 pm. The festival has 18 booths on traditional accessories and cuisine each, in addition to booths from government departments and book sales. —Min Htet Aung (Sub-printing house) ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin and Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung cut ceremonial ribbons to officially open the eigth Ethnic Nationals Sales Festival in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**

Renault denounces Nissan over Ghosn investigation: report

Renault-Nissan chairman and CEO Carlos Ghosn. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS (France)—Lawyers for French carmaker Renault have criticised their Japanese alliance partner Nissan for its handling of an internal probe into the Carlos Ghosn scandal, a Sunday newspaper has reported. In a letter to Nissan dated 19 January, the layers said they had "serious concerns about the methods used" by the company and its legal team, including the way they treated some Renault employees, according to France's Le Journal du Dimanche. Former head of the alliance Ghosn is being held in Japan on charges he under-reported millions of dollars in pay as head of Nissan. "Renault has gathered sufficient evidence to understand and regret the methods used by Nissan and its lawyers to seek interviews with Renault employees through the Japanese public prosecutor's office," they said. Nissan was seeking "evidence to support allegations against Carlos Ghosn after his arrest" and failed to consult its French partner, according to the newspaper. The firm also tried to search Ghosn's apartments in Brazil, Lebanon and the Netherlands without informing Renault, the letter added. So far the French car giant has said its internal probe into its former boss has found his pay was in compliance with French law. The executive's arrest in November has exposed rifts between Renault and Nissan, which some analysts say was bristling at Ghosn's efforts to bring the two automakers' operations even closer together. Ghosn was the lynchpin of the three-way alliance, which also included Mitsubishi, earning industry plaudits for driving together a sometimes fractious threesome with headquarters 10,000 kilometres apart.—AFP■

Russia-Turkey trade turnover exceeds pre-crisis level in 2018—ambassador

ANKARA—Trade turnover between Russia and Turkey last year exceeded the pre-crisis level, Russia's Ambassador to Turkey Alexei Yerkhov said in an interview with Russian media on occasion of Diplomats' Day.

"According to preliminary data, bilateral trade turnover last year reached nearly $25.4bln. This figure really exceeds the so-called pre-crisis level. This means that compared with last year we increased our trade turnover by 20-25%," the diplomat said.

The ambassador also noted that "this growth was achieved in rather challenging conditions, which international trade relations are undergoing in general."

Speaking on trade in national currencies, the ambassador said there are good prospects in this sphere. "According to our assessments, now up to 10% of bilateral trade operations are carried out in this trade regime," he said, noting that the initiative comes from economic entities themselves. "They are carrying out these operations in the framework of their mutual settlements."

"The work in this direction is underway, but it is early now to speak about any particular projects or prospects, moreover this will depend on the environment in international trade. Nevertheless, we have prospects in this area and I believe they are not bad ones," he stressed.

Earlier Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced plans to bring bilateral trade turnover to $100bln. The two leaders control and hold talks on this issue.— AFP ■

Oil prices fall as US rig count rises

HOUSTON—Benchmark oil prices posted a loss during the week ending on 8 February, with the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for March delivery down by 4.6 per cent and Brent crude for March delivery down by 1.1 per cent. In the previous week ending on 1 February, oil prices rose. WTI increased by 2.9 per cent, and Brent crude grew by 1.9 per cent. At the end of that week, WTI settled at 55.26 US dollars a barrel, while Brent crude closed at 62.79 dollars a barrel.

The US oil rig count rose by seven this week, bringing the total count to 854. The number of active drilling rigs in the United States increased by four to 1,049, or 74 more than the same time last year. On Monday, oil prices declined as investors continued to worry that falling factory orders in the United States would dampen oil demand. WTI declined 70 cents to settle at 54.56 dollars a barrel, while Brent crude dropped 24 cents to close at 62.51 dollars a barrel.

The demand for US manufactured products fell in November 2018 as factory orders dropped 0.6 per cent from the previous month amid sharp declines in demand for machinery and electrical equipment. Analysts said the unexpected fall in the data stoked investors' concerns that oil demand would weaken in the near future and further contribute to a global glut. On Tuesday, oil prices declined as investors worried that a global glut would be fueled by weaker demand. WTI declined 0.90 US dollar to settle at 53.66 dollars a barrel, while Brent crude dropped 0.53 dollar to close at 61.98 dollars a barrel. On Wednesday, oil prices rose after data showed US crude inventories rose less than expected. WTI added 0.35 US dollar to settle at 54.01 dollars a barrel, while Brent crude increased 0.71 dollar to close at 62.69 dollars a barrel.

US commercial crude oil inventories increased by 1.3 million barrels in the week ending on 1 February. At 447.2 million barrels, US crude oil inventories were about 6 per cent above the five-year average for this time of year. On Thursday, oil prices declined again as the US dollar increased against most of its major peers. WTI erased 1.37 dollars to settle at 52.64 dollars a barrel, while Brent crude erased 1.06 dollars to close at 61.63 dollars a barrel.

The dollar was supported by positive sentiment on US economy. A stronger dollar made the dollar-priced commodity less attractive for holders of other currencies.—Xinhua■

The giant Chinese companies shaping the world's industries

Chinese smartphone makers are taking a larger slice of the global market, with Huawei at 15 per cent, Xiaomi 8.7 per cent and Oppo 8.1 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS (France)—It was fear of being dominated by a Chinese behemoth that sparked an attempt by large French and German rail companies to join forces to create an European industrial champion. The merger by Alstom and Siemens was vetoed by the EU on Thursday, but concerns about the overwhelming power of vast, often state-backed Chinese companies is not limited to the rail industry. Here are some of areas in which Chinese companies control a large piece of the global market.

Rail

China's state-backed CRRC is the world's largest train manufacturer, with locomotives and wagons ordered across the globe from Boston to Philadelphia, Cambodia to Colombia, and customers including the iconic London Underground and Germany's Deutsche Bahn. Its annual revenues of 26 billion euros (29 billion dollars) alone outweigh the three Western heavyweights Bombardier, Siemens and Alstom, each of which brings in around nine billion a year.

Agrichemicals

The state-owned ChemChina became one of the world's seeds and pesticide producers when it acquired Swiss pesticide giant Syngenta for $43 billion in 2017, putting it in competition with Monsanto and DowDupont.

It was the biggest overseas acquisition by a Chinese firm yet, ahead of the $15.1 billion purchase of Canada's Nexen Energy by China's state oil firm CNOOC in 2013. ChemChina also controls Italian tyremaker Pirelli and German machinery firm KraussMaffei.

Energy

The state-run China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) launched its locally developed Hualong One nuclear reactor in 2015 to compete with French and US models, selling to Argentina and Pakistan. Chinese solar panel manufacturers Jinko, Trina and Solar dominate the global market. And Chinese oil companies —CNOOC, CNPC and Sinopec —are investing heavily even as their global rivals cut spending.

