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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor meets residents of Kawthoung, Dawei districts

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets residents from Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was in Kawthoung Town, Taninthayi Region visited Cape Bayint Naung in Kawthoung Town yesterday morning 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, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Lei Lei Maw, Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo and officials.

While there, an official from township development committee explained about maintenance of Cape Bayint Naung conducted throughout the years and the renovation and construction of the stairway to the Bayint Naung statue. Next the State Counsellor went up the cape and inspected the Bayint Naung statue and greenery works conducted around the area.

From there, the State Counsellor went to Pyidaw Aye Pagoda to pay homage to the Buddha image with flower, water and oil lamp.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor attended a meeting with residents of townships in Kawthoung District at Kawthoung Town hall.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Eleventh regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 13th-day meeting

By Kyaw Thu Htat (MNA)

A 13th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday morning at Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw where a motion was accepted for discussion, questions raised were answered and a bill discussed.

Government urged to fulfill more requirements in constructing rural roads and bridges

U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency first explained and tabled a motion urging the Union Government to fulfill more requirements when implementing rural road and bridge construction works.

As Hluttaw accepted to discuss the motion Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

U Zaw Min Thein. **PHOTO : MNA**

Question and Answer session

In the question and answer session that follow, questions on upgrading and new construction of bridges and roads in their respective constituencies raised by U Kyaw Gyi @ U Ohn Khin of Minhla constituency, U Than Aung of Ngaputaw constituency, U Sein Aung of Paletwa constituency and U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pauktaw constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

U Kyaw Gyi @ U Ohn Khin.

Similarly questions on a discrepancy in a land situation described in ministry's announcement and on ground status raised by U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency and upgrade/repair of roads raised by U Zon Taint of Chipwe constituency and Dr. Sai Mauk Kham of Lashio constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

U Than Aung. **PHOTO : MNA**

Discussion and decision on Occupational Safety and Health Bill

Finally the Occupational Safety and Health Bill returned by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments were discussed and a motion was tabled for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to discuss and decide on 43 disagreements on the bill between the two Hluttaws.

The 14th-day meeting of eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled for 18 February it is learnt.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 13th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin (MNA)

A 13th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw where asterisk marked questions were raised and answered by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi. Later Bill committee report on a bill was read and the bill was decided and approved by the Hluttaw.

Asterisk-marked questions

Asterisk-marked questions covering education related matters including upgrading of schools, Myanmar's hosting of 19th ASEAN University Games and participation in earlier 18 Games were asked by U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency 12, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11, U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency 7, U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11, U Htein Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 4, U Naing Thiha of Mon State constituency 7 and U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency 4 were answered by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi. **PHOTO : MNA**

U Sai San Aung. **PHOTO : MNA**

Daw Htu May. **PHOTO : MNA**

Hluttaw approves a bill amending Myanmar Engineering Council Law

After the asterisk-marked questions were posed and answered, a Bill Committee report on a bill amending Myanmar Engineering Council Law approved and sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments was read and explained.

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the approval of the bill after Hluttaw decided on it.

The 14th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 18 February it is learnt.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Second coord meeting to form Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution

A second coordination meeting to form a Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution was held in Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Hluttaw representatives of political parties and Tatmadaw in Hluttaw, officials and directors-general of Hluttaw offices.

In his opening address Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said articles and matters to be amended in the Constitution amendment process is to be discussed based on mutual respect and trust. Through participating in the joint committee, small parties will have an equal chance and opportunity to discuss. Discussion in a positive manner is invited for the pre-distributed aims, duties, responsibilities, rights and terms of the joint committee formation draft announcement, said the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker explained about the pre-distributed aims, duties, responsibilities, rights and terms of the joint committee formation draft announcement and attending representatives from political parties and group wise representatives join the discussion.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivers the speech at the 2nd coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The meeting then came to a close after Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat made concluding remarks saying a review and an assessment will be made on the discussions.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

State Counsellor meets residents of Kawthoung,

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses meeting with local people in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

At the meeting the State Counsellor spoke of her happiness whenever she visited Taninthayi Region mainly because of the warmth of the local people. However she also spoke of noticing many things that need to be reformed too. The main point was the social-economic development of the people and this was being designated as an aim ever since the government took over responsibility in 2016. Development doesn't mean just having a good economy but also developing in education and health too. If the people were educated and healthy, it'll be a force for development, said the State Counsellor.

She said there were questions and matters that were raised to the meeting with local people but to reply in short, all should have been answered and resolved by the Region government. Now that she had been to many states and regions, she noticed the lack of closeness between the state/region governments and the people. If there were closeness, the questions and matters raised wouldn't have been raised and the people should have already been informed and knew about the answers. As an example there were repeated requests for upgrading of schools and hospitals, said the State Counsellor. State/Region Governments should know and answer what the basis for upgrades were. As this was not done, it shows the requirement of the government. The state/region government should find out the answers and let the people know about, it said the State Counsellor.

She spoke of her wish to hear the voices of the people why she was there because a government must not be out of touch with the people. A democracy form of government is a government elected by the people and this was not to be forgotten. The people elected a government with a belief that the government will work for the interests of the people. The government was elected not because they are very good. Therefore, the State Counsellor said the Taninthayi Region government will be instructed to keep in close contact with the people.

She also spoke of instructing the government to answer the questions and matters raised to the meeting. She then told of her ever existing wish to develop the people. First was mental development. This was to strengthen the sense of duty and self-reliance. Only when people know their duties and responsibilities they can make their works be true and correct. Only when they are self-reliant can they put in full effort. Only when we were duty conscious and put full effort we can have the strength to reach our destination, said the State Counsellor.

Success starts with will. Were there a real will for change? This will was important. The 2015 General Election was competed with the slogan of time for a change. It was indeed well past the time for change but there still remains much to be changed. People supported our slogan but it was not enough to support the slogan only as the people also need to have the will to change, said the State Counsellor.

If things were done with will, perseverance, morality and knowledge, there was nothing that can't be achieved. This was true not only for individually but for the country as well. Unity is required for this to happen. If we have unity and with the collective strength of the country using will, perseverance, morality and knowledge, success will be achieved for the country, said the State Counsellor.

> ... People have a right to demand. But it must not be one sided way. It is important for all to have a wide view.

This country was by nature very wealthy. However, our people were not as wealthy as they should be. Especially while travelling by helicopter, the country's geographical and natural situations were clearly observed. The beauty and natural wealth of the nation was very obvious. However, to maintain and nurture these beauties and wealth are the duty and responsibilities of all, said the State Counsellor.

Although everyone is responsible, the most responsible would be the government elected under a democracy system because it was formed by obtaining the support of the people. The government was thus responsible to the people. This was unavoidable. Thus, the central government was responsible and so were the states/regions governments. In contacting with the people, the central government could not compete with states/regions governments. Central government was in Nay Pyi Taw and think about the entire country.

The state/region government was based in their own region. They were to resolve the requirement of the people in the region daily.

People should view the Region Government as a government elected by them. The government they elected is responsible and so were they. Both need to control and manage things and change where necessary. People have a right to demand. But it must not be one sided way. It is important for all to have a wide view. Only when our people have wide views can our country become a truly developed nation said the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor said that even though the country was facing many challenges she was never satisfied with the progress. She spoke of her many desires and wishes and considered that in fact the progress wasn't that bad. Progress within this three year could be said to be not bad she said. However it is not enough to say it was not bad. It should be better. To overcome the external challenges, unity must be established. States/Regions governments need to do more to overcome the internal challenges. More efforts must be put in. There should be more contact with the people and she said this to the whole country from Kawthoung.

She said she could state strongly that the country will develop in a short time if states/regions governments perform their jobs. The people also need to control their government. Control mean not by violence or being rude but through peaceful and amicable way. Being rude and violent will be a disgrace for the country. In a way, it'll be leaving bad legacies for our next generations. It'll be a great legacy if we reach our desired destiny in an honorable way. This will be the most valuable inheritance for our future generation.

