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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Salon ethnic people with their traditional performance in Ma Gyun Galet Salon (Moken) Village, Myeik. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

State Counsellor visits Pearl Island, Lampi Marine National Park, meets Salon ethnic people

THE Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was in Myeik Town, Taninthayi Region arrived to Bokpyin Township Pearl Island by Tatmadaw helicopter yesterday morning. She was accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu and U Ohn Win, Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win, Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo and officials.

At Pearl Island, the Sate Counsellor inspected the oyster breeding, insertion of nucleus into the oyster and stages of pearl production conducted by Myanma Pearl Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The State Counsellor then cordially greeted staffs working in Pearl Island and invited them to submit their requirements and directed the officials to apply for funds to repair and maintain the staff houses.

Myanma Pearl Enterprise had been culturing pearl in Pearl Island starting from 1963. State-own Myanma Pearl Enterprise also started joint venture pearl culture work with local and foreign companies starting from year 2000 in Magyipin Hsaung and Zinyaw islands in Bokpyin Township; Jalan, Nga Lone Laphe, St. Luke, Myaukni and Myuakphyu islands in Kawthoung Township; Nat Tha Mee Ye Dwin, Pyin Sa Bu, Do Me and Don Pa Le islands in Kyunsu Township; and Mali Island in Palaw Township.

Arrangements were made for local and foreign visitors to visit the pearl farms and from 2018 October to 2019 January more than K 32 million of income was achieved through travel related jobs.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Eleventh regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 12th-day meeting

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

By Kyaw Thu Htat, Lu Maw

A 12th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday morning at Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw where questions raised were answered, a motion rejected for discussion and two bills discussed and approved.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session questions on upgrading of roads were raised by U Lagan Zal Jon of Waingmaw constituency and U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyai constituency and were answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

Similarly, questions on upgrading, construction and maintenance of bridges raised by Dr. Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin of Singaing constituency, Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency, U Ne Lin Aung of Mindat constituency, U Sai Tun Sein of Mongpyin constituency and U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk constituency were answered by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw.

Motion rejected by Hluttaw for discussion

Following the question and answer session U Than Soe Aung of Pyinmana constituency tabled and explained a motion on project proposals for construction works using public fund to include feasibility study, design, drawing, estimate and BQs.

When the motion was voted upon by the Hluttaw, majority voted against discussing the motion and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's rejection on accepting and discussing the motion.

Hluttaw discuss, decide and approves two bills

Next, Hluttaw discussed, decided and approved Major Bridge bill and Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions Bill that were approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments. The 13th-day meeting of eleventh regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled for today it is learnt. ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 12th-day meeting

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

By Aung Ye Thwin

A 12th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw where questions raised were answered and a tabled motion accepted for discussion.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session, questions raised by Daw Thiri Yadana of Mon State constituency 12, U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2, U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 2, U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9, U Kyaw Swe of Magway Region constituency 11 and U Mahn Law Moung of Chin State constituency 8 were answered by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and Union Civil Service Board member U Saw Valentine.

Motion to review National Land Use Policy to establish National Land Law

Following the question and answer session Dr. Pyae Phyo of Ayeyawady Region constituency 7 explained and tabled a motion urging the government to review National Land Use Policy to establish a National Land Law. The motion was supported by U Sai Wan Hlaing Khem of Shan State constituency 3.

As there was no objection toward the motion, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's acceptance of the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names. The 13th-day meeting of eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 15 February it is learnt. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Ethnic literature and culture groups begin exploring Nay Pyi Taw

MEMBERS of ethnic literature and culture groups from throughout the states and regions began the first day of their field trip to Nay Pyi Taw by first visiting the Water Fountain Garden yesterday

The field trip is organized by the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and includes 44 association members from Shan State (North) and 37 from Rakhine State with officials from the ministry acting as guides.

The trip intends to create opportunities for different ethnic nationals to engage in cultural exchange and foster close relations so as to strengthen the Union spirit among them.

The field trip is planned for four days and will take the group around Nay Pyi Taw to visit Buddha Gaya and Uppatasanti Pagoda, National Landmark Garden, Zoological Gardens, National Museum, The Gems Museum, Nga Laik Dam elephant camp, and Myanma Radio and Television-MRTV station (Tatkon). ■ —MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Ethnic literature and cultural groups pose for the documentary photo during their tirp to the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor visits Pearl Island, Lampi Marine National Park, meets Salon ethnic people

FROM PAGE-1

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the pearl farm on the Pearl Island, Bokpyin Township in Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

The State Counsellor and party then inspected islands in Bokpyin and Kawthoung townships by speed boat and arrived to Wa Ale Island in Lampi Marine National Park where Forest Department Director-General Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw explained about particulars of Lampi Marine National Park and works conducted for development of nature based travel in Lampi Marine National Park.

Lampi Marine National Park is situated in Taninthayi Region Bokpyin and Kawthoung townships covering an area of 50,528.73 acres. It was designated as a marine national park in 1996 and is the one and only marine national park in Myanmar. It was designated as ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003 and had evergreen forests, mangroves, sand banks, coral reefs and underwater grasses in it. Next, State Counsellor and party arrived to Kawthoung Township Ma Gyun Galet Salon (Moken) village and met with the local populace.

At the meeting, the State Counsellor said our country is a union and it is a wide union. However wide and big, all ethnic people are of equal importance and even though the numbers of Salons are not much compared to the most populous ethnic Bamas, they are equally important and valued. That is why the government would want to work for the benefit of all Salone ethnic people.

In order to do this, it is important to know the requirements. It isn't easy to understand from afar the real situation even if many reports were given. Therefore, we came so that people can take the opportunity to tell about their requirements. Please tell openly what you need while we are here, said the State Counsellor.

Our country's development is mainly dependent on the trust between the people and the government. It will be difficult to achieve success if there is no trust.

We want Salon ethnic people to develop. We want to create opportunities for ethnic Salon people to maintain their culture and practices. All ethnic people are to value their cultures and every culture had valuables. However it needs to develop in accordance to the time. At this meeting we want Salon ethnic people to openly tell of their requirement to develop and improve their lives so that we can help. We'll do the best we can and if there are things that could not be done immediately, we'll try to do it as soon as possible. It is very important for all of us to discuss with trust in one another.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes various types of pearls at the pearl farm on the Pearl Island, Bokpyin Township in Taninthayi Region yesterday. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

> ... the numbers of Salons are not much compared to the most populous ethnic Bamas, they are equally important and valued.

We learnt that Salon ethnic people are very resilient and courageous. Do not feel small because you are not as developed as other ethnic nationals. All had their strengths and weaknesses. Some may be visually rich then you are but they have many weaknesses that you didn't see. So believe in yourself. We want Salon ethnic people to preserve and maintain their traditions and practices. Face life with courage.

There are two important things. One is health. Our Salon ethnic people should take care of their health. Only when you are healthy can you stand on your own feet in the future.

Second is education. We'll need to give good education to Salon youths. Only then can they have the ability to retain their good cultures and traditions. They'll have the ability to progress and develop according to the time and era. Tell us of your requirements in education. Our education system may not be appropriate for Salon ethnic people. If that is so we'll change where it should be changed. Education is not something that you get in the school only. The skills and abilities of your traditions are also education. Salon ethnic people are experts in jobs related to the sea. It is important to possess these skills. Getting an education is maintaining the traditional skills and to obtain new expertise. So please openly tell us about your education and other requirements said the State Counsellor.

SEE PAGE-4

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with local residents in Ma Gyun Galet Salon (Moken) Village, Kawthoung Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor visits Pearl Island, Lampi Marine National Park, meets Salon ethnic people

FROM PAGE-3

Salon Ethnic people and local populace then spoke of meeting the wish of elderly Salon ethnic people who want to return to their places of birth, to designate rules and regulations for fishing boats to abide by rules on fishing nets to maintain the traditional small scale fishing practices, create work opportunities for long term livelihood, fulfill requirement in nurses and doctors, conduct practical research on ten islands where Salon ethnic people live and conduct arrangements for long term development, arrange travel businesses that directly benefits Salon ethnic people, recognize youth welfare groups in Salon villages, permitting local visitors to stay overnight in Salon villages, recognize the name of Nyaung Whee village and provide a clinic and a middle school and to construct mobile phone communication tower in Ma Gyun Galet Salon Village.

The State Counsellor responded and said systematic study of vocational works will be conducted for the livelihood of the local populace. Emphasis will be placed toward providing health care as soon as possible. Field inspection and study of ten Salon islands will be conducted by a team formed with five ministries and long term plans will be formulated and implemented, said the State Counsellor. The State Counsellor also explained in details on immediate plans and long term time consuming plans that will be implemented.

> Field inspection and study of ten Salon islands will be conducted by a team formed with five ministries.

After the meeting the State Counsellor presented foods for locals in Ma Gyun Galet Salon (Moken) village and local officials presented a traditional Salon boat to the State Counsellor. The State Counsellor then took commemorative group photo with Ma Gyun Galet Salon (Moken) village ethnic Salon villagers, local populace and youth welfare group.

