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President meets three pillars of democracy in Chin State

PRESIDENT U Win Myint held a meeting with officials from the executive, legislative, and judiciary pillars of Chin State in Haka City Hall yesterday.

Change is not to be feared

In his speech, the President said every responsible official in the country are working hand-in-hand to establish a democratic federal Union. There are some people who are worried about the reforms initiated throughout the country. Reform is not an enemy; it is a well-meaning friend. I want every department to inform our citizens it is the ripe time for the right opportunities, said the President.

He said people commonly believe reform is achieved when the government administration changes, but the truth is change needs to be conducted throughout all levels of government for effective reforms to take place. Likewise, the people need to change their mental-



President U Win Myint delivers the speech at the meeting with officials from executive, legislative and judiciary pillars in Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

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ty and convictions to initiate reforms, said the President, adding that the government, Hluttaw, and other departments all need to collaborate in unity as well.

Equitable rights to be enjoyed by all

He said all citizens in a democratic country enjoyed equality, justice, fairness, and

the same rights and opportunities. He said Myanmar comprised many ethnic national races and can only be called a Union when all of them are involved. We must all work together to realize these ideals and values, said the President.

He said the three pillars of democracy play a central role in this development. He

expressed his wish for the administration system to spread the rule of law among the people, and for the administrative mechanism to provide physical and mental security, and prosperity on the nation's citizens. He said the administration must not be oppressive to the people.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to discuss response against OIC, EU and UNHRC

By Aung Maw,
Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

AT the ninth-day meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 11th regular session held yesterday, Hluttaw agreed to discuss a motion urging the government to respond against efforts of OIC, EU and UNHCR toward situation of human rights in Myanmar. The day's meeting also covers putting on record a commission report, the discussion of it by Hluttaw representatives, explanations by the commission and relevant ministry and reading of a joint bill committee report.

Motion to respond
against OIC, EU and
UNHRC

U Nyan Tun of Zigon constituency explained and tabled a motion urging the government to respond against the efforts of OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation), EU (European Union) and UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) that had consistently strived toward approving a resolution on "Situation of human rights in Myanmar" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 22 December 2018 before the end of this month.

The efforts of OIC, EU and UNHRC climaxed with the submission of a fact finding mission report on Myanmar to the 39th session of the UNHRC. The Government is urged to counter and respond to this and raise the public knowledge on the mortal



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

danger to the country that could cause disintegration of the union explained the proposer of the motion.

U Hla Htay Win of Zeyathiri constituency supported the motion and said the country is the apex where self-interests of major powers merges and was feeling the adverse consequences of land scarce over populated countries as geo-political pressures increases day by day.

As there was no objection against discussing the motion by the Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw's acceptance to discuss the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

National Education Policy Commission report, discussion and explanations put on record

Next, National Education Policy Commission (NEPC) and Ministry of Education explained and responded to the discussions of Hluttaw representatives on the six-month 10 April to 9 October (2018) work report of the commission.

National Education Policy Commission Chairman Dr. Myo Kywe said plans are made to draw up a guideline in coordination with Ministry of Education on the matter of reviewing number of students and classes in Yangon Region basic education schools.

NEPC Chairman also explained on teaching in English

of subjects in basic education high school level; teaching more subjects like agricultural engineering, food science and vehicle maintenance in technology, vocation and training sector; expanding government technical science and government technical high schools; promotion of higher education teachers and NEPC coordinating with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Union Government and all relevant parties in conducting its duties and responsibilities.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun on the other hand explained about the ministry distributing text books for free to schools, free distribution of exercise books to primary level students, education supports including support provided to handicapped students, providing school funds so that it is not

collected from the students and the parents and distribution of school uniforms for those who are needed.

The Deputy Minister also explained about conducting Teacher Competency Standard Framework (TCSF), upgrading 25 two-year education colleges to four-year, works conducted for development and expansion of technical and vocational training, and higher education sector development matters.

Afterwards Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the six-month (2018 April 10 to October 9) work report of NEPC, discussions of Hluttaw representatives, explanations of the commission and ministry of education.

Joint Bill Committee
report on Consumer Protection Bill

As a final agenda of the meeting Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe read and submitted the committee's report on Consumer Protection Bill that the two Hluttaws were in disagreement.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

The tenth-day meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled for 26 February.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Japan-Myanmar friendship dance show held

A JAPAN-MYANMAR friendship dance show jointly organized by Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Manjushaka International Cultural Arts Group of Japan was held at Hotel Max, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Amoytha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung attended the event and said the event will improve Japan-Myanmar ties of friendship and relationship, is believed to raise travel and relation of people between the two countries and Japanese nationals attending the event are invited to invest in Myanmar's hotel and tourism sector.

Next, Manjushaka International Cultural Arts Group

founder Ms. Mamarosa and Daw May Nyo who arranged the event explained about the group's performances.

Afterwards, the dance group performed various dances, including Japan's traditional dances and popular dances performed by the group during its international tours and performances. The event was also attended by Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin and wife, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, officials from JICA and ministerial departments and invited guests.

—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Japanese dancers troupe perform in the Japan-Myanmar friendship dance show in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint (Right) inspects the construction of Surbung Airport project in Falam, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

President meets three pillars of democracy in Chin State

FROM PAGE-1

Governing laws need to be democratic, federalist

The President said this is the objective of a democratic federal Union and urged all departments and relevant organizations to conduct their duties with fairness and compassion. He said only a just society will perpetuate democracy.

The legislative pillar's duty is to enact fair and just laws. If we are to head towards a democratic federal Union, then the legislature has to proceed in line with democratic norms and federal principles, said the President. He said laws need to be enacted to meet the requirements of the state so that the executive pillar can effectively govern in line with the law. If the laws remain unchanged, so too will the administrative system, said the President. He said we must exercise caution to balance the executive and legislative pillars.

Three pillars must check and balance each other

The President said the judiciary pillar must be able to hand out unimpeded justice. Section 11 (a) of the Constitu-



President U Win Myint greets representatives from executive, legislative and judiciary pillars in Chin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

tion states that the three pillars cannot directly interfere with each other, said the President, adding that the executive and legislative pillars can only carry out checks and balances the judiciary by discussing whether its reasoning powers and decisions made are correct or fair.

The President said the state and region governments are directly responsible for implementing the Union Government's changes in policy. He said we must implement practical reforms so that the country moves forward in development and our future generations can reap the fruits of democracy and human rights we have sown.

Civil servants are duty-bound to serve the people

The President said civil servants need to fully carry out their assigned duties and provide public-centered services. He told them to keep in mind that the public is paying

civil servants through their tax payments to perform their national duties.

Civil servants have sworn loyalty to the nation and are obligated to adhere to the laws, bylaws, rules and regulations related to them, said the President, adding that the more civil servants follow this principle the better the nation becomes.

The President urged the state government to consider whether a project is beneficial or accomplishable to their state or region. He said the Hluttaw is responsible for assessing the costs of these projects and other financial or logistical aspects to it, while the auditing sector needs to ensure there is no

wastage of the public budget. He said there will be surplus in the budget if everyone carries out their responsibilities and this will have to be returned to the State as outlined in the law. We must be sensible with public funds and spend it economically, said the President.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs is making efforts to deal with the drug problem. In the fight against drugs, some have been found turning a blind eye to drug-related offences. We will definitely take action against authorities that do not arrest those who should be arrested, and officials who fail to take action in drug-related cases," said President U Win Myint.

The pillar called the judiciary would be corrected, as democracy can be strengthened only when the rule of law prevails.

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President, First Lady attend Nagayon Pagoda enshrining ceremony

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and party who were in Haka Town, Chin State attended the enshrining ceremony of Nagayon Pagoda in Einmat forest retreat, Thitsa Aung Myay hill, Zaytawun forest retreat monastery and donated enshrinement relics and Buddha images.

At the ceremony, the President, First Lady and guests took five precepts from Maha Bawdi Myaing Yeiktha monastery Sayadaw Mahakamathanaacariya Bhaddanta Pyinyavansa, listened to the recitation of parittas and donated enshrinement relics and Buddha images to Chin Hill missionary Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Tayzawthara.