Aviation

China's state-owned plane-maker Comac expects to deliver its first home-made passenger jet to a customer in 2021, as it seeks to challenge the dominance of Boeing and Airbus. The company says it has received a thousand orders for its 168-seater C919 plane.—AFP■

11 FEBRUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Towards Agricultural Development

AS the agriculture industry is one of the most important sectors of Myanmar's economy, high yield of crops and stability of output are of vital importance. Only high output and good quality can help the country's agricultural produce penetrate international markets, and bring prosperity to farmers.

Every year, farmers have to face problems of pests and diseases. Therefore, they must pay serious attention to anti-pest practices to ensure high yield of crops, vegetables, fruits, and perennial crops.

> Every year, farmers have to face problems of pests and diseases. Therefore, they must pay serious attention to anti-pest practices to ensure high yield of crops, vegetables, fruits, and perennial crops.

Insects, such as stem borers and rice weevils, and bacterial diseases, such as neck blast, brown spot, and bacterial blight, significantly reduce the yield of crops; they may even completely destroy entire fields. There are various other kinds of insects or fungus that can also cause damage to crops. Farmers faced a problem in the beginning of this year with a new species of swarming caterpillar attacking maize fields. Notices have been issued on the pest attack, and with the help of some agricultural companies, pesticides and technical assistance are being provided to farmers for preventive and pest control measures.

Pest control measures are inevitable when crops are attacked by insects or disease. They involve both conventional methods as well as chemicals. Whichever method is applied, it is important to note that it must be done systematically and scientifically Moreover, only the right use of pesticides is effective in pest control.

Chemicals must be used with care. Prescriptions must be followed strictly for both storing as well as using chemicals. They must be kept out of reach of children and pets. After they are used, chemicals must be disposed systematically by burying or setting on fire, instead of being discarded in creeks or streams. When handling chemicals, safety suits and gloves must be worn, as necessary.

The right use of pesticides is important because, if they are wrongly used, it may affect crop yields and in some instances, lead to destruction of fields. Suggestions must be sought from the Agriculture Department and pesticide companies on how to use pesticides. Companies, on their part, must provide farmers with clear directions, which they can understand easily. They also need to take accountability for quality and loss caused by unqualified pesticides. Government officials must counter check whether pesticides are in conformity with the prescribed standard or not, and punitive action must be taken against those who sell pesticides illegally.

We firmly believe that such comprehensive action will bring prosperity to farmers and contribute much to agricultural development. ■■■

The solid foundation of the united Union

By Kaung Zan Thein

Attitude towards the ethnic races

The national leader General Aung San visited Myitkyina in Kachin State on 28 November 1946 as the then Minister of Defence, and held discussion with Kachin leaders. It was a great occasion.

At the meeting, General Aung San explained the efforts to regain independence of Myanmar, assuring that independence would be regained soon. The national leader said that as Kachin people were also included in the ethnic peoples, all should live in weal or woe; and that only then Kachin people would catch up with the changing situation. Because of the colonialists' separation policy, Kachin people had not seen any progress in a period of over 60 years, he said. If they joined Myanmar, they would be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with all other Myanmar ethnic races, he assured.

National unity

The discussions between General Aung San and Kachin leaders were irreplaceable for the country. The meeting had also laid the foundation of the Kachin leaders' trust in General Aung San. On 1 December 1946, one day before his departure from Kachn, Kachin damsels treated General Aung San with a meal at a special pavilion, honouring him as a trusted true friend. At the pavilion, General Aung San sincerely explained the importance of independence and his true goodwill towards the ethnic races.

The national leader said he had demanded the British government to give equal rights, self-administration, progress and prosperity for the ethnic peoples. He also demanded to ensure unity between Myanmar proper and ethnic regions and the responsibility for the progress of Shan, Chin and Kachin of hill regions and to relief them from the rule of the governor. Those endeavours were the proofs of his goodwill, friendship and love for all Kachin ethnic races.

Aspiration for unity

General Aung San regarded all the ethnic races as members of his family, enjoying freedom and prosperity. In this regard, he noted, "A significant example is that the powers of the world cannot live or even exist alone, without any friends. They are trying to cooperate or ally with suitable countries. Myanmar will have to do the same thing. The country must reinforce itself. So there must be unity among all the ethnic Myanmar races. It is really important. In no way any ethnic Myanmar will become strong, if it goes its own way and pursue its own interest. So, all should be aware of the danger of splitting-up."

As mentioned by General Aung San, the national unity has always been an important requirement for the county since the independence struggle. During the struggles of the people to become the independent and sovereign Republic of Union of Myanmar, the country showed its strength through the ethnic unity.

Characteristics of Union

The following factors were the base in designating ethnic regions of the country under the Constitution: (1) having visible geographical boundaries; (2) having a language that is different from Bamar; (3) having a uniformed culture; (4) having a tribe of races under a single traditional background; (5) having an adequate volume of economic growth and benefits; (6) having a sizable population; and (7) having the wish to live under own characteristics as a member of the Union. It is the noble and sincere vision of General Aung San and other leaders for all the ethnic races to live proudly as a member of the Union in accord with their ethical characteristics.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Cultural Characteristics of Bronze Age in Myanmar

By Mann Thit Nyein (Archaeology)

ORIGIN of Human beings in Myanmar's Bronze Age In finding cultural evidences of the Bronze Age, there are several difficulties to discover settlement areas where they lived. The people of Myanmar's Stone Age used to live in Caves by means of hunting in the forests; they gradually went down to the plains to take up agricultural farming and settled down there near rivers and streams in open seasons. They built their houses by wood and bamboo which were easily available.

After living there for a long time, they came to learn how to make objects out of metal; different kinds of moulds were found in the region of Myin-Oo-Hley, indicating the bronze weapons were used in the region. It can be assumed that the weapons they used were made by themselves.

The Site for the Bronze Age people According to the findings of archaeological excavations, the Bronze Age areas are near the plains. In Myanmar , their settlement areas are found in the middle of the country. They are believed to have lived in houses made of wood and bamboo; these houses naturally fell into ruin after a long time. That might be the reason why evidences or habitation sites could not found . Even if evidences are not found, they are assumed to have a belief in afterlife. That is why the dead were systematically buried together with his paraphernalia, in accordance with the findings in their graveyards.

Living Styles

By choosing the site of graveyards, those living in those regions are believed to have settled down not for some time, but for a long time.

They lived like a family with their chieftain, governance and in a high standard of living. According to the archaeological findings, the Bronze Age people were assumed to have consumed different kinds of animals whose skeletons are found in their graveyards. They are believed to have eaten domestic animals as well as wild animals such as samburs and deer.

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

Cows were domesticated in West Asia some 6000 years ago, whereas in China, some 3400 years ago. Goats and sheep were domesticated In West Asia some 7000 years ago. Cows, goats and sheep were domesticated except dogs which were used for hunting. In Bronze Age, agriculture was extended with no knowledge of crops were grown. Agriculture was followed by animal husbandry, in the pursuance of trading. In that situation, the change of civilization to that of higher civilization would not last long as previously thought.

