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President U Win Myint gives policy guidance to U Thant Sin, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President gives policy guidance to Myanmar Ambassador to ROK

PRESIDENT U Win Myint gave policy guidance to U Thant Sin, appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. —MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Over 560 Myanmar nationals return from Thailand in three days under bilateral cooperation mechanism

MYANMAR authorities have repatriated over 560 Myanmar nationals who want to return home on their own volition from Thailand in three days.

The first batch of 133 verified Myanmar nationals from Maela IDP Camp returned to Kyauk Lone Gyi, Myawady, through the Thailand-Myanmar Friendship Bridge No. 1.

A ceremony to officially accept the returnees was held at 3 pm on the same day at the presence of Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, Kayin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col. Myo Min Naung and members of the verification and repatriation committee.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes food displayed at the opening ceremony of Rakhine State Investment Fair (2019) in Ngapali Beach, Thandwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor attends opening ceremony of Rakhine State Investment Fair (2019)

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended and addressed the opening ceremony of Rakhine State Investment Fair (2019) held at Rakhine State, Thandwe Township, Ngapali Beach, Jasmine Ngapali Resort Hotel yesterday morning.

Rakhine State Investment Fair (2019) was led by the Rakhine State government with support from Myanmar Investment Commission, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Myanmar Survey Research Co., Ltd. (MSR) and private sector companies with an aim to create investment opportunities and connect local businesses with local and foreign investors for economic development of Rakhine State.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Min Thu, Dr. Aung Thu, U Win

Khaing, U Thaung Tun and U Ohn Maung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, states/regions ministers, ambassadors and embassy officials, Hluttaw representatives, officials from JICA and JETRO, local and foreign business persons and news media personnel.

In her speech to the opening ceremony, the State Counsellor said investments made with imagination and foresight and implemented with responsibility and dedication could play a crucial role in putting Rakhine's development trajectory on track. The Rakhine State Investment Fair presents the barely explored side of Rakhine State that has brimming opportunities and warm and friendly people, all eager to be part of the development adventure.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Eleventh regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 16th-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

A 16th day meeting of the eleventh regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday morning at Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw. At the meeting questions raised were answered and a motion discussed and decided upon.

Question and Answer session

U Win Win of Minbu constituency raised the first question on when and at what rate cash support will be provided for crops damaged by natural disaster in Minbu (Saku) Township. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw first replied that Ministry of Planning and Finance had already agreed on using emergency fund for this matter. Of the 19,703 acres of crops damaged by natural disaster during 2018 June in Minbu (Saku) Township cash support will be K5,000 per acre for sesame, mung bean and winter peanut, K10,000 for vegetable and corn, K50,000 per acre for summer sesame, K30,000 per acre for raining season peanut, K100,000 per acre for paddy nursery and K250,000 per acre for summer rice. Cash support will be provided in coordination with the Magway Region Government, said the Deputy Minister.



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

U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency questioned how silting inside Mone Dam in Sedoktara Township will be handled. Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that the dam had a storage capacity of 114,100 acre-ft and when silting was measured in 2015 February there were only 21,600 acre-ft of silt consisting of about 19 per cent of the storage capacity. This is within the design capacity for a dam that was already 12 years old when the measurements were taken. The silting is within the design limit and is not affecting the discharge and distribution of water as well as generating of hydro-electricity explained the Deputy Minister.

Replying to a question raised by Daw Ni Ni Dun of Paukkaung constituency on measures tak-

en for the top earthen portion of South Nawin Dam subsiding due to an earthquake Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said repair works will be conducted before the raining season. At the moment Japanese technicians from Technical Institute of Rural Development Committee are conducting surveys and inspections and measures will be taken so that there is no effect to the livelihood and properties of the people said the Deputy Minister.

U Myint Ngwe of Kyaukkayi constituency raised a question on whether there is a plan to conduct embankment protection in Kyaukkayi Township, Thaungle Village tract, Doetan and Nwetan Villages before the start of 2019 raining season. Deputy Minister

for Transport and Communications, U Kyaw Myo replied that Nwetan Village is on the outer rim of the bend in the Sittoung River and due to silting in the opposite bank, about 800 metre. of river bank on the village side was found to have eroded. Total cost of the embankment protection work was estimated to be about K530 million. As the embankment protection work for this particular place was not included in the 2018-2019 budget permitted for Bago Region Government, funding request will be made to Bago Region Government's general excess fund and work conducted accordingly said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, questions raised by Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency and U Aung Sein of Dawei constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

Motion discussed and decided

After the question and answer session a motion tabled by U Sein Win of Maubin constituency urging the government to retain reserve crops, paddy, rice and food in storage to resolve

and counter the effects of climate change were discussed and supported by Tatmadaw representatives Maj. San Win Naing and Maj. Min Min.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw responded to the motion and discussion by explaining that the government had already kept reserve rice in store with the aims of providing emergency food supply in time of natural disaster for the people and to stabilize the rice price for the farmer.

It was conducted under the signed agreement of ASEAN member countries plus three (ASEAN+3). As the government was already conducting what the motion proposer had proposed, the Deputy Minister explained to the Hluttaw to put the motion on record only.

As the motion proposer still wanted the Hluttaw to approve the motion the matter was put up for voting and there were 150 for, 201 against and 3 abstaining. Announcement was then made for the Hluttaw to put the motion on record only.

The 17th-day meeting of eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 25 February.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds sixteenth-day meeting



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

By Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA)

THE sixteenth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's eleventh regular session was held yesterday in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and a bill discussed.

Asterisk-marked question

Union Minister for Health



U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1.

and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe responded to asterisk-marked questions posed by five Hluttaw representatives.

U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1, U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State Constituency 11, Daw Hla Htay @ Daw Ohn Kyi of Mandalay Region constituency 4 and Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 posed questions on upgrading a Rural Health Centre in



U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11.

Ayeyawady Region Ngapudaw Township, Taunggalay village; additional fund for a sports ground in Shan State Kokang self-administered zone, Laukkai District, Laukkai Township; plan for a traditional medicine clinic organisational structure and building required in Mandalay Region, Kyaukse District, Singaing Township and a plan for 16-bed traditional medicine hospital or traditional medicine



Daw Hla Htay @ Daw Ohn Kyi of Mandalay Region constituency 4.

clinic Bago Region, Thayawady District, Monyo Township.

The Union Minister also replied to an asterisk-marked question posed by Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9.

Discussion on Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Bill

Following the asterisk-marked question session,



Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11.

U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 and U Htein Win of the Ayeyawady Region constituency 4 discussed the Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Bill approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw.

The 17th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 25 February.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

State Counsellor attends opening ceremony of Rakhine State Investment Fair (2019)

FROM PAGE-1

Money spent by the government and development partners and investment made by private sectors will be a vote of confidence in the resilience and potential of Rakhine and its people said the State Counsellor.

At the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 held late last month in Nay Pyi Taw, a wide range of new and exciting investment projects to be implemented in Rakhine State, from road and airport construction to the development of industrial estates and new cities, were shared with some 1,600 participants. These are included within the Project Bank and transparent and competitive tender processes for the implementation of these projects will soon begin added the State Counsellor.

While Myanmar has benefited to a large extent from the opening up of our economy, much of Rakhine's economic potential still remains untapped. For too long the international community's attention has been

focused narrowly on negative aspects related to problems in North Rakhine rather than on the larger picture that shows the immense potential of this State for peace and development, said the State Counsellor in her opening speech at the fair.

(The full text of the speech of the State Counsellor is covered on Page-4).

After delivering her speech State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was presented with a painting and flower bouquet in commemoration of the opening ceremony by State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

Next the State Counsellor, Union Ministers, State Chief Ministers and ambassadors posed for a commemorative group photo.

Afterwards State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observed the exhibits of ministries and private companies exhibiting investment opportunities, Rakhine traditional weaving exhibit and traditional culture exhibits displayed in the hotel.

Rakhine State Investment

The Rakhine State Investment Fair is held at Ngapali beach in Thandwe, Rakhine State for three days from 21 to 23 February.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes an exhibition showcasing Rakhine traditional textiles at the opening ceremony of Rakhine State Investment Fair (2019) in Ngapali Beach, Thandwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

Fair will share economic and development information in addition to raising the trade and investment environment and will support in attracting local and foreign investment into Rakhine State.

Today's Rakhine State Investment Fair is the first of its kind. The Rakhine State Investment Fair is held at Ngapali

beach in Thandwe, Rakhine State for three days from 21 to 23 February.

The fair is aimed at generating individual job opportunities, increasing per capita income, regional development and improving the living standard.

It will be a place where visitors can witness the actual image of Rakhine State. Rakhine

investment fair can pave way for JVs with foreign investors.

The fair will be the place where MoUs can be signed. It will also serve as the venue where business organizations and persons can meet and set up contacts, reach mutual understanding and consent and sign MoUs. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo together with union ministers, chief ministers and diplomats at the opening ceremony of Rakhine State Investment Fair (2019) in Ngapali Beach, Thandwe yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

While Myanmar has benefited to a large extent from the opening up of our economy, much of Rakhine's economic potential still remains untapped

(Thandwe, 22 February 2019)

Following is the full-text of the key note speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the opening ceremony of Rakhine State Investment Fair on 22 February 2019.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Rakhine State Investment Fair. This event provides us with an opportunity to bring together a vital cross-section of peoples and organisations committed to make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of Rakhine against the backdrop of the natural beauty of this region.

