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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Pyithu Hluttaw discuss arrest of accomplices in drug trafficking cases, greening project, rule of law

THE 20th meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, a question and answer session was held, a motion was tabled, and a bill was approved.

The 20th meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Question and answer session

U Tun Wai of Phaungpyin constituency raised the first question, asking whether any instruction had been issued for arresting the accomplices of the main suspects in drug-related crimes.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that trafficking and sale of drugs is done secretly and systematically by gangs, and when the primary suspects are apprehended, their accomplices are sometimes arrested within a short time-frame. But, in some cases, investigation, surveillance, evidence, and confirmation are required, which results in more time required to arrest accomplices, he said.

"The law prescribes that accomplices to a crime have to be prosecuted in the same manner as the main suspect. As the Myanmar Police Force is arresting suspects and their accomplices in a timely manner, there is no requirement for separate instructions for apprehending accomplices," said Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu.

> "The law prescribes that accomplices to a crime have to be prosecuted in the same manner as the main suspect. As the Myanmar Police Force is arresting suspects and their accomplices in a timely manner, there is no requirement for separate instructions for apprehending accomplices"
>
> Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu

Greening project in Chauk

U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency then asked about plans to extend the Shwebon Mountain reforestation program in Magway Region's Chauk Township to support regional reforestation and provide jobs to locals.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe replied that a site survey was conducted to repair 3,000-gallon brick storage ponds, construct a 5,000-gallon brick storage pond, and lay pipelines along the outer rim of the area covered by program. Brick ponds in the main program area and along the inner rim will be connected with brick ponds along the outer rim with a 20,235 ft. long pipeline, he said. A pump is also required to pump the water to the main area. The K 96.92 million fund required to repair the three brick ponds, construct a new brick pond, lay pipeline, install a 200 KVA transformer and pump will be requested.

Once the fund is obtained the remaining 218.3 acres of land in the inner rim will be planted with 20,000 trees per year for five years totaling 100,000 trees, said the Deputy Minister.

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Pyithu Hluttaw discuss arrest of accomplices in drug trafficking …

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu .

MP U Tun Wai .

Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe.

MP U Bo Gyi .

MP U Tin Htwe.

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Motion urging government to prioritize rule of law in towns and prevent crimes

Following the question and answer session, U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency explained and tabled a motion urging the government to prioritize rule of law in towns and prevent crimes.

Expanding the power of local police forces can help reduce crime rates in populated areas in towns, and the number of policemen in the battalions attached to police stations, said MP U Tin Htwe.

A system can be prepared based on the facts mentioned in the 2008 constitution, which also outlines such a system, he added. If such a system and management are put in place, the country can reach the goal of democracy sooner.

The motion was supported by U Sein Han of Kanma constituency.

As the Hluttaw agree to accept and discuss the motion after Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw, an announcement was accordingly made and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Hluttaw approve a second bill amending Criminal Code

Afterwards Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on a second bill amending Criminal Code approved and sent with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw. As there was no objection an announcement was made of Hluttaw approving the bill as amended.

The 21st-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 6 March. – Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

20th-day meeting of 11th-regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung.

MP Maj Kyaw Moe Thwin.

MP U Kyaw Thaung.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Nyi Tun.

By Aung Ye Thwin (MNA)

THE 20th-day meeting of 11th-regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday at Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw. At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a bill and a motion discussed.

Asterisk marked questions

The first question raised was by U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1 on plan to transfer Ywathitgyi (Textile) Basic Education Middle School, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region to Ministry of Education. Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho explained that the electricity and water required for the school was provided by the textile factory while accommodation for 10 school teachers were also provided in the factory.

Ministry of Education constructed 3 W/Cs with two toilets in each W/C during fiscal year 2015-2016 to fiscal year 2017-2018 but the school buildings were not maintained. Only when the school is transferred to Ministry of Education can maintenance and upgrading could be done and thus the school will be transferred to Ministry of Education according to procedure explained the Union Minister.

Next Dr. San Maung Maung of Bago Region constituency 1 asked if there are plans to upgrade the standard weighing machines in municipal markets with digital scales. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun replied that in big markets the standard weighing machines were being upgraded to digital scales to have consistent weigh in the market. However, in some small markets serving low population, ordinary weighing scales remains as standard weigh and occasional inspection was made for the correctness of the scales and weighs said the Nay Pyi Taw Council member.

Questions raised by Dr. Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of Mandalay Region constituency 3, U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi Region constituency 7 and U Kyaw Myint Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 10 were then answered by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Myanmar Investment Commission member and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung and Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun.

Hluttaw representatives discuss Major Bridge Bill

After the asterisk-marked question session Major Bridge Bill returned by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments was discussed by U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 8, U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10 and Tatmadaw representative Maj Kyaw Moe Thwin.

Hluttaw discuss motion to prepare and record standard maps of towns, village and lands

Next a motion tabled by U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11 urging the government to prepare and put on record standard maps of towns, villages and lands for land registration so that the government can effectively and speedily conduct land management was discussed by Daw Nan Moe Moe Htwe of Kayin State constituency 4, U Htein Win of the Ayeyawady Region constituency 4, Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arkar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7 and U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency 9.

The 21st-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 6 March it is learnt.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Trade and Investment Project launched to boost business ecosystem

The Ministry of Commerce and the International Trade Centre launched the Myanmar Trade and Investment Project (TIP) in Yangon yesterday, with the aim of supporting the joint efforts made by public and private sector partners to strengthen the country's role in the Asian economic ecosystem.

"It has been found that a proportionate development in the investment sector plays a key role in the development of exports. Myanmar launched the five-year National Export Strategy in 2015 to develop the export sector and the plan is due to expire soon," said Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint at the launch ceremony.

(From left to right) Tom Coward, Senior Economist of DFID, U Aung Soe, Director-General of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Executive Director of ITC Ms. Arancha Gonzalez, and DICA Director-General U Aung Naing Oo. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ms. Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC), Tom Coward, Senior Economist and Inclusive Growth Team Leader at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), U Aung Soe, Director-General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Secretary of the Union of Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Kyi Soe delivered remarks at the ceremony.

U Aung Soe. said 'In recent years new trends have emerged, such as growing importance of Asia in global trade.'

'The National Export Strategy 2020-2025 needs to further enable Myanmar to leverage these new opportunities through the creation of sustainable agro-processing, manufacturing and services jobs. It is also important for trade to reach all states and regions, as well as promote the building of productive capacities,' said U Aung Soe.

Speaking at the launch in Yangon, Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC), said: 'Located strategically in South-East Asia and with a young and entrepreneurial population, Myanmar has great potential to build on its assets and develop new sectors of growth. The Trade and Investment Project will work with private and public sector partners to capitalize on these opportunities and help the country to position itself for greater investment and deeper regional integration.'

U Aung Naing Oo, Director General of DICA, said the Trade and Investment Project will contribute to the implementation of the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan, adding that 'One of the objectives of the Myanmar Government is to empower states and regional governments in their efforts to create sustainable economic development and prosperity.'

U Zaw Min Win, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), noted that the private sector is a key driver of Myanmar's economic growth.

'For the economy to perform, a thriving private-public dialogue is essential. UMFCCI, sector associations and regional chambers will collaborate with all Trade and Investment Project partners to create new opportunities for Myanmar's entrepreneurs.'

U Aung Soe, U Aung Naing Oo and Ms. Arancha Gonzalez signed the agreement on launching the Myanmar Trade and Investment Project.

The Trade and Investment Project, funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, and with technical assistance from the International Trade Centre launched to improve trade competitiveness and business and investment climate in Myanmar. — GNLM ■

Authorities discuss arrangements to receive Myanmar migrant workers

A coordination meeting on making arrangements to receive Myanmar migrant workers detained and returned from other countries was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said the meeting was held to discuss arrangements to receive Myanmar migrant workers working in other countries. At the moment, Myanmar migrant workers were returning daily to Myawady, Kawthoung and Tachilek townships.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on receiving Myanmar migrant workers from other countries. **PHOTO: MNA**

Among them were undocumented illegal workers, those who wish to go back to the other country, drug addicts, those who have livelihood problems or are sick, and those who have served time in prison for various crimes. For such people, relevant ministerial departments need to cooperate on arrangements with bilateral cooperation. If Myanmar citizens can work legally in other countries, it will be beneficial for both their families and the country and also support the development works, said the Union Minister.

Next, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and officials discussed sector-wise matters to be conducted; matters to be conducted in cooperation with state/region governments; funding status; drawing up of health care programs and drug addict rehabilitation programs; and assessing, receiving and returning to their respective homes the undocumented illegal workers arrested and returned. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar export and import status for fiscal year 2018-2019 Oct to Dec

Myanmar's total export for fiscal year 2018-2019 December was US$ 1,227.15 million of which US$ 717.51 million was through normal export while US$ 509.64 million was through border trade export. Total import for the same period was US$ 1,441.86 million of which US$ 1,190.6 million was through normal import while US$ 251.26 million was through border trade import. The total trade for fiscal year 2018-2019 December was US$ 2,669.01 million and there was a trade deficit of US$ 214.71 million.