Union Ministers, North West Command commander, Chief of Myanmar Police Force and officials then donated offertories to sayadaws and sanghas, listened to a sermon of Chin Hill missionary Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Tayzawthara and shared merit. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho present relics and Buddha images to be enshrined into the Nagayon Pagoda to Chin Hill missionary Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Tayzawthara in Haka yesterday **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Korea-Myanmar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association Chairman



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with Korea-Myanmar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association Chairman Mr. Kim Jaewon in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U T Khun Myat received Korea-Myanmar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association Chairman H.E. Mr. Kim Jaewon at Pyithu Hluttaw guest hall, Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting continuing and increasing the friendship and cooperation between the governments, parliaments and the people of the two countries, legislative matters, increasing investment and technical support toward agriculture sector development were cordially discussed and views exchanged.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, committee chairmen U Khin Maung Win, U Zaw Thein, U Khin Aye and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

President meets three pillars of democracy in Chin State

FROM PAGE-3

The law must guarantee equal rights to all citizens. Only then, can all citizens enjoy the benefits of the rule of law. The rule of law is also supportive of the efforts to create peace. Hence, democracy, human rights and the rule of law are related to each other; and when one is breached, the other is also breached.

He also urged the Chin State Government to keep on supervise and evaluate the projects and policy laid down by the Union Government and to give instruction to the departments to make them a success.

Afterwards, U Salai Lian Lwal reported on the state government's efforts for development of Chin State; Speaker of Chin State Hluttaw U Zo Bwe on legislative affairs and Chin State Chief Justice U Win Myint Kyaw on judiciary affairs in the state.

After hearing the report, President U Win Myint said ministries concerned would be coordinated to fulfil the needs of the state, adding that the Union Government is committed to ful-

filling the needs of the country's people especially least developed areas and ethnic people.

Afterwards, the President and party inspected the Surbung Airport which is under construction in Falam Township. At the project site, U Min Lwin, Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation U Min Lwin and Director U Kyaw Soe reported to the president on progress of the project.

In the tour of inspection, the President has called for timely completion of the airport meeting the set standard.

He also viewed the earthwork at the airport project.

Upon completion, Surbung Airport will help smooth connectivity with the rest of the country and will uplift the socio-economic condition including health, administration, security, transportation, travel and emergency issue in Chin State.

After the tour of inspection, the president and party went to Kalay, then they left for Nay Pyi Taw by Tatmadaw special flight.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myingyan General Hospital opens new maternity ward



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe and relevant officials cut ribbon to open the new building of Myingyan General Hospital in Myingyan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYINGYAN General Hospital received a new 3-storey building to expand its maternity ward, donated by the Thukhita Family, in a handing over ceremony at the hospital's compound in Mandalay Region yesterday.

Firstly, the new ward building was formally opened with a ribbon-cutting formality by regional Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Soe Than, Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win from the Ministry of Health and Sports, Acting Director-General Dr. Soe Oo of the Public Health and Medical Services, and Daw Cho Cho Win and Daw Tin Aye

Thant from the donor Thukhita Family.

Secondly, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe and regional Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung unveiled the new ward's signboard and then toured the interior of the building.

The Union Minister also delivered a speech at the ceremony, highlighting the benefit it will bring to people in the region and said his ministry will be providing the necessary medicine and apparatus for the new ward.

The regional Chief Minister and U Htay Win, member of the Myingyan General Hospital Support Committee, delivered

separate gratitude speeches and Daw Cho Cho Win from the donor family also explained their donation of the building.

The Union Minister then discussed the all-round development of Myingyan hospital with hospital staff and supporting professionals, they presented their requirements, and officials made arrangements as necessary.

U Shein, Daw Pu Lay, and their daughters Daw Cho Cho Win and Daw Tin Aye Thant, of Thukhita Family donated K600 million for constructing the maternity ward, which was completed on 31 December 2018. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Third group of Myanmar nationals returns from Thailand under bilateral cooperation mechanism

ON 20 February 2019, the first batch of 133 verified Myanmar nationals returned to Kyauk Lone Gyi, Myawady through Thailand-Myanmar Friendship Bridge No.1. They were welcomed by H.E. U Myo Myint Than, Myanmar Ambassador to the King-

dom of Thailand, Colonel Myo Min Naung, Minister of Security and Border Affairs of Kayin State Government and officials from the relevant Ministries.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the King-

dom of Thailand have been cooperating to repatriate the verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand in an orderly manner.

The Myanmar authorities will receive the third group of 575 verified Myanmar nationals from 20 to 22 February 2019 through the Myawady Gate in Kayin State and Me Se Gate in Kayah State.

The second batch of 260 and the third batch of 182 verified Myanmar nationals will also return to Myanmar through Me Se Gate in Kayah State and Myawady Gate in Kayin State, respectively.

The Myanmar-Thailand Joint Working Group for the return of verified Myanmar nationals will convene its third meeting in Chiang Rai, Thailand in early March 2019, it is learnt. —MNA



Kayin State Minister of Security and Border Affairs Colonel Myo Min Naung provides aids to the Myanmar nationals returned from Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Korea-Myanmar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association Chairman

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation received H.E. Mr. Kim Jaewon, Chairman of the Korea-Myanmar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association on 21st February 2019 at 1pm at the Ministry of International Cooperation, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters pertaining to the enhancement of bilateral relations and Inter-Par-

liamentary relations and cooperation, agricultural program under Saemaul Undong project, construction project on Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Yangon-Dala), holding of the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit, provision of Official Development Assistance (ODA) by Korean government and promoting potential areas of cooperation between the two countries. —MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with Mr. Kim Jaewon, Chairman of the Korea-Myanmar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Association, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

MOFA calls in Amb. of Bangladesh for commencement of repatriation process, transfer of detained Myanmar policeman

USOE HAN, Director-General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar called in H. E. Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Director-General discussed with the Ambassador on matters pertaining to early commencement of repatriation process for displaced persons in line with the bilateral arrangements, and proposed to commence the 4th Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on the Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh in the second half of April 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. The Direc-

tor-General also urged the Ambassador to transfer as early as possible of Myanmar Border Guard Police Aung Bo Bo Thein, recently apprehended by the Bangladeshi authorities in the same precedent as the Myanmar side transferred back one member of the Border Guard Bangladesh, who intruded into the Myanmar territory in June 2015, within 8 days via the Flag Meeting of the two Border Guards.

The Bangladeshi Ambassador responded that Bangladesh will not charge against the Myanmar Border Guard Police Aung Bo Bo Thein and he will be transferred back to Myanmar after the completion of the internal formalities of Bangladesh. —MNA

Downtown scenes of Line Walker-2 shot



Director Kyi Phyu Shin.



Actor Min Yazar.



Actor Nay Htoo Naing.



U Hla Kyaw from Yuzana Garden Housing.



Police Captain Kyaw San Oo.

News – Ye Gaung, Zaw Gyi
Photo – Ye Htut

SOME scenes of Line Walker-2 were shot in Maha Bandoola Park Street (middle block), Ward 2, Kyauktada Township yesterday morning. Starting from 6:30 a.m. some action scenes were shot with settings.

Director Kyi Phyu Shin

As a person from the movie industry observing an international level movie being made is like conducting a field trip. The settings seen today were set-up since last night at 8 p.m. No wonder world famous movies are successful as the preparations made were very good. Another thing is the efforts made at the scene. The

action scenes are very exciting. That is why those from the local movie industry should come and observe. If they can't spare time, at least come and observe half a day of shooting. Only then can they see the efforts and conducts made by international player.

Actor Min Yazar

As I was interested I came to study. When they found me, they let me join in. I didn't participate in many scenes. But I took part to gain some experience. I acted as a rough and bad person, a gangster. As they came to our country, we should take this opportunity to study how they do things. It is like waking up a sleeping country and gave a new view to a sleeping market.

Today's scenes

Today's scenes include the police force chasing the suspect and contain jumping off a building from a height, running into a crowd and some gun shooting and there were many people who came to observe.

Actor Nay Htoo Naing

Actor Nay Htoo Naing who came to study the shooting said there is a huge difference in preparing the setting compared to how it is conducted in our industry. The main thing is market and budget. The budget for the 12 days of shooting in Yangon is about K 1,800 million.

U Hla Kyaw from Yuzana Garden Housing

I saw on Facebook about this

and came out of curiosity. As it is an international standard movie, nothing can be said about the equipment used. They recruited local street hawkers to take part as street hawkers. Local security personnel were hired for security. Local were also hired for the scenes. I'm happy to see foreign companies being allowed to make a movie. I hope our local movie makers also get the same opportunity. If better quality movies are to be made, local directors should also be given similar opportunities.

Assistants provided by officials

Ministry of Information, relevant departments and Yangon Region Government was assist-



U Zaw Zaw.

ing in shooting, demolishing, car chase, car crash and helicopter flying scenes.

Road closures and diversions

Yangon Synthesis Productions Company that was responsible for the Myanmar side of the movie apologize the public for inconvenience caused due to closure and diversion of some roads.