My deep appreciation goes to the organizers of this investment forum: the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Rakhine State Government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) who have worked so hard to make this possible.

Today's Rakhine State Investment Fair may be the first of its kind but it certainly won't be the last. I anticipate that it will evolve into an annual event. I am particularly happy to see here today many participants from countries with which we have strong investment and trade ties such as China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. This Fair will not only strengthen these ties, it will also create strong bonds of friendship between us, not merely in the business sector but across the whole spectrum of positive people to people relations.

Myanmar has opened up its economy to the world. We have been constantly adjusting our policies, rules and regulations to be in line with international best practices and to make the investment climate more favourable, predictable, facilitative and friendly. In short, we want to establish a welcoming economic environment for all. Among our notable reforms are a new Investment Law, a new Companies Law, expansion of the allowable activities of Foreign Banks, opening up the education sector to full foreign investment, increased Government expenditure on health and education, an online company registration system, the expansion of range of currencies allowable for the settlement of border trade and rigorous measures to fight corruption. And weaving all these into a strong, durable fabric is the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan which, in turn, is linked to the SDGs to which the world aspires.

As a result of the bold, dynamic approach to economic reforms, we have achieved healthy growth, by which I mean not just that Myanmar's economy is estimated to grow by 6.2% in 2018/2019 but that growth has been spread across all sectors and is to a large extent due to the energy and enterprise of the private sector.

While Myanmar has benefited to a large extent from the opening up of our economy, much of Rakhine's economic potential still remains untapped. For too long the international community's attention has been focused narrowly on negative aspects related to problems in North Rakhine rather than on the larger picture that shows the immense potential of this State for peace and development.

We recognize the grave challenges we have to face and overcome. From the very beginning of its term in office, our Government identified as a national priority the imperative need for rule of law and sustainable development in Rakhine. With a view to ensuring long term peace and harmony for all who live within this State, we have been doing our utmost to meet security and humanitarian needs, in line with the recommendations of the Commission led by the late Dr. Kofi Annan. At the same time, we have to address economic issues



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

in Rakhine, that we may achieve the progress and development needed to sustain stability and prosperity. All of us here can play a role in the endeavour to lay strong foundations for the sustainable development of Myanmar by investing in the sustainable development of our Rakhine State.

Today we would like to focus on foreign and domestic investment which, when made with imagination and foresight and implemented with responsibility and dedication, could play a crucial role in putting Rakhine's development trajectory on track. The Rakhine State Investment Fair is thus intended to present to you a yet barely explored side of Rakhine State — brimming opportunities and warm and friendly people, all eager to be part of the development adventure. Every kyat spent by this government, every dollar disbursed by our development partners and every dollar invested by the private sector is a vote of confidence in the resilience and potential of Rakhine and its people.

At the Invest Myanmar Summit held late last month in Nay Pyi Taw, a wide range of new and exciting investment projects to be implemented in Rakhine State, from road and airport construction to the development of industrial estates and new cities, were shared with some 1,600 participants. These are included within the Project Bank and transparent and competitive tender processes for the implementation of these projects will soon begin.

Special Economic Zones managed with efficiency and probity, in line with best practices can be a dynamic source of economic growth, generating jobs and renewing hope for communities, and creating opportunities for a variety of related off-shoot industries. Such enterprises will also open the way for the active participation of home-grown Rakhine firms and SMEs in investment supply chains. They offer investors and communities a 'win-win' outcome as more jobs are created and greater good-will is generated, while related cost reduction brings in companies from further afield.

Most important of all, we must ensure that the benefits obtained from these and other projects are shared equitably amongst all communities. It is the foremost responsibility of a sovereign, democratically elected government to provide for the needs of their people in ways that nurture unity and harmony, particularly in a

Union such as ours, with its vast richness of diversity. Development for one should contribute towards development for all. And there is a role for all to play in working for responsible, visionary development grounded in goodwill, good sense, expertise, industry and creativity.

Our foreign and domestic private sector partners and young entrepreneurs bring an invigorating blend of urgency and pragmatism, a 'can do attitude', and a willingness to roll up their sleeves and get things moving. Their energy and enthusiasm, and their innovative approach that discovers what other have overlooked, are what this region has been waiting for.

A sector scintillating with potential is tourism. Pristine beaches in Gwa Township and Man Aung Island are ripe for transformation into eco-tourism destinations. On the cultural side, we are preparing to put up Mrauk-U for consideration as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This little known religious complex of astounding beauty and exquisite architectural detail is a gem that has yet to be revealed to the world. It will provide an insight into the rich cultural and technical achievements of the ancient Rakhine Kingdom.

Other sectors that offer great potential for investors include agriculture, livestock breeding, aquaculture and forestry, manufacturing, textiles and garment manufacturing, power generation and distribution, education, health services, infrastructure and real estate. The potential for the development of the oil and gas sector is one of the shining assets of Rakhine State. We hope to see more offshore gas fields developed over the coming years, partly for use in supporting greater electrification in Rakhine, as well as to create industries that can produce value-added agriculture and fishery products for export. As you can see the list of possibilities in Rakhine is long and it could go on expanding.

I am confident that all of you understand well the necessity to ensure that investments do not aggravate a fragile environment already vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. As an example: I mentioned earlier the potential for aquaculture in Rakhine. But we would wish to avoid the unchecked expansion of commercial fishery projects that could degrade our precious mangrove stock. And I am sure all of us would wish to preserve the natural beauty and serenity of Ngapali that you see before you today. So let us work together towards, responsible investment that will protect ecosystems that are the foundation of our material wealth and the well-being of our people.

As a late comer to the development scene, Rakhine stands poised to reap the advantages of astute late comers: learning from the success stories as well as the mistakes of those who went ahead, offering fresh openings and new horizons. I would like to invite all of you to join in this Rakhine Investment Fair which can be seen as the launching of a great economic venture. We will champion all those who invest responsibly, who respect Rakhine's pristine environment and who have at least the achievement of peace and prosperity for its people.

I look forward to a time when we can look back on this Forum not just as the dawning of a splendid new era in the history of sustainable development for Rakhine, but also as one of the landmarks of economic progress in Myanmar.

Thank you.

VP U Myint Swe calls for bringing balance to Myanmar's trade volume

"THE Private Sector Development Committee promptly carries out matters that can be dealt with immediately. For example, the committee announced during its 23rd regular meeting that the Ministry of Planning and Finance will submit a proposal to amend a provision in the 2019 Union Taxation Law that reads 'milk, condensed milk, fresh milk and various kinds of milk powder' into 'milk and other dairy products', after the Myanmar Livestock Federation made the request, citing that the absence of the word 'yogurt' means commercial tax is levied from this dairy product," said Vice President U Myint Swe.

The Vice President made the remark during his speech at the 24th regular meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee – PSDC, of which he is the Chairperson, held at the UMFCFI (Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry) building in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon yesterday.

Current trade volume reaches 65% of previous mini-budget period within first four months

The Vice President also said they have directed the UMFCFI to relay the suggestions and submissions by businesspeople made at PSDC's last monthly meeting to other relevant businesspersons. He



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 24th regular meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee – PSDC at the UMFCFI in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

said the five working committees under PSDC regularly holds public-private dialogue with relevant ministries and private businesspersons to discuss solutions to issues that require long-term planning.

The Vice President said the public and private sector regularly work together to increase the national trade volume every year. He said the trade volume for the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September) reached US\$18.3 billion while the first four months of the 2018-2019 FY reached US\$12.02 billion on 8 February. He urged everyone to work together to increase the number of local exports and import substitutions to bring balance to the trade volume.

Illegal border trade countered, two-month window before World Bank report

The PSDC has formed special groups in nine states and regions to combat illegal border trade that negatively affects micro, small and medium enterprises – MSMEs and has made 306 arrests concerning the issue from September 2018 to 5 January 2019, said the Vice President.

On the topic of attracting foreign investment, the Vice President said the Myanmar Investment Commission – MIC sent delegations to Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, Japan and South Korea last year to meet and welcome prospective investors into Myanmar.

The Vice President also reminded the relevant ministries

that the World Bank's 'Doing Business 2020 Report' will be collecting data until April 2019, and therefore, the ministries must use the remaining two months to swiftly implement their designated reforms on time. He urged the association representatives present at the meeting to voice their opinions and suggestions as relevant officials are present to address them.

Officials provide updates on relevant sector performances

Next, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, U Thant Sin Maung, explained processes for upgrading roads, infrastructure and airports and implementing cross border transport with neighboring countries.

Union Minister for Industry, U Khin Maung Cho, also explained on organizing MSME exhibitions and competitions, providing MSMEs with loans, conducting capacity-building trainings, setting standards and guidelines for the iron and steel industry, and efforts to manufacture electric vehicles.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein then explained his region's current implementations and UMFCFI Chairperson U Zaw Min Win explained the implementation process on the meeting's decisions, organizing private-public partnership dialogues, and increasing export volume.