Myanmar's total export for fiscal year 2018-2019 October to December was US$ 3,648.73 million of which US$ 2,180.56 million was through normal export while US$ 1,468.17 million was through border trade export. Total import for the same period was US$ 4,460.23 million of which US$ 3,782.42 million was through normal import while US$ 677.81 was through border trade import.

The total trade for fiscal year 2018-2019 October to December was US$ 8,108.96 million and there was a trade deficit of US$ 811.50 million according to monthly reports of Central Statistical Organization. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Correction

Please read "Myanmar Embassy in India", rather than "Myanmar Embassy in Bangladesh", in the second column of the story headlined **"Six Muslims transferred by Indian Govt to be reunited with their families"**, which appeared on Page 5 in the 27 January, 2019 edition of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — MNA

United Nations Development Programme launches report on Situation Analysis of Region and State Hluttaws in Myanmar

THE United Nations Development Programme launched the first 'Situational Analysis of Region and State Hluttaws in Myanmar' at Rose Garden hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The publication uncovers how State and Region Hluttaws function, how they interact with their respective local government, and the role Members of Parliament take on in their elected constituency's governance. The analysis is published based on close work with the Hluttaws of Mandalay Region, Taninthayi Region, Mon State, and Shan State.

The report was introduced by the Deputy Speakers and MPs of the participating Hluttaws and development partners. The funding for this project was provided by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).

UNDP Resident Representative Peter Batchelor delivers the opening remarks at the launch of the UNDP's Situational Analysis of Region and State Hluttaws in Myanmar, held in Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon. **PHOTO: POE HTAUNG**

In his opening remarks, the UNDP Resident Representative Peter Batchelor emphasized: "Region and State Hluttaws and Governments will have an elevated role in the future of Myanmar's governance, with more responsibilities and a mandate to represent Myanmar's political and ethnic diversity. Therefore, the success of the Hluttaws' development will also be an important factor for Myanmar's democratic transition. This will increase the requirements on the Hluttaws to do more and perform better. The Situation Analysis will be useful to the Hluttaws, because it provides them with the evidence they need to plan their development, in order to perform well in a more decentralized Myanmar."

It is expected that the report will serve as a valuable reference guide for the future development of all Region and State Hluttaws, and many originate in identified good practices, so that a positive development in one Hluttaw may be considered by its peer Hluttaws for adoption. The UNDP said they will submit the report up to the Union level.

U Aung Myo Min, Executive Director of Equality Myanmar, said the report does not focus on the degree of success of the Hluttaws but rather on what they are doing. He said other Hluttaws can observe the positive aspects outlined in the report. He said there currently isn't a lot of opportunities for the sub-national Hluttaws to communicate with each other, share experiences, or discuss on overcoming challenges, and the report attempts to shed light on that aspect for all the Hluttaws.

After the launch ceremony, a discussion was held under the title of 'The role of State and Region Hluttaws in the future towards a decentralized system of governance in Myanmar'. Dr. Aung Naing Oo, the Deputy Speaker of Mon State Hluttaw, Carl DeFaria, former Minister and MP of Ontario Province, Canada, Mael Raynaud, Head of Research at Urbanize: Policy Institute for Urban and Regional Planning, and U Pe Aung Lin, Chairman of The Myanmar Center to Empower Regional Parliaments (MCERP).

U Aung Myo Min, who was also involved in the UNDP's publication, said the role of the Hluttaws was not just about protecting the individual, but should be more concerned with safeguarding with the current situation and deciding on how and what laws to enact. He said just as MPs need to be well acquainted with their Constitution, they need to be thinking of how to address the circumstances in their state or region within the law, or if there are new laws that need to be enacted. He also mentioned that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was gaining momentum.

The UNDP has stated ending extreme poverty and reducing inequality are part of its 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and is supporting over 170 countries to achieve them, according to their reports.

— Ye Kaung Nyunt ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

World Tuberculosis Day to be observed grandiosely in Yangon

Dr. Htay Lwin, Deputy Region Head of Yangon Region Public Health Department, addresses the second coordination meeting for organizing World Tuberculosis Day. **PHOTO: THAN SOE**

According to a second coordination meeting held at the fourth floor of Yangon Region Public Health Department yesterday the World Tuberculosis Day will be held grandiosely in South Dagon Township Hall, Yangon.

"For the public and workers in factories of South Dagon to know more about TB and to expose more about TB and HIV South Dagon Hluttaw representative and Industrial Zone chairman were invited to coordinate on obtaining public health services" said Yangon Region Public Health Department Deputy Region Head Dr. Htay Lwin.

31,244 TB patients were treated in Yangon Region during 2017. Countrywide, there were about 150,000 ordinary TB patients. Out of the yearly 8,000 to ten thousand MDR-TB (Multi drug-resistant tuberculosis) patients, 50 per cent are in Yangon Region and Ministry of Health and Sports is conducting TB eradication program as a project.

The ten townships in Yangon where there are the most outbreak of TB include Hlinethaya, South Dagon, Dagon (East), North Dagon, Dagon Seikkan, Thakayta and Thingangyun and last year's World Tuberculosis Day was held together with opening ceremony of a TB eradication building in Aung San, Insein Township. It was conducted with departmental staffs and this year, under the guidance of the Union Minister, it will be conducted together with the public so that the public themselves participate and cooperate in the health care work.

TB spreads through air and even though providing of information and survey work on TB were conducted by Yangon Region Health Department on public travelling on public transports and despite provision of free treatment in hospitals and clinics, patients were not coming for treatment. Despite mobile clinics providing field treatment to patients in disease prone factory, work sites, wards and villages, there remains patients who were not treated so this time the health department fights the TB together with the people for the first time on the World TB Day to raise awareness about TB.

In Yangon Region, the TB infection is mostly found in the most populated Hlinethaya Township and the second most is in South Dagon Township. That is why this year World Tuberculosis Day on 24 March will be held in the township hall of South Dagon Township where there are many factories and workshops. Artistes will provide entertainment and game programs.

The day's coordination meeting was attended by Yangon Region Public Health Department head, South Dagon Township Hluttaw representative, township health officers from townships, public health officers, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, entities and organisations participating in the World Tuberculosis Day.—Than Htike

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Eye on G-to-G pacts, MRF to register rice exporters

By Aye Yamone

IN order to expand the rice export market through government-to-government (G to G) agreements, the authorities will now require rice exporters in the country to register with the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The MRF formed a committee for registering exporters on 1 March to find out the exact number of local rice exporting companies, as well as to know the volume of the companies' exports.

"Currently, we are discussing the ways and means of ensuring the registration of rice exporting companies. We have already formed a registration committee with seven members. The committee will meet with exporters so that the registration can be conduct smoothly and conveniently," said U Aung Than Oo, the vice chairman of the MRF.

On 28 February, experts, rice mill entrepreneurs, and members of the MRF's management committee discussed conducting a survey to obtain information on the number of rice mills, their location, volume of rice ground per day, and the rate for grinding higher quality and lower quality rice.

Myanmar had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to export 500,000 tons of rice to Bangladesh in 2018, under a government-to-government deal. Without such an agreement in place, Myanmar could have exported only about 100,000 tons of rice to Bangladesh.

"Myanmar also plans to export rice to the Philippines, Indonesia, and China under G-to-G agreements. The Ministry of Commerce has asked the MRF to explore more export markets under the G-to-G system, and so, MRF will undertake this task, in collaboration with the Ministry," said U Aung Than Oo.

A farmhand scoops up sifted grains from a combine harvester in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Myanmar has exported only over 2 million tons of rice this year, a decline of 1.6 million tons compared with last year, when exports stood at 3.6 million tons.

With rice exports on the decline, the MRF has urged traders to export more rice and new summer paddy rice, said U Aung Than Oo.

The MRF is negotiating with China to get an export quota of 400,000 tons of rice this year. In 2016, Myanmar secured a quota of 100,000 tons for rice exports to China. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Factory in Thadukan zone making 40 electric cars a day

THE Khaing Khaing Sangda Motorcar factory in the Thadukan industrial zone, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, is producing 40 electric cars per day, said Mr. Yu Jian Chen, the managing director of the factory.

Production at the factory started this month on two new models of hybrid electric cars — KSD-V1 and KSD-V2. The cars are being jointly produced by China's Yue Di and the Khaing Khaing Sangda Motorcar factory.