Ancient articles which were used in civilized societies in a certain period of time are found in use at the beginning of the late era. The evidences of stone weapons and bronze articles were found during excavations in Ywagongyi Region in 2009 and again during Thitgon excavations, mixtures of bronze and iron weapons were found.

Urbanization

In prehistoric times, ancient Myanmar people lived in separate small villages and are believed and are believed to have formed an urbanized society from the valley of Samong. They were divided among themselves, thereby forming three groups: one group proceeded to Hanlin Region; another group went to Beithano Region and the third one to Sri Ksetra Kingdom.

SEE PAGE-10

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.

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 10th February, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11th February, 2019: Rain will be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy 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, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th February, 2019: Partly cloudy

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th February, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th February, 2019: Partly cloudy.

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Trade Mark Ads
Call
Thin Thin May,
09251022355
09974424848

Six illegal migrants apprehended in Ngaphe Tsp, Magway

Nyi Nyi Tun and Han Win Aung, (left picture), are facing charges of transporting 6 illegal migrants from Sittway, (right picture). **PHOTO: MNA**

AUTHORITIES at Pyinwa joint-inspection gate on the Sittway-An-Padan highway in Ngaphe Township arrested 6 people travelling illegally, and 2 people aiding them, from an express bus after the bus's driver fled the scene during the interception action. The two suspects identified as Han Win Aung, who is also the bus conductor, from Maykone Village, Yetarshay Tsp, and Nyi Nyi Tun from Mingan Ward, Sittway, were transporting Husaung Narmauk from Kaungtote Village in Sittway along with another man and four women after allegedly receiving payment to do so.

The two suspects and the bus driver, Kyaw Soe, have a case opened against them from Padan Police Station. The 6 migrants are undergoing inspection by the township immigration department and will be handled in accordance with the law, according to information released from the Myanmar Police Force. —MNA

Fourteen illegal immigrants bound for Malaysia captured

Win Zaw and Soe Tint, (Upper), are facing charges of aiding 14 illegal immigrants to Malaysia, (Lower). **PHOTO: MNA**

A naval vessel patrolling 3 miles west of Thaechaung Village in Sittway Tsp on 6 February captured a vessel reportedly bound for Malaysia holding 14 illegal immigrants and two men assisting them.

The two men were identified as Win Zaw from Shwe Hintha Ward, Kawthoung Tsp, and Soe Tint (a) Soe Win from Hnin Pale Village, Bilin Tsp. The passengers on board included Kamar, 15, from Darpaing Village, Sittway Tsp, and six other men and seven women.

Further investigation revealed that a man identified as U Nyein, also from Shwe Hintha Ward, received K3 million from each of the passengers to assist them in reaching Malaysia. He was assisted by another man identified as Maung Maung Khaing, 25, from Kadinpite Village, Sittway Tsp, in gathering the passengers.

A case has been opened against the four men and the 14 passengers will be handled with in accordance with the law, according to the Myanmar Police Force. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Ponnagyun Township resident arrested under Unlawful Association Act

A MAN identified as Zaw Win Naing from Ywar Haung Ward, Ponnagyun Tsp, was arrested by police after uploading photos and descriptions of the activities of the Ponnagyun police on 7 February. Having the user name Ko Zaw Win Naing on Facebook accounts, Zaw Win Naing captured a video of police vehicles en route from Sittway to Myanmar and uploaded it onto the social media platform with a short and detailed description.

The Ponnagyun Tsp Police Station lodged a case against Zaw Win Naing under Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Association Act on grounds of intentionally unveiling police operation actions to disrupt security or inform terrorist groups and unlawful associations, according to Myanmar Police Force. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Burial 28 at OAI1 excavated in 2015, one of two individuals who had remaining DNA from the Myanmar study. **PHOTO: INSTITUTFRANCAIS-BIRMANIE.COM**

FROM PAGE-9

According to archaeological excavations, burial mounds are found on the slopes of the hills.

Characters in the Bronze Age

By studying their characteristics, the dead were systematically buried in a designated graveyards. Their burial ground happens to be in the regions of a hill; their settlement are not easily found; the villages or graveyards are believed to have located near streams and drains.

The ancient people earned their living in agriculture and animal husbandry. Handicraft included pottery, ornamental beads and weapons.

By studying fossil bones with foods, they are assumed to believed in afterlife. Bronze articles were made of stone moulds. They might have a leader; interrelations between villages are believed to have existed. In the Bronze Age, the dead are found together with bronze weapons,bronze bracelets , stone and bone beads and earthen pots.

Besides graveyards, the place where bronze weapons were manufactured is also found. The excavated Bronze Age areas saw their lifestyles, religious beliefs, economic lives and their settlement styles.

Myanma Culture in the Bronze Age

Myanma culture in the Bronze Age is complete with above-mentioned characteristics. The opinion that there is no existence of Myanmar Bronze Age is totally wrong. Myanmar-French archaeological cooperation paved a way for a study tour for excavations of the Bronze Age sites in Myanmar with assistance of foreign experts under the auspices of Departments of Archaeology and National Museums.

The results prompted the Myanmar to rise in great dignity and to achieve fame in the world. In the years to come, Myanmar Bronze Age will begin visible vividly after excavations in related respective areas that will show how they lived in the Bronze Age with a long tradition.

Translated by Arakan Sein

Netherlands reports dozens Brexit-related company moves from UK

THE HAGUE (Netherlands)—More than 40 companies last year moved, or said they would move, their operations from Britain to the Netherlands in response to Brexit uncertainties, Dutch authorities reported on Saturday

The combined moves of 42 companies will translate into the shift of just under 2,000 jobs and of 291 million euros ($330 million) in investments, the Dutch agency for foreign investment said in a statement.

Most of the companies are British, but some are from Asia or the US. The Dutch government welcomed the figures, with Economy Minister Eric Wiebes saying that "due to the growing international uncertainty surrounding Brexit and changing global trade policies, the importance of a good Dutch business climate for all of us is continually increasing".

The list includes Japanese investment bank Norinchukin, media company TVT Media, financial services providers MarketAxess and Azimo, and maritime insurer UK P&I, the agency said. Some of the companies were also looking at moving some operations elsewhere in the European Union, including Germany, France and Ireland, it said.

In this file photo taken on 27 November, 2018 Members of Our Future, Our Choice (OFOC) a youth movement supporting a People's vote on the Brexit deal pose by a campaign bus in London. **PHOTO: AFP**

In addition to relocations by corporates, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), an EU agency, has said that it will move from London to Amsterdam as it cannot legally remain in a non-EU country. Britain is to leave the European Union on 29 March, and uncertainty about the shape of any agreement with Brussels by that date has created unease in the business community, with many British and multinational companies having already announced moves to elsewhere in the EU.—AFP ■

Long-haul New Zealand-China flight forced back mid-flight

WELLINGTON (New Zealand)—A passenger plane flying from Auckland to Shanghai was forced to turn back after some five hours in the air because it did not have permission to land, officials said on Sunday.

Passengers said the captain informed them mid-flight the Air New Zealand plane was not allowed to land in China and would have to go back.