Following this, General Secretary U Win Kyaing from Myanmar Fisheries Federation, Vice-Chairperson U Tin Hlaing from Myanmar Iron & Steel Association, Chairperson Dr. Soe Tun from Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association, U Ko Ko Gyi from the Border Trade Development Working Committee (UMFCCI), and Joint General-Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe and General-Secretary U Aung Kyi Soe from UMFCFI responded to the various submissions and suggestions. The Vice President, Union Ministers and other officials provided input into the discussions as necessary, after which, the Vice President concluded the meeting with a closing speech. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Over 560 Myanmar nationals return from Thailand in three days under ...

FROM PAGE-1

On 21 February, 2019, a total 201 Myanmar nationals from Ohnpyan IDP Camp returned to Myanmar and they were officially accepted at the Kyauk Lone Gyi by the Minister Counsellor from the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand and officials of the Immigration and Population Department.

Meanwhile, 59 Myanmar nationals from Mae Hong Son IDP Camp returned home accompanied by Counsel General U Thein Tin and officials of Thailand on 21 February and they were officially accepted by Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, Kayah State Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Bos Ko, Kayah State Development and Social Affairs Minister Dr. Aung Kyaw htay at the BP 13 Gate at noon.

The returnees were transported to Me Se Reception Cen-



Myanmar nationals are seen with Myanmar diplomats and Thai officials in Thailand before returning home. **PHOTO: MNA**

tre, and authorities arranged to send them to areas where they will settle down.

A total of 260 Myanmar nationals were repatriated from Thailand on 21 February.

On 22 February, 45 Myanmar nationals from Bandonran IDP Camp and 129 from Nopoe IDP Camp totaling 174 were repatriated and they were accepted in Myawady by Myanmar Minister Counsellor and officials of the Immigration and Population Ministry. Following the repatriation, region and state authorities concerned provided aid including cash assistance and transported them to their homes. The authorities will issue the citizenship scrutiny cards, provide accommodation, education and health care access to the returnees, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA ■ (Translated by GNLM)

Thura U Shwe Mann receives delegation from Center for Asian Legal Exchange

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann received students from Japan-based Center for Asian Legal Exchange led by Assistant Professor, Ms. Emi Makino at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann explained legal issues along with duties of the commission and then responded to questions raised by the students and teachers from Center for Asian Legal Exchange.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Thura U Shwe Mann poses for the photo with students from Center for Asian Legal Exchange led by Assistant Professor, Ms. Emi Makino in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister urges investors to participate in Rakhine's journey to prosperity

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, has invited local and foreign investments to Rakhine State, calling the country's diversified cultures and customs from different communities its strength, and noted the significant opportunities for the country.

The investment fair which is first of its kind in Rakhine State is held with the assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA, Japan External Trade Organization- JETRO, Myanmar Survey Research Co Ltd-MSR and private companies.

Speaking at the Rakhine State Investment Fair, the Union Minister said, "In Myanmar diversity is a source of strength. Myanmar has such great potential precisely because we are such a diverse country — consisting of peoples and communities, with distinct languages, cultures and traditions.

"Investment can build upon this diversity — bringing new ideas, new technologies, new ways of doing business — helping communities connect, beyond boundaries, through borders, and across continents," said the Union Minister.

"With investment — the world opens up to us, and we open up to the world," he said.

"This is just one of the many reasons why we welcome foreign investment in Myanmar and is why we welcome foreign investment into Rakhine," he added. **But we do not sail into uncharted waters. We have a guide**

"In 2018 this government launched the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan describing a next wave of reform, designed to steer our country's continued



Union Minister U Thaung Tun. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

transition, along a common pathway, toward the emergence of a prosperous, peaceful, democratic federal Union," U Thaung Tun said.

"Our MSDP consists of 3 pillars, 5 goals, 28 strategies and no less than 251 action plans - all firmly aligned with the global sustainable development agenda," he added. "In line with both our MSDP and our new Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan, we recognise that government has a critical role to play in creating a more favourable, predictable and friendly investment climate," said the Union Minister.

"Doing so will help to stimulate foreign and domestic investment, while ensuring a level playing field for all investors," said the MIC Chairman.

"The Myanmar Investment Commission has been actively promoting responsible, sustainable, and mutually beneficial investment -- that is, investment which does not prioritise short term returns at the expense of future generations," he added.

"The MIC as Myanmar's investment regulator, facilitator and promoter, it will continue to promote such a business-friendly and mutually beneficial invest-

ment environment," he added. "We will also welcome investment that does not cause harm to the natural environment, and which serves the interests of our people. We will welcome investments which bring benefits to all stakeholders, including workers and host communities," said the Union Minister.

"The MIC has also recently been placing special emphasis on increasing investment channelled into our States and Regions. **It is true that, at an aggregate level, living standards throughout Myanmar have improved significantly. However, it is also true that inequality is prevalent in some areas.**

"Rakhine State is uniquely positioned for many reasons," said U Thaung Tun, "It is rich in natural resources, particularly oil and gas, and its strategic location makes it an ideal gateway for trade and commerce between China and India. Rakhine is uniquely positioned to support the emergence of economic and industrial zones." "With its captivating range of pristine beaches and cultural heritage sites, Rakhine is a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered," he added.

"I am pleased to see that

initiatives such as the "My Beautiful Rakhine Photo Contest", having received over 2,500 entries, are helping to showcase Rakhine's beautiful beaches, lush farmlands and rich archaeological treasures — helping to further the promotion of Rakhine's tourism potential," said the Union Minister.

"Throughout this Investment Fair, through business networking opportunities, presentations made, and dialogues with experts in each area, we aim to connect foreign and domestic investors with the information they require to ensure a better appreciation of Rakhine's as yet untapped economic potential," said U Thaung Tun.

"Now is the time to invest in Rakhine State. By investing in this State, you will be joining us on a journey to build a prosperous and inclusive Rakhine better able to thrive on its diversity," he added.

"I want to say simply that this government remains resolute in its commitment to securing peace. We are committed to doing all in our power to resolve long and complex challenges — challenges which will only be exacerbated and prolonged by continued under-investment," said U Thaung Tun.

"I know that the Rakhine State Government is fully committed to the development of the state. The Myanmar Investment Commission also is fully committed," said U Thaung Tun, "To the audience today, what we seek from you is a similar level of commitment!"

"They say that you can't get people to believe in your dream until you believe in it yourself. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I believe in Rakhine State. I believe

in the dream of a prosperous, peaceful, diverse and economically vibrant Rakhine State," he added.

"To investors I say to you — seek out new opportunities. Take those calculated risks. No return on investment was ever made by staying on the sidelines," said U Thaung Tun.

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail," said the Union Minister. "We are all here because we have a clear-eyed vision of what we want and where we are headed, but nobody will put these dreams into reality until we do," he said.

Afterwards, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explained the investment opportunities in Rakhine State.

Afterwards, Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama said Japanese government would provide aid to Rakhine State through the UN and will also send directly to the state, said the ambassador.

Mr. Ichiro Maruyama said Japanese government would build about 80 basic education schools in the state and is also planning to provide assistance to power supply sector in Rakhine State. Afterward, Myanmar Survey Research Co Ltd- MSR presented the paper on investment opportunities survey in Rakhine State, officials and local and foreign investors on "Government Policy and Priority Sector", "Doing Business in Rakhine State and Responsible Investment" and "Potentially of Rakhine State". Over 600 local and foreign businessmen attended the fair and 24 projects were submitted to the Rakhine State Government.— Thi Thi Min, Min Thit

UEC Chair meets sub commission members of Bago Region

U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, met with election regional, district, and township-level election sub commissions of Bago Region in Bago City Hall yesterday.

U Hla Thein delivered a speech, saying that the commission adhered to 5 principles in ensuring elections are free, fair, transparent, and offers results that are accepted by everyone and in line with the people's will. He highlighted the importance for commission members to adhere to the various Hluttaws' election laws, bylaws, rules, regulations, procedures, notifications and such and for sub commissions to thoroughly understand the guidelines set for them.

The UEC Chairperson said

this will ensure elections proceed in accordance with the law and disagreements are reduced. He urged electoral officials to follow the rules during their assignment to voting booths on election day. He said members of the assessing and negotiation committee must settle disputes during the campaign period using fairness and impartiality. Next, the Secretary of the Regional Election Sub Commission explained facts related to the elections. The UEC Chairperson then instructed officials from all levels of the sub commission to continue developing their skills and cooperating with relevant ministries to ensure the 2020 General Elections is carried out successfully. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, meets with members of the UEC's sub-commissions in Bago yesterday. **PHOTO: HEIN HTET (BAGO)**

NRPC members, SSPP Vice Chairman hold meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

NATIONAL Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) members and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) delegation led by its Vice Chairman held a meeting at NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting NRPC member Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo stated that SSPP was among a group that hadn't signed the NCA. It was the first from such group that requested and had an official meeting with the Tatmadaw and NRPC in accordance to the announcement made by the Tatmadaw. Thus the group was welcomed and the meeting was held to discuss peace process and development of Wanhai region. SSPP was invited to openly discuss for the peace process and for the party itself as well as difficulties SSPP had said the Union Attorney General.