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State Counsellor meets residents of Kawthoung, …

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits statue of King Bayint Naung on the Bayint Naung hill in Kawthoung yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-3

There were some very rich business persons in Taninthayi Region. At the same time, there were many poor people in Taininthayi Region. She urged the rich and successful persons to value and care for the people in the region. Only when everyone develops can the country develop. An honor of a country was not how rich the richest person was but in how rich the poorest of the country were. As such strive for the benefit of your immediate neighbor. Do what you can for your region. Doing things for the benefit of all surely will benefit an individual who does that. As your neighbor and region develop, you and your work will develop, said the State Counsellor.

> The people were the most valuable resources. Successful business persons do not waste their most valuable resources.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Independence Mawgunwin Title (Second Class) recipient U Ohn Kyaing in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

She then said the people were the most valuable resources. Successful business persons do not waste their most valuable resources. They became rich through investing those resources. Of all the physical resources, our human resources were the most valuable. She urges all to balance self and others and work toward enriching your neighbor and surrounding while enriching yourself.

She spoke of requesting the people to raise questions and of appreciating openness. Openness between the government and people is required and openness shows the trust that exists. Only with trust can questions raised without fear. However, raise questions politely. It is important to retain this good tradition. We were polite by culture and treat one another politely and respectfully. These are the immeasurable richness. So, say and ask what ought to be said and asked but do so politely. There is big difference in effectiveness too. Do not encourage rude and impolite behaviors said the State Counsellor.

Local people attending the meeting then raised matters regarding explanation on how tender was granted for electrification of Kawthoung, fulfilling requirement of eye specialist, subsidizing fuel price to generate electricity for Kawthoung, licensing of nearshore fishing vessels, reducing tax on fish export, permitting bird nest farming in buildings in Bokpyin Township, disciplining illegal palm oil plantations and reassign those lands to landless people, opening a university in Kawthoung, conducting an enquiry on whether Region government is corrupt or abuses power, permitting foreign visitors to stay overnight at rest/guest houses in Bokpyin Town, taking action against those who overcharges in issuing identity cards to sit in matriculation examination, to assign proper person to proper positions in the Region Government, to permit free trade without tax in Kawthoung, look into loss of village land, review effectiveness of palm oil plantations, eradicate drug usage, remove barriers erected by palm oil companies at the entrance of villages, compensation for crops on lands confiscated when roads were widened, conserving mangrove forests, expanding Khamaukgyi Town, widening road to allow entry/exit of cars and motorcycles into some houses in Shwepyitan Ward and for Independence Mawgunwin Title (Second Class) recipient U Ohn Kyaing to take photo together with the State Counsellor.

State Counsellor responded to the raised matter and said that as electrification was conducted nationwide, subsidizing fuel for Kawthoung would need to be reviewed again. Once the main power grid reaches Kawthoung, there wouldn't be this issue anymore. The matter of fish export will also be looked into while the Region Government will be instructed report back after conducting a site visit on landless people. The matter of whether the Region Government abuses power or was corrupt will be looked into by Anti-Corruption Commission and truth will prevail, said the State Counsellor.

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The matter of foreign visitors staying overnight in Bokpyin Town will also be looked into while effective action will be taken against overcharging in issuing identity cards to sit in matriculation examination. She explained that tax collected was for road, hospital and other projects in Kawthoung and while the matter of lost village lands will be reviewed. Drug eradication is being conducted country wide while both the quantity and quality of anti-drug forces were being expanded. Compensation for crops lost for expanding road will be given and the Region Government will be instructed to put emphasis toward fulfilling school and hospital requirement explained the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor then took commemorative group photo with Independence Mawgun Second Class U Ohn Kyaing as well as meeting attendees.

After this, the State Counsellor and party left Kawthoung by special plane and reaches Dawei town where local populace put up an enthusiastic welcome at Dawei Airport as well as along the road from the airport.

From there, the State Counsellor went to Dawei Hospital and cordially greeted people taking treatments. While doing this, hospital officials were questioned about prevailing illnesses and disease, prevention and education works conducted and provided necessary instructions and guidance.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Region Chief Minister and region government members at Dawei Airport **PHOTO: BO BO**

Following this, the State Counsellor met with residents and local populace of townships in Dawei District at Dawei Town Hall.

At the meeting the State Counsellor said everyone has a right to choose and as per that right had responsibilities. She spoke of hearing the expectations, concerns and requirements of the people where ever she went and said some matters were to be resolved by the government.

In some matters, people need to participate as it is necessary to get rid of the mindset that everything will have to be conducted by the government. This is not a democracy mindset. Democracy mindset had the courage to take responsibility. People as well as the government they elected must have this courage. People should do what they ought to do and point out the weaknesses of the government.

Assist in making the government do its works more effectively. If we review ourselves, we'll know whether we do things in a positive constructive manner said the State Counsellor.

> Please be warned that if there were serious evidence of works being not done, strong and effective action will be taken...

People in attendance then raised matters of constructing more buildings in Dawei University, arranging meeting with officials to discuss teachers and students rights, recognizing Dawei University Student Union, conduct site visit to study feasibility of producing hydro-electric power on Taninthayi River and if feasible to implement it, creating cooperation between states/regions governments and youth affairs committees, details about a tender agreement with an electric company, provide assistance to those undergoing trial in Launglon court, holding an enquiry with a relevant organisation on the conduct of Region Chief Minister and Region minister for planning and finance, permitting on-job-training in the region for graduates of Dawei University, permission to be identified as Dawei people in national registration identity cards, quick implementation of Dawei Special Economic Zone and assisting the socio-economic situation of the locals.

The State Counsellor replied that on the matter of the university, Union Minister for Education will come to Dawei and works had been conducted to enable the universities to stand free and independently. This was being done country wide and on the matter of youth affairs, the Region Government will be instructed to work closely not only with the youth but also with the people.

Relevant entity was conducting enquiry on electrical company tender matter and as for the Launglon Court case, action will be taken according to the law whether the accused knew or do not knew the law. Laws were enacted for people to live in peace but instruction will be given to provide social assistances said the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor then told the public servants to be polite in dealing with the people. Public servants are to ease the difficulties of the people.

Graduates from Dawei University should work in other places of the Union as only then can they knew the progresses of the entire country. Identifying as Dawei people is a matter related to the entire country and thus relevant ministry will conduct discussion said the State Counsellor.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi encourages a mother who is giving care to her child receiving medical care at Dawei Hospital, Dawei, yesterday. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

SEE PAGE-6

State Counsellor meets residents of Kawthoung, ...

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo with local people in Dawei at Dawei Town Hall. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-5

After providing detailed explanation to matters raised the State Counsellor delivered a concluding speech and took commemorative photo with ethnic nationals who had attended the meeting.

After the meeting with the local residents, the State Counsellor met with Region Chief Minister and region government members in Dawei Airport hall and noted the region government's lack of contact with local people. Region governments are close to the region and thus Region Government members are to understand the requirements of the local people and fulfill it. The State Counsellor added that throughout her visits to the states and regions of the country, there were visible developments during the past three years. However people in Taninthayi were seen to be dissatisfied with the Region Government. Please be warned that if there were serious evidence of works being not done, strong and effective action will be taken as Taninthayi Government shouldn't be slow in development as the region had geographical and weather advantages that provide good economic opportunities. The State Counsellor then coordinated on explanation and discussion made by the Region Chief Minister and region government members.

After the meeting with the Region Chief Minister and region government members, the State Counsellor and party left Dawei by special flight and reaches Nay Pyi Taw in the evening where they were welcomed by Union Minister for Ministry of State Counsellor 's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

National Disaster Management Committee to step up efforts for preparedness

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, called for stepping up efforts for disaster preparedness saying that preparation is better than rehabilitation only after disasters.