Salons stay in group and are known as Sea Gypsy or Men (people) of the sea. They prefer themselves to be called as Moken rather than Salon and Salon are the distinct identity of Myeik archipelago. Their culture and lives are distinct from other ethnic nationals and races. They do not settle and live in a place but travel and live on the sea instead. They are skilled at swimming and diving and are known to be able to dive for considerable time without any breathing apparatus.

They do not farm or raise animal but lived through fishing, diving for pearls and used Salon traditional wooden boats called Kaban. They kept their utensils, food, water, dogs, cats and chickens on their boats.

During the summer and winter, they fish, sell aquatic products and during raining season and when weather is bad, they lived on bamboo stilt houses on nearby islands or in caves. They do not mix with other and had their own traditional belief of spirits. There are about 3,000 Salons in 10 groups with nine living in Myanmar and one in Thailand.

From Ma Gyun Galet, the State Counsellor and party left by speed boat for Kawthoung where the locals welcome them enthusiastically — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts a scale model of traditional Salon boat from local officials in Ma Gyun Galet Salon (Moken) village, Kawthoung Township, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presents food for local Salon people through two representatives of Ma Gyun Galet Salon (Moken) village, Kawthoung Township, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Myint Swe calls for setting deadline for 7 ongoing coastal tasks

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe, the Chairman of the National Level Central Committee for the Administration and Management of Natural Resources in Coastal Areas, called for setting a time frame to complete seven ongoing tasks of the committee as they are considered long-term projects.

Out of 40 resolutions laid down in five meetings of the committee, 33 have been implemented and seven are ongoing, according to the sixth meeting of the committee held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers U Aung Thu, Chief Ministers of Regions and States U Win Thein, Dr. Aye Zan, U Nyi Pu, U Phyo Min Thein and U Hla Moe Aung, Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Commander General Staff (Navy) Captain Zaw Zaw Latt, Permanent Secretaries of the ministries, directors-general and officials.

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 6th meeting of the National Level Central Committee for the Administration and Management of Natural Resources in Coastal Areas in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The achievements of the committee include installation of vessel monitoring system, preparation for establishing coast guard force, drafting a plan for preventing oil spill into the Yangon River, stepped up efforts for conservation and beautifying the coasts and implementation of coastal areas management projects.

The Vice President said the committee laid down the "Participation" work process with four objectives to attract those who are connected with the natural resources in coastal areas to the implementation of the committee.

The "Participation" program is aimed at getting new idea, concepts and experiences to be taken into account when new projects are drafted, making decision together with those who are connected with the projects giving priorities to their needs and reaping good results from effective implementation of the projects which can give guarantee to success.

"When managing the coast areas, inclusive cooperation comes as a special requirement because implementing one sector can impact to another sector," said the Vice President.

Clearing mangrove forests for a project impacts the fish and prawn breeding projects, illegal fishing hits the manageable fishing by local people and nature tourism, and marine pollution caused by natural gas and sand extraction harms the fish and prawn production, he said.

"Great care should be taken to ensure that the implementation of a project should not impact others," said Vice President U Myint Swe. "For example, the increased population and the developing economy have led to greater extraction of natural resources in the coastal areas, and this has resulted in the depletion of natural resources and has harmed the socio-economic status of the local people," said Vice President U Myint Swe.

"The respective district-level committees are urged to step up their efforts for implementing community-based projects such as community-owned forests, community-based sea management, and community-based tourism," he added. The Vice President also called for stepping up efforts for conservation of biodiversity and educative awareness.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu reported on ongoing fish and ecosystem research, fighting against illegal fishing; Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe on sustainable development of coastal areas and marine ecosystems; Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein on implementation of resolutions of the previous meetings; Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan on conservation of marine resources and coastal areas; Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu on short-term and long-term projects and beautifying of beaches; Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein on conservation of water resource, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung on conservation of mangrove forests and systematic garbage system at beaches, Taninthayi Region Forest Departement's assistant director on formation of mangrove forests and forest reserves, fighting illegal fishing and Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint on legal affairs related with management on natural resources at coastal areas.

Myanmar's coastal areas, which stretch up to 2,832 kilometers, abounding with important natural ecosystems in the environs of the Indian Ocean.—MNA

Union Supreme Court, states/regions High Courts hold coord meeting

A 16th coordination meeting of Union Supreme Court and states/regions High Courts was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of Union Supreme Court, Nay Pyi Taw where Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo attended and delivered an opening speech.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo said judiciary work is the main job of the courts and the works of courts at states, regions, districts and townships are to be managed so that cases are heard and decided in a timely manner, fairly, without bias and corruption. The judicial pillar is to be straight and firm. More emphasis is to be placed toward the people having access to news and information about courts and efforts must be made toward maintaining the good name of the courts and raise the trust and reliance of the people on courts.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo delivers the speech at the 16th coordination meeting of the Union Supreme Court and state and region High Courts in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

On cases that are being filed and decided from 1 January to 31 December 2018, Union Chief Justice said the Union Supreme Court accepted 2,001 criminal, 2,750 civil and 317 writs cases of which 2,010 criminal (including 9 cases from past year), 2,860 civil (including 110 cases from past year) and 333 writs cases (including 16 cases from past year) were decided.

States/regions High Courts accepted 7,381 criminal and 6,076 civil cases of which 7,073 criminal and 5,161 civil cases were decided.

District courts accepted 23,829 criminal and 13,393 civil cases of which 22,414 criminal and 11,853 civil cases were decided. Township courts accepted 315,023 criminal and 29,162 civil cases of which 310,790 criminal and 27,459 civil cases were decided.

Juvenile Courts (Yangon and Mandalay) received 351 cases and 394 (including 43 from past year) were decided. Municipal Courts (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay) accepted 14,067 cases and decided 14,259 cases that include 192 cases from last year.

Traffic offence courts (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay) accepted and decided on 119,662 cases. Countrywide, more cases were completed compared to last year but target had not been reached yet and thus cases are urged to be managed effectively according to the law said the Union Chief Judge.

The coordination meeting was attended by Supreme Court Judges, States/Regions Chief Judges, Permanent Secretary, directors general, deputy directors general and directors from Union Supreme Court Office and Office of the Union Judiciary Supervision, States/Regions chief law officers and district judges. The coordination meeting will be held until 16 February it is learnt.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Senior General gives interview to Asahi Shimbun

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave an interview to Mr. Ryuta Sometaya, Yangon Head of Asahi Shimbun News at Bayintnaung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw and who then interviewed the Senior General.

The interview covers view of the Tatmadaw on amending the 2008 Constitution, participation and conduct of Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives who make up 25 per cent of the Hluttaw representatives, international allegations against the conduct of the government and Tatmadaw in Rakhine State without knowing the real situation, status of work conducted by Tatmadaw for participation of all ethnic armed organisations in the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA) and the assistance and help provided by China and Japan on peace process in Myanmar and regional development according to news released by the Office of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is interviewed by Mr. Ryuta Sometaya, Head of the Yangon branch of Asahi Shimbum News, at Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO MNA**

SWRR Ministry, Norway Embassy discuss humanitarian work

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) Dr. Win Myat Aye separately received the Norwegian Ambassador, executive members of Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA) and representatives of Open Society Foundation at the minister's office yesterday

In the meeting with the Norwegian Ambassador, information works conducted on danger of landmines, status of rehabilitating people hurt by landmines, agenda of workshop on Mine Treaty to be held on 5 March, possibility of Myanmar signing the Mine Ban Treaty, present status of works on peace, stability and socio-economic development in Rakhine State and status of cooperation with ASEAN countries and AHA Centre were discussed. In the meeting with executive members of MPHA matters relating to development of handicapped persons, job opportunities, status of cooperation between the ministry and MPHA on daily movement of handicapped persons, forming of committees and work committees to conduct works effectively after enacting handicap law and rules, status of cooperating with relevant governments and leaders of not only the union but states/regions and self-administered zones and region for development of handicapped persons, support for handicapped persons, categorizing, registration and issuing of identities according to handicap categories were discussed.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

SWRR ministry meets with OSF

In the meeting with representatives of Open Society Foundation cooperation in drawing up curriculum for early childhood care one month to three month courses, linkage and connection between such courses and early childhood care diploma course, cooperation between Ministry of Education and SWRR Ministry on all inclusive education system for handicapped persons etc. were discussed.

Earlier on the morning of 13 February the Union Minister accepted Ks 30 million donated by Dr. Win Myint and wife Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khaing Khaing Oo and family of Myat Myitta Mon Company to provide water and construct latrines for peoples displaced by armed conflicts. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

UPR's recommendations for ratification of CRC-OPAC, signing of ICCPR discussed

A coordination meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 14 February 2019 relating to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group's recommendations on the second Myanmar National Report of November 2015 which were to be implemented by two Working Committees headed by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation.

The meeting was attended by officials concerned who are members of the Working Committees.

The first Working Committee is responsible for implementing 41 recommendations relating to accession/ ratification to core International Human Rights Conventions/ Treaties and the second is responsible for implementing 4 recommendations on the cooperation with UNHuman Rights Mechanisms.