Next, SSPP Vice Chairman Sao Khun Hsai spoke of his appreciation to NRPC for accepting their request. SSPP and SSA well received a New Year message from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and were extremely happy on receiving it. At the same time central committee members of SSPP, SSA commanders and troops wishes well for the President, State Counsellor, Government members, Tatmadaw leaders led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Hluttaw representatives and all said the Vice Chairman.

The Vice Chairman then



National Reconciliation and Peace Centre members hold talks with Shan State Progressive Party Vice Chairman Sao Khun Hsai and party in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

spoke of all becoming a Union through Panglong Agreement but instead of the country developing and progressing in the past 70 years it had lagged behind other countries due to many reasons. The main point was the lack of trust among the nationals and the incompleteness and weaknesses of the national reconciliation works and it was understood that lessons from these past experiences were to be learnt so that no more mistakes are made in the future.

SSPP was not against the NCA path but were only point out and demanding inclusiveness in the NCA. SSPP was not against the NCA and not signing the NCA does not mean against the NCA. An understanding was

requested as the reason was for all-inclusiveness, said the Vice Chairman. SSPP consider the present situation as very good because an opportunity to sit and discuss as equal were being given to SSPP, said the Vice Chairman.

At the moment trust was being built up from the bottom up and efforts were being made with a belief of establishing a federal union once a certain situation is reached and a certain time is taken.

Some criticize SSPP for conducting regional development as in a time of conflict arms and ammunitions need to be stocked rather than conducting regional development. But SSPP and SSA were in an armed conflict for 60 years and people

had suffered during this period together with SSPP and SSA and thus were giving back what it can to the people. Looking at this point alone could be obvious that SSPP/SSA no longer wanted wars and conflicts. The reason for coming now is to show what SSPP/SSA had done for regional development. A request had been made for a separate meeting with the Tatmadaw to report about military matters and spoke of his appreciation for being granted the opportunity, said the Vice Chairman.

Next, the meeting discussed status of meeting between the government and SSPP, Wanhai region development matters, future works of peace process and general matters.

In his concluding speech,

SSPP Vice Chairman thanked the government officials, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw leaders and officials for holding the meeting and spoke of his belief on successfully establishing a federal union.

In return NRPC member Union Attorney General said open discussions were held in the meeting and much benefit was being obtained from learning of the works and status of SSPP. The government had kept opened the path for all to participate in the NCA and is striving toward it. Some are believed to be participating in it soon and SSPP is urged to participate in it and matters raised by SSPP will be submitted to the NRPC meeting said the Union Attorney General.

Afterward, the Union Attorney General and SSPP Vice Chairman exchanged gifts.

The meeting was attended by NRPC members Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Peace Commission Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw, Secretary Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retired), member U Hla Maung Shwe, Director-General U Zaw Htay, SSPP Vice Chairman Sao Khun Hsai and central committee members.

Director-General U Zaw Htay commented that the day's meeting was a good discussion. — Myo Myint (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Participation is necessary to bring about reform

MYANMAR is a Union that is transitioning into a democracy. All ethnic nationals are hoping for a democratic federal Union, an amalgamation of the principles of a Union and a democracy, to be established in the country.

During his meeting with the three pillars of democracy in Chin State on 21 February, President U Win Myint highlighted the objectives, spirit, and duties associated with a democratic federal Union.

There is freedom, equality, and fairness in a democracy. It provides security and opportunity for happiness and prosperity to the citizens of a nation. Federalism also guarantees similar values. All citizens must work together to ensure equal rights, federal rights, democratic rights, justice, freedom, and equality across the country.

The main responsibility for ensuring the emergence of a system

that promotes these values and principles falls on the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. The President urged the administrative sector to set up an administration that expands the rule of law, and to drive the administrative mechanism to provide mental and physical security, and prosperity to the people. He said the administration must not be oppressive, as that is one of the objectives of a democratic federal Union.

To establish a democratic federal Union, all those assigned responsibilities relevant to the cause must develop the conviction that we all need to work in unity. Unity cannot be achieved by a single organization or entity. It requires that all of us participate in the reform process. The government, the Hluttaw, and the organizational departments must all stride uniformly on the path to reform. To bring about real change, citizens must also revise their mental attitudes and convictions.

We are taking the first steps towards a democratic transition, from an old political system to a modern one. There are some people who are worried

about the reforms initiated across the country. Reform is not an enemy; it is a well-meaning friend. The President has been constantly reminding government departments that the time is ripe now for all Myanmar citizens to exploit the right opportunities.

We urge everyone to cooperate in implementing reforms as they are necessary for establishing a democratic federal Union that will bring uniform development to every state and region of our country.

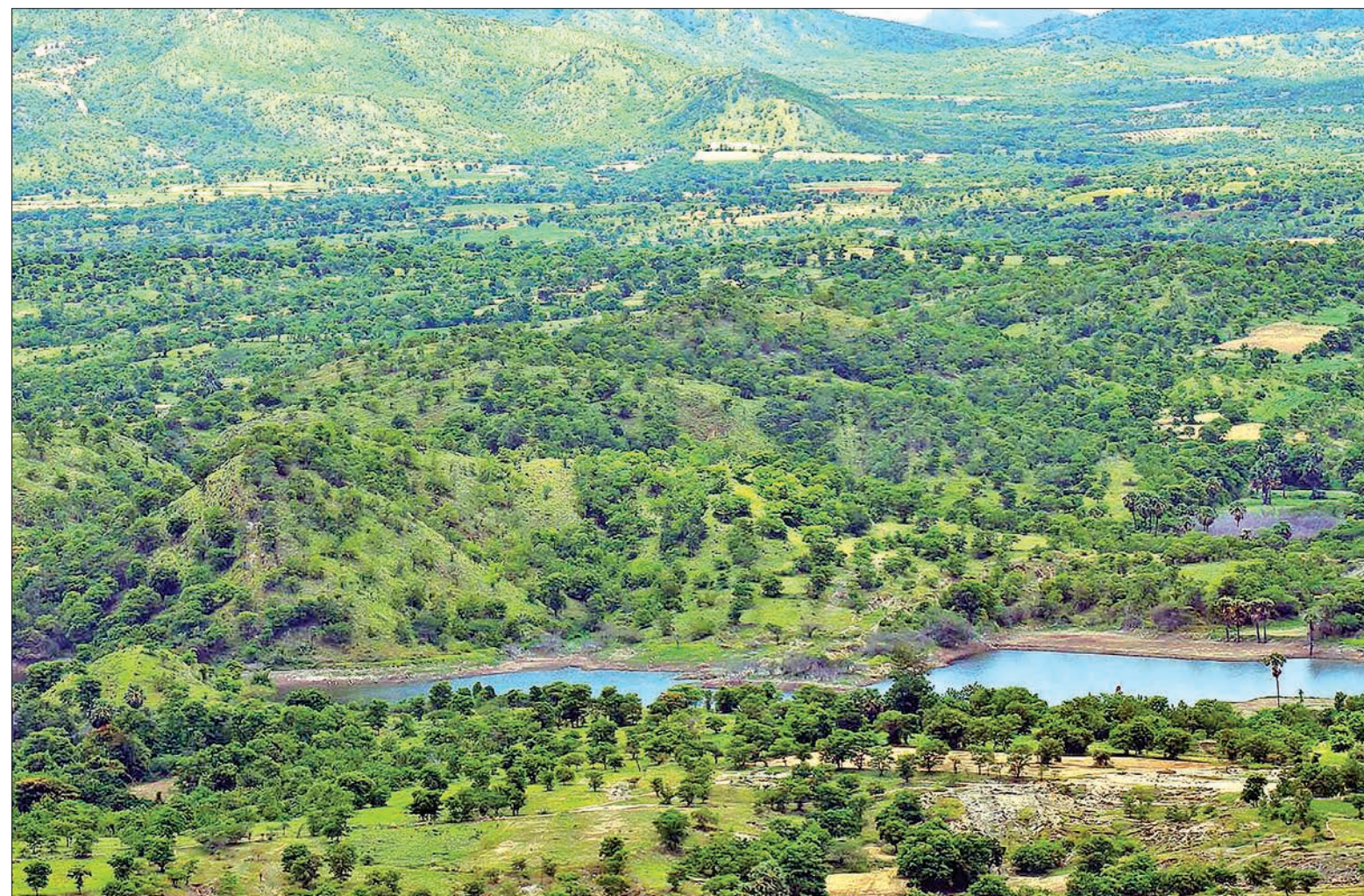


Planting trees really help mitigate climate change

By: Tommy Pauk

GLOBAL warming, a man-made disaster, has been threatening our mother earth and living things for over two decades. Consequently, our earth temperatures are relatively increasing due to global warming. All living things live their lives with trees and water. Trees are the heart of our mother earth. They grow on the ground as well as in fresh water and in sea water. They balance harmonious ecosystem and climatic condition on earth which give us sufficient sustenance. In other words, trees are the natural body guards of our earth which conserve the ecosystem and ground water resources. The more abundant the trees on earth, the less extreme weather conditions occur elsewhere. Planting new-trees is considered one of the essential tasks to be carried out to mitigate the impact of climate change indeed.