As part of efforts for disaster preparedness, the Vice President laid down 10-point guidelines for disaster preparedness in regions and states at a meeting of the committee yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

He urged the region and state governments to find out key tasks for disaster preparedness and to carry out the tasks in cooperation with the ministries concerned.

The guidelines also include collecting resources including human, monetary and technical forces, conducting rehearsal, systematic spending of finance, sharing data and information, raising knowledge of disaster and promoting the capacity of the people to respond to disasters.

As the disaster management demands collective strength from different institutions, it needs systematic formation, policies and rule and procedures which are in conformity with the law and policies of Myanmar, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

> "While preparing for disasters should begin at the level of the public, in an attempt to reduce losses, it is the ministries, region and state governments that should take a leading role in the drive,": Vice President U Henry Van Thio

Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses National Disaster Management Committee meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

The committee has reformed its advisory board with experts from different sectors related with disasters, said U Henry Van Thio.

The disaster management committees were also formed at regions, states, self-administered region and zones, districts, townships, ward and villages.

Speaking at the meeting, he also quoted the remark of the State Counsellor made in her visit to flood-hit Kayin State in July last year, saying that the country was facing the changes that had not happened in the past and the changes are expected to happen constantly

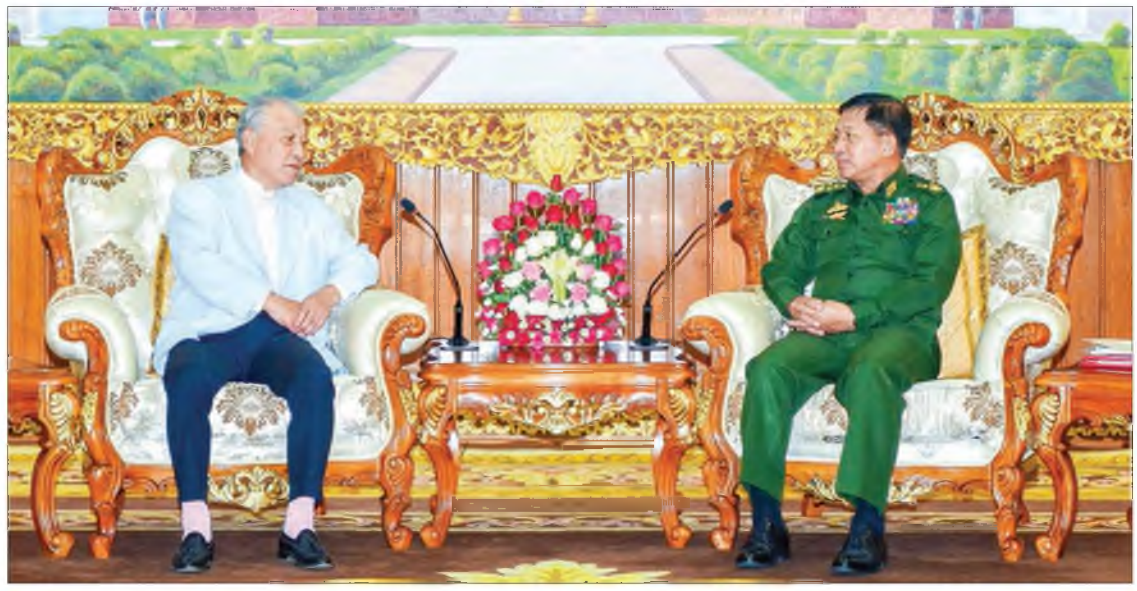
"As disasters are expected to regularly happen and can impact all people, without discrimination, the public is still obligated to respond to disasters. While preparing for disasters should begin at the level of the public, in an attempt to reduce losses, it is the ministries, region and state governments that should take a leading role in the drive," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

SEE PAGE-7

Senior General receives Japanese Government's Special Envoy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar and Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, in Bayinnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

During the meeting, they openly exchanged views on support from Japan in Myanmar's peace process, the Tatmadaw's cooperation with religious bodies and other relevant organizations in Kachin State to return displaced people in IDP camps back to their homes and Japan's support in regional development, Japan's participation in regional development and humanitarian aid in Rakhine State, the government and Tatmadaw's efforts to resolve issues in Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships and Japan's support in portraying the true situation to the international community, the Tatmadaw's efforts in implementing political stability and security throughout the country, and Japan's ongoing plans to invest in factories and workshops in Myanmar to create employment opportunities, according to information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA *(Translated by ZHO)*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation Mr. Yohei Sasakawa in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

National Disaster Management Committee to step up efforts for preparedness

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint.

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho.

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The Vice President also stressed the need to step up efforts for disaster preparedness, cooperation and coordination and fulfilling the requirements sector wise. Response to disasters demands skills and quick assessment and response to the ground situation, he said, adding that however, it is required to follow the rules and regulations and to take care of monetary and aid sectors.

The Union Government instructed the ministries to establish emergency fund in preparation for responding disasters which are expected to hit due to the climate change, said the Vice President.

He also urged the ministries to seek and use the fund in accordance with the law as the Union Government has already given instructions following the Emergency Fund Law.

He also stressed the need to take lessons from past experiences to be better plans when the ministries carried out the disaster management work, giving example to floods happened in the country last year.

In his 10-point disaster preparedness guidelines, the Vice President also called on the ministries concerned, region and state governments to make more cooperation and coordination.

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint.

Union Minister Dr. Han Zaw.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Vice Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, reported on implementation of prioritized tasks by the committee.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Secretary of the committee, implementation of the resolutions of the 1/2018 meeting and Dr. Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Disaster Management Department on the budget of the committee in 2018.

Afterwards, Members of the committee Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Khin Maung Cho and Dr. Than Myint on their sectors respectively.

Afterwards, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of regions and states, deputy ministers and Yangon Mayor reported on measures taken for the disaster preparedness.

U Maung Maung Khin, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, and members, and departmental officials give advices for measures to be taken in regions.

In his conclusion remarks, Vice President U Henry Van Thio coordinated the works and urged the region and state governments to closely supervise the infrastructures which are under construction with the use of the emergency fund of the committee in regions and states to meet set standards.

He also called for cooperation and coordination among the bodies concerned to release the information of works the disaster management committees at different levels and news and information related with disasters in timely manner.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Public trust essential to administrative backbone's success

THROUGH successive political systems in Myanmar's history, the administrative sector has been stabilizing the administrative mechanism, building the nation's administrative system and authority, and continuously working to gain public trust. The vital pillars of the administrative sector are its personnel deployed across the states and regions.

The general administration system of a nation, usually found under its executive pillar, mainly performs the day-to-day administrative duties at the township and village levels, and thus, it is important for its staff to have the trust of the people they interact regularly with.

> For the GAD to successfully implement its reform goals, staff at the most basic level must begin to adopt a mindset of growth and accountability.

In accordance with the changing political system and the vision of the executive pillar, the General Administration Department was transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government on 28 December, 2018.

We believe the GAD will continue maintaining a stable administrative mechanism, while carrying out necessary reforms at the same time. The department is making transparent changes to its organizational structure and ethos and aims to visibly transform itself in 2019.

Beginning from the colonial era, the public has seen various administrative systems with their unique strengths and weaknesses working under successive governments.

The people have always wished for reliable administrative personnel who possess the skills and capabilities to effectively relay government efforts and policies to the public. We can see that the GAD is currently striving to establish itself as a public-minded institution.

For the GAD to successfully implement its reform goals, staff at the most basic level must begin to adopt a mindset of growth and accountability.

The higher levels of the administration also need to listen to the voice of the staff that interact with the people on a daily basis, and include their ideas and suggestions in the overall reforms process.

We believe that the GAD is on the right track to democratic reform and will continue maintaining its position as the administrative backbone of Myanmar, as we head towards our shared goal of establishing a democratic federal Union.