At the meeting, the Union Minister made the opening remarks and exchanged views with officials concerned on the matters to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (CRC-OPAC), to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and to conduct awareness trainings on the said treaties. — MNA ■

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin addresses the coordination meeting concerning the Universal Periodic Review Working Group's recommendations. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar, Thai armed forces partake in second cultural exchange in Nay Pyi Taw

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives a flower bouquet from Major General Pairoj Wilailuk, head of Royal Thai Armed Force Cultural Group, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

With the aims of strengthening the friendship between the two militaries and exchanging cultural activities, the second cultural exchange program between the armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand was held at Zeyathiri Beikman Thabin Hall, Nay Pyi Taw where Royal Thai Armed Force Cultural Group gave a performance that was attended by the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the event, Major General Pairoj Wilailuk, head of Royal Thai Armed Force Cultural Group delivered a message of greeting and Myanmar Tatmadaw marching song Our Tatmadaw was played by Royal Thai Armed Force music troupe and "Royal Thai Army March" a marching song of Royal Thai Armed Force was played by Myanmar Tatmadaw traditional band. Cultural troupes from the two militaries then performed with modern and traditional musical instruments followed by traditional dances and songs.

After the performance Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General and wife presented a flower bouquet and cash awards to Royal Thai Armed Force Cultural Group and took commemorative group photo, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Mro man in Buthidaung Tsp abducted by AA insurgent group

A Mro ethnic man identified as U Thar Tun, 54, was taken away from his home in Pyaing Chaung Village, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, by four men from the AA insurgent group on the night of 12 February. U Thar Tun's wife reported the case to Nyaung Chuang police station on 13 February after her husband failed to return, according to the Myanmar Police Force. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

RCSS/SSA returns seized items from two Tatmadaw officers

ON 12 February, about 50 members of the Restoration Council of Shan State – RCSS/Shan State Army – SSA armed groups stopped a vehicle carrying two commanding officers between Mongpyin and Kengtung in Shan State (East) and took away equipment onboard their vehicle. The Tatmadaw promptly sent a message to return the seized things as soon as possible, according to the news released by the Tatmadaw True News Team.

Responding to the message, the head of the RCSS/SSA communications office in Tachilek and other members returned the seized objects the other day to the Tatmadaw cantonment in Mongpyin at 7:45 pm on 13 February, according to the Tatmadaw True News Team. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

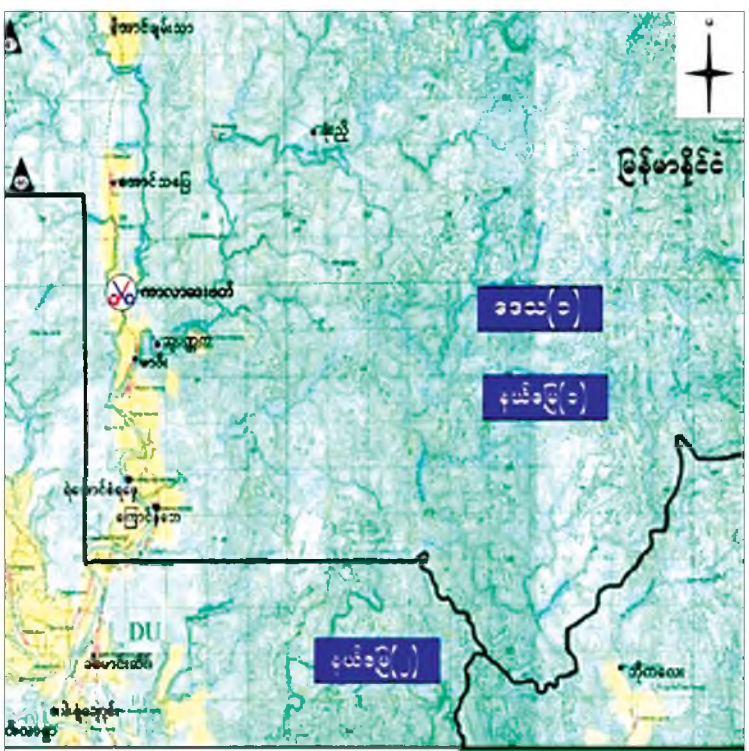
Security forces clash with AA/ARSA in Maungtaw Tsp

SECURITY forces conducting appropriate security operations in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State clashed with AA/ARSA insurgents yesterday morning. A police officer was killed in the ensuing skirmish and security forces seized ammunition and a book printed in Arabic from the insurgent's side.

A section of Border Security Force 5 was on security duty at a bridge over Yebaukcha creek near Kalar Dayvad Village close to Bandoola-Kamaung Seik-Kyein Chaung highway in Maungtaw Township when they spotted a group of 30 AA/ARSA insurgents approaching from the west of the highway at around 2:30 am. Fighting lasted between the two sides until Tatmadaw reinforcements arrived around 4 am, pushing back the insurgent group to the west.

The Myanmar Police Force announced that an officer was killed in the skirmish and they have confiscated several items left behind by the insurgents, including a blood-stained camouflage vest, 3 M-22 cartridges, 29 varying types of ammunition, 2 improvised explosive devices-IEDs, a walkie-talkie, a remote controller, a wire bundle, and a book printed in Arabic language. They also announced that the Tatmadaw reinforcement column is continuing to pursue the retreating insurgents. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The map shows the area where security forces and AA/ARSA insurgents clashed in Maungtaw Township.

Book printed in Arabic language and walkie-talkie.

A blood-stained camouflage vest, 3 M-22 cartridges, 29 varying types of ammunition, a remote controller, a bundle of wire.

An improvised explosive device (IED).

An improvised explosive device (IED).

15 FEBRUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Raise the young well, for they are the nation's treasure

THE treasure of a nation can be said to be its natural resources, but the true national wealth of a country are its citizens, as it is they who are the main driving force behind development.

A country's human resource shoulders different responsibilities through different sectors as it works towards personal benefit and contributes to public benefit as well. But, those who go above and beyond the call of duty are the true treasures of a nation.

We are currently in need of more people who are ready to shoulder their full responsibility for developing the nation. It is an undeniable truth that we are in need of genuine and capable human resources in this period of initiating reforms and development. Thus, it is imperative that we nurture our youth, our children, and our students and invest in their upbringing, as they will be taking over the duties of the nation in the future.

> Investing time and effort to raise the young right can be compared to tucking away a pot of gold. The more gold-laden pots we put away, the more secure our future will be.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi echoed this sentiment in her address to the people of Myeik on 13 February. "The main resource of a country is its people. Our children are like our bank savings, when it comes to our future. They will become the strength we can call upon when needed. That's why I would like to implore teachers and parents to strive so children become an endless treasure that will benefit the entire nation," said the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor is implying that we must begin supporting our youth and students now to ensure they grow up to become respectable citizens. Investing time and effort to raise the young right can be compared to tucking away a pot of gold. The more gold-laden pots we put away, the more secure our future will be.

If education can be compared to a pot of gems, then, well-learned youth are like an endless treasure to the nation. We urge parents and teachers alike to invest time and energy in raising children right so that they may carry on our legacy, and Myanmar can stand proud on the global platform.

■■■

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Amending Provisions of the 2008 Constitution: (Non)Lessons from the Malaysian and Myanmar Constitutional Past?

By Dr. Myint Zan

AFTER more than two and half years of coming into (or sharing) power the 'People's government' based on its election slogan 'time for change' has now taken steps towards amending the 2008 Constitution. A member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and *Pyidaungsu Hluttaw* member U Aung Kyi Nyunt has proposed and the Hluttaw has accepted to debate his proposal to form a committee to look into the issue of amending certain provisions of the 2008 Constitution. (GNLM, 30 January 2019, page 2).

As rightly pointed out by U Aung Kyi Nyunt his proposal was not a Bill to amend the Constitution as such. It is, for now, a 'humble' proposal that tentative steps be taken to fulfill one of the main (though arguably not the main) promises given by the NLD (to amend the 2008 Constitution) in the campaigning during the 2015 election.

Rigid and Flexible Constitutions

In the academic literature concerning comparative constitutional law and politics the terms flexible and/or rigid Constitutions are used to denote whether a Constitution is difficult or relatively easy (or not **that** difficult) to change or amend.

One of the oldest written Constitutions, the *Constitution of the United States of America* has been amended a total of 27 times since it was adopted in the year 1787. The first ten amendments known as the 'Bill of Rights' were amended or inserted in the Constitution in 1791- a mere four years after its adoption.

From 1791 to 2018, a time period of 227 years, a total of 17 further amendments were adopted. Hence the United States Constitution is a 'rigid' Constitution.

In Australia since Federation in 1901 (in the past 118 years) only eight amendments were made to the *Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia*. (This article will not summarize the Constitutional provisions regarding the amendment processes as stated in the United States and Australian Constitutions which came into force in the years 1791 and 1901 respectively. (Those interested can easily search the requisite information on the world wide web.)

Comparative Stability of the United States, Australian and Malaysian Constitutions

Compared to *Constitutions of the United States of America* and the *Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia*, the Federal Constitution of Malaysia which was adopted and entered into force with *Merdeka* ('Independence') on 31 August 1957 is a relatively new document.

Notwithstanding the apparently numerous (relatively) minor amendments to the Malaysian Constitution its key features or characteristics remain intact. They are constitutional monarchy, separation of powers, parliamentary democracy. Essentially, in Malaysia, they have remained intact for over 61 years now.