On the ground of Earth, man destroys and clears dense forests for the sake of livelihoods, making firewood and urbanization from time to time. Illegal felling of trees from the forests causes negative impact to the environment and the lack of re-planting trees causes climate change. Such conditions are detrimental to the natural landscape and the habitat of natural wildlife too. Naturally, trees help to regulate the climate by absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere. When the trees from forests are cut down by humans, the earth temperature is increased. Besides, urbanization and farming live stocks are also the causes to increase the world temperature because nature is transformed into man-made concrete human settlement or cities. The natural trees, plants, shrubs, the natural habitat of wild life and



An afforestation project in Myingyan District turns into greener landscape.

grassland disappear due to these activities. In this case, man needs to maintain or conserve natural environment and to mitigate the effects of climate change by any means.

The global people and the wise leaders of the respective countries are aware of the negative impact of the climate change and the depletion of ozone layer. Therefore, the countries across the world are trying to make project or plan for mitigating the impact of climate change by means of planting trees as their national plans on their respective soils. Some countries, in accord with their climatic condition and geographic conditions, they make project to plant or grow suitable

trees, spending huge amount of money or funding provided by the philanthropic donors.

Since, we Myanmar are the tree lovers, we and our governments make plan or project to plant trees nationwide voluntarily. We are aware that deforestation or cutting down trees is one of the causes for climate change because trees help to regulate the climate by absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere. So when they are cut down, that beneficial effect is lost and the carbon stored in the trees is released into the atmosphere, adding to the greenhouse effect. In our country _ Myanmar, we mark the monsoon season as a tree planting season, we plant trees wherever

the land is feasible. This activity is done for maintaining green natural environment in Myanmar and mitigating the impact of climate change occurring on our planet. In fact, we Myanmar people participate in protecting against the threat of severe climate change. In addition to this, the Dry Zone Greening Department, under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, is undertaking the Special Region Nine district Project in Dry Zone of Central Myanmar. It laid down its objectives as follows;

Objectives

- The objectives of the Dry Zone Greening Department are:
- To make the arid region lush, green and beautiful
 - To maintain its eco-system
 - To fulfill basic forest produce requirements of the rural people
 - To contribute socio-economic development of the rural people
 - To make the local residents aware the value and essence of forest and trees
 - To enhance public knowledge on conservation and promotion of natural environment, and escalate its participation
 - To maintain climatic balance in order to support cultivation

- and
- To prevent desertification

The target areas of the project included Meikhtila , Myingyan, Yamethin, Sagaing, Monywa, Pakokku, Magway, Thayet and Minbu Districts which are in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Regions in Myanmar. The Dry Zone Greening Department has been implementing the project in line with its objectives to date.

Myanmar and other countries around the world make effort to mitigate the impact of climate change by replanting trees as a part of treatment to the injured Earth. The following countries are the examples in doing their best to create equilibrium of ecosystem in their countries.

Pakistan;

In 2014, A billion Trees Planting Project was adopted for the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to transform the country's barren landscapes into forests known as 'Green Gold '. The project will restore 3,500 square kilometers of land and the new trees help mitigate the effect of climate change. The 900,000 fast-growing eucalyptus trees

and more than 42 tree species have been planted. The project has already exceeded its target of one billion trees. As a result, the new trees will help protect against erosion. In addition, they will strengthen riverbanks and decrease the risks of floods in that area. Furthermore, the upcoming growth of forest will increase the chances of rain and create a huge new habitat for wildlife.

China

China's " Green Great Wall " or Three -North Shelter Forest Program is a series of human-planted wind breaking forest strips in China which is to hold back the expansion of the Gobi desert. The project targets three of the northern regions: the North, the Northeast and the Northwest of China. The program started in 1978. It is planned to be completed around 2050. The aerial seeding method is used to cover long strips of land and the offering of cash incentives to farmers to plant trees and shrubs in areas that are more arid. China aims to raise China's forest cover from 5 to 15 percent, thereby reducing desertification. The trees will serve as windbreak from dust storms of the Gobi desert. As of 2009, China planted forest covered more than 5000,000 square kilometers - the largest artificial forest in the world.

Obviously, we have learnt that most of the countries including Myanmar are striving to mitigate the impact of climate change by means of planting trees in their countries as much as they can. They all have common aim and object i.e. to ameliorate the bad situations on earth caused by the effects of climate change. Man should wisely use natural resources or mineral resources such as trees, water, habitable land and fossilized fuel. It is an obligation to protect natural habitat as well. Therefore, we sensible human beings ought to preserve or conserve the balance ecosystem so that our world can be healthy. Unless our world is healthy, we all living things might become extinct indeed!

References; MONREC ; Dry Zone Greening Department



MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of service organization appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Professor Dr. Zaw Than Tun, Professor, University of Medicine 1, Department of Human Resource for Health under the Ministry of Health and Sports as Director-General of the Department of Medical Research on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 22 February 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below February average temperatures in Yangon and Taninthayi regions, (2°C) above February average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, (3°C) above February average temperature in Chin State and about February average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (5°C) in Hsipaw, (6°C) in Namhsan and (7°C) each in Heho, Loinin and Mongyan. **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 THE 23 February 2019: Light 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, (Northern) Shan, Kayin and Mon 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 (4 - 6) feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts and (2 - 4) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 February 2019: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw and Yangon Region and partly cloudy in Mandalay Region.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 16:15 hour MST on 22 February 2019)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (33) miles south-southwest of Bogale), latitude 15.84°N, longitude 95.23°E, focal depth (85) kilometers about (72) miles southeast of Patheingyi seismological observatory was recorded at (15)hr (52)min (52)sec MST on 22 February 2019.

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DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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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.

Mandalay hosts 7th Japan Expo 2019 & Automotive Show

THE SEVENTH Japan Expo 2019 and Automotive Show launched on Friday in Mandalay, introducing Japanese products to the people in upper Myanmar and providing one-stop services to visitors.

Organized by Myanmar Promotional Service, the event is currently taking place at Mandalay City Hall at the corner of 26th Street and 71st Street, beginning on 22 February and it will last 24 February.

The three-day expo has attracted over 40 Japanese companies and exhibited products, including electronic products, medicines, machinery, cameras, colour copiers, watches, auto accessories, foodstuff, solar products, and



PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

mobile devices through over 50 booths.

The expo is aimed at pro-

moting Myanmar-Japan bilateral trade and investment, exchanging social and culture

between the two countries.—

Than Zaw Min (IPRD) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

99 dead, 136 injured in 350 rail mishaps in 2017-2018FY

By Nyein Nyein

THERE were a total of 350 rail accidents recorded in the 2017-2018 Financial Year, equivalent to one accident per day on average, according to the Myanmar Railways (Transport Division) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The accidents left 99 people dead and 136 injured, according to official data of the MR.

U Kyaw Kyaw Myo, the general manager of the MR (Transport Division), said the figure showed that the MR needs to take more preventive measures against train accidents.

"There are 365 days in a year. On average, one train accident is reported a day. It shows that the MR needs to make more efforts to control railway accidents," he said.

The total rail accidents in the previous FY included three crashes involving two trains, 88 collisions involving cars and trains, and 177 mishaps where trains overturned due to uncontrolled wheel slips.

At a press conference held on 22 February in Yangon, U Kyaw Kyaw Myo said the MR has nothing to do with the incidence of accidents at pedestrian bridges.

"Such accidents occur due to careless use of railroads.

Last FY, the number of such accidents reached 88. It was the highest figure in the last 20 years. It accounts for 25 per cent of the total accidents," he said.

"On average, one accident occurs every five days. An accident between a train and any vehicle can be devastating, resulting in serious injury, or even, death for the victims involved. Action will be taken against reckless persons under the existing railway laws," he added.

To reduce rail accidents, the MR is making continuous efforts to raise public awareness by conducting educational seminars at schools and com-

munity talks in regions and states, distributing pamphlets, and broadcasting public information through the Myanmar Radio and Television, according to the MR.

The MR's data indicated that the country saw 651 rail accidents in the 2011-2012FY, 605 in the 2012-2013FY, 537 in the 2013-2014FY, 474 in the 2014-2015FY, 393 in the 2015-2016FY, 363 in the 2016-2017FY.

A total of 163 rail accidents occurred between April and September 2018, according to the MR. ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

452 illegal timber logs confiscated in Katha Township

AUTHORITIES on Wednesday seized 452 logs of illegal teak hidden under the bamboo raft inside the raft in the Ayeyawady River, Katha Township.

Led by U MyintNaingOo, assistant director of Katha Township Forest Department, a combined team comprising police and officials from the township administrative office,

discovered a total of 452 logs of illegal teak timber weighing 39.326 tons inside the raft in Ayeyawady River between Kyaukpone and Kalone villages, Katha Township around 6 p.m. on 20 February and confiscated them.

Police are still investigating the case to arrest those involved in the case.— Lu Aung (Katha) ■
(Translated by La Wonn)



Officials from the Forest Department inspect seized illegal timbers in Katha Township in Sagaing. PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)

Line Walker-2 films action scenes on Sule Pagoda Road



The crew of Line Walker-2 taping a scene from the Hong Kong movie near Sule Pagoda in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**



People gather behind the scenes while shooting a scene from action movie near Sule Pagoda in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

POLICE and criminals on the set of Line Walker-2 waged a gun battle against each other on Sule Pagoda Road in downtown Yangon yesterday. The crew of the Hong Kong film prepared the film set and took the action scenes of the movie from 6 am to 5 pm.