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Asiatic elephants in peril

By S. K. Basu

SAVED from the grips of the merciless ivory trade, Asiatic elephants across South East Asia are once again facing a serious threat of endangering their wild populations beyond recovery. This new threat is so widespread, devastating and deadly that experts are already showing serious concern regarding the bleak future that threatens Asiatic elephants over the next two decades. The ban of ivory trade has opened an alternate market of elephant body parts in mainland China that is seriously endangering the future of this majestic land mammal. The skin of Asiatic elephants is being harvested after their indiscriminate poaching for the alarming rise in demands for natural jewellery manufactured from such elephant skin. The helpless animals are poached first by highly organized poaching units with sophisticated firearms, latest GPS tracking and high powered communication system like satellite phones and other advanced tracking and./or communication devices. Following that the skin of the animals are removed with precision and exported to China via illegal trade routes for manufacturing special elephant skin beads that are dyed with specific coloring agents and then made into specialty jewellery items like beaded necklace and bracelets and other expensive fancy items. Such fashionable jewellery items are fetching high economic returns from their customers in the illegal wildlife black markets operating in China and in some pockets of South East Asia.

This new trends has caught wind too fast and has been impacting wild Asiatic elephant populations and subpopulations across South East Asia. Previously, only selected males with large tusks were targeted by poachers for the ivory trade. Female Asiatic elephants do not produce tusks unlike their African cousins. Decades of poaching generated hunting pressure so drastic on populations of wild elephants that bull elephants with large dusks are not so common in their wild Asiatic herd populations any more. But the skin trade is gender neutral; and hence male, female juvenile, sub adult, baby as well as old and sick elephants are all being targeted by the poachers in their relentless hunt for elephant skin for the novelty jewellery industrial markets in China.

As a consequence a very serious, detrimental and irreversible hunting pressure is being exerted across wild Asiatic elephant populations in South East Asia exerting irreparable damage to the sustenance of many herds and pushing them towards extinction; if this is going to continue unrestricted. Removing young calves and breeding females from the wild herd populations is going to exert serious pupation pressure on these herds with bleak future awaiting them in the future; as there will be less chances of individuals removed being replaced by new and vigorous stock for the future.

Elephant carcasses with clinically removed skin are showing up even in the very remote parts of South East Asia indicating that the problem is deep rooted and is slowly getting out of control. The poor management of forests and poor conditions of the forest and wildlife security across the region is further deteriorating the process at an unprecedented and alarming rate.

The situation has been worrying most elephant conservation agencies around the globe. Some reports are suggesting that the poaching of wild Asiatic elephant herds have surpassed that of the African elephant herds over the past few years in an exponential manner within a very short period of time. All the elephant inhabiting nations across South East Asia are facing the heat. But the situation is worst in Myanmar due to its close proximity to international border with China; and the poaching pressure on wild herds of Asiatic elephants across Myanmar even in remote and inaccessible elephant habitats are raising by leaps and bounds annually. Unless something serious is attempted in Myanmar and that too very soon; the wild herds may bid adieu forever from the region.

The situation is alarming for neighboring South Asia particularly for countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh close to China. Once the poaching gangs start operating at an industrial scale in South Asian countries; the toll will be several folds on wild herds of Asiatic elephants in South Asia. All these countries need to act now before the problem hit their shore by working together as a joint force in dealing with such monumental challenges through mechanisms like Joint Conservation Initiative (JCD. The governments across South Asia with significant wildlife population and rich biodiversity must act now before the poaching plague hit their shores. However, this is not just the case of Asiatic elephants alone. The monumental negative impacts on different species of wildlife populations as well as major and minor forest resources around the globe through intra and intercontinental poaching and illegal trafficking of forest products, live wildlife and various wildlife body parts into China is getting worse by the day. The situation is so worrisome that several countries impacted by wildlife poaching due to the powerful and politically influential illegal wildlife markets operating in China have been compelled to approach Beijing to take suitable steps to curb this massive billion dollars plus illegal industry operating openly in the country. Three continents rich in biodiversity, namely Asia, Africa and Latin America as well as economically under developed Eastern Europe have been worst impacted by this illegal wildlife trade and trafficking.

> The poaching pressure on wild herds of Asiatic elephants across Myanmar even in remote and inaccessible elephant habitats are raising by leaps and bounds annually. Unless something serious is attempted in Myanmar and that too very soon; the wild herds may bid adieu forever from the region.

Several species of endangered aquatic (both marine and fresh water) and terrestrial invertebrates; as well as amphibians, reptiles, fishes, birds and mammals have been drastically impacted to the point of no return around the globe due to this factor. The worst impacted being mostly the economically backward; but biodiversity rich developing and under developed nations in both hemispheres. Without covert political support such illegal wildlife trade and trafficking markets could neither operate nor survive in China. Unless we act diligently to cut down wildlife trade and trafficking operating in the region, the global future for several wildlife species (like Asiatic and African elephants, rhinoceros, leopards, snow leopards, clouded leopards, endangered pangolin, primates, bears, bats, deer, antelopes, rodents, wild sheep and goats are all at stake to name only a handful) is in complete jeopardy in the not so distant future.

The author is a Canada and India based freelance journalist specializing in global geo-political, strategic and foreign policy issues, science & technology and environment & conservation related themes. The views expressed here are his own.