"Midway through our flight, the pilot informs us that Chinese authorities had not given this plane permission to land, so we needed to turn around. A permitting issue, supposedly," one passenger, Eric Hundman, told the New Zealand Herald.

"I would be stunned if Air NZ had allowed a plane full of passengers to take off without being quite sure they would be able to land it in Shanghai," the assistant professor at New York University Shanghai added.—AFP ■

Modest praise for US reform of visa programme for skilled workers

WASHINGTON (United States)—The Trump administration's new rules for a US visa programme widely used for technology workers are getting cautious praise from Silicon Valley amid surging demand for high-skill employees. The H-1B visa programme, which admits some 85,000 foreign nationals each year, will give higher priority to people with post-graduate degrees from US universities, under a final rule published in January by the Department of Homeland Security."US employers seeking to employ foreign workers with a US master's or higher degree will have a greater chance of selection in the H-1B lottery" under the new rule, said Francis Cissna, director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, in announcing the change on 30 January.

The changes come with the tech industry pleading for more immigrants to fill key skilled positions, and responds in part of concerns that the program has been exploited by some tech giants and outsourcing firms to depress wages and displace US employees."The changes are, on the whole, a positive step in the right direction," said Todd Schulte of the immigration reform group FWD.us backed by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and others in the industry.

Ed Black of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, which represents several major tech firms, said the program has not always been administered as well as it could have been.

"We are hopeful something in the newly announced revisions will improve efficiency, but it's too soon to say what the impact will be in practice," Black said. The H-1B programme, in place since 1990, has been used for a variety of skilled occupations including nurses and pastry chefs, but in recent years two-thirds have been for computer-related jobs and three-fourths of the employees have come from India. Because visa-holders can stay up to six years, the number currently living in the United States is estimated at more than half a million.—AFP ■

Radio journalist shot dead in Mexico's latest media killing

MEXICO CITY (Mexico)—A Mexican radio journalist was shot dead on Saturday in a restaurant in Tabasco state, east of the capital, the latest victim in what has become one of the world's deadliest countries for the press.Jesus Ramos Rodriguez was killed in the town of Emiliano Zapata, an official from the local prosecutor's office told AFP. According to local media, Ramos had hosted a news bulletin for the 99.9 FM radio station for more than two decades.

The *El Universal* daily quoted witnesses as saying his assailant got out of a car and headed straight towards him, shooting him more than eight times at point blank range.The killing comes weeks after a community radio station director was murdered in the northern state of Baja California Sur, in the first such case of 2019.Rafael Murua, who had received death threats for his work, was found dead in a ditch on 20 January, after being reported missing.—AFP ■

Venezuelan military official drops allegiance to Maduro

The president of Venezuela's National Assembly and self-proclaimed acting president Juan Guaido delivers a speech at the Central Universidy of Venezuela (UCV) in Caracas on 8 February, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

CARACAS (Venezuela)—An active-duty Venezuelan army colonel who is a military doctor has dropped his allegiance to President Nicolas Maduro, backing opposition leader Juan Guaido instead.

"Ninety per cent of us in the armed forces are really unhappy," said Colonel Ruben Paz Jimenez said in a video released on Saturday "We are being used to keep them in power."

He urged his fellow soldiers to help allow humanitarian aid into Venezuela. The shipment of US aid is currently in Cucuta, Colombia, on the border. Maduro has vowed to prevent the aid from entering, labeling it a precursor of a US invasion. A week ago, Air Force General Francisco Yanez also dropped his allegiance to Maduro. The military's backing is critical to the sway of power in Venezuela.

Venezuela's self-proclaimed acting president Guaido on Friday refused to rule out the possibility of authorizing United States intervention to help force President Nicolas Maduro from power and alleviate a humanitarian crisis. The opposition leader launched a bid to oust Maduro last month, declaring himself interim president, a move recognized by the US and around 50 other countries, including 20 from the European Union.—AFP ■

US, N Korea to continue summit talks next week: Seoul

SEOUL (South Korea)—The United States and North Korea will hold further talks next week to prepare for a second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un later this month, Seoul said on Sunday.

The news comes after a day after Stephen Biegun, the US Special Representative for North Korea, said more dialogue was needed ahead of the summit scheduled in Viet Nam.

"North Korea and the US have agreed to continue negotiations in a third country in Asia during the week of 17 February," Seoul's presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom told reporters.

He did not provide further details.

In this file photo taken on 11 June, 2018 North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (r) walks with US President Donald Trump (l) during a break in talks at their historic US-North Korea summit, at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore. **PHOTO: AFP**

Biegun travelled to Pyongyang earlier this month for three days of preparatory meetings with North Korean officials, with the State Department saying the talks focused on Trump and Kim's "commitments of complete denuclearisation, transforming US-DPRK relations and building a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula".

Trump and Kim are due to meet in Hanoi from 27 to 28 February following their landmark first summit in Singapore last June.

That meeting—the first-ever between the leaders of the US and North Korea—produced a vaguely-worded document in which Kim pledged to work towards "the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula".

But progress has since stalled with the two sides disagreeing over what that means and analysts say tangible progress on denuclearisation will be needed for the second summit if it is to avoid being dismissed as "reality TV".

Trump's own intelligence chief, Dan Coats, have expressed scepticism over the North's denuclearisation, and told the Senate Intelligence Committee that Pyongyang was "unlikely to completely give up its nuclear weapons".—AFP ■

Malaysia's toppled leader to go on trial over 1MDB scandal

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia)—Malaysia's toppled leader Najib Razak will go on trial this week over an extraordinary financial scandal that contributed to the downfall of his long-ruling coalition and reverberated around the world. The former prime minister and his cronies are accused of stealing $4.5 billion from Malaysian sovereign wealth fund 1MDB in a mind-boggling fraud that stretched from Switzerland to the Seychelles.

The money was purportedly used to fund a global shopping spree—a $250-million super-yacht, high-end real estate, and Monet and Van Gogh artworks were among the items allegedly bought with cash plundered from public coffers.

Former Malaysia's prime minister Najib Razak. **PHOTO: AFP**

The scandal ensnared celebrities, with the fraud's suspected mastermind seen partying with Leonardo DiCaprio and Paris Hilton, while the new Malaysian government has accused Wall Street titan Goldman Sachs of stealing billions during its work with 1MDB. Public revulsion at the graft allegations played a large part in the election defeat of Najib—who set up the fund—and a coalition that had ruled Malaysia uninterrupted since independence from Britain in 1957.

Since his shock poll loss in May, the 65-year-old has been arrested and hit with 42 charges linked to the scandal. He has vehemently denied any wrongdoing. Far from keeping quiet, the aristocratic ex-leader has mounted a publicity blitz, seeking to present himself as a man of the people and constantly hurling jibes at the new government.