Actor Min Yazar

"Today, we filmed gunfights in the middle of the city. The movie guns they brought with them are quite good. We had to practice with duplicate guns before we filmed it with the movie guns. Even the scene where

you're hit with a bullet, we had to retake it 12 times before the director was satisfied. We fought with gang A today. I am from gang B. We're going to be filming in this location for 4 more days."

Yesterday's filming included a shootout scene between law enforcement and criminal gangs and a scene where a police officer gets hit by a car.

Actor Ant Thit Kyaw (Observer)

"This film set teaches us many things. I can see how a lot of management goes into

producing a movie. It's like a practical working environment for me. It would be great if a local movie company and an international company such as this collaborated on a movie and included domestic actors. I can see our country's image will be uplifted when this film comes out."

Police Captain Kyaw San Oo of Traffic Police Unit-41 said the section of the road from the Anawrahta Road junction to Shwe Bon Thar Road was closed and traffic redirected along Anawrahta Road. He said

traffic was hindered slightly by a crowd of people gathering to watch the movie being filmed.

U Thein Tan (Driver, Kyauktada Tsp resident)

"Traffic was a bit congested so I drove along clearer roads. But I take pride in the fact that an international movie is being filmed in my country. I got to see their action and the gun fights. It was worth it seeing things I've never seen before and I wish for our local films to become just as good."

The set on Sule Pagoda Road will be used for filming till

26 February. Authorities have already announced sections of the road will be temporarily closed from 6 am to 6 pm on the filming days.

Yangon Synthesis Productions Company, who are taking shared responsibility for the film on Myanmar's side, has issued an apology to the public for the temporary traffic inconveniences caused during the filming process and has kindly requested their continued patience. —Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar, Thailand Chiefs of police forces meet in Nay Pyi Taw

TO Promote cooperation between the police forces of Myanmar and Thailand, a Myanmar Police Force delegation led by Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo met with commissioner-general of the Royal Thai Police Pol.Gen. Chakthip Chaijinda at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed about cooperation between police forces of Myanmar and Thailand to ensure border security and law enforcements, to combat drugs, human trafficking, illegal immigration, to exchange information to prevent any illegal cases in the border

area of the two countries and to support capacity building for Myanmar police force with the cooperation of the Royal Thai Police.

After the meeting, the two police forces exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photos. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Senior officials of Police Forces from Myanmar and Thailand pose for a photo at the friendship cooperation meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

EU Monitoring Mission calls on MOIC Union Minister after its 3rd meeting with Myanmar Government Ministries

THE Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received the delegation of Enhanced EBA monitoring mission of the European Union at 10 am on 22 February 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw and discussed on the Government's efforts on the promotion and protection of human rights, labour rights as well as matters relating to Rakhine State.

During the visit of the EU delegation to Myanmar, the 3rd meeting between Myanmar Government departmental officials and the Enhanced EBA monitoring mission of the European Union was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 21-22 February 2019. The meeting was co-chaired by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Helena König, Deputy Director General of European Commission Directorate



PHOTO : MNA

General for Trade.

At the meeting, both sides discussed on the matters relating to the cooperation with the United Nations, humanitarian assistance to the affected areas in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States, improving conditions for IDPs, creating conducive condition for voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons, combating hate speech, media freedom and labour rights reform and implementing the

recommendations of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State as well as the issue of accountability.

The meeting was attended by representatives from various line Ministries and Union Attorney General's Office from Myanmar side and Mrs. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director/ Director Asia-Pacific of the European External Action Service, Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European

Union to Myanmar and members of the Enhanced EBA monitoring mission from the EU side.

The EU delegation also visited Rakhine State from 18 to 19 February 2019 and called on the Chief Minister of Rakhine State as well as the Speaker of the Rakhine State Hluttaw, separately. During the trip, they visited the Government Technical High School and also met with Rakhine community in Min Gan, Muslim community in Kye-in Ni Pyin IDP camp and Hindu community in Hindu temple in Sittwe.—MNA ■

Chin State Investment and Product Fair to be held in Yangon

A Chin State Investment and Product Fair-2019 will be held from 16 to 17 March at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon.

Interested local and foreign business person and investors who want to attend are to register at <http://www.chinstatefair2019.com/> by 11 March. —Thant Zin Win (MNA) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Singaporean fined over Skype forum with Hong Kong activist

SINGAPORE — A Singaporean activist was on Thursday fined for organizing an illegal public discussion in the tightly-controlled city-state that featured a prominent Hong Kong democracy campaigner speaking via Skype.

Jolovan Wham was convicted last month of breaking public order laws after he failed to apply for a police permit before inviting activist Joshua Wong to speak via video call to an audience.

The 39-year-old was also found guilty of refusing to sign a written statement to police. On Thursday he was handed a fine of Sg\$3,200 (\$2,300).

Wham, who is currently out on bail, said he will appeal the sentence, but if that fails he said he will choose to serve a 16-day jail term rather than pay the fine.

The activist, who is also an advocate for migrant workers' rights, had described the gathering in November 2016 as "a harmless and straightforward discussion about social movements".

Wong, who was among the leaders of massive pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong in 2014,



Singaporean activist Jolovan Wham arrives at the State Court in Singapore on 21 February, 2019 to face sentence for organising alleged illegal protest. PHOTO: AFP

spoke to the audience about the role of civil disobedience and democracy in building social movements.

Organizing a public assembly without a permit in Singapore is punishable by a fine of up to Sg\$5,000. Repeat offenders can be fined up to Sg\$10,000 or jailed for a maximum of six months or both.

Wealthy Singapore is regularly criticised by rights groups for its heavy-handed response to political dissent and freedom

of expression.

In December, the editor of a Singaporean website was charged with defamation for publishing a letter alleging corruption among the country's leaders.

The same month, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong sued a blogger for defamation after he shared an article on Facebook linking the leader to a corruption scandal in neighbouring Malaysia. Lee said the article was false and without basis.—AFP ■

Bones from 500 people found at Tokyo skeletal model company

TOKYO — Bones from around 500 people have been found on the premises of a skeletal model company in Tokyo, police said on Friday, with the company quoted as saying they were imported from India decades ago.

"We had been keeping the bones after importing (them from India) about 20 to 30 years ago. We were considering moving them to another location," said a senior official of the company in Tokyo's Adachi Ward.

Many of the skulls and bones appeared to be from individuals who died decades earlier and police do not believe there was any foul play.

The bones were discovered when a man related to the company was found dead on the premises last fall. Police do not believe his death was suspicious.

The company was founded in March 1971 to import and produce models of human and animal skeletons.—Kyodo News ■

'Tinnie terrorists' jailed in Australia for Philippines boat plot

SYDNEY (Australia)—Four Australians with almost no seafaring experience were jailed on Friday for hatching a "foredoomed" plot to sail a boat to the southern Philippines and overthrow the local government.

The four men — and two other Australians who have yet to be sentenced — were arrested in 2016 by police after buying a seven-metre (23-foot) boat and moving it overland 2,840 kilometres (1,765 miles) from the southern city of Melbourne to the northeastern tip of Australia.

Despite having almost zero sailing experience, the "Tinnie Terrorists", as the Australian media have dubbed them, planned to reach the southern Philippines and join up with Muslim separatists. "The whole venture was poorly planned and, I fear, foredoomed to failure," Justice Michael Croucher wrote in his

judgement. "Given the ill-suited vessel they had and their lack of serious boating experience, it is hard to imagine that they would have made it very far past the breakers off far north of Queensland."

Paul James Dacre, Antonino Granata and Kadir Kaya were sentenced to four years' imprisonment in the Supreme Court of Victoria, while Murat Kaya was sentenced to three years and eight months behind bars.

The two other men, Shayden Thorne and notorious Australian Islamic preacher Musa Cerantonio, have pleaded guilty to the charges but have yet to be sentenced. In handing down his sentence in Melbourne, Justice Michael Croucher said the four men would not have been involved in the plot if not for the "charismatic and persuasive Mr Cerantonio".—AFP ■

Hokkaido quake leaves four injured, temporarily strands hundreds

SAPPORO — Four people were injured and hundreds of others left stranded in train carriages and at an airport early Friday after a magnitude 5.8 quake hit Japan’s northernmost main island of Hokkaido the previous night.

While no major damage has been reported from the quake which struck at 9:22 pm on Thursday, more than 100 households suffered a temporary water outage in the hardest-hit town of Atsuma, already pounded by a major quake last September. Transportation services were disrupted elsewhere and there were reports of small-scale avalanches.

Two women and two men in Tomakomai and Sapporo sustained minor injuries after falling during the quake.

Some 680 people were temporarily stranded in train carriages on the JR Chitose Line and about 170 people were forced to spend the night at the New Chitose Airport, the region’s main air gateway.

“I was anxious be-



Photo taken on 22 February, 2019, from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a mountain area in Atsuma, Hokkaido, after an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 5.8 struck the northernmost main island of Japan the previous night. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

cause I didn’t know when I can return home,” said Takahiro Shibuya, 17, who was waiting for his mother to pick him up at Shimamatsu Station in the city of Eniwa.