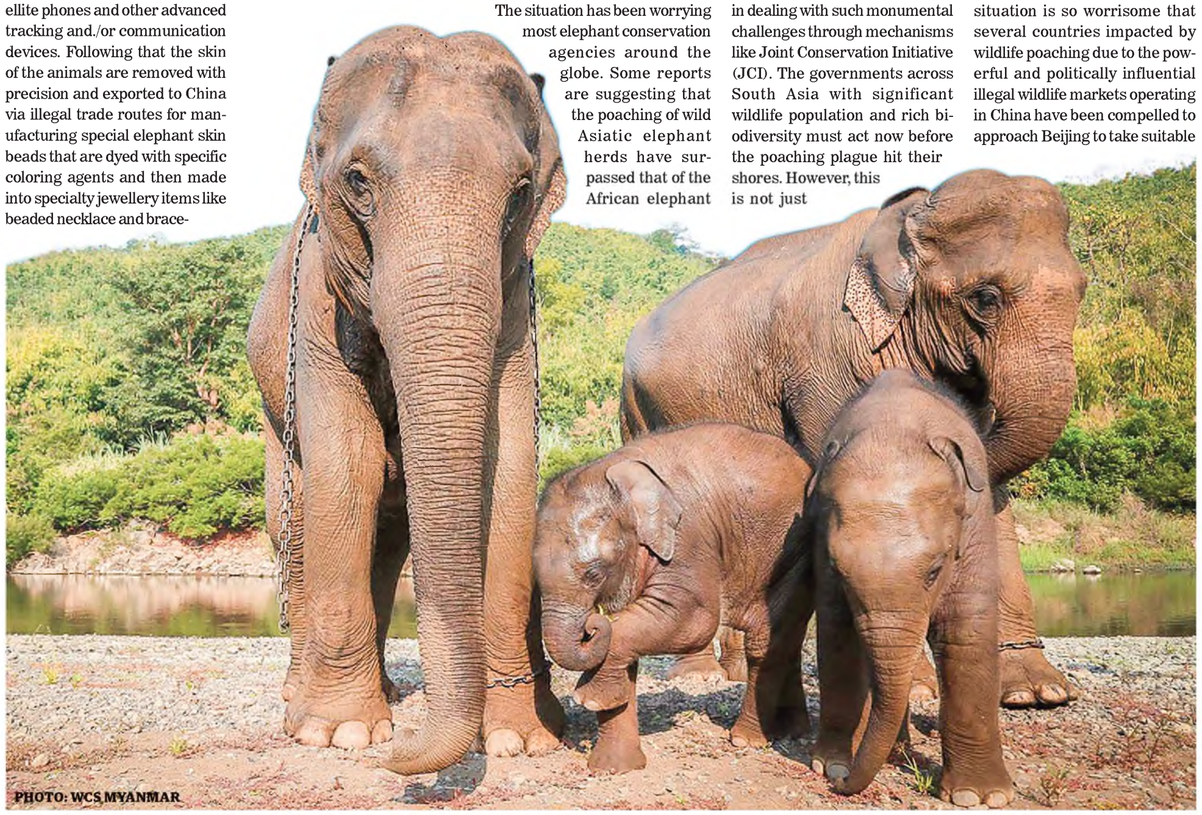

PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Friday 15 February 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain has been fairly widespread in Tanintharyi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below February average temperatures in Yangon Region and Rakhine State, (2°C) above February average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kayin and Mon states and about February average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (4°C) each in Hsipaw and Haka, (5°C) in Heho and (6°C) each in Namhsan, Pinlaung, Loilin and Mongyan. The noteworthy amount of rainfalls recorded were Dawei (0.98)inch and Myeik (0.08)inch.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE AFTERNOON 16 February 2019: Rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi regions, Kachin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan, Chin, Kayah and Kayin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 February 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon regions.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio emphasizes full enforcement of law on farmers' rights

Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses meeting of the Leading Committee for Projection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA.**

AS head of the Leading Committee for the Farmer Rights and, Vice President U Henry Van Thio called on the committee to speed up full enforcement of the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits since the law passed its second amendment on 18 December 2018.

The Vice President made this remark at a meeting with members of the leading committee held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice President highlighted the fact that the second amendment to the law stipulates seven additional provisions, including working to aid farmers with losses incurred, to ensure security in working on their farmlands, and to enact a law concerning establishment of farmers' associations, all mentioned in Chapter 2, Section 2 of the law.

He stressed the importance of cooperating with private corporations to the working committees and working groups formed with representatives of ministries, state and region governments, and NGOs. He said the agriculture sector is critically important to Myanmar as rice production provides the main source of food for the country and generates tremendous income from exports.

The Vice President said although Section 8, Subsection (a) of the same law grants farmers the right to cultivate other crops of their choice on their farmland as long as it does not negatively impact the overall production of rice, the main staple of the country, we must exercise reason to choose crops that will greatly benefit our respective region in addition to our personal benefit.

He said we must establish a Rice Market Price Regulation Committee along with the other established committees and groups. He said the organic cultivation system is sustainable and does not damage the topsoil, ecosystem and other living things while producing safe and high-quality crops. Organic farming promotes coexistence among different species and focuses on harmony with the ecology of the relevant region, and thus, is effective in raising crop production, said the Vice President.

> ... the organic cultivation system is sustainable and does not damage the topsoil, ecosystem and other living things while producing safe and high-quality crops.

He said Myanmar started practicing the organic standards guidelines on 26 January. Myanmar has also enacted the Myanmar version of the ASEAN GAP Guideline and has been issuing GAP Certificates, said the Vice President.

He said projects to cultivate coffee beans, cocoa, tea leaves, and elephant foot yam are in progress and have seen a degree of success. Currently there is a 5,000-acre organic coffee zone in Thandaunggyi, tea and coffee plantations are expanding in Chin State, cocoa plantations also expanding in five townships in Taninthayi Region, and an increase in demand for elephant foot yam for consumption as well as medicinal use, said the Vice President.

He said works are underway to develop the rubber production sector, including forming relevant committees and associations composed of the cultivators, factory owners and private sector organizations.

The Vice President also mentioned the success of the 2018 and 2019 Seed Fairs and the introduction of the Myanmar Seed Portal on 11 November 2018. He said farmland management groups from the Nay Pyi Taw Council and states and regions and the central group are performing assessments in line with existing farmland laws (2012), bylaws, rules and regulations to ensure famers can safely use their farmlands for other purposes besides farming.

> ... on 2 May 2018, a decision was reached to keep the rate of fines for using farmlands for other purposes without a permit, the same for pre-2012 and post-2012 cases.

The Vice President said that during the meeting of the Committee on Security, Stability and Rule of Law in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on 2 May 2018, a decision was reached to keep the rate of fines for using farmlands for other purposes without a permit, the same for pre-2012 and post-2012 cases.

The Vice President highlighted the amendment to The Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law was passed into law on 11 September 2018 and intends to resolve cases of use of these lands without proper permits by issuing official permits and ensuring relevant benefits for the nature of the business conducted. He said relevant regional authorities have conducted field visits and surveys to hard to access areas concerning land use.

Next, the Secretary of the Leading Committee and Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Dr. Aung Thu, explained support provided to farmers who suffered natural disasters, implementation of GAP, Myanmar organic standards, and production of good specimens, conducting agriculture and livestock research and awareness raising programs for farmers, and the management of vacant, fallow and virgin lands.

Other members of the Leading Committee, including Union Ministers and the Union Attorney-General, then engaged in various discussions. Following this, committee members Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and chief ministers of states and regions presented their completed and ongoing implementation of the decisions from the 1/2018 meeting. The Chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation also explained prospects for establishing the Rice Market Price Regulation Committee.

The Vice President replied to the various discussions, gave suggestions and instructions as necessary, and concluded the meeting with a closing speech.
—MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MRTV celebrates 73rd anniversary in Tatkon

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers the opening addresses at the 73rd anniversary of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) at Tatkon MRTV yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR Radio and Television (MRTV) celebrated its 73rd anniversary at the MRTV Auditorium yesterday afternoon. Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended and addressed the event.

The Union Minister said after two years from now the 75th Diamond Jubilee of MRTV will be held. Time to prepare for the Diamond Jubilee had arrived. It will be an honor for the staff to serve in MRTV as it reaches Diamond Jubilee and to participate in the Jubilee event.

For staff who are serving in MRTV, as it reaches 73rd anniversary, are also persons who think theirselve lucky. Departments and organisations that work with and for the public become valuable as it come of age.

Myanmar Radio was in existence before independence and had passed through political changes as well as armed insurgency period. It had faced and overcome many changes throughout this time.

All need to strive toward continued existence into the future through the changing political, economic and technology changes, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister then presented the Best Public Servant Awards for 2018 to outstanding personnel, followed by Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun presenting prizes for Best Program/ Short Story Award winners.

Next, Director General U Myint Htwe presented certificate of honors to retired MRTV personnel and on behalf of MRTV former employees association, Chairman U Myint Aung presented the Director General with a flower bouquet.

Finally the Union Minister, Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary and Directors General picked lucky draws for all the personnel.

Later in the evening an anniversary entertainment program was conducted and was attended by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and wife, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and wife, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min and wife, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and wife, directors general, invited departmental guest, staff and families.

Myanmar Radio Modern Music Troupe, famous singers and award winning singers from peace music festival performed in the entertainment program. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Line Walker-2 to be shot in downtown Yangon

AUTHORITIES sought cooperation from the people when major scenes of Line Walker-2 was shot in Yangon soon.

"Shooting, explosion, car racing against each other, crash, helicopter flying include in this film. Departments concerned will help us. Therefore, public are quested to enjoy the shooting from designated places," said U Aye Kywe, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department at the press conference in Yangon yesterday

Shaw Brothers Pictures International Ltd. will take major scenes of Line Walker-2, a sequel to their very successful Line Walker movie, in Yangon soon.

"Through this film, we want to show the world that we ensure transparency, smooth, no delays, no obstacle for foreign movie shooting in our country," he added.

Deputy Director-General U Aye Kywe explains about the Line Walker (operation Midnight Shadow) movie at the press conference in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

The film jointly produced by Shaw Brothers Pictures International Ltd and J.Q. Pictures is directed by Mr. Jazz Boon, with producer Miss. Andrew Lau Wai-Keung and Manuscript Writer Mr. Chin Ka Lok. Louis Koo Tin-Lok and Nick Cheung Ka-Fai will star in the film.