Police Captain Kyaw San Oo of Kyauktada Township traffic police told of being responsible to close and divert some roads and arranging for cars of those who lived in the street being arranged to be parked in front of the Maha Bandoola Park.

U Zaw Zaw who live and drive a car in Kyauktada Township said, "There wasn't any traffic problem due to the shooting of the movie. Some roads were closed for several hours while the movie was shot but this wasn't much of a problem too. The movie would be beneficial for the country."

(Translated by Zaw Min)



The crew of Line Walker-2 set up their equipment and films scenes for the action movie in Maha Bandoola Park Street in downtown Yangon.

Media personnel invited to attend 56th Myanma Gems Emporium

THE 56th Myanma Gems Emporium will be held from 11 to 20 March 2019 at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Local and foreign news media personnel can attend the

Gem Emporium from 11 to 14 March and detailed list of items on sales and other particulars will be made available at the Nawarat Koe Thwe Gate at Mani Yadana Jade Hall on the evening

of 20 March.

Local and foreign news and media personnel who wish to attend the emporium are to apply by 7 March with set application forms and submit to News and

Periodicals Enterprise (NPE), Ministry of Information.

Application forms can be obtained at Copyright and Registration Division, Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club

and details can be enquired at NPE phone 067-412125 and 412126 and 2019 56th Myanma Gem Emporium management committee phone 067-414497 it is learnt. — MNA

Union Minister for Information receives EU trade delegation, EU Ambassador

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received Mrs. Helena Koning, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission, and Deputy Managing Director Mrs. Paola Pampaloni, Ambassador of the European Union to Myanmar Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Deputy Head of Unit Ms. Alina Boiciuc, and Desk Officer Mr. Dirk Buda and party at Ministry of Information guest hall. The meeting

was also attended by the Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and officials.

During the meeting, the Union Minister, the Deputy Minister and the guests discussed press freedom in Myanmar, reviewing process of Ministry of Information for amending some laws related with media, and sending local and foreign media to be able to cover situation in Rakhine State.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint holds talks with EU Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt and EU Trade delegation at the Ministry of Information yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Development of sports, physical education institutions discussed

A coordination meeting on development of Sports and Physical Science institutions and Myanmar sports was held at Ministry of Health and Sports meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. At the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe spoke of reviewing the annual progress, achievements and effectiveness of sports and physical science institutions, quality of local and foreign coaches, adequacy of board and lodging of the trainees and monthly individual progress of the trainees and to make improvements.

The Union Minister also

commented on the importance of conducting works according to outcomes reached at National Sport Seminar and for the ministry to arrange for job opportunities for those who graduate from the sports and physical science institutions. Officials from sports and physical science schools then explained about ongoing works and future works and permanent secretaries provided additional information where necessary. Next, Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein explained about decisions made at the meeting and preparation work processes. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attends the coordination meeting on development of sports and physical science institutions and sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mon National Day's cultural ceremony held in Bago

A TRADITIONAL cultural ceremony in commemoration of the Mon national day was held at Shwe Mawdaw Pagoda Road in Bago on Tuesday night and Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin attended the event. During the ceremony the chairperson of the ceremony delivered a speech on Mon National Day followed with a congratulatory speech delivered by Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin.

Next chairman of the central committee for holding Mon

National Day delivered a speech followed by Chairman of the committee for holding Mon literature contest read a paper about Mon literature and culture.

Afterwards, winners of the Mon National Day's literature contest were awarded with prizes while donors for the contest were also presented certificates of honor. The ceremony was concluded with the Mon traditional dances and cultural entertainments.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



PHOTO: MNA

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donates water bowsers to Chin State

IN commemoration of Chin National Day, KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated 4 new water bowsers at the Chin National Day ceremony held at Vum Thu Maung sports ground in Haka, Chin State on 20 February. The donation was received by State Minister for Development Affairs, Electricity and Industry, U Soe Htet.

With this recent donation, KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, under the directions of its Chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham, has now donated a total of 9 water bowsers to the Chin State government and local residents. In addition, the foundation also donated K1 billion in 2016 for implementing preventive measures against natural disasters and for funding regional development in Chin State.

Likewise, KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation

donated over K 1,500 million to Chin State during the aftermath of 2015 floods, according to the

foundation's information. —Maung Lu Hmu (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



A representative of KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation hands over official documents for four water bowsers to U Soe Htet, Chin State Minister for Development Affairs, Electricity and Industry, during a ceremony at Chin National Day celebrations in Vum Thu Maung sports ground in Chin State. **PHOTO: MAUNG LU HMU**

Measles vaccination drive underway in Yangon Region

WE have made such progress against once-common illnesses that we forget they are still around, and still, potentially life-threatening. The measles outbreak in some areas exemplifies what can happen if we reduce our vigilance — especially when it comes to vaccination.

Recently, there were measles outbreaks in a developed country like the United States as well as in the Southeast Asian countries of Thailand and the Philippines, resulting in some fatalities. Measles is highly contagious and causes additional complications that can result in death.

Measles is extremely contagious, and potentially fatal in young children. And it has persisted elsewhere. Around the world, more than 100,000 people die of measles each year — most of them are children under the age 5.

Measles is extremely contagious, and potentially fatal in young children. And it has persisted elsewhere. Around the world, more than 100,000 people die of measles each year — most of them are children under the age 5.

The virus is airborne and spreads through coughing and sneezing.

The symptoms for this highly contagious disease typically don't appear for 7 to 14 days, and infected people are contagious days before the appearance of the first symptoms: a high fever, coughing, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. The rash that is characteristic of measles only shows up later, typically beginning around the ears.

Meanwhile, flu is also common in this season, and people often forget about its potential consequences, as well.

Parents must not be reluctant to get their children inoculated, and must not fall prey to misinformation surrounding vaccines.



Yangon plans to initiate small-scale industrial zones, elevated railway in 2019

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE Yangon Region Government has plans to carry out 79 projects in Yangon Region within this year. Among the many projects include construction of new industrial zones, upgrading old ones, opening a Yangon Innovation Centre for the youths, and many more. The following is an interview with the person taking the lead on these initiatives, Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the regional Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs.



Naw Pan Thinzar Myo.

Overview of the year's projects

Q: Could you tell us about current implementations in the Yangon Region for 2019?

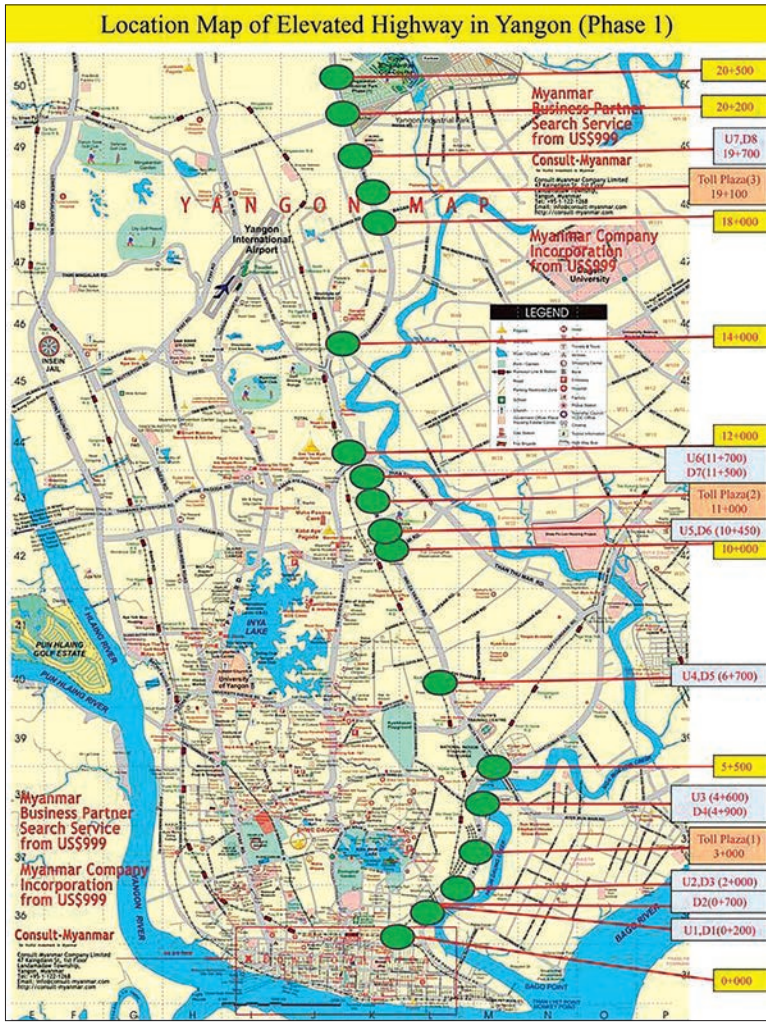
A: There are 79 projects to be implemented in Yangon Region for 2019. We have compiled them as a list in the nation's Project Bank. Apart from Cocogy-

un Tsp, we will be establishing small-scale industrial zones in 11 townships on the outskirts. We will also be upgrading existing industrial zones. The Ministry of Construction is currently managing the roads, bridges and infrastructure necessary for this task. They just began the process for transferring the rights from the Housing Department over to the Yangon Region cabinet last month.