This week's trial, starting Tuesday, centres on allegations that 42 million ringgit ($10.3 million) was transferred from SRC International, a former 1MDB unit, into Najib's personal bank accounts. The case involves three counts of money-laundering, three of criminal breach of trust—where someone is accused of dishonestly using something entrusted to them—and one of abuse of power. Najib has pleaded not guilty to all the charges.—AFP ■

Artery forceps left in patient's stomach after hernia surgery in India

NEW DELHI—A doctor in an Indian government hospital has left a pair of artery forceps inside a woman patient's stomach while performing a hernia surgery on her earlier this week.

A second surgery was performed on her on Saturday and the artery forceps were successfully removed, according to official sources of the hospital in Hyderabad, capital city of India's southern state of Telangana.

After the first surgery, the woman was discharged from the Nizams Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) on Thursday, but was readmitted the same night after she complained of acute pain in her stomach.

On medical investigation it was found that the artery forceps were left inside her stomach.

Speaking to Xinhua over phone, NIMS Director Dr K Manohar said a second surgery was performed on the patient on Saturday morning and the artery forceps were successfully removed from her stomach, and that she was fine now.

"I have appointed a panel of senior doctors at the hospital to investigate into the matter and submit a report at the earliest," said the director.

"The local police have taken the old case sheet into their custody. As soon we get the panel's report, we will fix responsibility on the doctor who performed the earlier surgery and did this act of negligence."—AFP ■

Malaysian vessel collides with Greek ship near Singapore

SINGAPORE—A Malaysian government vessel that had been involved in a border dispute at sea between Singapore and Malaysia in recent months collided with a Greek bulk carrier on SaturdayThe Polaris, which had been parked in waters that Singapore claims to be part of its port limit, collided with Greece-registered bulk carrier Piraeus.It happened "in Singapore territorial waters within Singapore port limits off Tuas," the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore said in a statement.Piraeus was on its way from Singapore to its next port of call at Malaysia's Tanjung Pelepas port in Johor when the collision took place."MPA is deeply concerned that the presence of the unauthorized vessels in our port limits can cause confusion for the international shipping community and threaten navigational safety in our waters," the statement said.Singapore and Malaysia have been embroiled in a bilateral dispute over airspace and sea boundaries that flared up late last year but their foreign ministers had agreed in talks last month to take steps to ease bilateral tensions.The neighbouring countries have been accusing each other since late last year of cross-border policies that encroached on or inconvenienced each other's territory. The sea border dispute erupted when Malaysia extended its Johor Bahru port limits that Singapore claimed has the effect of encroaching into its waters.The Polaris was one of several ships that Malaysia deployed to the waters at the peak of the dispute last year, triggering sharp protests from Singapore.—Kyodo News ■

Russian Arctic archipelago sounds alarm over aggressive polar bears

MOSCOW (Russia)—A Russian Arctic archipelago on Saturday declared an emergency situation over an "invasion" of dozens of aggressive polar bears that have entered homes and public buildings.Russia's northeastern Novaya Zemlya archipelago, which has a population of around 3,000 people, has appealed for help to tackle "a mass invasion of polar bears into inhabited areas," regional authorities said in a statement.

Russian authorities have so far refused permission to shoot the bears but are sending a commission to investigate the situation and have not ruled out a cull. Polar bears are affected by global warming with melting Arctic ice forcing them to spend more time on land where they compete for food. They are recognized as an endangered species in Russia and hunting them is banned. Russia has air force and air defence troops based on Novaya Zemlya.

Polar bears are affected by global warming with melting Arctic ice forcing them to spend more time on land where they compete for food. **PHOTO: AFP**

Since December, 52 polar bears have regularly visited the archipelago's main settlement, Belushya Guba, with some displaying "aggressive behaviour," local official Alexander Minayev said in a report to regional authorities. This included "attacks on people and entering residential homes and public buildings," said Minayev, the deputy chief of the local administration."There are constantly 6 to 10 bears inside the settlement," he said."People are scared, they are afraid to leave their homes... parents are frightened to let their children go to schools and kindergartens."—AFP ■

Environmental test for new train link to Haneda to begin in spring

TOKYO—East Japan Railway Co will begin an environmental survey this spring in preparation for building a faster access line to Haneda airport from central Tokyo, sources familiar with the plan said on Saturday.

The company could announce its plan for the environment impact assessment by the end of this month. With the announcement, the capital's megaproject connecting the airport and major JR stations such as Tokyo and Shinjuku in roughly 20 minutes will move on in earnest.

If all goes smoothly, the new train line will be completed around 2029 after three years of the assessment and seven years of construction work.

Located about 15 kilometres south of central Tokyo, the major airport is expected to see even stronger travel demand, coupled with an increase in international flights as Tokyo hosts the Olympics and Paralympics in 2020.

Haneda airport in Tokyo in January 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Travelers will benefit from easier and faster access through three routes to the airport with the completion of the train line now expected to cost over 300 billion yen ($2.7 billion).JR East has requested financial support from the central and the Tokyo metropolitan governments.

The new line will connect Haneda airport with Tokyo Station in about 18 minutes and with Shinjuku in about 23 minutes. Tokyo Station is a transit hub for bullet train services bound for regions throughout Japan.

JR East has already conducted a boring survey at Haneda airport to build a new station. Through geological and other additional surveys, it plans to check the environmental impact of its construction work and train operation.Under the current plan, a 5.7-kilometre tunnel will be built to connect a new station at the airport and an existing freight terminal in Tokyo's Shinagawa Ward.—Kyodo News ■

NYDC NEW YANGON DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

New Yangon Development Company Limited (Registration No. 114946508) invites interested companies to begin the first step of NYDC Challenge for the below infrastructure projects for development of the New Yangon City Phase 1.

1) Power Supply and Distribution
2) Public Transport System
3) Cyber Connectivity Infrastructure
4) Municipal Waste Disposal
5) Natural Gas Supply and Distribution
6) Convention Center

The first step of NYDC Challenge is the selection of a qualified company who will undertake feasibility studies and prepare the Pre-Project Documents (PPD), at its own cost, which will be publicized for competitive tender bids. Please learn more about NYDC Challenge Tender Process on NYDC website nydc.com.mm.

Interested companies to take on the first step of NYDC Challenge for the above projects are expected to send their EOI to the contact provided below in either hard copy or electronic copy via email by 28 February 2019. EOI should be accompanied by brief background information of their organization illustrating their technical and financial capabilities for interested infrastructure projects. Pre-qualified companies will be invited to in-dept discussion for selection to undertake the first step of NYDC Challenge.

New Yangon Development Co., Ltd. (NYDC)
Atten: Corporate Development Department
56 Chindwin Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Phone:95-1-2306378;Website: nydc.com.mm
Email: corporate@nydc.com.mm

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Trade Mark Ads
Call
Thin Thin May,
09251022355
09974424848

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed bids are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medical and Laboratory Equipment by the loan of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the (2018-2019) Fiscal Year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services office No. (4), Ministry of Health and Sports commencing from (13.2.2019).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the Office not later than (13.3.2019), 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the phone No. 067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Department of Medical Services
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (907N/908S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (907N/908S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DATA CENTRE OPERATORS FOR A DATA CENTRE WITHIN MICT PARK, YANGON, MYANMAR

Myanmar ICT Development Corporation Limited (MICTDC) hereby announces that it is seeking reputable Data Centre Operators/Operation Partner with experience in operating a Data Center. Interested parties may submit an EOI to request the project detail and EOI Questionnaire for prequalification from Project Manager of MICTDC. The EOI may include whatever information the interested party sees fit to submit and must be delivered in written form to operating@mictdc.com.mm before 27 February 2018, 1:00pm.