The high school student from Chitose said he was on his way home from a cram school in Sapporo when the trains stopped, leaving he and his fellow passengers stranded for about four hours.

Hokkaido Railway Co canceled 58 train services on Friday as it carried out track safety checks.

At New Chitose Airport, people huddled under blankets distributed by airport staff.

“Bus services from the airport to Sapporo had ended, and I could not wait for taxi for hours in the sub-zero temperatures,” said Manami Imano, 35, who was on a business trip from Tokyo.

In September, Hokkaido was hit by a magnitude 6.7 quake, which claimed more than 40 lives and injured about 760 people as well as cutting power to millions of homes across the region. The town of Atsuma was hit by deadly landslides triggered by the quake. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the government has yet to confirm any major landslides or avalanches caused by the latest quake.

“I could not stop shaking thinking about the previous quake,” said Atsuma resident Eiko Nakaya, 71, as she received food and water from local authorities.—Kyodo News ■

Indonesians clean up the beach one sandal at a time

BANDAR LAMPUNG (Indonesia) — Hundreds of people sifted through a vast wasteland of rubbish strewn across a beach in Indonesia on Thursday, underscoring the Southeast Asian archipelago’s mammoth marine waste problem.

Some 200 students, military personnel and locals scoured a beach on the southern tip of Sumatra island, picking up rubbish as they waded through heaps of plastic, discarded flip flops and other debris.

In just over three hours, the group collected an eye-watering 30 tonnes of rubbish from the coast in Lampung province.

The yearly campaign first kicked into action in 2010 after huge amounts of rubbish were getting trapped in the fishing nets of locals who made their living off the sea. Most of the detritus had flowed in from the provincial capital.

Other rubbish clearing campaigns have popped up across Indonesia, the world’s second biggest contributor to marine debris after China.

In holiday hotspot Bali, the problem has become so bad that officials declared a “garbage emergency” two years ago after a stretch of coast was swamped with rubbish. Last year, a sperm whale was found dead in a marine park off Sulawesi island with 115 plastic cups and 25 plastic bags in its stomach. The archipelago of some 17,000 islands has pledged to reduce marine plastic waste by 70 per cent by 2025.—AFP ■

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Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD to **CHAROEN PORPHAND PRODUCE MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

Sr. No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.	Registration Type
1	FARMOZINE PLUS 90 WG	ATRAZINE 90 % WG	P2017 – 3948	Pro. Registration

CHAROEN PORPHAND PRODUCE MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED
18 (B), Oakponseik st, 8 Ward, Mayangone Township, Yangon
Phoe: 09-422215936, 09-962759972

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1098 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1098 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (907N/908S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0160-473N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0160-473N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (115 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (115 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Korean students help repair, beautify 3 schools in Thakayta Tsp



Korean University students paint on the wall at a school in Thakayta Township. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWA**

KOREAN university students volunteered their services at three schools in Thakayta Township under a cultural exchange program, and helped repair, paint, create murals, and provide educational services at the institutions.

A group of college students participated in repairs at schools, including No. 1, No. 46, and the public kindergarten, in Thakayta as part of the Happy Move Voluntary program between Myanmar and South

Korea. They also volunteered their services in the classrooms to help kids.

The group comprised 60 university students and staff from Hyundai Engineering and Construction, a business arm of the Hyundai Motor Group.

Hyundai Engineering and Construction, a major construction company in Korea, is currently working on building a power station in Thakayta to upgrade production capacity.

Staff from Hyundai Engi-

neering and Construction visited the Thakayta area in Yangon with the university students to perform voluntary work from 11 to 21 February. A ceremony to donate the Yangon building of the Global Happy Move philanthropic organization and a cultural exchange program were held at BEPS-46 in Thakayta on 20 February. The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin and Korean dignitaries.—GNLM ■

Alexandre Desplat will not attend Oscars ceremony

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-nominated composer Alexandre Desplat will be unable to attend the Academy Award ceremony because of recent throat surgery.

The French music composer, who is already a two-time Oscar winner for 2014's "Grand Budapest Hotel" and 2017's "The Shape of Water", is nominated this year for his Japanese-flavored score for Wes Anderson's "Isle of Dogs".

The composer had hoped to fly to LA for the Oscars ceremony, but doctors have advised him "to refrain from flying long distances at this stage of his recovery," Desplat's representative told Variety. He is currently working on the score for "The Secret Life of Pets 2".



Oscar-nominated composer Alexandre Desplat. **PHOTO: PTI**

The other four original-score nominees Terence Blanchard ("BlackKkKlansman"), Ludwig Goransson ("Black Panther"),

Nicholas Britell ("If Beale Street Could Talk") and Marc Shaiman ("Mary Poppins Returns").—PTI ■

Eminem not happy with Netflix over 'The Punisher' cancellation

LOS ANGELES—Veteran rapper Eminem is upset with Netflix for cancelling "The Punisher".

Netflix has cancelled all Marvel shows ending their six-year partnership. "The Punisher" was among the most recent shows to be laid off after two seasons.

The Oscar-winning hip hop artiste took to social media to protest the 18 February cancellation of the Jon Bernthal-led vigilante series.

"Dear Netflix, Regarding

your cancellation of 'The Punisher', you are blowing it!! Sincerely, Marshall," Eminem wrote in all caps on Twitter.

Netflix had already cancelled "Iron Fist", "Luke Cage", and "Daredevil" after the release of their most recent seasons. The still-upcoming third season of "Jessica Jones" will mark Marvel's last release on the streaming giant. The decision comes as Disney prepares to launch its own streaming service, Disney+ later this year.—PTI ■

Folk musician Peter Tork of Monkees fame dies at 77



In this file photo taken on November 10, 2012, musician Peter Tork of The Monkees performs in Los Angeles, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK (United States)—Peter Tork, the offbeat folk artist who found fame with 1960s pop band the Monkees, has died, his team announced on Thursday. He was 77 years old. "It is with beyond-heavy and broken hearts that we share the devastating news that our friend, mentor, teacher, and amazing soul, Peter Tork, has passed from this world," the team posted on his official Facebook page, without specifying a cause of death. The musician in 2009 had been diagnosed with adenoid cystic carcinoma, a rare form of cancer that affected his tongue.

"There are no words right now...heart broken over the loss of my Monkee brother," tweeted drummer-singer Micky Dolenz, one of the band's two surviving members. A classic teeny-bopper band, the Monkees were the original reality TV stars, whose four-piece group was first conceived as a show in 1965 that went on to win two Emmy awards and in 1967 outsell the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

Songs like "Daydream Believer," "I'm a Believer" and "Last Train to Clarksville" all topped

the charts—but the wisecracking foursome drew criticism by some who considered them a rip-off of the Beatles, who had rushed onto the American pop culture scene a few years prior. The band released nine albums between 1966 and 1970, after which they disbanded, but they have come back together in various combinations over the years. "As I write this my tears are awash, and my heart is broken," wrote band member Michael Nesmith. "I can only pray his songs reach the heights that can lift us and that our childhood lives forever—that special sparkle that was the Monkees." Tork, the group's keyboardist and bass guitarist, crafted a persona as the Monkees' lovable "dummy"—but later began to resent the band as his musical ambitions grew. Born in Washington on 13 February, 1942, Tork took piano lessons and studied French horn. Having cut his teeth in the free-wheeling folk scene of New York's Greenwich Village, Tork was a multi-instrumentalist who became the first member to leave the Monkees, feeling restricted artistically.—AFP ■

Scientists offer new technology to absorb liquid radioactive waste

MURMANSK—Scientists at the Academy of Sciences' Kola Scientific Centre offer new nanomaterials to purify liquid radioactive waste. The Centre's representative Anatoly Vinogradov told TASS the new unique materials are similar to natural minerals.

"The most important part of work is to make synthetic titanosilicates, similar to Kola minerals from the Ivanyukit and Lintisit Group, which are used as sorbents, they are highly effective in processing of gained liquid radioactive waste," the scientist said. This work followed research at the Kola school of crystal and mineral studies, led by the Kola Scientific Centre. In 2018 only, the school's experts across the world opened 18 new rare minerals. More than half five dozen new

minerals have been discovered over recent years.

Some of the minerals have unique characteristics to be used for the industry's advance sectors.

"By using the natural analogues, our scientists have succeeded in getting analogues of natural minerals from available resources and industrial waste," he continued.

Among most interesting new materials are the sorbents, which contain radionuclides. They can "extract" radioactive substances from waste, and further storage would not harm the environment. Heating turns the sorbents into ceramic materials, which are resistant to water, acids, alkalis, high temperatures.

"It takes millenniums to de-



Among most interesting new materials are the sorbents, which contain radionuclides, which can "extract" radioactive substances from waste, and further storage would not harm the environment. **PHOTO: TASS**

compose such ceramic materials, as they consist of analogues to natural minerals, which are hard to decompose,—Rutile, Purochlore, Hollandide and others," the expert continued. "Our tests have confirmed the new sorbents

are effective and promising."