The Yangon Region government needs that authority to upgrade the existing 29 industrial zones. We anticipated questions about whether we will not be renovating the old if we are building new zones. So, the Ministry of Construction began transferring land rights, permits to repair roads in the industrial zones, and other rights to the regional government over a month ago.

They haven't transferred everything yet, but we will begin upgrading the existing industrial zones once the transfer is complete. As for the new industrial zone project, we will be constructing them on 11 townships on the edge of Yangon, and all of them combined make up 1,000 acres. Among the 11 zones, investors are interested in 2 of them: Htantabin and Hlegu zones.

The proposal for those two zones has been read at the Hluttaw and we are preparing to submit it to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). The regional



government is striving to being work on the two industrial zones within six months. They'll also be included in Invest Myanmar 2019 Project.

Two, star industrial zones for 2019

Q: Prioritizing the Htantabin and Hlegu industrial zones, how long will it take to implement

them?

A: Each of the industrial zones will take nine years to accomplish. They're roughly divided into three phases. The Htantabin project is in two phases and the Hlegu project is in three phases. During each phase, for example, on a 1,500-acre project we won't be able to start work on the entire area at once. If we start

on 500 acres first, there will be local residents concerned for their livelihoods, so the regional government will be bringing over the investors who will be investing in their land. We will only carry out our projects if all the residents agree unanimously. The projects all intend to bring development to their respective area and aims to bring employment opportunities to the locals. We also aim to increase our exports and we hope the produce a lot of finished goods from those two industrial zones to offer import substitution.

I'd like to point out there are a lot of positive benefits to be gained from this. We will be explaining everything in detail to the people in Htantabin and Hlegu. We have plans to acquire their feedback and opinions. These two industrial zones are the highest priorities in the 11 projects we are directly responsible for, among the 79 projects for 2019. Most of the projects will be handled by Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw.

Elevated expressway, railway

Q: The Ministry of Construction announced a shortlist of pre-qualified companies, in December 2018, for constructing an elevated expressway in Yangon, and there are whispers of an elevated railway (or mass rapid transit system) as well. Could you comment on that?

A: With 2.8 million regular commuters in Yangon, we welcome the initiative to construct an elevated railway if the Union Minister decides to pursue it. Currently, we've explained to the regional Hluttaw MPs that an elevated railway company has made a submission to the regional investment committee. We will be submitting this to MIC and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Q: With 2.8 million commuters using motor vehicles in Yangon, how many of them do you think will be using the elevated railway if it's constructed?

A: According to the company's proposal, they estimate the elevated transit system will ferry 300,000 commuters daily. Right now, we have 100,000 using the existing trains, so if the elevated trains were to run, we'd have 400,000 of the 2.8 million regular commuters using trains.

Q: How is the Traffic Control Center in People's Park doing?

A: Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw is heading efforts for the control center. She said they are in the final stages of negotiation. This project was started in the previous government administration and we have notified the contracted company to complete it soon. I was informed that she told them to either complete the job or be added to our black list, but this is just something I've heard.

(Translated by Chris)



A major upgrade works of Yangon Circular Trains

By Htin Paw Win

"WITHOUT waiting for instructions from above, we have been striving to the best of our abilities to serve passengers with sweet smiles" a train official's voice softly came out of a meeting in the train office, Yangon, Lower Myanmar.

The train official, one of 10-member delegation sent to advanced Japan for a study tour of how Japanese trains were managed, shared his knowledge with train employees in Yangon. Myanmar Railway has started to upgrade Yangon Circular Trains and stations all along the railway for some years. Some sections have been finished and some still need to be completed. Myanmar Railway has been trying hard for the physical and mental welfare of its employees; trainings and workshops are often held for them. The

workshop, held on 7 February for improving public services, vividly showed how the Railway strived to change its image.

Mitsuo Higashi, a director from Japan International Consultants for Transportation Co., Ltd, which has assisted to upgrade Myanmar Railway said: "We have started to upgrade public service with small-scale trainings for three years. With an approval by the Minister in July, 2018, the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) has consented to start service trainings of railway employees.

In October 2018, ten officers from Myanmar Railways were sent to Japan for practical and theoretical studies on Japan Railway for about a week. Programs started a week ago to upgrade the services of Myanmar Railways under the cooperation between JICA and

of Myanmar Railways by forming a working committee. This workshop has started for Yangon Railway employees in the first step. Arrangements are scheduled for conducting more trainings.

"You have to start services with a smile and then greetings. Daily routines are necessary for the employees to continue. In a matter of seven or eight months, a service manual is arranged to be published at the latest. More handbooks for services are intended to publish for the employees to upgrade service sector. I will also try to continue to upgrade this sector." Continued a Japanese director.

Try more on cleanliness

"We started our service sector three years ago. We have seen substantial improvements to the service sectors in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw stations

after service personnel were given trainings.

Within a year, direction signboards were visibly noticed by domestic and foreign passengers. Cleaners are properly dressed with blue uniforms and are found to concentrate more on cleanliness. Wide recreation centers are attached to Yangon and Mandalay stations;

Yangon Bus Service has a gate so that train passengers easily alight from the trains and get on a YBS. Start with a little business and continue to do bigger ones. In Myanmar, it is an important fact that instructions come down from above; staff members will have to carry them out. The proposals put up by lower staff should be considered by the superiors and are found to be currently important. The change of ideas

Workshops have been held in

Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw stations; the change of public services can not be carried out in a day or two.

What would happen during next six-month period; changes must be made depending on the results. Sustainable developments must be taken into consideration in a year. Depending on the results, Efforts must be made to keep things going and get them done. New train carriages and their equipment may be bought with money at any time. But mentality and ideas of service personnel cannot be bought for change; trainings and workshops should be held to produce good results from them.

Words and requirements of subordinate personnel would not taken into consideration in Myanmar society in any situation. There is always a wide gap



Track upgrading work underway to improve Yangon Circular Trains Service. PHOTO: MNA

between practical conditions and instructions given from above. Myanmar Railway has been trying to narrow the wide gaps. The Railway is trying to take up a system to meet basic requirements

for Yangon Circular Trains. We are going to observe a big change besides Yangon Bus Service in the near future. A major upgrade of Yangon Circular Trains with fast diesel locomotives with the

accompaniment of sweet countenance and smiling faces of Yangon Railway employees can be seen in the near future.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 21 February 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain has been isolated in Kachin State. Weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Northern Shan and Chin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below February average temperatures in Yangon Region and Northern Shan State and about February average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (3°C) each in Hsipaw and Haka, (6°C) each in Pinlaung, Heho and Lolo, (7°C) in Mong Hsat.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 22 February 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 February 2019: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tourists cruise Khayingwa Island

THERE are unique natural scenes, eco-tourism locations and archaeological sites in Myanmar, and there is now a culture-based tourism industry by which tourists can observe the traditions and cultures of ethnic people. Due to these attractive sites and scenes, larger numbers of tourists are visiting Myanmar.

A tour group comprised of 2,443 tourists and 1,920 crew members visited Khayingwa Island by MV Genting Dream Cruise on 19 February in the morning. They visited the island with the arrangement of Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies and under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tourists visited Khayingwa Island through the Phuket

Cruise docked offshore near ship docking in Khayingwa Island. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Jetty in Thailand. The MV Genting Dream Cruise then proceed-

ed to Phuket jetty, Thailand on 19 February in the evening, it is

leant.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Discussions to make direct payments using QR code

UNIONPay is in discussions with local private banks for offering a direct payment service using QR codes, said Mr. Vincent Ling, the Deputy General Manager of UnionPay International Southeast Asia, an international payment network.

He disclosed this at a meeting in which Myanmar first discussed the direct payment with QR Code. The meeting was held on 21 February at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

"We have held discussions to enable direct payments to banks through the use of QR codes. But, we cannot disclose

yet which bank we will cooperate with in this respect. We can disclose the names of banks only after signing an agreement with them. Discussions are still on, but we are optimistic that we can start to implement this arrangement within this year. Don't worry we will announce the date of commencement when everything is ready," said Mr. Vincent Ling.