Similarly it can be said that the key features of the United States Constitution, constitutional republic, separation of powers (different types of separation of powers from parliamentary democracies) and electoral systems have remained intact over 230 years after its adoption.

Alas, this has not been the case with our golden land of Myanmar. Burma's fledgling (would some have said 'flirtation'?) with parliamentary democracy came to an end in the immediate aftermath of the March 1962 military coup. After being without a constitution for 12 years the 1974 one-Party Constitution became an imposed Constitution and it lasted –like its 1947 Parliamentary Constitution- for a period of 14 years. And Myanmar was again without a Constitution from the period of September 1988 to May 2008 when the 2008 Constitution was adopted on 29 May 2008. It came into force when the first *Pyithu Hluttaw* formed under it was convened on 31 January 2011.

A (Temporary) Malaysian Constitutional Dead Lock of 1993: (Non) Lessons?

Coming back to Malaysia, its Federal Constitution can be described both as flexible or rigid. Indeed to amend some- perhaps most- of its provisions a two thirds majority of the Parliament is all that is needed. And from 1957 to 2008 (the year the 2008 Myanmar Constitution was adopted) the ruling Barisan National coalition have had –except in the few years that the Parliament was not convened between mid 1969 to about 1971- a 2/3 majority in the Malaysian Parliament.

Yet there are a few 'core' Constitutional provisions in the Malaysian Constitution which are difficult to amend or change.

One of them is the absolute immunity provided to the nine (9) Sultans of the Malay States. Under its previous constitutional provision no criminal prosecution or civil suit can be made by any one against the 'Sovereign Rulers' (i.e. the Sultans). Contrast this previous Malaysian Constitutional provision with the ruling of the late Burmese Supreme Court in the case of *E V. Kovtunenko v U Law Yone*, decided on 18 March 1960, which held (in a ruling written in English) that 'not even the President of the Union is above the law' and that the Penal Code and other laws applied equally to all citizens including the President.

> In the academic literature concerning comparative constitutional law and politics the terms flexible and/or rigid Constitutions are used to denote whether a Constitution is difficult or relatively easy (or not that difficult) to change or amend.

In late December 1992 due to physical beatings a (now) late Malaysian hockey coach had to endure at the hands of (now) late Sultan of a certain state within the Federation of Malaysia then (and now!) Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad spear headed an initiative in the Malaysian Parliament to adopt a constitutional amendment removing the immunity of the Sultans. Consequently, a significant majority of the members of the Malaysian Parliament (perhaps around 80%) promulgated a law that removed the immunity of the Sultans.

But there was a catch: the special immunity and status of the Sultans are protected by a provision of the Malaysian Constitution which stated that even if a constitutional amendment Bill affecting the rights, privileges and special status of the Sultans were to be passed by (say even the entire) Parliament if the Conference of Rulers (a congregation of 9 Sultans) do not agree to it, then it would not become law. And the Bill passed by an overwhelming majority of the Parliament removing the immunity of the Sultans was not agreed upon by all the nine Sultans in the then Conference of Rulers. There was for several days or a few weeks in March 1993, a Malaysian constitutional deadlock.

If politics is the art of the possible then it is the same for constitutional politics (and constitutional law). Both sides in the Malaysian constitutional imbroglio of 1993, eventually compromised. Instead of totally removing the immunity of the Sultans the then Malaysian Parliament drafted an amended constitutional amendment, so to speak, that among others required that (1) before any of the Sultans are prosecuted criminally and sued civilly a written consent of the Attorney-General must be obtained (2) the Sultans and their immediate families cannot be tried in ordinary courts but only in special tribunals or courts and (3) the prosecuted Sultan(s) and their immediate family members have the right to appoint one (out of three) judges in the special tribunals or courts which will try them or consider civil suits against them.

Hence after more than 35 years (from August 1957 to about mid 1993) the absolute immunity of the Sultans stated in the Malaysian Constitution was amended to 'restrictive immunity'.

Are there any lessons that can be taken from (at least in context and overall) the major constitutional amendment that was effected in Malaysia over 25 years ago in 1993? Perhaps not. Contexts, histories, the political natures and cultures are different. But perhaps this 'trite' statement may be applicable to both the past Malaysian and current Myanmar 'constitutional predicament' so to speak: when their own rights, privileges, special statuses are negatively impacted upon individuals and institutions would stick to them with all their resources and 'might' and to the extent that they can. All the luck, tact and fortuitous circumstances are needed to change or amend constitutional provisions and actual practices of privileged groups.

'Overcoming' the 1974 One-Party Constitution in 1988: History Not Repeating Itself

Now to a provision under the defunct one-Party 1974 *Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma*. Article 194 of the 1974 Constitution reads (in part) that certain Articles including Article 11 which unequivocally, almost sinisterly stated that 'The State shall adopt a single Party system. The Burma Socialist Programme Party is the sole political party and it shall lead the State' can only be amended with 'the prior approval of 75 percent of all the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw [and afterwards] in a nation wide referendum only with a majority or more than half of those of who have the right to vote' [sic the above phrase was unclearly perhaps ungrammatically translated from the Burmese by the *ancien* regime's personnel and it is reproduced here exactly as it is written].

Notwithstanding this provision, on 11 September 1988 the then Legislature the *Pyithu Hluttaw* passed a resolution to hold 'multi party elections in no less than 45 days and no more than 90 days'. Significantly, the then members of the *Hluttaw* were aware of the provisions of Article 194 (of the 1974 Constitution). If multiparty elections were to be held without first holding a referendum then this would have violated the 1974 Constitution.

Hence the then Legislature in its Resolution to hold multiparty elections did state that they did so 'overcoming the Constitution'(အခြေခံဥပဒေကို ကျော်လွှန်၍) (specifically Article 11 of the 1974 Constitution). But with the military takeover of 18 September 1988 the promised multiparty elections were postponed to May 1990 and again to November 2010. The military takeovers of both 1962 and 1988 were unconstitutional acts but politically and therefore legally they were extremely indeed supremely effective –albeit this phrase is used if not in the negative then in its ironic sense. (The 1988 takeover was in violation of the 1974 Constitution and the 1962 takeover was a violation of the 1947 Constitution). Only in the aftermath of the November 2015 elections a government which had (apparently) solemnly pledged to amend the 2008 Constitution has had a chance to share power.

History does not always or even generally repeats itself. In mentioning what had happened in the heady days from about mid-August to mid-September 1988- only for such headiness, so to speak, to be crushed indeed smashed- it is certainly not the writer's intention that a 1988 like scenario vis-à-vis the 1974 Constitution can be expected to occur in 2019 or afterwards vis-à-vis the 2008 Constitution.

Notwithstanding the statement 'never say never' an 'overcoming' of the 2008 Constitution in the mode and fashion that the one-Party provision of the 1974 Constitution was 'overcome' is very unlikely to occur. In fact such a scenario is a political –and therefore a legal improbability.

'My Fair Lady' and More than a 'Little Bit of Luck'

To review and discuss proposals to amend the 2008 Constitution is now one of the tasks of the *Pyidaungsu Hluttaw*. This particular task that has to be tackled (so to speak) by the honorable elected members of the *Pyidaungsu Hluttaw* in this and other sessions is quite complicated. They would need to exercise, to their utmost, their ingenuity, their negotiation skills, their discretion but at the same time their 'pluck' as well. To paraphrase from the musical *My Fair Lady* (based on Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion*) considerably much more than 'a little bit of luck' is also needed for their creditable efforts to bear fruit.

Dr. Myint Zan is a legal scholar. The views expressed here are his own.

■■■

PRESS STATEMENT

The Statement of the Union Supreme Court: the Key Performance in 2018 and Priority Actions for 2019

NAY PYI TAW, 14 February 2019- The Supreme Court of the Union today issues the key performance in 2018 and priority actions for 2019.

The Key Performance in 2018

- Making the Legal Aid Rules, the preparation and submission of the matters including Formation, Finance and Staff Organizational Structure for Union Legal Aid Board and different levels of Legal Aid Body to support the management of effective Legal Aid System under the Legal Aid Law
- Organizing the first regional judicial conference as "Asia Pacific Conference on Environmental and Climate Change Adjudication"
- Expanding Myanmar Judicial and Legal Information Program by linking the webpage of the Supreme Court of the Union with ASEAN Judiciaries Portal- AJP
- Drafting the Myanmar Insolvency Bill in line with international standards to support the economic development
- Conducting the workshops and analysis on Commercial and Business cases, developing training program including curriculum for intellectual property rights, engaging and taking part in the activities of anti- trafficking in persons, narcotic drugs, money laundering and terrorism issues of the rules of law sector
- Improving clearance rate of cases at the different levels of court up to 98%
- Initiating the implementation of National Case Management Program- NCMP in 10 District Courts and 16 Township Courts
- Performing to strengthen the judicial sector, to eliminate bias and corruption and to be expeditious disposal of property with taking responsibility and accountability at different levels of court

Priority Actions for 2019

- Expand the implementation of National Case Management program in 5 district courts and 43 township courts to be fair and efficient trial
- Decide the cases within standard time for trial and reduce postponement rate
- Implement court specialization in areas of intellectual property rights, juvenile offence, business and commercial cases in accordance with new laws
- Use properly the intake center, inquiry and information counter to be access to justice for public
- Upload the annual court reports, court performance and judgment of commercial cases in the website of the Union Supreme Court, distribute brochures of court information in local languages, and provide information of public interest litigation to promote public access to court information
- Introduce Pilot Program of the Court-led Mediation in Civil Suits in 2 District Courts and 2 Township Courts to resolve the disputes in alternative ways

The Performance of the Supreme Court of the Union in 2018 is available in the 2018 Annual Report and Actions for 2019 are available in Year 2 Action Plan (2019) of Judicial Strategic Plan.