"At present, more than 100 electric cars have been manufactured. The cars will get a licence number by the end of March. The factory plans to continue producing electric vehicles," according to officials with the factory.

"There are plans for a hire-purchase system. Electric cars are being produced at the factory under the semi-knocked down system. The cars can run long trips as they have a gasoline engine for recharging the battery when the battery pack's charge gets low. They can help save on the high cost of gasoline and are eco-friendly," they said. — Myo Min Thein (Mayangon) ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

KSD-V1 and KSD-V2 are seen in the production line. **PHOTO: MYO GYI**

Japan's Okaya, Showa to make rebar in Myanmar

YANGON — Japan steel and machinery trader Okaya and Co and steel processor Showa Sangyo Co will form a joint venture with a Myanmar firm to manufacture reinforcing bars, in anticipation of steady construction demand.

The Japanese firms have agreed with Bright Hands Co to set up Bright Showa Okaya Rebar Fabrication Co in Yangon in April, and process reinforcing bars at the local firm's existing factory, which was built in 2017, according to a statement from Okaya on Thursday.

The production capacity at the 1,800-square-meter factory built on a site measuring 5,200 sq m will be gradually increased over a period of two years, from 700 tons to 2,000 tons per month, a senior Okaya official involved in the project told NNA in Tokyo on Friday.

"Bright Hands has spun off its rebar processing division to form the joint venture. Showa will provide Japanese-make rebar processing facilities," said another Okaya official based in Yangon.

Bright Hands will hold a 65-per-cent stake in the venture, with a capital of US$350,000, while Okaya and Showa will own 14.9 per cent and 20.1 per cent, according to a statement from Okaya.

In Myanmar, around 90 per cent of reinforcing bars are processed at construction sites; they are cut and bent to meet the building's design by workers using small devices, which affects their sturdiness and availability of space, according to Okaya.

The Japanese firms see a business opportunity in factory-based rebar processing to provide sturdy products for housing complexes and commercial buildings.

Okaya estimates that Myanmar needs an annual 400,000-500,000 tons of rebar for building construction, although the demand for rebar peaked in 2015 and posted a year-on-year drop in 2018.

While Myanmar's construction sector has shown signs of a slowdown, Okaya hopes to cash in on public works projects which are being financed through Japanese development assistance, an official said, adding that three projects are planned for the next fiscal year. — Kyodo News ■

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Traditional leather footwear industry faces extinction

PHOTO: WIN OO (ZEYAR TAING)

THE traditional leather footwear industry is on the verge of extinction in the Kanbya Village-tract, Monywa Township, Sagaing Region, according to local manufacturers.

"Leather slippers were selling well this time last year. But, sales are low this year. The price of raw materials for making footwear is stable, but we are spending more on labour charges. There is a shortage of labour in the leather slipper industry. Most of the labourers are going to work in India, where they can earn more money. Leather slippers have a high demand in summer. However, the footwear business has been on the decline since 2016," said U Myo, 'Sein Naryi' footwear manufacturer from Ywataw Village, Kanbya Village-tract.

Earlier, about 50 shoe makers worked in the leather slipper industry in the villages of Kanbya village-tract. But now, there are only 10 shoe makers working in the traditional industry because slippers are being imported at a cheaper price. — Win Oo (Zeyar Taing)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

14 out of 18 human trafficking cases in Feb involved forced marriage

Of the 18 human trafficking cases registered in February this year, 14 involved forced marriages with Chinese nationals, according to the Myanmar anti-trafficking police.

About 58 offenders were booked in the cases registered in February. Of the 31 victims involved in the cases, there was one child, four men, and 27 women, according to official statistics provided by the anti-trafficking police.

The victims were from Shan, Mon, and Kachin states and, Yangon, Mandalay, and Ayeyawady regions. Four cases each were committed in Shan and Kachin states, three cases each in Yangon and Mandalay regions, and two cases each in Ayeyawady Region and Mon State.

About 23 cases of human trafficking were reported in January. Among the victims, there were three children. With the increase in the number of males in China, Myanmar women are being forced into marriage with Chinese men.

Under the 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, people who traffic women and children face a minimum 10-year imprisonment, or a maximum life imprisonment, or fine. The law allows money or property obtained through trafficking to be confiscated by the government.

The government has also assigned an anti-human trafficking police force unit in the border areas. The police force has taken legal action against traffickers under the 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — Min Thein

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fire destroys four houses in Maungtaw Tsp

A kitchen fire destroyed four houses on 4 March in Ahlaeywar, Ywar Thit Kay Ward, Maungtaw Township. There were no casualties, and no one was injured in the blaze.

According to investigators, the fire broke out around 1:10 am in the home of Marmat Ahlar, 28. The blaze reportedly started in his kitchen and quickly got out of control, engulfing three other houses.

Firemen brought the fire under control with the help of residents. The damage to property has been estimated at K750,000. The houses have been rendered unsuitable for living, until repairs are completed.

Action is being taken against Marmat Ahlar, who will be charged under Section 285 of the Penal Code.—Thet Lwin Soe (IPRD)/(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fire breaks out at garbage dump in Thilawa Industrial Zone A

A fire broke out around 10 pm on 3 March at a garbage dump inside the compound of Dowa Economic System Japan Myanmar, Thilawa Industrial Zone A, in Thanlyin Township.

Firefighters put out the fire with the help of 17 fire engines and 12 supporting fire teams from nine townships: Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa, Thakayta, Dawbon, Dagon Seikkan, Tamway, South Okkalapa, and South Dagon. The fire was confined to the garbage dump, measuring 250'x250' long and 12 feet deep.

The blaze was brought under control by 207 firefighters, 73 auxiliary firefighters, and other workers around 11:07 pm, and was extinguished by 11:50 p.m., said officials.

There were no injuries, casualties, or damage to the building, said officials. — Thet Khine (Thanlyin)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May,
09251022355,09974424848

New Japanese emperor to conduct public greeting on 4 May

TOKYO — The Japanese public will have a chance to meet the new emperor on 4 May, just days after Crown Prince Naruhito ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne, imperial agency officials said Monday.

Emperor Akihito is set to abdicate on 30 April — the first living Japanese monarch to do so in about two centuries — and the 59-year-old crown prince will succeed him the following day.

The Imperial Household Agency had planned to allow commoners to make congratulatory visits to the Imperial Palace after "Sokuirei Seiden no Gi," a ceremony on 22 October to proclaim the enthronement.

But it decided to bring it forward given Japan's traditional Golden Week holiday period — starting 27 April — is extended this year to 10 days to incorporate the abdication of the emperor and the imperial succession.

The prime minister's office also strongly requested the public greeting be held earlier, according to agency sources.

During the event, the new emperor and the empress are expected to appear on a palace balcony along with other members of the imperial family, with the emperor delivering a speech.

Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito arrives at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo to greet his parents Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on 23 February 2019, the day of his 59th birthday. He is set to become Japan's emperor on 1 May 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

While the agency is still considering which members will join the event, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, who will become emperor emeritus and empress emerita following the abdication, are not expected to attend.

The agency has been opening the palace to the public on limited occasions, such as New Year's Day and the emperor's birthday. The last congratulatory visit for Emperor Akihito, in January, attracted 154,800 people, the largest crowd recorded during his 30-year reign.

Emperor Akihito, who was enthroned at age 55 upon the death of his father Emperor Hirohito on 7 January 1989, received his first congratulatory visit on 18 November 1990, six days after the proclamation ceremony. On that occasion, he appeared before well-wishers eight times.

The 85-year-old emperor expressed his desire to resign in a rare video message in 2016, citing concern that he might not be able to fulfill official duties due to his age. In 2017, Japan enacted one-off legislation enabling him to step down.—Kyodo News ■

Putin signs decree suspending Russia's compliance with nuke treaty

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday signed a decree suspending Moscow's compliance with a nuclear arms control pact with the United States, his office said.

Russia will notify the United States of the decision shortly. Washington suspended its compliance with the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty on 2 February, saying it would pull out of the pact after six months unless Moscow ends its alleged violations.

The United States has long contended that Russia has been in violation of the treaty by deploying a range of tactical nuclear weapons to intimidate former Soviet states that have aligned with the West. Russia, however, denies violating the accord.

US national security adviser John Bolton said in October that the pact is outdated because it does not cover China, Iran and North Korea — countries that have been beefing up their missile capabilities.—Kyodo News ■

Death toll from Alabama tornadoes likely to rise as search resumes

BEAUREGARD, (United States) —Rescuers in Alabama stepped up the search for survivors Monday after two back-to-back tornadoes ripped across the southern state, with the death toll of 23 expected to rise further.

"The devastation is incredible," Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones told the local CBS affiliate.

"It looks almost as if someone took a giant knife and scraped the ground," he said. "There are slabs where homes formerly stood, there is debris everywhere, trees are snapped, whole ... forested areas are just snapped."