The system of direct payment is expected to be implemented in 2019. The QR code payment system is a contactless payment method, where a payment is processed by scanning

a QR code from a mobile application.

"When we scan a QR code, the code number will appear. Using the number, we will be able to transmit the payment to payees. If customers are using the UnionPay card, the transmitted amount will be deducted from their account. Moreover, customers will also be able to make online payments by using the UnionPay card. Customers will be able to use the UnionPay cards at shops which display our logo," said Mr. Vincent Ling.

UnionPay ventured into Myanmar in 2012. It has been

providing a wide variety of payment services through prepaid cards, debit cards, and credit cards in collaboration with the AGD, AYA, CB, KBZ, MAB, and MOB banks.

In 2017, UnionPay and MPU entered into a license agreement, under which, MPU agreed to use UnionPay's chip cards.

Currently, UnionPay is promoting its brand in the region by offering a variety of services in the market. UnionPay card holders enjoy discounts at City Marts, supermarkets, and popular restaurants.—Aye Yamone Oo ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Tenders of nine Sagaing toll gates fetch over K800 mln

OVER K802 million was earned through the competitive bidding of nine entrance gates in Sagaing Region, held with the permission of the regional government in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, said U Thit Htoo Myint, the Director of the Sagaing Region's Municipal Committee.

"The Sagaing regional government has earned K802.671 million from the tenders of nine entrance gates of Sagaing Region. The nine entrance gates are: Sagaing, Kalay, Indaw, ChaungU, Kyaukmyaung, Pale, Htigyaing, Salingyi, and Katha townships," said U Thit Htoo Myint.

To raise municipal funds, two municipal staffers have each been assigned five townships, which have District



Archway marks road entrance to Monywa.

PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) offices. They are collecting entry fees

at the gates in collaboration with the RTAD and the Myanma Insurance office. The

Sagaing regional government collected K178.655 million from entry fees at the gates between October and December 2018.

"More than K981 million, including over K802 million from the entrance gates tenders and over K178 million in wheel tax, have already been deposited at the branches of the Myanma Economic Bank. In addition, 20 drain pumping vehicles, four rubbish container vehicles, cement, asphalt, and trash bins were provided to the townships in the 2018-2019 fiscal, with the permission of the regional government," said U Thit Htoo Myint.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Investment fair helped Kayin State pull in investors: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

KAYIN STATE managed to draw foreign and domestic investments into the state after the Kayin State Investment Fair, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“Prior to the Kayin investment fair, the state had failed to attract foreign investments in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. After that, two foreign projects brought investments into the state in the last mini-budget period (April-September 2018). Only two domestic enterprises invested in the state prior to the fair. In the last mini-budget

period, four more local enterprises invested in the state,” said U Kyaw Win Tun, the Director of the DICA.

The manufacturing sector absorbed the most investments, while the tourism and agriculture sectors also attracted investors, said U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General of the DICA.

“Investments mainly flowed into the manufacturing sector, especially in the garment industry. Domestic investments focused on the hotel industry. Manufacturing, tourism, and agriculture sectors showed the most potential for investment,” said U Aung

Naing Oo.

On 24 November, 2017, the MIC, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Kayin State government had organized an investment fair in Hpa-an Town. As a result, domestic and foreign investments had flowed into the state in 2018, he said.

“The MIC held an investment fair in Kayin State two years ago. Kayin State witnessed a remarkable increase in domestic investment and entry of foreign direct investment,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

“To boost investment in all regions and states, investment fairs are being held with the

support of the region and state governments. The Chin State Investment and Product Fair will be held on 16 and 17 March at the Myanmar Convention Center in Yangon. Investment fairs showcase the investment potential for businesses in the regions and states, which can help draw more investors,” the MIC stated.

“Investment fairs help showcase the opportunities and business potential in the respective regions and states. We can clearly see a growth in investment after holding such fairs,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

Under the incumbent government, there were no

foreign investments in Kayin State for the 2016-2017FY, \$5.1 million from one project in the 2017-2018FY, and \$23.85 million from two projects in the last mini-budget period, according to data from the DICA.

According to statistics from the DICA, domestic investments stood at K4.2 billion from two projects in the 2016-2017FY, K4.225 billion from one project in the 2017-2018FY, K2.35 billion from four projects in the last mini-budget period, and K2.3 billion from two projects in the current fiscal year. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar's pomelo output still outpaced by foreign demand

By Aye Yamone

MYANMAR pomelo enjoys a good demand in Singapore and Middle East countries, besides China, yet, the country has not been able to meet international demand owing to lack of quality produce, according to the Myanmar Pomelo Producers and Exporters Association.

At present, preparations are under way to expand the area under pomelo plantation. It has been over a year since the pomelo producer body requested for agricultural land from the Mon State government. However, there has been no response yet.

“We cannot even satisfy China's insatiable demand. Though other foreign countries have proposed to purchase Myanmar's pomelo, we cannot meet their import criteria. We need to earn Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certificate, at least. Chinese merchants want a large volume of Myanmar's pomelo, so they want to make purchase contracts. They want five container loads of pomelo per month. Yet, our production cannot meet their demand,” said U Myint Thein, the chair of the Myanmar Pomelo Producers and Exporters Association.

This year witnessed growing acreage of pomelo compared with previous years. Nevertheless, a lack of con-

nection among pomelo growers resulted in difficulties in coming up with a detailed list of acreage.

There are around 5,000 acres of pomelo plantations across the country. Of 20 pomelo varieties, two main local varieties — honey pomelo and pantit pomelo — have a demand in foreign markets. In order to produce quality fruits, GAP courses are available for growers, but most of them are not keen on joining the courses.

“There are many pomelo plantations in the country, but growers cultivate many varieties of pomelo. This being so, they cannot meet foreign demand. Additionally, 50 per cent of those varieties that the export markets demand do not meet quality standards. The fruit needs to have good outer appearance, besides good taste. Singapore and Middle Eastern countries also want to purchase them, but exporters need to get related certificates from those countries first,” said U Myint Thein.

Although growers do not have globally recognized GAP certificates for now, they need to get the certificates from Myanmar authorities to increase the acreage of quality pomelo.

Only a small volume of pomelo goes to the Chinese market through the border areas, while the remaining pomelo is distributed in the

local market.

At present, the Myanmar pomelo industry does not focus on one particular variety aimed at the export market. Instead, growers choose the variety they like. Some of them even carry out mixed cultivation of pomelo varieties.

“One of the main problems is that they do not pick a single best variety for cultivation. We cannot make a profit with their offer price. The former chairperson of the Myanmar Pomelo Producers and Exporters Association carried out trial exports for two years, but it did not reap profits. Therefore, the pomelo group is making sure there is self-sufficiency in the domestic market,” said Daw Nan Kyu Kyu Thin, a pomelo grower.

Fruits such as watermelon, mango, and pomelo are included in the National Export Strategy (NES). The Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce is implementing a five-year NES project for the period 2015 to 2019, in a bid to boost Myanmar's exports.

Pomelo is primarily cultivated in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions. The pomelo association will distribute export varieties of pomelo to those regions. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat

Myanmar-US trade touches \$230 mln in Q1



Myanmar's export items to foreign markets include fishery products.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE bilateral trade between Myanmar and the US totalled US\$230 million in the October-December period in the current fiscal, with exports surpassing imports, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce. In the three-month period in the current FY (Oct 2018-Sep 2019), exports stood at \$121.6 million, while imports were recorded at \$108.5 million.

Myanmar shipped rice, various types of pulses, forestry products, fish, prawns, apparel, garments produced on the cut-make-pack system, and other finished industrial goods to the United States, while it imported personal goods, capital goods, and industrial raw materials.

In the second week of February, the US Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Scot Marciel, met with government officials and business associations for cooperation in port facilities development, and logistics and transportation sector. Additionally, US insurance companies, agriculture companies, and IT

businesses have shown a keen interest to invest in Myanmar. Interested investors from the US will be visiting Myanmar in April.

Under the former US president Barack Obama's administration, the US reinstated Myanmar for the Generalized System of Preferences, lifting more than two-decades long economic sanctions against Myanmar.

US-listed corporations have brought investments worth more than \$430 million into Myanmar so far. Multi-national corporations such as Pepsi, Coca Cola, KFC, GE are also now operating in the country.

Myanmar's bilateral trade with the United States was worth \$455.7 million in the last mini-budget period (Apr-Sep 2018), \$718.3 million in the 2017-2018FY, \$690.6 million in the 2016-2017FY, \$196.9 million in the 2015-2016FY, \$544.6 million in the 2014-2015FY, \$104 million in the 2013-2014FY, 122.7 million in the 2012-2013FY, and \$293 million in the 2011-2012FY. —Ko Htet ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Trump hints at 3rd summit with Kim as Hanoi meet approaches

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Wednesday hinted at having a third meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as he appeared to lower expectations ahead of their second summit next week in Viet Nam.