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Nay Pyi Taw

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

Mass vaccination campaign for German measles, measles this month

THE Yangon Region Public Health Department will launch a mass immunization campaign for German measles and measles in seven townships of Yangon Region from 17 to 28 February, according to a meeting held on 12 February at the Yangon Region Government's meeting hall.

A total of 268 cases of measles were reported in Yangon Region between 1 January and 4 February. Of the 45 townships in Yangon Region, German measles and measles have affected seven townships — Hlinethaya, Insein, Shwepyitha, Mingaladon, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (East), and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan).

Therefore, the department will launch a mass immunization campaign to fight German measles and measles in the seven townships, and provide vaccinations to all children aged between nineteen months and 15 years old from 17 February.

Of the 268 cases of measles reported in Yangon, South Dagon Myothit Township reported the maximum number of cases at 32, followed by Shwepyithar Township with 28 cases, Insein Township with 21, Dagon Seikkan Township with 20, Hlinethaya Township with 16, Mingaladon Township with 7, and East Dagon Township with 6 cases, while the rest were from other townships where the number of cases is rather low compared with the seven townships.

In 2018, 1,276 cases of measles were reported across the country. A total of 646 cases were reported in Yangon Region alone, and 75 per cent of the patients were below 15 years of age, because the vaccine coverage is approximately 80 to 90 per cent of the population, and about 10 to 20 per cent of the children still have not received the vaccination at all or have incomplete immunization.

The department will also conduct an awareness campaign and distribute pamphlets in crowded public places like schools and markets.

The symptoms of measles include fever, dry cough, runny nose, sore throat, inflamed eyes, tiny white spots with bluish-white centers, and a skin rash made up of large, flat blotches that often flow into one another.

Myanmar has been conducting mass immunizations against measles and rubella since 2015.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 2,000 acres to be brought under forest cover in Yangon Region

THE Forestry Department will bring 2,250 acres of land under forest cover in Yangon Region this year under a reforestation plan, said an official from the Yangon Region Forest Department.

Forest plantations will be established in the Okkan forest reserve in Taikkyi Township. The department plans to grow teak, Pyingadoe, and Padauk, which are cultivated for commercial purposes.

The Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme (MRRP) is being implemented across the country. The reforestation project is being conducted under a 10-year plan, from the 2017-2018FY to the 2026-2027FY.About 800 acres of forests have been cultivated in Yangon region since 2017.

The MRRP is implementing the reforestation project with the aim to reduce deforestation and effects of climate change, as well as to raise area under forest plantation.

Timber extraction has been suspended since the 2016-2017 fiscal year to curb deforestation. Extraction of Bago Yoma timber has also been suspended for 10 years, because Bago Yoma has experienced the worst rates of deforestation in Myanmar.

Of the 167 million acres of land in Myanmar, nearly 44.14 per cent is under forests. Forests in Myanmar are divided into three categories: reserve forests, public protected forests, and unclassified forests.

Myanmar had the third-highest annual rate of deforestation in the world.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Illegal consignment of raw jade seized in Namti

ACTING on a tip off, the Namti police stopped and searched three motorcycles on the Myitkyina- Shwebo Pyidaungsu Road in Namti Town, Mogaung Township, Kachin State on 13 February and seized an illegal consignment of raw jade stones.

The police found 70 raw jade stones, weighing 64 kg, from Zaw Min Aung, aged 28.

They found 48 raw jade stones, weighing 61.4 kg, from Lin Htein aged 27, also known as Watot, and 34 raw jade stones, weighing 24 kg, from Kyaw Thet Oo aged 24.

Three suspects arrested with confiscated raw jade stones.
PHOTO: WIN NAING (KACHIN MYAY)

The police have filed charges against the three motorcyclists under Section 51(A) of the Myanmar Gemstone Law.— Win Naing (Kachin Myay) *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Over 1,100 patients get free eye treatment in Kanbalu District in nine days

OVER 1,170 patients have received free treatment from eye specialists since 6 February at the Kanbalu Township's 100-bed People's Hospital, under a program organized by the Aye Mya Soe Philanthropic Foundation.

As of 14 February, more than 59 people had undergone major eye surgery, while 29 had minor eye surgeries. Meanwhile, 673 patients had their eyes checked and received correct power spectacles, while the remaining patients were prescribed medication and eye drops.

The free eye treatment will be available up to 18 February, according to the hospital.

Some patients are still scheduled for major and minor surgical procedures, and their treatment will continue.

Eye patients from Kanbalu, Kawlin, KhinU, Katha, Pinlebu, Myitkyina, Tabayin, Wuntho, Mohnyin, Taze, Shwebo, Mandalay, Kani, and Thabeikkyin townships have received free eye treatment at the hospital. — Aung Win Nyein (Kanbalu)
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

LIP Ministry sends over 23,000 Myanmar workers to nine countries in Jan

A total of 23,235 Myanmar workers officially took up jobs overseas in nine countries in the month of January, according to figures released by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Majority of the workers went to Thailand, which registered over 17,400 Myanmar workers. Malaysia employed over 5,000 Myanmar workers. Additionally, some workers headed to Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, Qatar, and Macau.

Low employment rate and low salaries in the domestic market have forced young workers in Myanmar to seek jobs overseas, with the number of migrant labourers touching 5 million, said an official from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

"Young people are struggling to find jobs in the domestic market. Fewer job opportunities and low pay are making them leave their home country for higher-paying jobs overseas. There is economic disadvantage from loss of young workers," said U Myo Aung, the Permanent Secretary of MOLIP Meanwhile, 27,454 local job seekers took up domestic jobs in the respective states and regions. Yangon employed 19,082 new workers, followed by Bago Region with 3,432, and Mandalay Region with 1,437. Meanwhile, the remaining regions and states saw an influx of less than 600 new employees. The ministry is making concerted efforts to create more employment opportunities for both domestic and overseas job hunters through an online labour exchange management system.—GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

A file photo shows workers seen on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya. **PHOTO : PHOE KHWAR**

Myanmar's exports to the Netherlands surpass imports in Q1 (Oct-Dec)

THE value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with the Netherlands exceeded US$100 million in the first quarter (Oct-Dec) of the current financial year (Oct 2018-Sep 2019), with exports outperforming imports, according to figures provided by the Commerce Ministry.

In Q1, exports were recorded at $92.8 million, while imports were valued at $8.79 million.

Myanmar exports agro products such as oil seeds, vegetable oil, men's and women's shirts, parasols (traditional Pathein umbrellas), and fishery products to the Netherlands, while it imports dairy products, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

Bilateral trade between the countries was registered at $229.9 million in the last mini-budget period (April to September), $211.57 million in the 2017-2018FY, $141 million in the 2016-2017FY, $61 million in the 2015-2016FY, $42 million in the 2014-2015FY, $26 million in the 2013-2014FY, $9 million in the 2012-2013FY, and $23 million in the 2011-2012FY

The Netherlands is among the top ten countries investing in Myanmar. Since the 1988-1989FY, 19 Dutch companies have brought in a capital of $1.29 billion into the country, according to FDI data of existing enterprises provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Multinational corporations headquartered in the Netherlands — Shell, Unilever, and Phillips— are also doing business in Myanmar. — GNLM ■

Over 13,000 companies to be struck off the list for failing to re-register

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 13,000 companies which have failed to re-register on the online registry system, MyCO, will be struck off from the register, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Over 60,000 companies were previously registered in Myanmar, and all the companies were notified to re-register on MyCO. The DICA had set a six-month period — from 1 August, 2018 to 31 January, 2019 — for re-registration of existing companies and registration of new companies. The deadline expired, with only 47,000 companies having re-registered on MyCO, said U Myo Min, the Director of the DICA. "Those companies which have failed to re-register within the set period will be struck off the list. Those who want to restore their corporate status will have to shell out a fee, provided they give sufficient reasons," said U Myo Min. "Companies should not think that they can register by paying penalties after the six-month period has expired. According to the regulation, companies must provide sufficient reason why they failed to register before the deadline," he said.

Some corporates that have failed to re-register may be considered to be running their business in the wrong way, said U Myo Min, the Director of the DICA.

"They seem to stand as corporates, but they do not operate their businesses in the correct way. Now, we have cleared out those companies. We notified all companies to re-register. Those branches of foreign banks have registered," said U Myo Min.

On 1 August, last year, the MyCO electronic registry system was launched, and more than 10,000 new companies and 47,000 companies have since registered and re-registered on MyCO, according to data from the DICA.