Myanmar ICT Development Corporation Limited

Thousands of Chinese pray to the God of Wealth

WUHAN (China)—Thousands of Chinese worshippers crowded into a temple in the middle of the country on Saturday to pay homage to the God of Wealth and pray for good fortune. Devotees flock to the Guiyuan Temple in Wuhan in central China on the 5th day of every Lunar New Year, to mark the birthday of the god Caishen.

Braving the pre-dawn cold, young and old brought handfuls of incense sticks to burn in the courtyard of the vast Buddhist temple. Worshippers burn incense and other offerings on a scale much larger than at any other festival in China. Flames flicker in the darkness, with the burning producing so much ash that employees of the temple need to regularly take it away by the shovel-load. In recent years, the event has attracted more than 100,000 people to the temple each day, according to state media.

"Chinese tradition says that it is the birthday of Caishen, so I am here to celebrate," Gong Xinwen, a young woman who has been coming to the temple with her parents since she was young, told AFP. This year, she has a special request for Caishen—that she may have a child during the year of the Pig, that will carry the animal's zodiac sign, which is associated with good fortune.

"The pig is a blessing," she explains. The Chinese zodiac has 12 signs, one for each year. In the middle of the temple stands a giant statue of Guanyin, the goddess of mercy, who is often approached by those seeking to have a child.

On Monday night and into Tuesday, the Chinese celebrated the Lunar New Year, which falls on a different date each year, although always in January or February. The most important holiday of the Chinese calendar, the New Year is marked with a fortnight of festivities as reunited families wrap dumplings together and exchange gifts and red envelopes stuffed with money

In a country with almost 200 million internal migrants, the return home by workers during the festival season is the world's largest annual migration.—AFP ■

Chinese worshippers offer prayers and burn incense on the fifth day of the Lunar New Year at the Guiyuan Buddhist Temple in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province on 9 February , 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Prince Philip. **PHOTO: AFP**

Prince Philip, 97, gives up licence after car crash

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Queen Elizabeth II's 97-year-old husband Prince Philip on Saturday surrendered his driving licence after causing a car crash that outraged the media and raised a debate about old age and driving.

Buckingham Palace said he took the decision on his own after rolling over his Land Rover last month.

"After careful consideration the Duke of Edinburgh has taken the decision to voluntarily surrender his driving licence," Buckingham Palace said in a brief statement.

A witness told British media that Philip emerged unharmed but "shocked and shaken" from the smashup with the much smaller Kia hatchback.

Police said a nine-month-old baby who was in the back seat of Kia was uninjured. One woman in the vehicle broke her wrist and the other cut her knee.

Philip came under strong media criticism for failing to quickly and publically apologise for causing the accident.

The same witness said Philip had told police he was "blinded by the sun" when he turned onto the road without seeing the oncoming car.

The critics were out again when Philip was photographed two days later driving a replacement Range Rover without a seatbelt. Philip retired from public life in 2017 and underwent a hip replacement operation last April. He is famous in Britain for his forthright manner and his love for speed.

The royal family website says the duke "learned to fly all type of aircraft" after passing a Royal Air Force test in 1953.—AFP ■

Music's top stars set for Grammys gala

LOS ANGELES (United States)—The music world will hit the red carpet on Sunday for the Grammys, with a wider selection of nominees—led by hip-hop royalty and a bevy of talented women—up for the top prizes.

The televised bash in Los Angeles, which kicks off at 5:00 pm (0100 GMT Monday) at the Staples Centre, is not without controversy, as the Recording Academy grapples with how to embrace diversity in its ranks. For the second consecutive year, black hip-hop artists are leading the pack—but observers are still wondering if nominations success can translate into wins.

Rapper Kendrick Lamar—who won a Pulitzer Prize for his album "DAMN." but has yet to snare a Grammy for Album of the Year—earned eight nods while Canadian rapper Drake snagged seven. Women artists scored nominations in all of the top categories, after being largely muted a year ago: rapper Cardi B, pop diva Lady Gaga, pop futurist Janelle Monae and folk rocker Brandi Carlile are among the frontrunners. In the Best New Artist category, six of the eight nominees are women.

Grande backs out

But controversy was threatening the gala before it even began, with a number of superstars declining to take part in the show's glitzy concert portion.

Untouchable pop star Ariana Grande—who dropped her highly anticipated album "Thank U, Next" just before the Grammys —slammed producer Ken Ehrlich over her decision not to perform, suggested he was "lying" about her readiness. Drake, Lamar and Childish Gambino—the rap alter-ego of actor Donald Glover—have also all turned down performance offers, and it was not clear if they would even attend. This year, Academy voters did pass on nominating perennial favourites like Taylor Swift for the top three prizes of Album, Record and Song of the Year, relegating pop stars who reigned in years prior to lesser categories.

US singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile, 2019's most nominated woman artist, arrives at a pre-Grammy event on the eve of the awards show. **PHOTO:AFP**

Praise for women 'overdue'

Women are also hoping to get their due after the head of the Recording Academy—which includes more than 13,000 music professionals—told them last year to "step up" if they wanted to do better on Grammys night.

The brazen comment drew outrage and prompted the executive, Neil Portnow, to say he would resign when his contract expires this summer. This year, five of the eight Album of the Year nominations went to female artists: Cardi B, Carlile, Monae, R&B prodigy H.E.R. and country star Kacey Musgraves. Lady Gaga scooped up five nominations including for both Record and Song of the Year for her heart-pounding hit "Shallow," which she performed in the film "A Star Is Born" with co-star Bradley Cooper.—AFP ■

Latest signal from Spektr-R space radio telescope received on 5 February — source

MOSCOW—The latest signal from Russia's Spektr-R space radio telescope was received by the US-based Green Bank station on 5 February, a rocket and space industry source has told TASS.

The source said the signal was sent by the telescope's system, which transmits scientific data to ground stations.

"The latest signal was detected by the Green Bank station on 5 February ," the source said.

He said that scientists would keep trying to regain control over the faulty satellite.

On 11 January, problems with Spektr-R were reported by the media. Russian Academy of Sciences member and chief of the Astrospace Centre of the Lebedev Physics Institute (RadioAstron project client) Nikolai Kardashov told TASS that the signal from the space apparatus continued to be received but there were problems with controlling the satellite. Roscosmos later told the media that space satellites control group specialists were trying to eliminate the satellite's glitches. Also, the space corporation said that the radio telescope had exceeded its expected life cycle by 2.5 times.—TASS ■

New Zealanders with hepatitis C benefit from life-saving cure

WELLINGTON—Tens of thousands of New Zealanders suffering from hepatitis C are set to benefit from a life-saving cure for the disease which is available from Friday. Decision of the Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) to fund new drug Maviret is a big step forward for the treatment of hepatitis C in New Zealand, Health Minister David Clark said in a statement.