Together with his remark on Tuesday that he is in “no rush” to denuclearize North Korea, the comment suggests Trump and Kim are unlikely to achieve a breakthrough on ridding the country of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in the 27-28 February summit in Hanoi.

“I don’t think this will be the last meeting by any chance,”

Trump told reporters at the White House.

He said he does not think North Korea is reluctant to denuclearize, but acknowledged that it will be a time-consuming process.

“I think they want to do something,” he said. “They’ve been talking about this for many, many years, and no administration has done anything.”

The president also bragged about a “very strong” relationship with Kim. Trump said he would like to remove sanctions on North Korea, but that the country must first take credible action toward denuclearization.

“The sanctions are on in full.

As you know, I haven’t taken sanctions off,” he said. “I’d love to be able to, but in order to do that, we have to do something that’s meaningful on the other side.”

Earlier Wednesday, Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the final, fully verified denuclearization” of North Korea, according to the White House.

Speaking over the phone, Trump and Abe “committed to coordinating closely in advance of” the summit, it said.

On Tuesday, Trump said he is in “no rush” to denuclearize North Korea as long as the coun-



Combined file photo shows US President Donald Trump (l) and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

try continues to suspend nuclear and missile tests.

The first-ever US-North Korea summit, held in Singapore in June last year, resulted in a vague denuclearization agreement in which Kim promised to work toward “complete” denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula while Trump committed

to providing security guarantees to Pyongyang.

The two sides have shown few signs of reconciling their differences, however, with the United States demanding that North Korea dismantle its arsenal with international verification and Pyongyang calling for a lifting of sanctions.—Kyodo News ■

Ex-policeman in Malaysian murder case loses Australia asylum bid



Former Malaysian PM Najib Razak has denied claims he was involved in the killing of Mongolian woman Altantuya Shaariibu. **PHOTO: AFP**

SYDNE (Australia) — A former policeman sentenced to hang in Malaysia for the murder of a young woman in a scandal linked to the country’s ex-prime minister, has lost a bid for asylum in Australia.

Sirul Azhar Umar, who has been in Australian custody since fleeing Malaysia in 2015, has maintained that he was ordered by “important people” to murder Mongolian woman Altantuya Shaariibu. Canberra’s

policy is not to extradite people to countries where they may face the death penalty. Sirul could face deportation however if Malaysia goes ahead with abolishing the punishment, as it has promised to do. Altantuya, 28 at the time, was killed and her body blown up with military-grade explosives in 2006.

Her death is said to be part of a scandal involving claims an associate of Malaysia’s ousted prime minister Najib Razak arranged huge kickbacks for the

purchase of French submarines in 2002. Allegations have long circulated that Najib — then deputy premier — and his wife Rosmah Mansor were involved in the killing. Both have denied the claims.

Sirul, who has previously offered to tell all in exchange for a full pardon from Malaysia, has tried to claim asylum in Australia on the grounds that his crime was political.

His claim had been denied, and on Monday the Administrative Appeals Tribunal rejected his appeal in Sydney.

“There are serious reasons for considering that the applicant committed in Malaysia a serious non-political crime before entering Australia,” the tribunal said in a report issued on its findings.

Political heavyweight Anwar Ibrahim, who was imprisoned under Najib until the prime minister’s shock defeat in May elections, has slammed Canberra’s “tainted” policy towards the former government, calling for Sirul to be sent home.—AFP ■

Bangladesh blaze kills 70, death toll likely to rise

TOKYO — At least 70 people have been killed in a fire that engulfed an area crammed with buildings in Bangladesh’s capital Dhaka, Bangladeshi media reported on Thursday.

The blaze tore through several buildings in the old Chawkbazar area of the city after starting at a warehouse on Wednesday night, and the

death toll is expected to rise, the Dhaka Tribune reported, citing fire officials.

Flames were mostly under control early Thursday after firefighters worked through the night, *The Associated Press* reported, quoting an official of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Dhaka as saying that many victims had been trapped under buildings.—Kyodo News ■



Fire-fighters try to control fire at Chawkbazar, old part of Dhaka city, Bangladesh on 21 February, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Singapore Airlines denies snooping with seatback cameras

SINGAPORE — Singapore Airlines insisted on Thursday that cameras on its planes’ entertainment systems had been disabled after an outcry online from worried passengers who spotted the tiny lenses peering at them.

Travellers took to Twitter

and other social media to raise the alarm over the cameras at the bottom of seatback screens on a number of the Singapore flag carrier’s newer aircraft.

“Just found this interesting sensor looking at me from the seat back on board of Singapore Airlines. Any expert opinion of

whether is a camera?” passenger Vitaly Kamluk tweeted.

His tweet was accompanied by photos of the monitor with the embedded camera.

Another passenger urged the airline in a tweet to “notify all your passengers and get their consent, particularly EU

residents, that you are doing this, why, what are you doing with the data and how long you keep it”.

The airline confirmed that some of its latest inflight entertainment systems did have fixed cameras — but assured passengers that they had been disabled.

“These cameras have been

intended by the manufacturers for future developments. These cameras have been permanently disabled on our aircraft and cannot be activated on board,” the airline said in a statement.

“We have no plans to enable or develop any features using the cameras.”—AFP ■

Scientists discover two new bat species in Europe, North Africa

MADRID (Spain) — A new species of bat has been discovered in wooded areas of Europe, an international team of researchers said on Tuesday, as well as another “very rare” species that lives in caves in North Africa.

The findings add to the family of roughly a thousand species of bats, an order of mammals which are capable of transmitting and receiving ultrasound, allowing them to fly and navigate in total darkness.

The new bat species discovered in Europe is called “Myotis crypticus” and lives in wooded areas in Italy, France, Switzerland and Spain, researchers said, led by a team at Spain’s National Research Council.

The species faces “growing human pressure”, they said.

The bats had “gone unnoticed until now” because they “are represented by 53 species in Europe but many of them are enormously similar,” said Javier Juste, a researcher at the Donana biological station in southern Spain, in the statement.

“We had to resort to genetic comparisons to verify their identity,” he added.—AFP ■

Sharks reel in fans in Eastern Mediterranean winter waters

HADERA (Israel) — The wind was blowing, clouds blocked the sun and the sea was choppy and cold, but Hagai Mayer and his two friends didn’t care. They wanted to see the sharks.

Every winter, as sea temperatures drop, sharks seeking warmer waters head to a northern Israeli shore, drawing enthusiasts who take the plunge in hopes of catching a glimpse of the enigmatic predators.

Dozens of sandbar and dusky sharks, which can reach up to three metres (10 feet) in length, converge by the bubbly stream of seawater used to cool the turbines of a power station near Hadera that is discharged back into the Mediterranean.

The site has become a magnet not only for sharks but also for researchers and people like Mayer, a resident of the nearby kibbutz Nahsholim, who on a cold February morning was preparing to go snorkeling.

“We’re here to visit the sharks, we’ve been doing so for the past few years, whenever we have an opportunity,” he said.

Seeing the large animals underwater in a natural habitat is “an adrenaline rush you can’t even describe”, he said.

“To me, encounters with wild animals in nature is the highest level of excitement, certainly with impressive animals like these,” he added.

‘No reason to fear’

Scientists are not entirely sure what draws the sharks to the small area below the four looming chimneys of the Hadera power plant, but it’s clear to them that “it has something to do with the sea temperature”, said Adi Barash.

The PhD student, researching sharks at Haifa



Every winter, as sea temperatures drop, sharks seeking warmer waters head to a northern Israeli shore, drawing enthusiasts hoping for a glimpse of the predators. **PHOTO: AFP**

University’s Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, said the Hadera phenomenon, which exists to a lesser extent off smaller power plants in southern Israel, is not known to occur elsewhere in the world.

Sharks, according to Barash, have an unjustifiably bad reputation that is costing them their lives.

“The movie ‘Jaws’ created a very significant change in people’s perception,” promoting a “primordial fear that encourages mass killings of sharks, totally disproportionate to the danger they pose,” she said. “A shark is not dangerous, there’s no reason to fear it,” Barash went on, noting that more people die by slipping in the shower than from sharks.

“Of course you need to treat it with respect, it’s a wild animal and a predator, but not dangerous to people.”