"I cannot recall at least in the last 50 years ... a situation where we have had this loss of life," Jones said.

He said the death toll stood at 23, some of them children. One of the dead was just six years old, with the toll likely to rise.

"We have several people who are still unaccounted for," Jones said."Unfortunately, we anticipate the number of fatalities may rise as the day goes on."

Other people were hospitalized, some with "very serious injuries."

Search operations for those still missing had to be halted on Sunday night due to hazardous conditions, but were renewed Monday morning with agencies from across the state and from neighboring Georgia joining the hunt.

Wrecked houses, downed trees

The swath of destruction left was a quarter mile (0.4 kilometers) wide and stretched for the "several miles that it traveled on the ground," according to Jones.

The powerful winds picked up a billboard from the Lee County Flea Market in Alabama and dumped it some 20 miles away, across the state line in Georgia, local media reported.

More than 6,000 homes were left without power in Alabama, according to PowerOutage.US, while 16,000 suffered outages in neighboring Georgia.

The search for missing people was focused in the area around Beauregard, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) east of the state capital Montgomery.

While the heavy rains that accompanied the high winds had relented overnight, many roads in the worst-hit areas were blocked by debris, hindering search efforts.

Residents in the town of Smith Station told local TV news crews of their shock at turning up to work to find their businesses destroyed, and seeing crying co-workers comforting one another.

One bar in the town appeared to have lost its roof and most of its walls, in images screened by MSNBC, while a cell tower was completely destroyed.

"My sister and niece have been under tornado watch and warnings all day in Montgomery ... Prayers up for Alabama," Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Ava Duvernay tweeted Sunday.

US President Donald Trump expressed his condolences to those affected and said on Twitter that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, "has been told directly by me to give the A Plus treatment to the Great State of Alabama and the wonderful people who have been so devastated by the Tornadoes."

'Take cover Now!'

The National Weather Service (NWS) had issued a tornado warning for areas including Lee County on Sunday, calling on residents to: "TAKE COVER NOW! Move to a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows."

The warning for the first twister was issued at 2:58 pm, the NWS said. The warning for the second came less than an hour later, at 3:38 pm.

NWS Birmingham said the first tornado to hit was "at least an EF-3 & at least 1/2 mi wide."

The EF-3 designation -- on a scale of 0 to 5 -- means the tornado had winds of 136 to 165 miles (218 to 266 kilometers) per hour.

Around a dozen tornadoes were reported to have touched down in Alabama and Georgia in the course of the day, CNN reported. — AFP ■

This handout image provided by Justin Merritt from his Instagram account shows a tornado in Dothan, Alabama on 3 March 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

5 MARCH 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

We must work together to bring peace to our communities

IT IS the fundamental duty of each citizen to uphold peace and the rule of law, while it is the responsibility of the Union Government to ensure national stability and communal peace, and expand the rule of law. The administrative mechanism focuses on the rule of law, while all levels of administrative organizations lead efforts for communal peace.

The administrative sector assumes the responsibility for municipal affairs and shoulders the four duties of expanding the rule of law, working for communal peace and regional development, and taking on tasks that will benefit to the public. We believe this is a noble pursuit that respects the socio-economic situation of the people.

But to properly implement these endeavors, the people need to have faith, be loyal towards the nation, and respect existing laws. We would like to highlight here that the role of officials in a community is crucial when it comes to ensuring peace and rule of law.

The people assuming accountability for the municipality also need to be loyal to the nation, work within the boundaries of the law, and be inspiring role models. It is the responsibility of local residents to ensure municipal affairs — such as electing local administrators — are conducted in an orderly fashion.

> The people assuming accountability for the municipality also need to be loyal to the nation, work within the boundaries of the law, and be inspiring role models.

The Union Government has delegated some authority to local administrators, in addition to salaries and stipends. It follows that they are expected to consider the long-term benefits to the people and their municipality, while working in line with existing laws and guidelines. The holders of communal responsibility as well as the general public are citizens of the nation, and thus, are required to adhere to the legal boundaries set by our Constitution.

Handling the affairs of the community is a basic fundamental need and was once the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but, in keeping with the people's wishes, the task has been transferred to the more suitable Ministry of the Office of the Union Government. This was done with the hope that necessary reforms would take place that cater to local needs and accelerate regional development.

In recent times, Rakhine State has been subject to numerous disturbances that threaten the rule of law and communal peace. These include landmine explosions, gun attacks that have claimed the lives of innocent citizens, kidnappings by armed organizations, and the affairs of internally displaced persons, which the government is monitoring closely. At such a time, the resignation of administrators in MraukU Township is not only contradictory to established rules and regulations, it reflects a disregard of their municipality's well-being.

In our opinion, citizens as well as administrators are bound by the laws and the Constitution of the nation. Those who violate the laws must be willing to face scrutiny and action. Communal peace and rule of law are interlinked with the affairs of the local people and the community at large. We must coexist peacefully, within the bounds of the law, to spread peace in our society.

■■■

Roundtable discussion on revitalizing University of Yangon

"Our discussions to reform the University of Yangon's managerial system and the organization of the academic support units, to reflect international universities, and to set up academic divisions has materialized into a draft proposal."

MAAS Vice Chairman Dr. Aung Min

The following is the continuation of the education roundtable discussing the Master Plan for University of Yangon from GNLM's Sunday issue (3 March). The participants include Dr. Maung Maung Wint, Chairman of the Software Committee and former Director-General of the Medical Science Department under the Ministry of Health and Sports, Dr. Poe Kaung, Rector of the university, and Dr. Aung Min, Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science.

Dr. Maung Maung Wint.

Dr. Poe Kaung.

Dr. Aung Min.

Facilitator: What parts of the Master Plan have been accomplished so far?

Dr. Aung Min: The upgrading of University of Yangon is one process of the national reform of our education system. The reforms came about as instructions from higher-ups and because of the demands of modern society.

Drafting the Master Plan would be easier if our University Charter was ratified, but sadly this isn't the case. So, now we have to design the Master Plan to be in line with a University Charter that will be validated in the future, and this has taken considerable discussions and negotiations. The Central European University is taking care of the survey for that by interacting with the faculty, external professionals and the voice of the students.

We've engaged in serious discussions to reform the university's managerial system and the organization of the academic support units, to reflect international universities, and to set up academic divisions, and the result is that the drafting committee is able to produce a complete draft. We've sent it to the Steering Committee, Ministry of Education, and to the State Counsellor.

Facilitator: Dr. Poe Kaung, could you explain what tasks you had to take care of in time for the university's Centenarian milestone 2020?

Dr. Poe Kaung: We need to be practical in setting objectives for the hundred-year mark and there needs to be visible results. In addition to providing a broad vision for transforming the University of Yangon into a Flagship University by 2030, the Master Plan further focuses on four priority areas of implementation and objectives to be achieved by 2020 formulated as Centennial Milestones: (1) improvement of teaching, learning and research, (2) enhancement of English, (3) modernization of ICTs, and (4) campus and facilities upgrade and improving student experience on campus.

Facilitator: What tasks does the Hardware Committee have left to carry out?

Dr. Poe Kaung: The first thing is laying the roads needed to transform the campus into a clean, safe, scenic, and welcoming environment that adheres to health standards. We will expand the landscape on Adipati Road too and ensure there is a clean water supply system too. We will fix the sewage system and renovate the septic tanks and toilets in the campus. We will also make sure there is safety regarding the electrical system.

We have plans to proliferate Internet access to the entire campus, develop the news and information technology, and to incorporate modern technology in the classroom. We will upgrade the library and laboratories and supply the required apparatuses. We will also fulfil requirements related to the sports sector. The designing process for a student centre and a university centre are in progress as well. And finally, we will redevelop the campus and raise the capacity of maintenance and engineering processes.

Facilitator: Dr. Aung Min, could you also chip in on what future processes are onboard?

Dr. Aung Min: We have set course to develop UY as an autonomous Flagship University that caters to international standards. The most vital process among them is amending the university's constitution. Once we begin implementing our Master Plan, the university will gradually get a University Council, a Senate, and new centers. Since we're making changes to the constitution, we will have to reassign duties and entitlements, in line with an autonomous institution. Especially important is outlining specific duties of the council members, senator, dean, and registrar. We must raise the competency responsibility of the university's key persons. I'd like to notify the people that we are doing our best to coordinate the myriad of complicated and interconnected tasks regarding the Master Plan.

> Once we begin implementing our Master Plan, the university will gradually get a University Council, a Senate, and new centers. Since we're making changes to the constitution, we will have to reassign duties and entitlements, in line with an autonomous institution.

Facilitator: Dr. Maung Maung Wint, could you add in on Dr. Aung Min's comments?