"There are around 21,000 people diagnosed with hepatitis C in New Zealand and a further 30,000 are thought to have the disease but are undiagnosed. All of these people will potentially benefit from Maviret," Clark said. Previous treatments were only available to around 3,000 people due to the type of hepatitis C they had, according to the minister. "Maviret will cure more than 99 per cent of New Zealanders with hepatitis C, regardless of the type or severity of liver disease and previous treatment," he said.

This provides a unique opportunity to eliminate hepatitis C from New Zealand, and should save 2,500 lives and removes the need for more than 500 liver transplants, statistics showed."Maviret is a simpler treatment, just one daily dose for a minimum of eight weeks. It also has fewer side effects and fewer interactions with other medicines, which should be reassuring for patients," Clark said.

The government is committed to building a strong, effective and equitable public health service for all New Zealanders, he said, adding it aims to eliminate viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030.—Xinhua ■

Photo taken on 8 February, 2019 shows an inland expedition team of China's 35th Antarctic expedition on its journey in Antarctica. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Chinese researchers in Antarctica arrive at Zhongshan Station after six-day journey

ANTARCTICA—A total of 37 members on China's 35th Antarctic research mission on Friday night arrived at the Zhongshan Station after a six-day 520-km journey amid storms.

They started off from the Taishan Station on 3 Febreuary, which, at an altitude of 2,621 metres, is located between the Zhongshan and the Kunlun Stations. The stations are the latest three out of the four scientific research bases on the Antarctic ice sheet built by China since 1964.

The Chinese researchers, 21 of them from the Taishan team and 16 from the Kunlun team, came to Zhongshan after successfully completing their tasks. The two teams together departed on 18 December from near Zhongshan for their missions.

The Taishan team completed the construction project of the supporting facilities at Taishan in 38 days, a week ahead of schedule. Taishan was put into operation in February 2014 after its main building on the ground was completed.

The Kunlun team conducted research works on astronomy, ice berg and surveying and mapping, among other things. For instance, they on 7 February set up a new automatic meteorological station, some 100 km away from Zhongshan. The team members arrived at Taishan on 31 January to join the researchers there.

The members of the two teams are scheduled to board on China's icebreaker Xuelong on 15 February, leaving Antarctica for home. They are expected to arrive in Shanghai on 10 March.—Xinhua ■

Russian space corporation confirms readiness to launch EgyptSat-A February 21, says source

MOSCOW—Specialists of Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos confirmed technical readiness to launch the EgyptSat-A satellite from the Baikonur launch site on 21 February, a source in the domestic rocket and space industry told TASS on Friday.

"Technical readiness of the spacecraft, the rocket and the launch site for the launch on 21 February in interests of Egypt was confirmed on Thursday," the source said.

The EgyptSat-A Earth's remote sensing satellite was developed by the Russian Energia Space Rocket Corporation instead of the EgyptSat-2 vehicle that went out of order in 2015.

The Egyptian satellite was expected to be launched on 22 November, 2018 but the launch was rescheduled for 27 December, then for 7 February, 2019 and then for 21 February. The satellite was made for the Egyptian National Authority for Remote Sensing.—Tass ■

Highlights of China's science and technology news

BEIJING—The following are the highlights of China's science and technology news from the past week:

—Archaeological discoveries and studies have shown that China was one of the earliest places in the world to domesticate pigs about 9,000 years ago.

The research confirms that pig bones excavated from the Jiahu relic site in Wuyang County, central China's Henan Province, date back 9,000 years ago and belong to domestic pigs.

—Scientists have developed structural brain atlases for the Chinese pediatric population, offering a basic tool for future studies on Chinese children's brain development.

—A study by Chinese and Australian astronomers has developed the world's first accurate three-dimensional picture of the Milky Way's warped appearance, showing that the galaxy's disc is not flat but warped and twisted far away from the center.

—A joint study by researchers from China, Spain and Denmark has revealed the evolutionary history of crested ibis through complete genomic sequences of modern and historic population samples, offering references for better protection of this endangered species.

—Researchers have revealed that China has made great efforts to protect and restore natural ecosystems in its arid and semiarid zones.

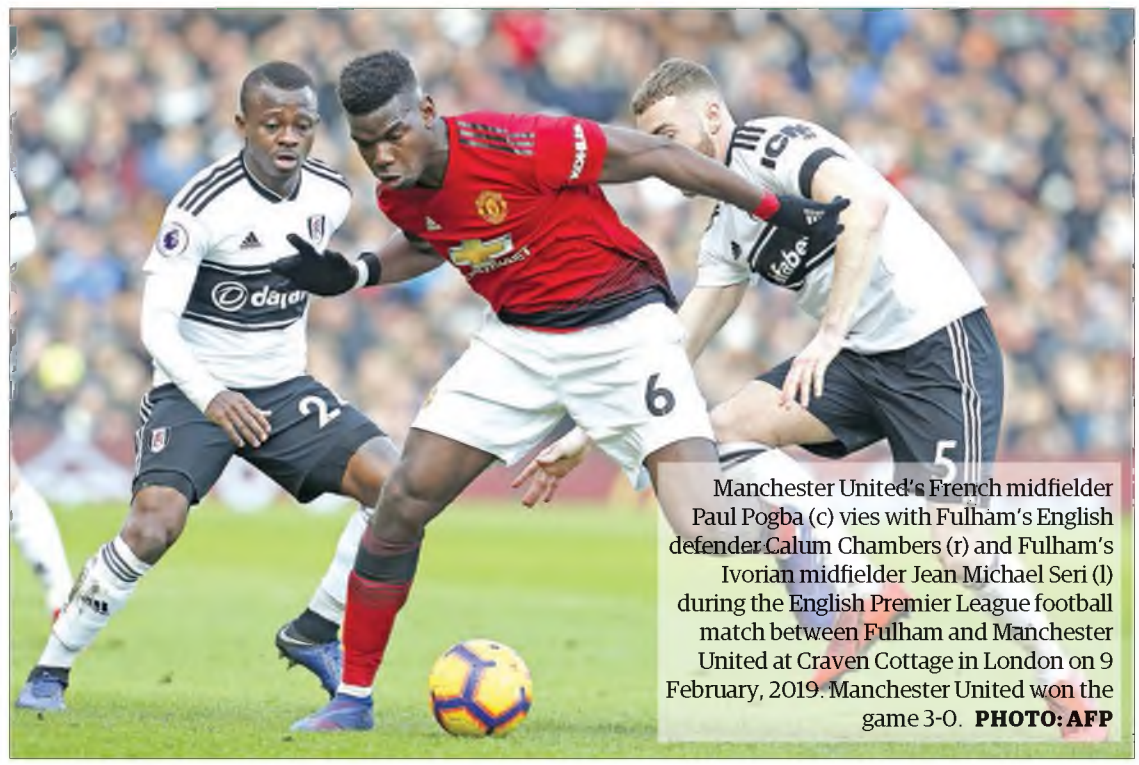
A total of 1,936 square kilometers of farmland areas were returned to forestland, 5,099 square kilometers to grasslands and 697 square kilometers to wetlands. The existing natural ecosystems have been improved due to effective conservation and more suitable climates, the study said.