There have not been any recorded incidents of sharks attacking people off Israel’s Mediterranean coast for decades.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1053)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1053) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(8/2019)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-180(18-19)	Spares for Clean Energy Mother & Daughter Compressor (10) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-181(18-19)	Spark Plug & Electronic Card (2) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-182(18-19)	SAE 15 W 40 Diesel Engine Oil (1000) Drums	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricty and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 21 February 2019. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 21 March 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **21-3-2019, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RATU VOY. NO. (KRUU 0024N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA RATU VOY. NO. (KRUU 0024N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (001 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (001 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-02-2019 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (008 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (008 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

South Korea retracts guidelines on look-alike K-pop stars

SEOUL (South Korea) — Government guidelines aimed at promoting more diversity in South Korea's K-pop world have been withdrawn after critics said they amounted to state censorship of a booming industry.

The guidelines issued last week complained that K-pop stars looked too alike, saying "the problem of ... uniformity among singers is serious", and noting most idols were thin and wore identical make-up and skimpy outfits.

South Korea's K-pop world is a multi-billion-dollar business, but so too is the plastic surgery industry in the image-obsessed country, and tens of thousands of people go under the knife every year in pursuit of the perfect look.

The guidelines from the ministry of gender equality drew criticism online — and also from a lawmaker who said it was reminiscent of censorship during the country's period of authoritarian government which ended in 1980s.



This picture taken on 14 March, 2017 shows K-pop group SixBomb members posing for a photo during an interview with AFP in Seoul. All four members of obscure K-pop outfit SixBomb went through extensive plastic surgery, from nose jobs to breast implants, before releasing their new single on 16 March. **PHOTO: AFP**

Demanding the state apologizes, Lawmaker Ha Tae-keung said the guidelines were a "totalitarian and unconstitutional idea".

Until the late 1980s, censorship permeated every part of South Korean society and the state controlled everything from

what could be screened on TV to the length of a man's hair.

"It is truly surprising that South Korea is doing what communist dictatorships, like China and North Korea, would consider doing," one online critic said.

In the wake of criticism, the

ministry said on Tuesday it would withdraw the recommendation after it had "caused unnecessary confusion".

But it added it had neither the intention nor authority to control TV production and it had simply tried to "prevent media, which

has big influence on people's daily life, from undermining human rights or fostering discrimination unintentionally".

Critics say the narrow concept of beauty promoted by Korean celebrities was pushing many to go under the knife.

In 2017 all four members of K-pop band SixBomb went through extensive plastic surgery, from nose jobs to breast implants, before releasing a single.

A series of videos showed the four women visiting a clinic, strutting into an operating theatre and lying on the operating table.

In a survey of teenagers last year, nearly 70 per cent said the idea of trying to become a celebrity in the entertainment industry had crossed their mind.

The ministry alluded to the impact TV celebrities have on young people in the guidelines.

"Overt concerns for how one should look on TV has a negative impact not only on adults, but also on teenagers and children," it said. —AFP ■



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow.
PHOTO: PTI

Gwyneth Paltrow plans to stop playing Pepper Potts after 'Avengers: Endgame'

LOS ANGELES — Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who is considered a popular figure amongst the superhero film nerds for playing Pepper Potts in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, says she plans to retire after "Avengers: Endgame".

The 46-year-old actress has played the character, who is the personal assistant turned lover of Robert Downey Jr's Tony Stark, since "Iron Man", the film that marked the beginning of the MCU in 2008.

The upcoming Marvel tent-pole, "Avengers: Endgame", will mark her seventh appearance as

Potts and Paltrow, in an interview with Variety, said she believes it is time for her to say good-bye to the character.

"I mean, I'm a bit old to be in a suit and all that at this point. I feel very lucky that I did it, because I actually got talked into it," the actress said.

"I was friends with ('Iron Man' director) Jon Favreau. It was such a wonderful experience making the first 'Iron Man' and then to watch how important it has become to the fans," she added. "Avengers: Endgame" is set to release worldwide on 26 April.—PTI ■

DC Comics drops plans for series with Jesus alongside superhero

NEW YORK (United States) — DC Comics has dropped plans to publish a series that imagines Jesus Christ returning to Earth and teaming up with super heroes, after a campaign calling the work blasphemous.

"Second Coming" will not now be published by Vertigo, a unit of DC Comics, next month as originally planned, a source close to the issue told AFP Tuesday.

DC Comics, which holds the rights to Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman, refused to comment.

In an interview with the website Syfy Wire, the author of the series, Mark Russell, said DC Comics had asked him to make major changes to it and he refused.

He attributed the request to a campaign that reportedly collected more than 234,000 signatures and sought the withdrawal of the series on grounds it is blasphemous.

In "Second Coming", God sends Jesus Christ back to Earth and he teams up with a superhero named Sun-Man who is supposed to help him toughen

up. The signature campaign began after the publication in January of articles about the series on the websites of Fox News and the Christian Broadcasting Network, which was founded by televangelist Pat Robertson.

"Second Coming is closer to blasphemous than biblical," Emily Jones, a CBN producer, wrote on 8 January.

"I think the religious fundamentalists and critics who are trying to stop Second Coming aren't interested in protecting

Christ so much as their ability to control his narrative," Russell told Syfy Wire.

"They probably (correctly) suspect that it's not Christ who's being parodied, but themselves and how they've twisted his teachings of mercy for the powerless into a self-serving tool of the powerful," he added.

He said DC Comics and Vertigo had agreed to relinquish the rights to "Second Coming" and he plans to have it published by another company.—AFP ■



Fans wear DC Comics superhero outfits in New York in October 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Amazon's 'collaborative' robots offer peek into the future

NEW YORK (United States) — Hundreds of orange robots zoom and whiz back and forth like miniature bumper cars — but instead of colliding, they're following a carefully plotted path to transport thousands of items ordered from online giant Amazon.

A young woman fitted out in a red safety vest, with pouches full of sensors and radio transmitters on her belt and a tablet in hand, moves through their complicated choreography.

This robot ballet takes place at the new Amazon order fulfillment center that opened on Staten Island in New York in September. In an 80,000 square-metre (855,000 square-foot) space filled with the whirring sounds of machinery, the Seattle-based e-commerce titan has deployed some of the most advanced instruments in the rapidly growing field of robots capable of collaborating with humans.

The high-tech vest, worn at Amazon warehouses since last year, is key to the whole operation — it allows 21-year-old Deasahni Bernard to safely enter the robot area, to pick up an object that has fallen off its automated host, for example, or check if a battery needs replacing. Bernard only has to press a button and the robots stop or slow or readjust their dance to accommodate her.

Human-robot 'symphony'

Amazon now counts more than 25 robotic centres, which chief technologist for Amazon Robotics Tye Brady says have changed the way the company operates.

"What used to take more than a day now takes less than an hour," he said, explaining they are able to fit about 40 per cent more

goods inside the same footprint.

For some, these fulfillment centers, which have helped cement Amazon's dominant position in global online sales, are a perfect illustration of the looming risk of humans being pushed out of certain business equations in favor of artificial intelligence.

But Brady argues that robot-human collaboration at the Staten Island facility, which employs more than 2,000 people, has given them a "beautiful edge" over the competition.

Bernard, who was a supermarket cashier before starting at Amazon, agrees.

"I like this a lot better than my previous jobs," she told AFP, as Brady looked on approvingly.

What role do Amazon employees play in what Brady calls the human-robot "symphony?"

In Staten Island, on top of tech-vest wearers like Bernard, there are "stowers," "pickers" and "packers" who respectively load up products, match up products meant for the same customers and build shipping boxes — all with the help of screens and scanners.

At every stage, the goal is to "extend people's capabilities" so the humans can focus on problem-solving and intervene if necessary, according to Brady.

At the age of 51, he has worked with robotics for 33 years, previously as a spacecraft engineer for MIT and on lunar landing systems of the Draper Laboratory in Massachusetts.

He is convinced the use of "collaborative robots" is the key to future human productivity — and job growth.

Since Amazon went all-in on robotics with the 2012 acquisition of logistics robot-maker

Kiva, gains have been indisputable, Brady says. They've created 300,000 new jobs, bringing the total number of worldwide Amazon employees up to 645,000, not counting seasonal jobs.

"It's a myth that robotics and automation kills jobs, it's just a myth," according to Brady.

"The data really can't be denied on this: the more robots we add to our fulfillment centres, the more jobs we are creating," he said, without mentioning the potential for lost jobs at traditional stores.

The 'R2D2' model

For Brady, the ideal example of human-robot collaboration is the relationship between "R2D2" and Luke Skywalker from "Star Wars."

Their partnership, in which "R2D2" is always ready to use his computing powers to pull people out of desperate situations "is a great example of how humans and robots can work together," he said.