As per Chapter III of the notification (66/2018) issued by the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 23 July, 2018, if an existing company fails to re-register on the electronic registry system within the deadline, the registrar may strike its name off the register and publish a notice in the Gazette. Once the notice is published, the company will be dissolved, while the liability of the directors and the members of the company shall continue to be enforced. Under Section (d) of Chapter III, a registrar may restore an existing company or corporate body which has failed to re-register, if it provides sufficient cause before its name is struck off the register. Such companies will be restored after they shell out a fee, which will be prescribed by the Union Minister. ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Farm business school to be opened in Pindaya

A farm business school will be opened in Pindaya Township, Shan State (South), to help local farmers gain easy access to the market for their agricultural products, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

The MFVP will set up the farm business school in 2019 in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Germany's GIZ.

"Currently, we are holding discussions with the ministry on the project. The ministry has accepted the project in principle. But, we are not sure when the project will be started. A similar school founded in the Philippines has been successful. In the case of Myanmar, local farmers will be able to enjoy the benefits of technology transfer. They are badly in need of a farm business school, as in the Philippines," said U Tin Aung, the executive officer of the MFVP The school will teach local farmers how to cultivate crops, how to gain market share, and how to bring about the development of the market. The objectives for opening such a school are to develop the agricultural business for local farmers and to manufacture quality products. The school will announce the required information for local farmers who are interested in attending. "We are planning to open the school in Pindaya Township in Shan State (South) this year. We have sufficient human resources. The school fees will be affordable for our local farmers," said U Tin Aung. The Sustainable Agriculture Development and Quality Food Initiative (SAFI) project is being conducted under a government-to-government (G to G) plan between Germany and Myanmar. The technological and financial assistances for the farm business school will be provided by the GIZ, while the school will be managed by the MFVP — Aye Yamone ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Myanmar, Japan discuss ODA Loan for infrastructure projects

UNION Minister for Construction, U Han Zaw, received a delegation led by Mr. Michio Kikuchi, Japan's Deputy Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

They discussed ongoing projects and development, cooperation required on tackling surfacing challenges, and how the projects related to regional development during the meeting.

The 6th Myanmar-Japan Vice-Ministerial Level Meeting on Infrastructure Development between Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism was then held.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw holds talks with Mr. Michio Kikuchi, Japan's Deputy Minister for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin spoke at the meeting and said the meeting will discuss which part of the ODA Loan project will be prioritized and related topics on technology, training programs by JICA that best suit the needs of the departments under the ministry, available opportunities for Japanese investors, and other topics raised by both sides.

The Deputy Minister said ten companies have been shortlisted for the Yangon Elevated Expressway project and all related risk management will be the responsibility of the chosen company. He said the Thuwanna training school will play an important role when his departments' regulatory body shifts, and said he wishes to conduct it as a training and research center. The MLIT Deputy Minister also spoke at the meeting, and said discussing Japan's quality infrastructure urban law buildings will strengthen both countries' bilateral relations. He stressed the importance of planning for infrastructure development and quality in future endeavors, and visiting the Thuwanna training school for churning out human resource.

Next, a JICA official explained about Sittoung Bridge, followed by the Director-General of the Department of Urban & Housing Development an official from JBIC signing the Amendment to the Letter of Intent, where after they exchanged the signed documents.

This was followed by readings and discussions on different aspects of the road sector and construction industry sector.

Yesterday's meeting helped to further strengthen close relations between Japan and Myanmar and exchanged views on both countries' experiences in the roads, bridges, and housing sectors, developments, current projects and future plans and policies which will bring increased benefits and development to the transportation sector and housing sector. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Notification

1. While Shaw Brothers Pictures International Ltd. from Hong Kong, China is taking some scenes of Line Walker-2 following roads in Yangon Region will be closed/diverted on the following days and times.

(a) 18-2-2019 0600 to 1300 hour Gyatawya Street from Shwe Dagon Pagoda East Entrance to Yedashe Road

(b) Rehearsal on 17-2-2019 from 1100 to 1600 hour Mahabandula Park Road from Anawrahta Road to City Star Hotel

(c) Shooting on 21-2-2019 from 0600 to 1800 hour Mahabandula Park Road from Anawrahta Road to City Star Hotel

(d) 22-2-2019 to 26-2-2019 from 0600 to 1800 hour Sule Pagoda Road from Anawrahta Road pedestrian bridge to Sule Pagoda pedestrian crossing (fire station side)

2. While the roads are closed/diverted on the above mentioned days and times, vehicles are to use other appropriate roads.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Ten bodies found from sunken vessel near Manaung Lighthouse

THE bodies of ten victims who were on board maintenance ship Sin Pyaung that sank near Manaung Lighthouse in Rakhine State on 11 February have been found, while seven have been rescued and nine are still missing.

The ship initially held 34 people on board and was anchored about one and a half mile from Manaung island while nine maintenance staff disembarked to work on the lighthouse on 7 February. On 11 February, the team on the island reported they did not see any lights of the ship and took two small boats to investigate the area. Upon arrival, the ship was nowhere to be seen, but they found seven of the 26 people who were on board at the time alive.

The survivors said the large volumes of water entered the ship before it sank. They are currently waiting at Taungup Tsp to return to Yangon. Relatives of the deceased and missing had also arrived in Manaung Tsp and authorities are aiding them in preparing funerals.

The Sin Pyaung was constructed in Hong Kong in 1959. —GNLM ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

The Sin Pyaung maintenance ship was used in performing regular checks on lighthouses and buoys. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY TRANSCOM NEWS JOURNAL**

Ten towns hit by river pollution from Brazil dam disaster

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil) — Ten towns in southeast Brazil are suffering river pollution after a dam collapse at a mine nearly three weeks ago that killed 166 people and left 155 missing, presumed dead, according to officials.

Mineral-laced sludge from the disaster near the town of Brumadinho has contaminated 75 miles (120 kilometres) of the Paraopeba river, impacting the riverside towns, the Institute for Water Management in the affected state of Minas Gerais (IGAM) said in a report.

Officials have warned locals off using the river water for drinking, watering animals or irrigation.

State environmental authorities had detected levels of toxic metals in the water, including lead and chromium, in the first 12 miles (20 kilometres) of the spill.

IGAM director Marilia Carvalho de Melo was quoted by a local news website saying it was "unlikely" the waste would make it as far as a hydroelectric plant on the Sao Francisco river that the Paraopeba feeds into.

The collapse of the dam in the mine owned by Brazilian mining giant Vale — the second in three years in the same region involving the company — released millions of tons of tailings, of mining waste.

Most of those killed and missing were workers at the iron ore mine, many having lunch in the facility's cafeteria, in the shadow of the dam. Some nearby residents were also swept away and buried in thick mud.

Emergency crews have been working daily to locate and recover bodies from the sludge.

Officials have warned locals off using water from the Paraopeba river – pictured days after the disaster – for drinking, watering animals or irrigation. **PHOTO: AFP**

Their latest confirmed death toll of 166 given on Wednesday was an increase of one over the previous count the day before. The number of missing, 155, was revised down from the previous tally of 160.

Officials have said it is possible that not all the bodies of the missing will be recovered, making a definitive final toll difficult to establish.

Vale, the world's biggest miner of iron ore, has seen a quarter of its stock market value wiped out since the disaster as investors weighed its liability, damage to its reputation and possible tougher industry regulations in Brazil.—AFP ■

Record-breaking snowfall cloaks Moscow

MOSCOW (Russia) — Record snowfall covered Moscow on Wednesday, with streets and monuments blanketed in white and dozens of flights cancelled at the city's main airport.

Snow coated trees and power lines from morning, but melted into deep slush on pavements as temperatures rose above freezing in the afternoon.

Some seven centimetres (2.8 inches) of snow fell overnight, according to the national meteorological service, with drifts reaching up to 45 centimetres (18 inches).

Aeroflot airline said on its website that it had cancelled more than 70 flights in and out of the city's Sheremetyevo airport.

The Moscow meteorological service said the snowfall beat a record set in 1995 and amounted to almost a third of the average monthly figure, according to news agencies.

Other services such as the national Gidrometsentr said the snowfall broke a 2007 record.

Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin wrote on Twitter that "all the municipal clearing services have stepped up their work."

City authorities said they sent out more than 60,000 people to shovel the snow.

Some 10,000 snow ploughs and 2,000 trucks were dispatched, they added.

The heavy snowfall hit the whole of central Russia but ended in Moscow by nightfall.—AFP ■

Eastern Canada digs out from major snow storm

OTTAWA (Canada) — A huge snowstorm blanketed eastern Canada on Wednesday, closing schools, grounding hundreds of flights and forcing many workers to stay home as tens of thousands of plows toiled to clear roads.

Big fluffy snowflakes began falling on Tuesday afternoon, with more than 30 centimetres (12 inches) accumulated on the ground by the next morning and more on the way, according to weather forecasts.

Wind gusts up to 70 kilometres (44 miles) per hour were also expected in the evening, blowing snow and severely reducing visibility from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal to the Atlantic coast provinces.

A winter storm warning was in place for much of the region and travel was not advised.

Nearly 250 flights have been canceled in Montreal since Tuesday, while travelers described disruptions at the country's biggest airport in Toronto — where flight cancelations topped 400 — as a nightmare.

In Ottawa, residents sweated under knit hats and heavy parkas trying to dig out. The odd commuter on skis was spotted headed to work. Others wore snowshoes.