Dr. Maung Maung Wint: Another important segment of our future processes is the teaching and learning culture. We need to review, revise and develop our curricula to fulfil the socioeconomic needs of our people and the nation's educational requirement.

The curricula will focus on supporting international cooperation, school transfers and exchanges to nurture outstanding citizens for the country. As I've mentioned before, we need to make numerous adaptations to our learning and teaching culture. To highlight some elements in that regard, we need to promote critical thinking, and implement a teaching system that brings out the latent talent in our students.

A lot of universities have an outcome-based learning and our quality assurance will depend on this, so we have to give proper training for this to our faculty and students. We will also establish a credit transfer system to help students transferring to other universities or in conducting joint-teaching or learning programs with other universities.

We have outlined in our Master Plan that we will establish a Centre for English Language to improve our academic staff's English language capacity. Furthermore, if we add in value of research in the teaching and learning exchange then we believe it will promote a culture that promotes research in the campus. In addition, if we provide opportunities for our faculty to perform research programs outside the university, while still receiving pay, then it will increase the quality and quantity of research material for UY, not to mention it will also further support our research culture.

Facilitator: Dr. Poe Kaung, could you add your thoughts to the conversation?

Dr. Poe Kaung: The first thing I'd like to say is we have set up an International Cooperation Office-ICO to support collaboration with international universities and organizations. We also have a human resource management program where we assign duties to our faculty members and staff based on their skills and the needs of the university. We will also provide additional incentives, bonuses and opportunities for growth based on their performances.

We are unfolding the Master Plan in a timely manner. There are three parts to that. We have drafter a charter for UY with regards to the autonomous university initiative and management sector. We will be establishing a University Council and we will appoint a Deputy Rector to facilitate the university's development. Student representatives will be included in the university's management system and we are taking care of the enrolment policy.

Another segment is upgrading the quality and capacity of the university itself. This involves managing UY's development track, drafting a multiyear budget, continuing international cooperation through the ICO, and setting up the internal quality assurance team. All of these tasks first require our faculty and staff to receive regular trainings.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

■■■

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 9/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 2 March.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 2 March.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 6 March issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear civil cases

Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myint Aung and U Myo Win of Special Appellate Bench sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and passed judgment on five (Certiorari) civil cases and heard five other (Certiorari) civil cases. — MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Monday 4 March 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers has been scattered in Kachin State. Weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, Northern Shan, Chin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (2°C) above March normal temperatures in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon states and about March normal temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (38°C) each in Chauk, Nyaunglebin, Phu, Gyobingauk, Central Yangon, Khayan, Bawlakhe, Myawady and Yay. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Putao (0.32)inch and Machanbaw (0.08)inch.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 5 March 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin State and isolated in Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Northern Shan and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, (Eastern and Southern)Shan, Rakhine, 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 (3 - 5) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

Indonesia, Australia sign long-awaited trade deal

JAKARTA (Indonesia) — Indonesia and Australia on Monday signed a long-awaited trade deal after months of diplomatic tension over Canberra's contentious plan to move its embassy to Jerusalem.

Indonesian trade minister Enggartiasto Lukita and his Australian counterpart Simon Birmingham wrapped up the multi-billion-dollar agreement in Jakarta, some nine years after negotiations first started.

The pact will include improved access for Australian cattle and sheep farmers to Indonesia's 260 million people, while Australian universities, health providers and miners will also benefit from easier entry to Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

Greater access to the Australian market is expected to spur Indonesia's automotive and textile industries, and boost exports of timber, electronics and medicinal goods. Bilateral trade was worth US$11.7 billion in 2017, but Indonesia is only Australia's 13th-largest trading partner and the economic relationship has been viewed as underdone.

Indonesian Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukita (R), his Autralian couterpart Simon Birmingham (L) and vice president Jusuf Kalla pose for a photo after a signing ceremony in Jakarta on 4 March, 2019. Indonesia and Australia on March 4, signed a long-awaited trade deal after months of diplomatic tension over Canberra's contentious plan to move its embassy to Jerusalem. **PHOTO: AFP**

Both ministers touted the deal as indicative of deepening ties between the two countries, which have occasionally butted heads on foreign policy issues, including Australia's hardline policy on asylum seekers.

Birmingham said the deal marked a "new chapter of cooperation" between the two neighbours. "The signing of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement brings our two nations closer together than ever before," Birmingham told reporters.

Lukita said the signing had the potential to transform the economy of both countries.

"Today is definitely the brightest moment of the Indonesia-Australia relationship," he said. The deal has been in negotiation since 2010 and was expected to be signed before the end of last year, but it stalled when Prime Minister Scott Morrison proposed the relocation of Australia's embassy to Jerusalem.

Morrison first floated the shift in October, ahead of a critical by-election in a Sydney suburb with a sizeable Jewish population. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, was angered by the proposal.

Both Israel and the Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital. Most nations have avoided moving embassies there to prevent inflaming peace talks on the city's final status — until President Donald Trump unilaterally moved the US embassy early last year. In December, Morrison formally recognized west Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, but said the contentious embassy shift from Tel Aviv will not occur until a peace settlement is achieved. The Australian PM stood by his decision despite outcry from neighbouring Muslim countries. Indonesia in response simply said it had noted the decision.

Tariffs gone

The agreement will eventually see the elimination of all Australian trade tariffs, while 94 per cent of Indonesian duties will be gradually eliminated.

Australian investment in Indonesia totalled $597 million in 2018, but that is expected to increase under the new deal, which also included provisions for greater protection of foreign direct investment. "Indonesia is a good market for Australia because of the large population (and) the increasing movement of the middle class," economist Kresnayana Yahya, from Surabaya's ITS university, told AFP. The less developed eastern reaches of Indonesia could significantly benefit from Australian investment, he added. The trade deal also comes just ahead of national polls in which Indonesian President Joko Widodo is pushing his economic record in the battle for re-election.—AFP ■

Asian markets rally as hopes of a trade deal get an extra boost

HONG KONG (China) — Asian markets rose on Monday on growing optimism for a trade deal between China and the United States after reports said the two sides were close to a breakthrough.

With a busy week of data releases and events coming up, investors got off to a positive start as they cheered stories saying the tariffs stand-off between world's top two economies that has dragged on global growth could soon be resolved.

The Wall Street Journal said negotiations last month had narrowed key differences and an agreement could be ready for signing at a summit between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in late March.

The newspaper, as well as Bloomberg News, also said Beijing had tentatively agreed to lower tariffs or ease certain restrictions, work quicker to open up its auto market and increase its purchases of US goods.

In exchange for Chinese concessions, Washington would do away with most of the trade sanctions it imposed last year, the reports said. Shanghai led gains on Monday, rising more than one per cent, while Hong Kong put on 0.3 per cent and Tokyo headed into the break 0.8 per cent better off. Sydney rose 0.5 per cent and Singapore 0.1 per cent, while Seoul put on 0.3 per cent, Wellington edged up 0.6 per cent and Jakarta 0.3 per cent.

'Much-needed lift'

Tai Hui, Asia-Pacific chief market strategist at JP Morgan Asset Management, said that while there were a number of hurdles to a final agreement such as on intellectual property rights, traders were broadly confident.

PHOTO:AFP

"Investors are fully aware of these long-term challenges, but a more sustained ceasefire on tariffs will help to reduce business uncertainty. This could provide a much-needed lift to business sentiment and improve growth momentum entering the summer," he said. Focus turns on Tuesday to the start of China's annual National People's Congress where it will unveil its growth forecast for this year, while dealers will be looking for any measures to stimulate the stuttering economy.

This week also sees the release of Chinese trade data and key US jobs figures, which will provide a fresh look at the state of the US economy and the Federal Reserve's monetary policy plans.

On currency markets the dollar extended gains against the safe-haven yen as dealers became more confident, while the greenback was down against most high-yielding units including the Australian dollar, South African rand and Thai baht. China's yuan was holding around eight-month highs.

Adding to dollar weakness were comments from Trump hitting out at a strong currency.

"I want a strong dollar but I want a dollar that does great for our country, not a dollar that's so strong that it makes it prohibitive for us to do business with other nations and take their business," he said during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland on Saturday, according to Bloomberg News.

Key figures around 0230 GMT

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: UP 0.8 per cent at 21,782.12 (break)

Hong Kong - Hang Seng: UP 0.2 per cent at 28,854.83

Shanghai - Composite: UP 1.3 per cent at 3,033.21

Euro/dollar: UP at $1.1370 from $1.1366 at 2140 GMT

Pound/dollar: UP at $1.3234 from $1.3208

Dollar/yen: UP at 111.99 yen from 111.92 yen

Oil - West Texas Intermediate: UP 32 cents at $56.12 per barrel

Oil - Brent Crude: UP 34 cents at $65.41 per barrel

New York - Dow: UP 0.4 per cent at 26,026.32 (close)

London - FTSE 100: UP 0.5 per cent at 7,106.73 (close). —AFP ■

M'bishi jet starts test flights in US to gain safety certification

NAGOYA— Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp said on Monday its Mitsubishi Regional Jet, the country's first homegrown commercial passenger jet, has started test flights in the United States involving pilots from Japan's transport ministry to assess the aircraft's safety.