But despite Brady's enthusiasm for a robotic future, many are suspicious of the trend — a wariness that extends to the corporate giant, which this month scrapped high-profile plans for a new New York headquarters in the face of local protests.

Attempts by Amazon employees to unionize, at Staten Island and other sites, have so far been successfully fought back by the company, further fuelling criticism. At a press briefing held last month as part of the unionization push, one employee of the facility, Rashad Long, spoke out about what he said were unsustainable work conditions. "We are not robots, we are human beings," Long said. — AFP ■



The new Samsung Galaxy S10e, Galaxy S10+ and the Galaxy S10 smartphones are displayed during the Samsung Unpacked event on 20 February, 2019 in San Francisco, California. Samsung announced a new foldable smartphone, the Samsung Galaxy Fold, as well as a new Galaxy S10 and Galaxy Buds earphones. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Samsung unveils foldable smartphone

SAN FRANCISCO — Samsung Electronics Co said on Wednesday it will introduce a foldable smartphone globally, from 26 April, in a bid to fend off fierce competition from Apple Inc. and Chinese rivals.

The Galaxy Fold features a 7.3-inch (18.5 centimetre) display that folds into a compact device with a cover display. It will cost \$1,980.

The South Korean manufacturer also unveiled a new lineup of

smartphones — the Galaxy S10, Galaxy S10 Plus and Galaxy S10e, which will go on sale globally from March. The S10 will come with a 6.1-inch screen, the S10 Plus with a 6.4-inch display and the S10e with a 5.8-inch monitor.

The camera for the new lineup features improved zoom and an ultra-wide lens that facilitates ground-to-sky panoramic shots. The S10 Plus has five cameras, including a 10-megapixel selfie mode. — Kyodo News ■

NASA working on chemical process to produce ingredients of water on moon

WASHINGTON — NASA scientists have described a chemical process to produce ingredients of water on the surface of the moon, using lunar elements and the solar wind.

NASA said on Wednesday that its scientists simulated a chemistry using computer program, showing when a stream of charged particles known as the solar wind pelted electrons in the lunar surface at a speed of 450 kilometres per second, they interacted to make hydrogen atoms, a key element of water.

The hydrogen atoms could migrate through the surface and latch onto abundant oxygen atoms bound in the silica in the lunar soil, turning into hydroxyl molecule, a component of water, according to NASA.

"Every rock has the potential to make water, especially after being irradiated by the solar wind," said William Farrell, a plasma physicist at NASA's

Goddard Space Flight Centre.

NASA scientists measured the chemical components of water on the moon as they are going to put humans there in a permanent presence.

The team led by Orenthal James Tucker, also a physicist at Goddard, traced the life cycle of hydrogen atoms on the moon and supported the assumption that the solar wind is the primary driver for the chemical reactions.

The study has shown that as solar wind continually blasts the moon's surface, it breaks the bonds among atoms of silicon, iron and oxygen that make up the majority of the moon's soil, leaving oxygen atoms with unsatisfied bonds to be hinged with hydrogen.

"The mechanism behind this chemical factory could reveal how should we find water building blocks," NASA quoted the scientists as saying. — Xinhua ■



Many suspect Amazon's investment in robotics centres aims to eventually automate positions currently held by humans. **PHOTO: AFP**

WLC in Mandalay: Saw Htoo Aung to fight Antonio Faria for world title today

DEFENDING light welter-weight Myanmar national champion Saw Htoo Aung will take on Antonio Faria for the world title of the World Lethwei Championship (WLC) today at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

The World Lethwei Championship had earlier announced the 2019 WLC: Mighty Warriors, the first event of its kind in the ancient royal city of Mandalay.

There will be seven fights at the event, categorized according to the same weight class and experience, and the face-offs will take place today evening, from 5.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saw Htoo Aung is a young and active fighter and was ranked as one of the most popular lethwei fighters in Myanmar in the light welterweight class.

Antonio Faria from Portugal has already won two fights in former WLC bouts, and is aiming to get the golden belt for the WLC championship title.

In the co-main event, Myanmar fighter Shwe Yar Mann will fight Sasha Moisa from the Ukraine in the light middle-weight class.

Shwe Yar Mann, an excellent fighter, remained undefeated in 10 fights last year, while Moisa also had an incredible year, winning two multi-men tournaments in Thailand.

The other bouts are Yan Naing Tun (Myanmar) vs Saw



Ba Oo (Myanmar), Pich Mtes Khmang (Cambodia) vs Nguyen Tran Duy Nhat (Viet Nam), Daung Phyu (Myanmar) vs Htoo Nay Thu (Myanmar), Saw Min Min (Myanmar) vs Saw Darwait (Myanmar), and Saw Thar Nge (Myanmar) vs Tun Min Naing (Myanmar).

Today's event in Mandalay

has been planned on the lines of a rock concert with entertainment programs by Ring Girls, celebrity DJs, rock and pop performances, exciting entrances and more.

The event will be shown live on the Cannal Plus Channel, said a source with the WLC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Week-18 of Myanmar Futsal League ends on thrilling note

WEEK-18 of the Myanmar Futsal League, being organized by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), came to a thrilling end on Wednesday at the National Indoor Stadium-I in Yangon.

The matches drew futsal fans from Yangon, who cheered for their favorite teams and athletes.

In the first match, White Colour F.C. beat Pyay United F.C. with a score of 9-5. Meanwhile, MIC F.C. trounced UPT F.C. by 13-1, while VUC F.C. cut off Ti-

tan XII F.C. by 9-2, and Myoma YTC F.C. managed a victory over Comrade F.C. with a score of 4-1.

The youth futsal team of MFF, the MFF U-19 team also scored a win over AMM F.C. by 8-3.

In the meantime, GV Athletic F.C. beat Shwe Myawaddy F.C. by 3-1.

Week-19 of the futsal league will start at 8 a.m. on 23 February (Saturday) at the National Indoor Stadium in Yangon, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Sarri puts Chelsea to the test, admits Rudiger

LONDON—Antonio Rudiger has added to Maurizio Sarri's problems by comparing the beleaguered Chelsea manager's intense training methods to being at school. Sarri is fighting to save his job after a dismal first season in charge at Stamford Bridge. A tame FA Cup fifth-round defeat against Manchester United on Monday was the latest setback for Sarri, who has seen Chelsea suffer humiliating defeats against Manchester City and Bournemouth in recent weeks.

In a bid to cram in extra work on his football philosophy for players reported to be unconvinced by his plans, Sarri has introduced training on match days. And Chelsea's Germany defender Rudiger admitted the sessions can be a psychological challenge. "It's not like we are doing box to box runs. It's not physical. It's just the tactical things he likes to do," Rudiger told reporters. "It's the same if you sit in the school the whole time listening to someone. Of course, sometimes, it gets mental, but at the end of the day you have to do your job."

Chelsea fans turned on Sarri during the United game, criticising the possession-based style the Italian favours and calling for him to be sacked. Amid reports he would be dismissed if Chelsea lose any of their next three matches, Sarri bemoaned



Chelsea's Italian head coach Maurizio Sarri. **PHOTO: AFP**

a lack of time to spark a turnaround.

Thursday's visit of Malmo in the Europa League last-32 second leg is followed by Sunday's League Cup final against Manchester City and a London derby with Tottenham in the Premier League on 27 February. While Rudiger and his team are focused on defending their 2-1 first-leg lead against Malmo, he conceded Chelsea face a season-defining moment at Wembley on Sunday.—AFP ■

Spurs star Kane back in training ahead of schedule

LONDON—Harry Kane is back in training ahead of schedule as the Tottenham striker targets a return to action at Burnley on Saturday.

Kane has been sidelined since suffering an ankle injury in the closing moments of Tottenham's Premier League defeat against Manchester United on 13 January.

It was initially expected the England captain wouldn't be fit to play again until March.

But, after posting a social media picture of himself

working with his team-mates on Wednesday, Kane now looks set to feature at Turf Moor this week.

"Great to be back with my team," Kane tweeted.

Kane, who has scored 20 times in all competitions this season, will give a major boost to Tottenham as they enter a crucial stage of the campaign.

Tottenham have won all four league matches in his absence and stand on the brink of the Champions League quar-

ter-finals after a last 16 first-leg 3-0 victory against Borussia Dortmund.

Mauricio Pochettino's side also trail Manchester City and Liverpool by just five points in the Premier League title race and face London derbies against Chelsea and Arsenal in the next two weeks.

Kane, winner of the Golden Boot at last year's World Cup, had scored seven times in his last seven appearances before his latest ankle injury.—AFP ■