Public broadcaster CBC Radio started reporting the near-record dump in height of dog breeds — from a Beagle to a Great Dane — and invited kids to call in to share their "snow day" stories after scheduled guests canceled.

Ice sculptures for the city's annual Winterlude festival, meanwhile, were wrapped to protect them from snow, ice pellets, possible freezing rain and strong winds.

In Toronto, administrators took the rare step of closing all schools and authorities reported more than 60 road accidents and a few power outages, while in Montreal, kids turned icy stairs outside their homes into toboggan runs.—AFP ■

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE
EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) DATE & TIME - (21-2-2019)(09:00)AM
EX-SITE HARDWOOD LOG ONLY
(22-2-2019) (09:00)A.M
YANGON & EX-SITE TEAK/HARDWOOD (LOG AND CONVERSION)
(25-2-2019) (12:00) Noon
YANGON TEAK LOG ONLY

(b) COMMODITIES &VOLUME - TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1202) TONS
- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (417)TONS
- PYINKADO, KANYIN , THITYAR, INGYIN,
- HTAUK KYANT, HNAW, YEMANE, SAGAWA,
- TAUNG THAYAT ABOUT (22343) TONS
- HARDWOOD LOGS **(2018-2019 EXTRACTION YEAR)**

(c) PLACE - TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE , INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON.

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.myanmatimber.com.mm). Contacts; Office Ph;01528771, E-mail; marketing1ppy@gmail.com

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
M.V BANG SAKAO

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANG SAKAO VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (008N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (008N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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Japan Judo athletes participate in Htamane making

A Japanese delegation from Hoku'estu University Judo Federation and Myanmar Judo athletes performed the Myanmar traditional Htamane making at the Sports and Physical Science Training School in Kyaikkasan Grounds in Yangon yesterday.

The Japanese athletes led by Hoku'estu University Judo Federation President Yasuji Maki enjoyed the Myanmar traditional seasonal festival by making the food themselves.

The 14-member delegation arrived Yangon on 11 February night to carry out joint training with Myanmar judo athletes, according to Myanmar Judo Federation. Under the program jointly conducted by the MJF under the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Hoku'estu University Judo Federation, the judo athletes of Myanmar and Japan are conducting joint training at the Kyeikkasan Sports Science School in Yangon until 21 February. — Saw Thein Win ■

Members of Hoku'estu University Judo Federation participating in the Htamane making in Kyaikkasan Grounds in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**

Potatoes on the menu at North Korean cooking contest

PYONGYANG (North Korea)—Lined up in cavernous rooms at a state restaurant in Pyongyang, North Korean chefs carefully assemble their dishes, watched by crowds of onlookers at a cooking competition in a country that suffers chronic food shortages.

From samsaek gaepitok, or three-colour stuffed rice cake — delicately formed green and white parcels of red bean paste —to yak kwa, fried wheat biscuit glazed with honey, or courgette stuffed with meat, attention to detail is key to catching the judges' eyes. Around 300 cooks are competing in 40 different dishes over three days at North Korea's national cooking competition, with the winners receiving cookbooks and equipment as well as diplomas and medals. Onlookers—mostly women in warm winter coats—gathered around each station in the unheated venue, some of them filming the contestants at work on their mobile phones for future inspiration.

"The reason why Korean food is excellent is that it is characterised by its clear and fresh flavour, without any mixed feelings," said judge Han Jong Guk, a pastry chef by trade.

"For example, fish dishes taste of real fish and chicken tastes like real chicken. This is the main characteristic of Korean food," he added.But the reality is that beyond the restaurant's granite columns and the privileged lifestyles of the capital's residents, North Korea is unable to feed itself.Ahead of his second summit with leader Kim Jong Un, due in Viet Nam at the end of the month, US president Donald Trump has dangled the prospect of the isolated country becoming an economic powerhouse if a deal can be reached over its nuclear weapons.—AFP ■

Boney M, Joy to perform in Viet Nam

HANOI—World-renowned bands Boney M and Joy will sing their hit songs here on 8 March, the live show's organizer said on Tuesday.

With the show christened "Boney M & Joy Live in Concert" in Hanoi capital, Boney M, a Euro-Caribbean vocal group created by German record producer Frank Farian, will make their third performance in Viet Nam, and the Austrian pop band Joy will perform in the country for the first time.

Established in 1976, Boney M gained popularity during the disco era of the late 1970s, known for international hits such as "Daddy Cool", "Rivers of Babylon", "Ma Baker" and "Rasputin."

Formed in 1984, Joy is best known for songs like "Touch by Touch", "Hello" and "Valerie."

Tickets for the concert, which is expected to attract thousands of Vietnamese fans, range from 1-4 million Vietnamese dong (43-174 US dollars), said the organizer IB Group Viet Nam.—Xinhua ■

Girl power comes to Berlin filmfest

BERLIN (Germany)—With strong female lead roles from a saviour of street kids to a fiery mafia-fighter and an inspiring figure with Down Syndrome, directors have given girl power a firm place at this year's Berlin film festival.Films at the event, which is also welcoming an unprecedented line-up of female filmmakers, are challenging long-held notions such as the gender of God or the place of women in defending societies' most vulnerable. Macedonian filmmaker Teona Strugar Mitevska cut to the chase with "God exists, her name is Petrunya", the true story of a young woman who decides to join a religious competition that's usually reserved for men.

"All patriarchal societies are constructed to support male domination, where the woman's status and social space is decided by man, so every time a story is told about, or around the so-called 'second sex', it is inevitably a feminist movie," she said.

But Mitevska said feminism should not be viewed as reverse discrimination."Feminism is not a disease, or something to be afraid of. Equality, justice and equity for all is in the forefront of its ideology," she said."Jessica Forever" by French filmmakers Caroline Poggi and Jonathan Vinel sees a woman save the day.

In a dystopia where orphans living on the margins of society are forced to kill each other to survive, the heroine Jessica steps in to rescue the children as they are being pursued by drones. "In the eyes of the boys, Jessica is also a mother, a big sister, a star, a muse, a magician, a sorcerer. She represents their salvation," Poggi told AFP.

Macedonian film director Teona Strugar Mitevska (front) says feminism should not be viewed as reverse discrimination. **PHOTO: AFP**

Inspiration

Italian filmmaker Federico Bondi uses the story of a girl with Down Syndrome to showcase her steely strength and healing touch. The poetic film "Dafne" depicts a curious and courageous girl who after the brutal death of her mother becomes a pillar of support for her father, who is slowly descending into depression."Dafne represents woman empowerment because she is an inspiration for all the people that she meets. She is not affected by her diversity, she accepts it, she is in constant discussion with it and she lives her condition with mature serenity," Bondi told AFPCourage is also the defining trait for the female lead in the documentary "Shooting the Mafia" by British filmmaker Kim Longinotto, who profiles Letizia Battaglia, a photojournalist for an Italian daily who fought the mafia through her career.—AFP ■

Launch of Russia's 2nd Angara carrier rocket scheduled for December

MOSCOW—The launch of a heavy Angara-A5 carrier rocket is scheduled for December 2019, according to information posted on the website of Russia's Khrunichev Space Centre on Wednesday

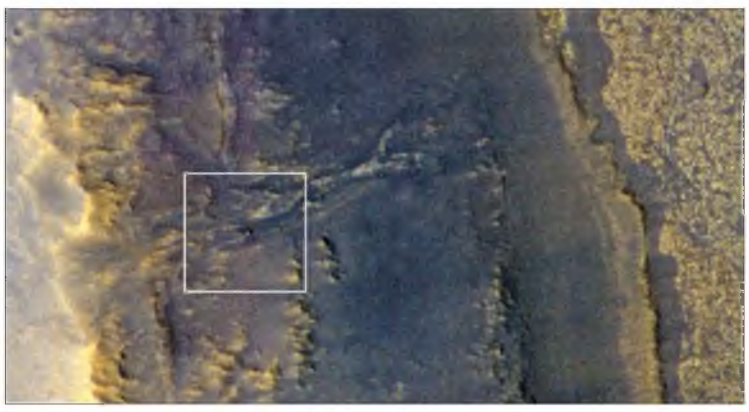
"Six launches of Proton-M carrier rockets are planned in 2019. The Khrunichev Centre will also prepare the second Angara-A5 heavy carrier rocket for its dispatch to the Plesetsk spaceport. Its launch will take place in December 2019," the statement says.

The first launch of the Angara rocket took place in 2014 from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome. Head of Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos Dmitry Rogozin earlier said that the space agency was planning to start the flight tests of the Angara-A5V heavy carrier rocket with the increased lifting capacity and the hydrogen-powered stage at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Russian Far East in 2026.