In the scenes in Yangon, Hong Kong Police and Myanmar police will jointly carry out an operation to give protection to a Hong Kong journalist who is chasing a child trafficking ring and to send him back to Hong Kong.

"We have to hold meetings with Yangon Region Authorities and other organizations concerned to shoot this film. We have to prepare not to cause panic to the people as there are scenes of explosion. This film will open the way to Myanmar movie history," said Yangon Synthesis Productions Company's Adviser Police Brig-General Win Khaung (Retd).

The film is produced by Hong Kong-based Shaw Brother Pictures International and is a sequel to the 2016 film. The company is one of the largest film producer in Hong Kong with over 1000 films produced.

Some scenes were shot at the National Races Village in Thakayta Township on Friday.

When the shooting starts in downtown, some roads in downtown area will be closed for eight days from 6 am to 6 pm .

Shaw Brothers Pictures International Ltd. is one of the largest film production company in its country with over 1000 films produced and popularised the kung-fu genre.—Win Win Maw, Ohmar Thant, Nay Lin

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

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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.

WCS to educate Mandalay villagers on saving migratory birds

THE Wild Conservation Society (WCS) will raise awareness on conservation of migratory birds wintering in villages near Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay as the birds are facing a threat by hunters in the area poisoning them.

Currently, birds are migrating to the area from other countries. The educational program is aimed at local people, including hunters who are using potassium cyanide to kill the birds, said officials.

After the educational program, legal action will be taken against those who kill birds illegally, officials added.

"Educational programs will be conducted in Paleik Lake in the first week of February as migratory birds are disappearing as they are being killed illegally using potassium cyanide," said an official.

"Likewise, officials from the Forestry Department, Myanmar Police Force, and the WCS will educate people about conservation of the birds in villages near Paleik Lake," he added.

Species of migratory birds in flight near Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (SUB-PRINTING)**

Birds are mostly migrating to Paleik Lake and Taungthaman Lake near Mandalay, and officials from the WCS, the Zoological Department of the Mandalay University, and bird lovers' teams have been gathering and recording data on the migratory birds since 6 January.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Over K1.7 bln in agri loans disbursed for winter crops in Mandalay

MANDALAY Region's Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has disbursed more than K1.7 billion in loans to farmers across the region, starting last October, for cultivation of winter crops, said U Su, the bank's manager.

Between 26 October and 31 January in the current financial year, the bank provided K1.70129 billion, or 96.61 per cent, in loans for winter crops.

The bank has granted K150,000 per acre of paddy plantation and K100,000 per acre of other crops at an 8 per cent interest rate. Previously, the bank had granted only K50,000 per acre.

Growers have to return the government-backed agricultural loans in June this year. Action will be taken against those who fail to return the loans to the bank within the set time frame.

In Mandalay, a few growers have defaulted on seasonal agricultural loans. The majority of growers usually pay off the loans within the repayment period. Continuous efforts are being made by the branches of the MADB in townships and districts to recover the loans from growers within the due date.—Khine Hset Wai ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Over 130 tons of illegal timber seized in Katha, Bamauk townships

AUTHORITIES seized over 130 tons of illegal teak and hardwood in Bamauk and Katha townships, Sagaing Region.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led by U Myint Naing Oo, Assistant Director of Township Forest Department confiscated 69.2724 tons of illegal timber on 13 February in an operation.

Similarly the officials from Township Forest Department led by U Tin Htut, head of department and Township Police Force seized the owner of timber cutting machine with 65.112 tons of illegal Kanyin timber and a timber cutting machine on the same day.

Action is being taken against the owner of the timber cutting machine, U Nyo under the Forestry law.—(Lu Aung-Katha)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Officials from Forest Department inspects seized illegal timbers near Katha Township. **PHOTO: (LU AUNG-KATHA)**

Trade with Viet Nam up 21 % in Q1

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and Viet Nam reached US$196 million in the first quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, an increase of $34.7 million, or 21 per cent, compared with the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 FY, according to the monthly report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 31 December, Myanmar exported goods worth $48.5 million, while its imports from the Southeast Asian country totalled $147 million. Compared with the same period in the previous year, the value of bilateral exports increased significantly by over $30 million, while there was a slight increase of $2.5 million in bilateral imports. In December 2018, trade between the two countries was valued at nearly $70 million, including $17.8 in exports and over $50 million in imports. The bilateral trade between the countries stood at $49.5 million in December 2017, with imports of $43.5 million and exports worth $6.05 million.

Myanmar chiefly exports minerals, and agricultural, forest, and marine products to Viet Nam, while it imports food, auto parts, computer and related accessories, construction materials, steel, plastics, pharmaceuticals, and other chemical products from the ASEAN member state.

The two counties are focusing on boosting trade and investment for regional economic growth. According to the Commerce Ministry, Myanmar-Viet Nam trade exceeded $710 million in the 2017-2018 FY, the highest figure in seven years since the 2011-2012 FY.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), bilateral trade totalled $426 million, an increase of $48.7 million from the corresponding period of the previous year.

The Myanmar Investment Commission approved new investment projects from Viet Nam worth $10.48 million in the first quarter of this financial year.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Green gram growers in Thongwa reap handsome profits this season

GROWERS in Thongwa Township, Yangon Region, said they reaped a healthy profit from the sale of green gram this harvest season.

Yangon Region's Thongwa market has seen an increase in the daily inflow of green gram starting mid-January. In the market, a bag of green gram, weighing 72 pounds, fetched K43,000 on 15 February, an increase of K1,000 per bag compared with the rates on 9 February, when a bag of green gram was selling for K42,000.

U Myint Naing of Nangkhale Model Village, who owns ten acres of green gram plantations, said he has already harvested green gram and is waiting for some time to sell his products at a good price. Thanks to favourable weather, an acre of his plantation is producing 14 bags of green gram, he said. He estimated that he will get over K600,000 for an acre of green gram this harvest season.

Workers loading sacks of green gram at exporter's warehouse. **PHOTO: KO KYAW (THONGWA)**

He said his production costs for an acre of green gram totalled more than K235,000, including the cost of seeds and fertilizers, rental for harvesting machines, and labour wages.

Green gram can be harvested two and a half months after planting. Growers normally start cultivating green gram in the second week of November and harvest the crop in mid-February. The prices of green gram are usually volatile at the beginning of the harvest period, and typically decline following a good harvest.

In Thongwa Township, growers are mainly cultivating monsoon paddy and marketable types of green gram, especially the Yayzin and Shwewah varieties. According to the township's Department of Agriculture, a total of 129,984 acres of green gram have been cultivated in Thongwa Township in the 2018-2019 financial year.—Ko Kyaw (Thongwa)■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Individual border exports reach K3.7 bln

EXPORTS using individual trading cards (ITCs) at the borders topped K3.69 billion in the current fiscal year, while individual imports exceeded K16 billion, according to the latest trade report of the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 October to 1 February this FY, Myanmar exported rice, kitchen crops, marketable fruits, and other domestically-produced goods through four land borders, namely, Tamu, Tachilek, Mawtaung, and Kengtung.

During the period, exports by individual traders at the Tamu border trade station were the highest, both in terms of volume of trade and value, reaching almost K1.97 billion; followed by Mawtaung at K1.4 billion; Kengtung at K280.2 million; and, Tachilek at K12.3 million.

Exports by individual border merchants are usually less than imports. The ministry's data showed that individual border exports reached K5.3 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, while individual imports were K40.6 billion.

During the mini-budget period from April to September, individual border trade totalled K22.5 billion, with exports exceeding K5.4 billion and imports valued at K17 billion.

Since the 2012-2013FY, the Ministry of Commerce has issued ITCs to border merchants as part of efforts to boost cross-border trade with neighbouring countries, including China, India, Thailand, and Bangladesh.