The tests, the final regulatory challenge ahead of the company's targeted delivery of the first aircraft in mid-2020, are expected to take about one year.

The aircraft maker has delayed delivery of the MRJ five times since 2013 due to design modifications.

On Sunday, engine functions of the narrow-body, twin-engine jetliner were confirmed following a flight from the base of Mitsubishi Aircraft, a unit of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, in the western US state of Washington, company officials said.

The test flights were originally scheduled to start in late January, but it was put off due to bad weather and a delay in preparations.— Kyodo News ■

White House security chief calls Trump-Kim summit 'success'

WASHINGTON, United States — US national security advisor John Bolton denied on Sunday that last week's nuclear summit with North Korea was a failure, despite President Donald Trump coming home empty-handed.

A high-stakes second meeting to strike a disarmament deal with the North's Kim Jong Un broke up in disarray on Thursday in Hanoi, without even a joint statement.

Bolton told CBS's "Face the Nation" Trump's failure to obtain commitments from Pyongyang on destroying its nuclear capability should be seen as "a success, defined as the president protecting and advancing American national interests."

He said the issue was whether North Korea would accept what the president called "the big deal" — denuclearizing completely — or something less, "which was unacceptable to us."

"So the president held firm to his view. He deepened his relationship with Kim Jong Un. I don't view it as a failure at all when American national interests are protected," Bolton added. The summit's collapse followed the leaders' historic meeting in Singapore that produced only a vague commitment from Kim to work "toward complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump shake hands in Hanoi. **PHOTOAFP**

According to senior US officials, in the week leading up to the Hanoi summit the North Koreans had demanded the lifting of effectively all UN Security Council economic sanctions imposed on Pyongyang since March 2016.

'Seat of its pants'

In return, Pyongyang was offering only to close part of the Yongbyon complex, a sprawling site covering multiple facilities — and the North is believed to have other uranium enrichment plants.

"Sometimes you have to walk and this was just one of those times," an unusually downbeat Trump said on Thursday, adding that he would "rather do it right than do it fast."

The president added on Friday that his relations with Kim were "very good," and a senior US official said the process was continuing, with "still ample opportunity to talk."

Bolton's evocation of progress was dismissed by leading Democrats, however, including House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff, who described the Hanoi meeting as a "spectacular failure."

"The president did give up a great deal, by going to that summit, by enhancing Kim Jong Un's prestige on the world stage, by giving up those military exercises in the last summit and getting nothing for it," Schiff told CBS.

"This is, I think, the result of a president who is not prepared for these kinds of negotiations, a staff that is not well-prepared and is essentially flying by the seat of its pants."

Much of the criticism of the summit was sparked by Trump's remarks on the case of an American student tortured and left in a coma in North Korea.

The president said he believed Kim's claim that he didn't know what happened to 22-year-old Otto Warmbier, who died days after being sent back to the United States in 2017.

Bolton said Trump had been clear that Warmbier's death was "barbaric and unacceptable," although Schiff countered that the president's "obsequious comments" had compounded the summit's failure.— AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(10/2019)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-184(18-19)	Spares for Caterpillar C-9 Engine (71) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-185(18-19)	Spares for Kobelco Excavator (22) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-186(18-19)	Spares for Caterpillar C-9 Engine (72) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-187(18-19)	Assorted Sizes of Battery (2) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-188(18-19)	Spares for Drive Group (13) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricty and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from 4 March 2019. Tender forms will not be sold.
3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 14:00 pm on 4 April 2019.
4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **4-4-2019, 14:00 pm**

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

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF

KURIHARA MYANMAR CO., LTD.

ON 5th MARCH 2019

Official address :- No.151, YAWGI KYAUNG STREET, 11th WARD,
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Tel:- +951 - 519661
Website :- www.kuriharaoverseas.com.sg

Chinese President Xi Jinping (l) and Premier Li Keqiang attend the opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 3 March, 2019.
PHOTO KYODO NEWS

China vows to play "constructive" role in Korean Peninsula affairs

BEIJING — China on Monday expressed readiness to play a "constructive role" in peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, days after the second summit between the United States and North Korea in Hanoi abruptly ended with no deal over denuclearization.

"The denuclearization issue is highly complicated and sensitive," Zhang Yesui, spokesman for the Chinese legislature, told a press conference, a day before the annual session of the National People's Congress opens in Beijing.

"The maintenance of peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula is the first interest of all parties," Zhang said, adding, China, known as North Korea's major political and economic ally, is "committed to denuclearization and peace mechanism on the peninsula." Zhang also voiced hope that Washington and Pyongyang will continue talks, saying, "We cannot expect the issue to be resolved with just one or two meetings" between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

During the two-day summit through Thursday, Trump and Kim fell short of a deal after failing to bridge the gap between US insistence on full denuclearization and North Korea's demand for sanctions relief.

The main sticking point was what North Korea offered in return for easing economic sanctions, according to US officials.

At a press conference following the summit, Trump asked for more assistance from Beijing. "China has been very helpful," Trump said. "I actually called (Chinese President Xi Jinping) just recently to say, 'Hey, you know, whatever you can do on this.' But he has been very helpful at the border, and he's been very, very helpful with, I think, North Korea generally. Could he be a little more helpful? Probably."

China-North Korea relations have been markedly improving after Kim visited Beijing in March last year in his first foreign trip since becoming the supreme leader in the wake of the death of his father in December 2011. Kim left Viet Nam for North Korea on Saturday by special train. Speculation was rife that he may meet with Xi on the way home, but Kim did not appear to stop by Beijing, with security around the main station in the Chinese capital left at normal levels.—Kyodo News ■

Philippines' Duterte reiterates plan to rename country

MANILA — The Philippines or Maharlika? Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has reiterated his plan to change the name of the country.

In a speech late Sunday night, Duterte clarified that he has no specific name yet in mind. "No particular name yet but sure I would like to change the name of Philippines because the Philippines is named after King Philip (II)," he said.

Under the Philippine constitution, he said the Congress may, by law, adopt a new name for the country, and shall take effect only upon its ratification by the people in a national referendum.

Last month he first floated the idea to name his country "Maharlika" in a bid to move away from its colonial past.

The archipelagic country was a Spanish colony for centuries until it was ceded to the United States in 1898. The Philippines was named after the Spanish monarch Philip II.

It was not the first time that the idea was floated to rename the Philippines.

In 1978, a former senator also filed a bill in Congress seeking to change the name of the Philippines to Maharlika. —Xinhua ■

Malaysia open to proposals to revive MH370 hunt

KUALA LUMPUR, (Malaysia) — Malaysia is open to restarting the hunt for Flight MH370 if firms come forward with credible leads and concrete proposals, the transport minister said on Sunday, five years on from the plane's disappearance.

The Malaysia Airlines jet vanished in March 2014 with 239 people — mostly from China — on board, en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

No sign of it was found in a 120,000-square kilometre (46,000-square mile) Indian Ocean search zone and the Australian-led hunt, the largest in aviation history, was suspended in January 2017.

US exploration firm Ocean Infinity mounted a fresh hunt on a "no find, no fee basis" last year for several months, using hi-tech drones to scour the seabed, but did not locate the plane.

Hundreds of people, including some of the relatives of those onboard, gathered at a Kuala Lumpur shopping mall Sunday to mark the anniversary of the jet's disappearance.

Only a few fragments of MH370 have been found, all of them on western Indian Ocean shores.

Two of those pieces were put on display Sunday for the first time at the memorial.

There is no new search planned, but Transport Minister Anthony Loke said at the event that the government was open to hearing proposals to resume the hunt.

"If there are any credible leads and any specific proposals, especially from Ocean Infinity, we are more than willing to look at it," he said.—AFP ■

Thai general who led coup pines for 'democracy' in election ballad

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha dropped his latest saccharine pop ballad on the Thai public on Monday, pining for the "democratic path" nearly five years after he seized power from the country's last elected government.

A former army chief who wants to return after 24 March polls as a civilian prime minister, Prayut has penned several ditties intended to inspire the nation since seizing power in 2014.

"New Day", released on YouTube, captures the famously gruff 64-year-old general in reflective mood. "We are looking for a new day in Thailand's history... towards the democratic path," the pop number — sung by two soldiers — says. "A 'New Day' for Thailand is coming so we can solve the mistakes of the past."