In January, Rogozin said in reply to a comment on his Tweet that the launch of the heavy Angara rocket was planned for the summer of 2019.—AFP ■

Accodrding to Russia's Khrunichev Space Center, six launches of Proton-M carrier rockets are also planned in 2019. **PHOTO: TASS**

Mission complete: NASA announces demise of Opportunity rover



This 20 September, 2018, image obtained from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory shows the Opportunity rover as a blip in the center of the square. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON (United States)—During 14 years of intrepid exploration across Mars it advanced human knowledge by confirming that water once flowed on the red planet — but NASA's Opportunity rover has analyzed its last soil sample. The robot has been missing since the US space agency lost contact during a dust storm in June last year and was declared officially dead on Wednesday, ending one of the most fruitful missions in the history of space exploration.Unable to recharge its batteries, Opportunity left hundreds of messages from Earth unanswered over the months, and NASA said it made its last attempt at contact Tuesday evening."I declare the Opportunity mission as complete," Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate told a news conference at mission headquarters in Pasadena, California.

The community of researchers and engineers involved in the program were in mourning over the passing of the rover, known affectionately as Oppy

"Spent the evening at JPL as the last ever commands were sent to the Opportunity rover on #Mars," Tanya Harrison, director of Martian research at Arizona State University, tweeted after a stint at Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"There was silence. There were tears. There were hugs. There were memories and laughs shared. #ThankYouOppy #GoodnightOppy," she wrote.The nostalgia extended across the generations of scientists who have handled the plucky little adventurer."Godspeed, Opportunity," tweeted Keri Bean, who had the "privilege" of sending the final message to the robot.

"Hail to the Queen of Mars," added Mike Seibert, Opportunity's former flight director and rover driver, in another tweet while Frank Hartman, who piloted Oppy, told AFP he felt "greatly honored to have been a small part of it.""Engulfed by a giant planet-encircling dust storm: Is there a more fitting end for a mission as perfect and courageous from start to finish as Opportunity?" he said.The programme has had an extraordinary record of success: 28.1 miles (45.2 kilometres) traversed, more than the Soviet Union's Lunokhod 2 moon rover during the 1970s and more than the rover that US astronauts took to the moon on the Apollo 17 mission in 1972. Opportunity sent back 217,594 images from Mars, all of which were made available on the internet.

Human-like perspective

"For the public the big change was that Mars became a dynamic place, and it was a place that you could explore every day," Emily Lakdawalla, an expert on space exploration and senior editor at The Planetary Society."The fact that this rover was so mobile, it seemed like an animate creature," she said. "Plus it has this perspective on the Martian surface that's very human-like.""It really felt like an avatar for humanity traveling across the surface," she added.

Opportunity landed on an immense plain, and spent half its life there, traversing flat expanses and once getting stuck in a sand dune for several weeks. It was there, using geological instruments, that it confirmed that liquid water was once present on Mars.During the second part of its life on Mars, Opportunity climbed to the edge of the crater Endeavour, taking spectacular panoramic images—and discovering veins of gypsum, additional proof that water once flowed among the Martian rocks.—AFP ■

New French study explores risks of ultra-processed food

WASHINGTON (United States)—A major French study published on Monday has found for the first time a link between the consumption of ultra-processed foods and a higher risk of death, but researchers warned more work was needed to determine which mechanisms were at play.

The study, which involved monitoring the diets of tens of thousands of French people between 2009 and 2017, found a modest link between increased consumption of ultra-processed foods—characterized as ready-to-eat or -heat formulations—and a heightened mortality risk during that period.The results were published in JAMA Internal Medicine published by the American Medical Association.

But "we shouldn't be alarmist, or say that eating a packaged meal gives you a 15-per cent higher chance of dying," cautioned Mathilde Touvier, director of the nutritional epidemiology research team at Paris 13 University, which managed the NutriNet-Sante study along with teams from Inserm, Inra and CNAM. "It's another step in our understanding of the link between ultra-processed food and health," she added.

The relationship between diet and disease is complex and the results of studies are frequently misinterpreted.Last year, the same French team published a study on organic food and how it related to the risk of cancer.

A higher rate of cancer was found in people who ate less organic food — but the study did not conclude there was a causal link—though that did not stop many media outlets from headlining the cancer-fighting effects of organic food.

Some 45,000 people over the age of 45, a majority of whom were women, took part in the latest study

Every six months, they were asked to fill out three online surveys, randomly assigned over two weeks, on everything they ate or drank over a 24-hour period.

After seven years, about 600 people died. The researchers then crunched the numbers and found that a 10 per cent increase in the proportion of ultra-processed foods in the diet corresponded to a 15 per cent increase in mortality. But Touvier warned that rather than focus on the figure, what matters is the existence of a statistically significant correlation—and the study is one part of growing body of work on the matter.

Ultra-processed foods come under group four of the NOVA food classification system recognized by health agencies including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. They have undergone several transformation processes including heating at high temperatures and the presence of additives, emulsifiers and texturizers. Many ready-to-heat products that are rich in salt or sugar and low in vitamins and fiber fall under this category.— AFP ■

Heavyweight champ Joshua to make US debut against Miller

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Anthony Joshua will fight in the United States for the first time when he defends his IBF, WBA and WBO heavyweight titles against Jarrell Miller at Madison Square Garden on 1 June, his promoter announced on Wednesday After abandoning plans to fight again at Wembley on 13 April, he will instead attempt to muscle in on the US market in which rivals Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder have become increasingly influential. The 29-year-old last fought in September at Wembley, stopping Russia's Alexander Povetkin in seven rounds.Miller is not recognised as one of the world's leading heavyweights but has been in contention to fight Joshua for the past year.

"It has been an honour and a blessing to fight at some of the best venues in the world at home in the UK, not least Wembley Stadium, but the time has come to head across the Atlantic and defend my heavyweight titles in the USA," said Joshua."I am looking forward to taking on another challenge with a good boxer and a brilliant talker"

British Boxer Anthony Joshua. **PHOTO: AFP**

Matchroom Boxing managing director Eddie Hearn, who has been criticised for the delay in finalising Joshua's latest fight, said: "AJ has created an incredible 'Lion's Den' atmosphere in the UK and we plan to bring that energy to New York on a card that will be stacked with British v American talent."Miller, 30, said Joshua was making a "huge mistake" in coming to fight in the United States."He wants to announce himself on the American stage but all he's doing is delivering me those belts by hand," he added. "It's dog eat dog in the ring and this dog has got a bigger bite, he'll be leaving New York empty-handed."—AFP ■

Myanmar advances to Hero Gold Cup final with Nepal

THE Myanmar national women's football team have advanced to the final of the Hero Gold Cup 2019, being hosted in India, by beating the Indian team 2-0 in the last group play match of the tourney on Wednesday night.

Team Myanmar dominated the entire match, with their win depending on impressive goals by July Kyaw and Win Theingi Tun.

Myanmar made an opening goal at two minutes, scored by young July Kyaw.

The goal helped boost team Myanmar's morale, who then buckled down with a sharp attack and massive defence by midfielders.

The style of Myanmar play proved problematic for team India. The second half saw both teams fighting to keep the ball, with Myanmar finally managing their second goal at 90 plus three minutes (injury time).

Team Myanmar sing the national anthem prior to the match against India on Wednesday at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar star Win Theingi Tun scored the second goal with a penalty shot, and broke the hearts of Indian fans. With all wins in the group matches, team Myanmar have entered the final of the tourney, where they will face Nepal.

Nepal have made it to the final by beating Iran 3-0 and the host 2-1, whereas Myanmar trounced Nepal 3-0, India 2-0, and Iran 2-0 before qualifying for the final. Myanmar will face Nepal today at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar prepares for AFF U-22 Championship

THE Myanmar U-22 national football team has been training hard for the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) U-22 Championship, to be held from 17 to 26 February in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Myanmar Football Federation has announced a total of 23 players for the Myanmar squad for the tourney in Cambodia.

Velizar Popov, the head coach for the Myanmar U-22 team, said that some players will be left behind due to injuries, and players from Yangon United will also be left behind for the AFC Champions League.

He also added that goalkeeper Sann Satt Naing may be the most suitable keeper for the team currently, and officials have chosen him for the tourney.

Team Myanmar have been undergoing special training sessions at the Thuwunna Stadium and the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon over the past few days, and the team is leaving for Cambodia today in the evening, said a source with the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar U-22 players take part in a training with direction of head coach Velizar Popov. **PHOTO: MFF**

The Myanmar U-22 team has been placed in Group B with host Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Group A for the tourney comprises Thailand, Viet Nam, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.

Myanmar will take on Indonesia on 18 February, Cambodia on 20 February, and Malaysia on 22 February.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Man Utd, PSG face UEFA investigation after fan incidents

PARIS (France)—UEFA on Wednesday announced that disciplinary proceedings had begun against both Manchester United and Paris Saint-Germain after numerous incidents involving their supporters during Tuesday's Champions League clash at Old Trafford.Both sides face charges that their fans threw objects during the last 16, first leg, which PSG won 2-0. PSG's former United winger Angel di Maria was photographed holding a bottle that had been thrown towards him from the crowd.In addition, PSG face charges after fireworks were lit by their supporters, as well as for "acts of damages" and "crowd disturbance".

The Premier League side also face charges that their fans blocked stairways during the game, going against the safety and security regulations of European football's governing body UEFA said their Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body will deal with the case on 28 February.The second leg of the tie will be played in Paris on 6 March.PSG had one end of their Parc des Princes stadium closed for their 6-1 win over Red Star Belgrade in the group stage in October as a punishment after fans lit flares during their defeat at home to Real Madrid in the competition last season.—AFP ■