Since the beginning of the program, ITC cards have been issued to more than 1,600 traders operating at border trade stations. The ministry issued a total of 90 cards to border traders in the first four months of this financial year.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (120 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (120 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1098 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1098 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Nordic Day Ceremony held in Yangon

WITH the supervision of ambassadors and diplomats from the Norway, Finland, Denmark and Sweden Embassies, the Nordic Day Ceremony was held at the Nordic House in Yangon yesterday evening. The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Transportation and Communications U Thant Sin Maung and wife Daw Khin Than Aye.

During the ceremony, Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and Finnish Ambassador Ms. Riikka Laatu delivered greeting speeches. Then, the Union Minister took a documentary photo together with the ambassadors, followed by a dinner reception hosted by the ambassadors. The ceremony was attended by ambassadors and diplomats from other foreign embassies stationed in Myanmar, United Nations representatives for Myanmar and invited guests.—MNA■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and wife Daw Khin Than Aye are welcomed by Finnish Ambassador Ms. Riikka Laatu at the Nordic Day Ceremony in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

UK Government communication experience relayed at Ministry of Information

UK Ambassador Mr. Dan Chugg makes a presentation of UK Government's experience of communications sector. **PHOTO: MNA**

A presentation of the UK Government's experience in the communications sector was held at the Ministry of Information yesterday and was led by UK Ambassador Mr. Dan Chugg with Ameila Austin, UK Regional Head of Communications.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said the presentation will be sharing the experiences and insight of the UK Government in the communication sector. He said we must realize the importance of communications as it disseminates information.

He said the Ministry of Information conducts its work with the aim to inform, educate and entertain, and is responsible for disseminating information to the general public. He said it is important to identify where, whom, when, and how to communicate information. He said a lack of effective communications in society will lead a surge in unconstructive disinformation, inaccurate news, rumors, and hate speech which will lead to unnecessary misunderstandings.

There are numerous challenges present in Myanmar's transition process and the eyes of the international community are focused on the country right now, said the Deputy Minister. He said State and private media are currently slow to respond to these situations. He said now is a crucial time to improve the communication system in the country. He said this is why workshops and presentations to exchange experiences in the media sector with other countries, such as this one, are held so that we may learn methods from their governments.

Next, the UK Ambassador explained the UK Government's communications system and methods. Following this, the UK Regional Head of Communications discussed effective communications campaign planning and participants then engages in small group discussions.

Afterwards, Dr. Thida Tin, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department, and the UK Regional Head of Communications delivered separate closing speeches.

The Presentation on UK Government Communications is jointly organized by the Ministry of Information and the British Embassy with 40 MoI officials participating in the event. —MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Four men convicted in killing of NLD legal adviser U Ko Ni

THE Yangon Northern District Court in Insein Township yesterday sentenced the gunman, Kyi Lin, and Aung Win Khaing, an accomplice involved in palling the killing to death for the killing of U Ko Ni, a legal adviser to the ruling party, and two other men involved in the crime got prison sentences.

Kyi Lin, also know as Phoe Htoo, was found guilty of premeditated murder and illegal weapons possessions for the 29-January shooting of U Ko Ni and was sentenced to death under the under section 302(1)(b)/34 of the Penal Code and to 20 years in prison under section 302 (2) for fatally shot Ne Win, a taxi driver who tried to stop him after the initial shooting and to three years in prison with hard labour for illegal weapons possession.

The court found Aung Win Zaw guilty of involving in planning the killing of U Ko Ni and gave death sentence to him under the section 302 (1) (b)/34 of the Penal Code. Zeyar Phyo and Aung Win Tun involved in the crime were also sentenced five years and three years in prison with hard labour respectively.

"In today's judgement, the court also said necessary steps will be taken in accordance with the law against the fifth suspect Aung Win Khaing who remains at large. Procedures to attach his propery in Dawbon Township is being carried out by Yangon Eastern District," said U Ye Lwin, Director and Information Officer of the court. The verdicts came at the 104th appearing after the court heard evidences from over 200 witnesses from both sides in two years.

"We will proceed in accordance with the law. Kyi Lin and Aung Win Zaw have given seven days by the law to appeal the sentence to a higher court. The remaining two have got 60 days. But, its up to them to proceed it," U Kyaw Kyaw Htaik, the defendant lawyer.

"The judges made decision that is right for them. But, there can be diverse opinions. The decision of the court can not impact the rue of law," said U Nay La, the plaintiff lawer. Among the people who observed the final judgment at the court were local and foreign media and diplomats.

Kyi Lin, (2nd-R) the suspected gun man who shot and killed U Ko Ni, a legal advisor to National League for Democracy, is escorted by police on arrival to face the court verdict in Yangon on February 15, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

U Ko Ni was shot dead in a close range at the Yangon International Airport on 29th January, 2017 as he arrived back after attending the Senior Leadership Program in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 22 to 29 January—Zaw Gyi *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

In this file photo taken on 29 November, 2018 NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine speaks during an event at NASA headquarters in Washington, DC. NASA is accelerating plans to return Americans to the Moon, and this time, the US space agency says it will be there to stay. Jim Bridenstine, NASA's administrator, told reporters on 14 February, 2019 that the agency plans to speed up plans backed by President Donald Trump to return to the moon, using private companies. "It's important that we get back to the moon as fast as possible," said Bridenstine in a meeting at NASA's Washington headquarters, adding he hoped to have astronauts back there by 2028.

NASA heading back to Moon soon, and this time to stay

WASHINGTON (United States) — NASA is accelerating plans to return Americans to the Moon, and this time, the US space agency says it will be there to stay.

Jim Bridenstine, NASA's administrator, told reporters on Thursday that the agency plans to speed up plans backed by President Donald Trump to return to the moon, using private companies.

"It's important that we get back to the moon as fast as possible," said Bridenstine in a meeting at NASA's Washington headquarters, adding he hoped to have astronauts back there by 2028.

"This time, when we go to the Moon, we're actually going to stay. We're not going to leave flags and footprints and then come home to not go back for another 50 years" he said.

"We're doing it entirely different than every other country in the world. What we're doing is, we're making it sustainable so you can go back and forth regularly with humans."

The last person to walk on the Moon was Eugene Cernan in December 1972, during the Apollo 17 mission. Before humans set foot on the lunar surface again, NASA aims to land an unmanned vehicle on the Moon by 2024, and is already inviting bids from the burgeoning private sector to build the probe.

The deadline for bids is 25 March, with a first selection due in May, a tight timeline for an agency whose past projects have run years behind schedule and billions over budget.

"For us, if we had any wish, I would like to fly this calendar year. We want to go fast," said Thomas Zurbuchen, the associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

However, he admitted that "we may not be able to."

NASA's accelerated plans flesh out the Space Policy Directive that Trump signed in December 2017, envisaging a return to the Moon before a manned mission to Mars, possibly in the 2030s.

NASA plans to build a small space station, dubbed Gateway, in the Moon's orbit by 2026. It will serve as a way-station for trips to and from the lunar surface, but will not be permanently crewed like the International Space Station (ISS), currently in Earth's orbit. As with the ISS, NASA would seek the participation of other countries, who could provide some of the necessary needed, such as modules for the Moon station or vehicles to allow landings on the surface.

"We want numerous providers competing on cost and innovation," Bridenstine said.

Before this manned program, NASA is also pushing to send scientific instruments and other technological tools to the Moon in 2020 or even before the end of this year.

The agency is also calling for quick-turnaround bids to manufacture and launch such instruments, offering financial incentives to make it happen fast.

"We care about speed," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "We do not expect that every one of those launches or every one of those landings will be successful. We are taking risks."— AFP ■

WHO warns of 'backsliding' in measles fight as cases soar

GENEVA (Switzerland) — The World Health Organization warned on Thursday that efforts to halt the spread of measles were "backsliding", with case numbers worldwide surging around 50 per cent last year.