Thailand remains deeply polarised five years after the army booted out the government of Yingluck Shinawatra from office.

Prayut led the coup, saying his hand had been forced after months of bloody protests against Yingluck's government.

He has since clung on to power, repeatedly pushing back elections, muzzling dissent and carving out a new constitution which embeds the military's role in politics for the next 20 years. That has outraged Thai pro-democracy supporters, a disparate group which spans rice farmers and the urban poor, Bangkok middle classes and millenials who have spent large chunks of their life under junta rule.

The bloodless 2014 coup took out the elected government of Yingluck Shinawatra. Eight years earlier the army toppled the administration of her elder brother Thaksin, the billionaire ex-premier who heads the powerful political clan. Thais have not had a general election since 2011.

After years of military rule, new electoral forces are emerging, muddying Thailand's once clear political division between those who support the Shinawatras' and the arch-royalist, conservative camp which is wedded to the army.

Future Forward, a party led by a photogenic billionaire has gained traction among Thailand's youth for its strident anti-junta stance and vow to address inequality. Seven million people aged 18-25 are eligible to vote for the first time this month.

"Our agenda has become the public's agenda," Future Forward leader Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit told AFP during campaigning on Sunday.—AFP ■

Bushfires rage after Australia's hottest summer on record

MELBOURNE (Australia) — Homes have gone up in flames and skies turned blood red as nearly 1,000 firefighters battle dozens of out-of-control blazes in southern Australia in the wake of the nation's warmest summer on record.

A days-long heatwave sent temperatures soaring towards 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) over the weekend, with bushfires raging across Victoria state forcing thousands of people to flee their homes.

A lightning strike late last week sparked southeast Victoria's most severe at Bunyip State Park, which has burnt more than 6,000 hectares (14,800 acres) so far.

Aerial footage of the destruction showed tall trees engulfed by bright red flames and the smouldering, blackened wreckage of buildings.

At least nine structures, including homes, have so far been damaged in the infernos, officials said.

A local winemaker spoke of his heartache as he watched his vineyard destroyed by a raging fire on television.

"I saw our wine cellar door, restaurant and the house next to our Airbnb cottage explode on TV. That's how we found out," Andrew Clarke, who fled his home on Saturday with his family, told *The Age* newspaper.

"We've lost everything. We've lost our livelihood. I planted that winery myself and put the first vines in back in 1979."

Victoria's emergency management commissioner Andrew Crisp said the crisis was not over, even as cooler conditions came to the aid of exhausted firefighters on Monday.

"We're not out of the woods yet," he said.

Australia suffered its hottest summer on record from December through February, while forecasts show the southern autumn — which formally started on Friday — will continue to be drier and warmer than average.

"The heat we saw this summer was unprecedented," weather bureau climatologist Lynette Bettio said on Friday.

"While the final numbers are yet to be analysed, we know it will be the warmest on record for Australia as a whole, and many individual locations will have broken summer heat records as well." —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SADLERS WELLS

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SADLERS WELLS VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 05-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 CA SHIPPING PTE, LTD
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0161-474N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0161-474N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 05-03-2019 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.

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Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., DIPL, (H.G.P.)

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Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 5th March 2019

Train Your Dragon' stays aloft atop N.American box office

LOS ANGELES (United States) — "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" has topped the North American box office for a second straight weekend, losing a bit of altitude but still edging the latest Tyler Perry film, according to industry estimates.

Universal's final installment in the "Dragon" trilogy is expected to earn $30 million for the three-day weekend, down 45 per cent from last weekend but still bringing its North American total earnings to nearly $100 million, Exhibitor Relations reported on Sunday.

The movie, voiced by Jay Baruchel, America Ferrera, Cate Blanchett and F Murray Abraham, recounts the tale of young Hiccup and his dragon Toothless as they go in search of a hidden world reputed to be a dragon's utopia.

Lionsgate's release of "A Madea Family Funeral" marks the end of a highly profitable 15-year Madea franchise, according to producer/director Tyler Perry, one of the highest-earning men in the entertainment world.

"Funeral," with Perry again playing the tough, elderly title character, took in an estimated $27.1 million, pushing the total earnings of all Madea movies past the half-billion-dollar mark, according to the Box Office Mojo website.

In third place, down one spot from last weekend, was Fox's "Alita: Battle Angel," at $7 million. It now has worldwide earnings of $350 million. The sci-fi fantasy stars Rosa Salazar as a nearly human cyborg who has lost her memory.

Actress America Ferrera attends the 'How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World' Los Angeles Premiere in Los Angeles, California on 9 February, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part" from Warner Bros. placed fourth at $6.6 million. The animated tale about an apocalyptic toyland features the voices of Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks and Will Arnett.

In fifth place — after the big bounce that only a best-film Oscar can provide — was Universal's "Green Book," taking in $4.7 million in its 16th weekend out. Its total foreign and domestic earnings are just under $150 million. The film tells the tale of a celebrated black pianist (played by Mahershala Ali, who won a best-supporting-actor Oscar) and his white driver (Viggo Mortensen, who got a best-actor nomination) as they tour the segregated American South in the 1960s.

Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were:

"Fighting With My Family" ($4.7 million)

"Isn't It Romantic" ($4.6 million)

"Greta" ($4.6 million)

"What Men Want" ($2.7 million)

"Happy Death Day 2U" ($2.5 million)—AFP ■

It's 'The Munsters'! Paris catwalk's arch Lurch

PARIS (France) — Gigantic monocles and a new look that had more than a touch of Lurch from "The Munsters" gave the Paris catwalk an arch American air on Sunday.

Balenciaga's red-hot designer Demna Gvasalia, whose ironic eye has skyrocketed sales, sent out a bolt of Frankenstein-shouldered suits and coats with obvious echoes of the towering butler from the 1960s US sitcom. Big square-toed black boots completed the just-off-the-mad-scientist's-operating-table look.

While they raised a smile, the big new thing from the Georgian provocateur who also leads the ultra-hip Vetements label, were his high "incognito collars", perfect for A-listers in need of anonymity for their grocery shopping.

Hailey Bieber — the model wife of the pop star Justin — in the front row of the show looked like she might be his first customer. She also took a shine to Gvasalia's new peaked pointed shoulders, which gave his black architectural jackets a devilish edge.

She wore a black leather coat with them to the show, matched with Balenciaga thigh-high boots. With his tongue presumably deep in his cheek, Gvasalia also introduced his new range of "Easy Eveningwear (which) encompasses the idea of wearing something all night after a long day, while At-home Outerwear imagines wearing something all day after a long night."

Monocles made an unexpected appearance on the catwalk at Thom Browne's Paris fashion show. **PHOTO: AFP**

The designer loves nothing better than to tweak fashion conventions and pretentions, and he said he drew this collection from the "real Parisian of today... (with) patterns and shapes emblemising common daily activities — grocery shopping, commuting via motorbike, and going out after work."

New York designer Thom Browne also loves to play with caricature — particularly of the classic images of an upper-class Waspish (White Anglo Saxon Protestant) America — in his clothing and often spectacular shows.

His women's autumn winter collection began with girls being boys in trenchcoats and grey suits straight from the Madison Avenue of "Mad Men" which his show lovingly parodied. —AFP ■

Reuters star photographer Behrakis dead at 58: press body

ATHENS (Greece) — Award-winning Reuters photographer Yannis Behrakis has died aged 58 after a battle with cancer, Greece's foreign press association said on Sunday.

Athens-born Behrakis, who worked at Reuters for more than 30 years and died on Saturday, was "one of the best photographers of his generation", the press body said in a statement.

"His pictures shaped the very way in which we perceived events, from the war in Afghanistan and Sierra Leone to the refugee crisis and the Arab Spring."

Prestigious awards included the World Press Photo in 2000, Bayeux-Calvados in 2016, and Photographer of the Year by the Guardian in 2015.

The married father of two also led a Reuters team that won the Pulitzer Prize in 2016 for coverage of the migration crisis, which erupted the previous year.

"Few people abandon everything to capture the truth. Yannis Behrakis defended truth in the four corners of the world," Greece's junior minister for media Lefteris Kretsos said in a statement. In 2000, Behrakis had narrowly escaped death in Sierra Leone in an ambush by gunmen that killed Reuters colleague Kurt Schork and AP cameraman Miguel Gil Moreno.

Award-winning Reuters photographer Yannis Behrakis. **PHOTO: AFP**

One of his most striking pictures from Europe's migration crisis is of a Syrian father carrying and kissing his daughter as he walked towards Greece's border with North Macedonia in the rain.