—A recent study shows that more than 30,000 cases of infectious diseases were imported to the Chinese mainland from 2005 to 2016, and the types of imported infectious diseases increased from two in 2005 to 11 in 2016.—Xinhua ■

PSG win, but Cavani causes new injury headache before Man Utd clash

PARIS (France)—An injury to Edinson Cavani gave Paris Saint-Germain fresh cause for concern on Saturday as the French club's huge Champions League showdown with Manchester United approaches. Cavani appeared to hurt his leg while taking the penalty three minutes before half-time that gave PSG a 1-0 win over Bordeaux at the Parc des Princes in Ligue 1. Television replays showed the Uruguayan grimacing and asking to be substituted. He left the pitch moments later and was replaced by Kylian Mbappe at half-time. An injury to Cavani, who is PSG's all-time leading scorer and has netted 22 times this season in all competitions, would be another huge blow to the French champions ahead of Tuesday's game at Old Trafford. They are already missing Neymar for the Champions League last-16 tie against a resurgent United, with the Brazilian not expected back from a metatarsal injury until early April. He was in attendance at Saturday's game, which saw Marco Verratti make his return to action after three weeks out with an ankle injury. The win allowed PSG—whose shirts carried the players' names in Mandarin in a nod to the Chinese New Year—to get back on track after last week's 2-1 loss at Lyon, their first Ligue 1 defeat this season.

The reigning champions are 13 points clear at the top with a game in hand on second-placed Lille, who visit bottom side Guingamp on Sunday Such is their margin for error domestically that coach Thomas Tuchel could afford to wrap a host of key players in cotton wool with one eye on the Champions League. As a result, Mbappe started on the bench while Angel di Maria, Marquinhos, Juan Bernat, Thilo Kehrer and Julian Draxler—all probable starters in midweek—were left out of the squad completely Meanwhile, Verratti lasted just under an hour before making way for recent signing Leandro Paredes, and Tuchel must now decide whether to start the Italian playmaker in England. Cavani and Moussa Diaby came close for the home side in the first half-hour, either side of Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting being denied by a terrific save from Bordeaux 'keeper Benoit Costil. Bordeaux had held PSG at home when the teams met in December, but they were undone late in the first half here as Nicolas de Preville fouled Thomas Meunier in the box, and Cavani netted from 12 yards. Mid-table Bordeaux slumped to a fourth straight loss between league and cup, although they nearly equalised on the hour mark when Francois Kamano's first-time shot from 20 yards was superbly saved by Gianluigi Buffon.—AFP ■



Manchester United's French midfielder Paul Pogba (c) vies with Fulham's English defender Calum Chambers (r) and Fulham's Ivorian midfielder Jean Michael Seri (l) during the English Premier League football match between Fulham and Manchester United at Craven Cottage in London on 9 February, 2019. Manchester United won the game 3-0. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pogba warns 'big games' lie in wait for resurgent Manchester United

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Paul Pogba said greater challenges lay ahead of Manchester United after scoring twice in a 3-0 win away to Premier League strugglers Fulham on Saturday.

The France midfielder fired United into an early lead and, after Anthony Martial made it 2-0, wrapped up the win with a second-half penalty at Craven Cottage.

Victory continued United's revival under caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as they climbed into fourth in the Premier League, one point above Chelsea, who face Manchester City on Sunday

By contrast, United were 11 points adrift of the top four when Jose Mourinho was sacked as their manager in December.

"It feels great, that's what we wanted since Ole came," Pogba, who had a strained relationship with Mourinho, told Sky Sports. "We talked about this there's still a long way to go but we want to stay there."

United have won 10 of their 11 matches since former Red Devils striker Solskjaer returned to Old Trafford.

"We were very far behind and now we get back to the top four but there's still a long way to go with big games coming up so it won't be easy," Pogba said ahead of a Champions League last 16 first leg against Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday

"It will be the big games coming up now that decide where we end the season."

As for his goal double against Fulham, Pogba said: "It's always great to score goals, most important is to win games. When you score but don't win it's not the same feeling.—AFP ■

Guardiola urges Fernandinho to drop back for a future

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Pep Guardiola believes his brilliant Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho can extend his Manchester City career by moving back to central defence on a permanent basis as he ages. The 33-year-old has been a key figure in the success enjoyed by Guardiola over the past two seasons and in City's ongoing bid to retain their Premier League title.

His versatility has also seen him look increasingly effective on occasion at centre-half, a role he performed so effectively in last weekend's comfortable 3-1 win over Arsenal.Now Guardiola, who extended Javier Mascherano's career at Barcelona with a similar positional switch, reckons Fernandinho could benefit from the same move in England.

"I think he can play in that position, I am pretty sure," said City manager Guardiola ahead of Sunday's match at home to Chelsea, where a win for his side would likely see them leapfrog Liverpool into first place on goal difference, albeit having played one game more, after their title rivals 3-0 victory over Bournemouth on Saturday.

Pep Guardiola. **PHOTO: AFP**

"He is fast, he is strong in the air, good going backwards and when he sees the football in front of him, his vision for the pass inside, switch of play is excellent," the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss explained. "So he is intelligent to go forward or go backwards, so he understands everything. Of course he has to train more at it. I think he can do it, but his position is as a midfield player."

Guardiola appeared to have gambled last week when he left England centre-half John Stones on the bench and played Fernandinho in the heart of City's defence instead. And he joked that should that ploy fail next time, he knows what reaction he can expect for his selection. "I know what is going to happen, we are going to lose when Fernandinho plays in that position," he said. "I am a genius, huh? —AFP ■

Everton's Zouma sent off after Watford defeat

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Everton's woes in a 1-0 defeat away to Watford on Saturday were compounded by the unusual sight of Kurt Zouma being sent off after the full-time whistle. Zouma saw red after complaining to referee Lee Probert about a Watford corner awarded in the build-up to Andre Gray's lone goal of the Premier League game at Vicarage Road. It all added to an unhappy day for Everton manager Marco Silva on his return to former club Watford, with the Toffees now having lost nine of their last 13 matches in all competitions.

"Sometimes it is not easy to be calm, and in that moment, the referee has to understand because many, many mistakes are going against our team," said Silva."What Kurt said to the referee is what all the other players were saying in that moment. He is speaking about the corner. It wasn't a corner. "If they can see that, how is it possible that the referee and the assistant couldn't see it?" Silva added after a result that saw eighth-placed Watford go four points clear of Everton.—AFP ■