The UN health agency pointed to preliminary data showing that the disturbing trend of resurgent measles cases was happening at a global level, including in wealthy nations where vaccination coverage has historically been high.

"Our data are showing that there is a substantial increase in measles cases. We're seeing this in all regions," Katherine O'Brien, WHO's director of immunisation, vaccines and biologicals, told reporters in Geneva.

"We're having outbreaks that are protracted, that are sizable and that are growing," she said. "This is not an isolated problem."

O'Brien pointed out that less than 10 per cent of actual measles cases are reported. "So when we see the reported cases increasing by 50 per cent, we know that we're heading in the wrong direction," she said, adding that the true number of infections was "in the millions".

Countries have until April to report measles cases registered in 2018 to the WHO.

Up until 2016, the number of measles cases had been steadily declining, but since 2017 the number has soared, the WHO says. **PHOTO: AFP**

But the agency said the data it has received so far showed that around 229,000 cases had already been reported, compared to 170,000 for 2017.

Last year, measles cause approximately 136,000 deaths around the world, according to WHO's preliminary figures.

Measles is a highly contagious disease, which can cause severe diarrhoea, pneumonia and vision loss and can be fatal in some cases, and remains "an important cause of death among young children," according to WHO. This is frustrating since the disease can be easily prevented with two doses of a "safe and efficient" vaccine that has been in use since the 1960s, the UN agency said. Up until 2016, the number of measles cases had been steadily declining, but since 2017 the number has soared, according to Katrina Kretsinger, who heads WHO's expanded immunisation programme.

"There are a number of outbreaks ... which are driving some of these increases," she told reporters, pointing to significant outbreaks in Ukraine, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and Sierra Leone.

In poorer countries, marginalised communities and states in conflict, lacking access to the vaccine is the problem.

In Europe and other wealthy areas, meanwhile, experts blame the problem in part on complacency and misinformation about the vaccine. The resurgence of the disease in some countries has been linked to medically baseless claims linking the measles vaccine to autism, which have been spread in part on social media by members of the so-called "anti-vax" movement.

"We're backsliding on the progress that has been made," O'Brien said. "And we're not backsliding because we don't have the tools to prevent this. We do have the tools to prevent measles," she said. "We're backsliding because of the failure to vaccinate." — AFP ■

Apple eyes starpower for launch of new streaming service

SAN FRANCISCO, (United States) — Is it Hollywood time for Apple?

The iPhone maker appeared set to launch its streaming television service next month, calling on celebrities such as Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon and "Star Wars" director JJ Abrams to join an event at its Silicon Valley headquarters. Apple remained customarily tight-lipped about its plans amid reports of a 25 March event at its Cupertino headquarters focusing on services, including video and a likely subscription news service aimed at shaking up the world of journalism. The news comes with Apple under pressure to emphasize subscription-based services to diversify its revenues amid sluggish growth in smartphones, which have delivered the bulk of Apple's profits for the past decade. With news and streaming video, Apple could potentially disrupt two sectors and move toward reinventing itself once again.

Apple is set to make further moves in services including in streaming television and news subscriptions with a launch event expected on 25 March. **PHOTO: AFP**

Apple transformed the digital music scene with deals to sell songs through its iTunes store launched in 2003. An Apple streaming music service launched in mid-2015 now boasts more than 50 million subscribers. Apple is believed to be investing at least $1 billion in content and has acquired the rights to a new series starring and co-produced by American actresses Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon. — AFP ■

Myanmar wins Hero Gold Cup 2019, beats Nepal 3-1

THE Myanmar national women's football team won the Hero Gold Cup 2019 by beating the Nepal team 3-1 in the final of the tourney at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneshwar, India, yesterday night.

Team Myanmar lined up with Win Theingi Tun, Khin Moe Wai, Ye Ye Oo, July Kyaw, Captain Khin Malar Tun, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Khin Thazin, Khin Than Wai, Wai Wai Aung, Ei Yadanar Phyo, and goalkeeper Zar Zar Myint.

Myanmar fought hard to score right from the kick-off, with Nepal putting up a good defence for Myanmar strikers.

But, Myanmar's experience showed, with Yee Yee Oo scoring an icebreaker at 30 minutes.

A few minutes later, Nepal's Manjali Kumari scored the equalizer, and the first half finished with both teams tied at 1-1. Nepal showed their strength in the second half, with the team concentrating on the game.

But, it was Myanmar which scored its second goal at 54 minutes. The goal was scored by Myanmar women's football star Win Theingi Tun.

Myanmar dominated with forceful play after the goal, with Ye Ye Oo securing the third goal at 62 minutes.

Myanmar toned down their power play in the later minutes as the score was enough for a win, and the cup went to Myanmar after the final whistle blew.

With the victory, Myanmar lifted the coveted trophy as an undefeated team in the tournament. Earlier, Myanmar had defeated Nepal 3-0 and beat India and Iran 2-0 at the group stage.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

The Hero Gold Cup champions, Myanmar women's national football squad, take the trophy at the awards ceremony at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, India, yesterday.
PHOTO : INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Sacking Jose Mourinho cost Manchester United nearly £20 million. **PHOTO: AFP**

Man Utd confirm huge Mourinho pay-off

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Manchester United revealed on Thursday that sacking Jose Mourinho cost the club nearly £20 million, with executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward hailing the impact of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The sum of £19.6 million ($25 million) which is listed under "exceptional items" in the club's second-quarter results, includes pay-outs for the members of Mourinho's staff who left with him after he was sacked in December.

The fortunes of the Premier League club have been transformed since Solskjaer took the helm as interim boss.United are now in the top four after being 11 points adrift of the Champions League places when Mourinho left."The appointment of Ole and Mike (Phelan) as caretaker manager and assistant manager... has had a positive impact throughout the club," said Woodward. "We are delighted with the improvement in the team's performances since December and we look forward to a strong finish to the 18/19 season."

In the report, the club announced record revenues of £208.6 million for the quarter, which translate into earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) of £104.3 million and an operating profit of £44million. Real Madrid last month knocked Manchester United off the top of Deloitte's Football Money League after two years at the top for the Premier League club.—AFP ■

AFF tourney: Myanmar U-22 team leaves for Cambodia

THE Myanmar national football team left for Cambodia yesterday for the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) U-22 Championship, which will be held in Phnom Penh from 17 to 26 February.

The team was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials led by General-Secretary of the Myanmar Football Federation, U Ko Ko Thein.

Team Myanmar comprises 23 outstanding young players from various local clubs of the Myanmar National League and National League II.

The team includes youth stars such as goalkeeper Sann Sat Naing, striker Htet Phyoe Wai, striker Win Naing Tun, midfielder Zwe Thet Paing, midfielder Myat Kaung Khant, defender Soe Moe Kyaw, and defender Aung Wunna Soe.

The young players are accompanied by new head coach, Velizar Emilov Popov, and 11 other members from the coaching team, said a source with the MFF.

Team Myanmar will play against U-22 teams of host Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia in Group B play.

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

The Myanmar U-22 team with football officials at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. The team left for Cambodia for the AFF U-22 Championship. **PHOTO : MFF**

Tennis: Nishikori books Rotterdam quarterfinal spot

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands)—World No 7 Kei Nishikori breezed past Latvian lucky loser Ernests Gulbis 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament, an ATP 500 indoor hardcourt stop in Rotterdam.

The top-seeded Japanese raced to a 5-0 lead in the first set, breaking twice and winning the first 14 points. Gulbis recovered his poise in the second set to be level at 3-3, after both had broken, before Nishikori did so again in the ninth game.

"I didn't really have any bad shots. I played much better than I did in the first match," said Nishikori, who came from a set down to beat Pierre-Hugues Herbert 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 in his opening match on Tuesday. —Kyodo News ■