The scientists now face a task of making test consignments of new sorbents. For that, they make a facility jointly with the Kola Mining and Metallurgical Plant and the Apatit plant. The

facility will go operational within 2019. "Thus, we shall begin big tests of the new materials to purify radioactive wastes, industrial waste from non-ferrous metals, and in other spheres," the expert said.—Tass ■

Israel's first Moon mission blasts off from Florida

WASHINGTON (United States)—An unmanned rocket took off from Cape Canaveral in Florida on Thursday night carrying Israel's Beresheet spacecraft, aiming to make history twice: as the first private-sector landing on the Moon, and the first from the Jewish state. The 585-kilogram (1,290-pound) Beresheet, which means "Genesis" in Hebrew, lifted off at 8:45 pm (0145 GMT Friday) atop a Falcon 9 rocket from the private US-based SpaceX company of entrepreneur Elon Musk. Take-off was followed live back in Israel, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu watching alongside engineers from the control center of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

The Israeli craft was placed in Earth orbit, from where it will use its own engine to undertake a seven-week trip to reach the Moon and touch down on 11 April in a large plain. The rocket also contains an Indonesian satellite and a satellite of the US Air Force Research Laboratory. The mission is part of renewed global interest in the Moon, sometimes called the "eighth continent" of the Earth, and comes 50 years after American astronauts first walked on the lunar surface.

"This is history in the making—and it's live! Israel is aiming for the #moon and you're all invited



This video grab taken from the Space X webcast transmission on 21 February, 2019, shows Nusantara Satu satellite lifting off Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) carrying Israel's Beresheet spacecraft at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. **PHOTO: AFP**

to watch," said a Twitter message from SpaceIL, the non-profit organization that designed the Israeli craft. It was backed notably by businessman and philanthropist Morris Kahn, who financed the development of a craft. "Make us proud," he said on Thursday.

Entrepreneurs, not government space agencies, financed the mission, which was initially projected at \$10 million but eventually grew to \$100 million. Other partners are IAI, Israel's space agency its Ministry of Science and Technology. So far, only Russia, the United States and China have made the 384,000-kilometre (239,000-mile) journey and landed spacecraft on the Moon.

China's Chang'e-4 made the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the Moon on 3 January, af-

ter a probe sent by Beijing made a Lunar landing elsewhere in 2013.

Americans are the only ones to have walked on the lunar surface, but have not been there since 1972.

For Israel, the landing itself is the main mission, but the spacecraft also carries a scientific instrument to measure the lunar magnetic field, which will help understanding of the Moon's formation. Technically, it is far from a trivial mission.

After its initial boost from the Falcon 9, the Beresheet's British engine will have to make several ignitions to place the spacecraft on the correct trajectory to the Moon. When it arrives, its landing gear must cushion the descent onto the lunar surface to prevent Beresheet from crashing.—AFP ■

Japan's Hayabusa2 probe believed to have landed on asteroid

TOKYO—Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe is believed to have successfully landed on an asteroid 340 million kilometers from Earth, the nation's space agency said on Friday. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said it received data suggesting that the probe has landed. The feat is a sign of progress in the mission that those involved hope could provide new insights into the origin of life. The Hayabusa2, which arrived into the vicinity of the Ryugu asteroid in June after a more than three-year, 3.2-billion km journey, touched down on the rocky asteroid where it will collect samples. The approach required precise control of the probe, JAXA said.

The probe is due to return to Earth at the end of 2020 after making multiple landings on the asteroid, which is believed to contain water and raw materials for life. JAXA had postponed the operation from on October due to difficulty in finding a good landing site on the asteroid, which turned out to be rougher than expected.

The diamond-shaped Ryugu asteroid, with an estimated diameter of about 900 metres, travels around the Sun once every 16

months, passing near the orbits of Earth and Mars. The asteroid is named after an undersea dragon palace in a Japanese fairy tale, where the mythical fisherman Urashima Taro found a treasure chest. Hayabusa, meanwhile, means peregrine falcon in Japanese.

Launched in December 2014 from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan, the roughly 600-kilogram Hayabusa2 has had a trouble-free journey to its destination. The spacecraft can drop a 2-kg copper lump, known as an impactor, onto the surface of the asteroid to make an artificial crater and obtain unexposed materials, according to JAXA. The agency is hoping to produce an outcome surpassing that of the original Hayabusa asteroid probe, which collected the first-ever samples from an asteroid in space. The first Hayabusa was launched in 2003 and delivered the materials it collected back to Earth in 2010.

Last year, Hayabusa2 successfully released three tiny rovers, each of which is designed to roam the surface of Ryugu to conduct probes.—Kyodo News ■

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AFF U-22 Championship: Myanmar out with narrow loss to Malaysia



Myanmar (red), Malaysia (yellow) vying for the ball at yesterday's AFF U-22 Championship group match at the RSN Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR suffered a narrow 0-1 loss to Malaysia yesterday in the Group B encounter of the AFF U-22 Championship 2019 at the RSN Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The match ended Myanmar's chances of advancing to the semi-finals.

In spite of the win, Malaysia is also out of the championship as Indonesia qualified for the semi-finals on a goal difference, after beating Cambodia 2-0.

Myanmar lined up with captain and keeper Phone Thitsar

Min, defenders Hein Phyo Win, Win Moe Kyaw, Ye Yint Aung, Zin Ye Naung, midfielders Ye Min Thu, Lwin Moe Aung, Aung Naing Win, and strikers Myat Kaung Khant, Hein Htet Aung, and Win Naing Tun.

Both teams played well, showcasing their dribbling skills from the start.

Chances were garnered by both teams, but there was less perfection in the attack.

Malaysia scored the ice-breaker after Muhammad Hadi

Fayyadh Abdul Razak got on the end of a cross to steer the ball towards the goal. The ball hit the post, but the follow-up fell to the forward, who kicked it into the net.

The goal forced Myanmar to up their game, and the team performed better in the later minutes of the second half.

Although Myanmar had a few chances, none of them were converted, and the team ended the match with a 0-1 loss.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers: Myanmar face China in opener

THE Myanmar U-16 national football team will play China in the opening match of the second round of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers on 27 February at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

The matches for the qualifiers will take place from 27 February to 3 March, with participation of eight teams which have been divided into two groups of four teams. Group A for the qualifiers features Australia, one of the best teams in AFC championship history, along with Vietnam, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and host nation Laos.

Myanmar has been placed in Group B with Asian power house China PR, Bangladesh, and the

Philippines. Myanmar will play their second group match with Bangladesh on 1 March, and the third match against the Philippines on 3 March at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

Matches featuring Myanmar will be broadcast live on the Myawaday Channel and My Sports' Facebook page, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The winners and runners-up in the group stage will advance to the finals. The four teams will join the top three teams from the 2017 edition — DPR Korea, Korea Republic, and Japan — along with Thailand, the host of the 2019 finals, in September.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Man Utd seek to derail Liverpool title bid as Spurs lurk

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Liverpool travel to Manchester United on Sunday facing the toughest assignment of their Premier League run-in on paper as Tottenham seek to sneak back into the heart of the title race.

The trip to Old Trafford is effectively Jurgen Klopp's team's game in hand as they bid to open up a three-point lead over Manchester City, who play Chelsea in the League Cup final on the same day. Liverpool thumped United 3-1 at Anfield in the last match of Jose Mourinho's reign on December but they are transformed under interim boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and are back in the top four. If Spurs beat Burnley and Liverpool slip up, Mauricio Pochettino's men will be just two points behind City and Liverpool, with all three clubs having played 27 matches. AFP Sport picks out some of the main talking points ahead of this weekend's Premier League fixtures.

Wary Liverpool face Old Trafford litmus test

Liverpool know that a win at Old Trafford—where they have won just twice in the league since 2004—would be a huge statement of intent as they hunt their first English top-flight title

since 1990.

Klopp's men are 14 points clear of United but they will be facing a different team from the one they demolished in December, courtesy of a goal from Sadio Mane and two from Xherdan Shaqiri. "Since the new manager came in there is a new flow, they played good games and have won a lot and that is building confidence in the team," said Liverpool midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum. "It's also a home game for them so they will have a lot of confidence as they don't have the problems they had before."

Solskjaer's tough side

Solskjaer has lifted his side into the Champions League places and knows any chance he has of becoming the next permanent manager probably hinges on staying there. But defender Luke Shaw says the interim boss, known for his sunny demeanour, is capable of showing some steel. "You know, Ole does it at the right time (shows another side)," Shaw told MUTV. "He knows how good we can be and, if we're not up to his standards or the standards of Manchester United, he will certainly let you know.—AFP ■

Myanmar, Japan joint judo training concludes



A delegation from the Hoku'estu University Judo Federation of Japan was seen off yesterday by officials from the Myanmar Judo Federation at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: PHOE LA PYAE**

A joint judo training program for athletes from Myanmar and Japan jointly conducted by the Hoku'estu University Judo Federation and the Myanmar Judo Federation at the Kyeikkasan Sports Science School in Yangon concluded on Thursday. The training began on 11 February.

A delegation from the Ho-

ku'estu University Judo Federation of Japan, led by Mr. Yasuji Maki, arrived in Yangon on the night of 11 February for joint training with Myanmar judo athletes, according to the Myanmar Judo Federation, under the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The delegation left for Japan yesterday after the 10-day train-

ing concluded. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by U Tun Tun, the President of the Myanmar Judo Federation, members of the federation, and Myanmar judo athletes.

The course was conducted in keeping with international methods, said officials.—Phoe La Pyae (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■