"This picture proves that there are superheroes after all," Behrakis later explained. "He doesn't wear a red cape, but he has a black plastic cape made out of garbage bags. For me, this represents the universal father and the unconditional love of father to daughter."—AFP ■

SpaceX Dragon capsule successfully docks on ISS

WASHINGTON (United States) — SpaceX's new Dragon capsule successfully docked on the International Space Station on Sunday, NASA and SpaceX confirmed during a live broadcast of the mission.

"We can confirm hard capture is complete," NASA said.

The announcement was met with applause at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The docking began at 1051 GMT, more than 248 miles (400 kilometres) above the Earth's surface, north of New Zealand — and 27 hours after the capsule's launch on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

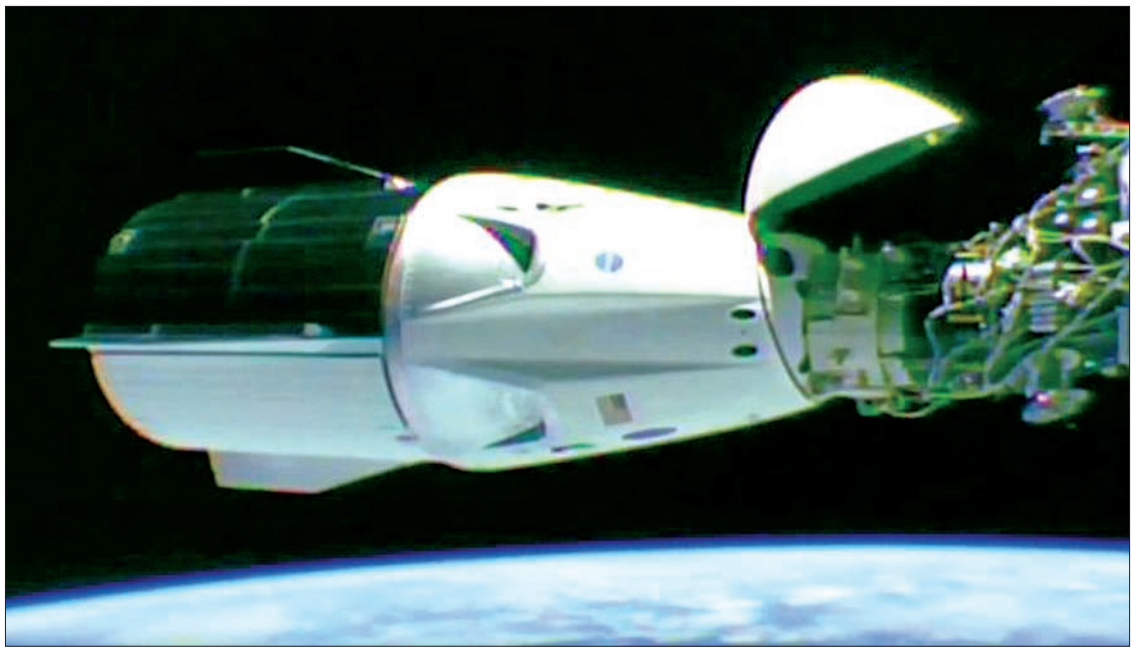
Although the contact appeared slow, the ISS and the capsule were moving at a speed of over 27,000 kilometres per hour in orbit around the Earth.

On board the ISS, the crew — American Anne McClain, Russian Oleg Kononenko, and Canadian David Saint-Jacques — were scheduled to open the airlock at 1330 GMT.

The mission is a test launch with only a dummy on board the capsule ahead of a manned flight scheduled for later this year.

The Dragon capsule will remain on the ISS until Friday before detaching to splash down in the Atlantic. It will be slowed by four parachutes, in what is the one of the mission's riskiest stages. The launch is a key step towards resuming manned space flights from US soil after an eight-year break.

SpaceX, founded by billionaire Elon Musk, has made the trip to the ISS a dozen times before since 2012, but only to refuel the station. Transporting people is a more complex task, requiring seats, a pressurized cabin with breathable air, temperature regulation and emergency infrastructure.



This video grab taken from the Nasa – Space X webcast transmission on 3 March, 2019, shows a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket docked with the International Space Station (ISS) during the Demo-1 mission. **PHOTO: AFP**

'NASA 'rocking' again'

After its shuttle program was shut down in July 2011 following a 30-year run, NASA began outsourcing the logistics of its space missions.

It pays Russia to get its people up to the ISS orbiting research facility at a cost of $82 million per head for a round trip.

In 2014, the US space agency awarded contracts to SpaceX and Boeing for them to take over this task. In SpaceX's case, NASA has agreed to pay $2.6 billion for six round trips to the ISS.

The switch from NASA owning spacecraft to paying private firms for a service was initiated under former president Barack Obama — but due to development delays, has come to fruition under US President Donald Trump.

"We've got NASA "rocking" again. Great activity and success. Congrats to SPACEX and all!" Trump tweeted Saturday evening.

Return to the Moon

Since 2017, NASA's official mission has been to return to the Moon — a project awarded $21.5 billion by Congress in the 2019 budget.

Jim Bridenstine, head of the US space agency, has explained NASA wants to reduce costs in low orbit to devote resources to getting back to the Moon and constructing a small space station in lunar orbit in the 2020s.

"As a country, we're looking forward to being one customer of many customers, in a robust commercial marketplace in low Earth orbit, so that we can drive down costs and increase access in ways that historically have not been possible," he said on Saturday following Dragon's launch.

But Musk has admitted that marketing travel in the Dragon capsule is not a priority — and he is more interested in distant exploration of the solar system.

At the post-launch press conference on Saturday, he reiterated his dream for a permanent Moon base — and sending people to Mars. Musk has already locked in his first private customer to fly to the Moon: Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa. But it won't happen before 2023 — with the rocket, far more powerful than that used for the Dragon mission, still in development.— AFP ■

Chinese scientists develop new material for water purification

BEIJING — Chinese scientists have developed a new material that can use light to efficiently and safely purify water.

Photocatalytic methods offer environmentally safe water purification, but the catalysts required in the process are usually metal-based, which can cause second pollution.

Scientists from the Institute of Process engineering under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yangzhou University have designed an efficient metal-free catalyst for photocatalytic water purification.

They utilize nanosheets of graphitic carbon nitride, an ultra-thin two-dimensional material with the right electronic properties to absorb the light and generate reactive oxygen. Its structure helped to facilitate the reaction by generating plenty of hydrogen peroxide, which efficiently kills bacteria.

PHOTO:XINHUA

Results showed that with this catalyst, pathogen-rich water can be rapidly purified in 30 minutes with a disinfection efficiency of over 99 percent under visible-light irradiation. It can also avoid secondary pollution or heavy metal ion residues.

The research team intends to improve the material before it is ready for commercial use. They plan to expand the material's ability to absorb photons, develop antibacterial fibers and refine the nanosheet preparation process.

The research was published in the journal Chem.—Xinhua ■

Protein inhibitor may help cure liver cancer: report

BEIJING — Chinese scientists have identified a protein that causes the proliferation of liver cancer cells, a finding which could assist in the development of a new cancer drug, Monday's China Daily reported.

By studying proteins of patients with early-stage liver cancer, researchers found that the activity of one protein, identified as SOAT1, can affect cholesterol stability in cancer cells — which triggers them to proliferate and migrate.

The study also found that avasimibe, an inhibitor of SOAT1, shows potential as a targeted therapeutic drug.

The paper, co-authored by scientists from the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, Zhongshan Hospital affiliated to Fudan University, and Beijing Cancer Hospital, was recently published in Nature.

"This study explains why very early liver cancer can still spread to the entire body one to three months after surgery. It is of great value for future drug research, and helps explain the biological features of liver cancer so that more effective treatment can be selected." said Fan Jia, dean of Zhongshan Hospital affiliated to Fudan University.

The study is part of the Chinese Human Proteome Project, launched in 2014 to explore new approaches to treat major endemic diseases by building up human proteome biological profiles and mapping all the proteins in major organs.—Xinhua ■

Klopp laments missed chances as Liverpool lose Premier League lead

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was left to rue a number of missed chances from his side in a 0-0 draw at Everton on Sunday that allowed Manchester City to maintain top spot in the Premier League.

Mohamed Salah passed up two glaring opportunities either side of half-time, while Fabinho was also wasteful as Liverpool failed to score for the third time in four games.

"It's OK, it's a very difficult game for a lot of reasons," said Klopp. "In a game that was difficult to control we had three or four really big chances.

"It's a 0-0 in a derby, we kept our unbeaten run against Everton. It is not what we wanted, but something easy to accept because it is a difficult game."

Klopp is still to taste defeat in a Merseyside derby as Liverpool's unbeaten run against Everton stretches back to 2010.

However, the Reds have now dropped points in four of their last six league games to put the title race in City's hands just over a month since Liverpool had the chance to open up a seven-point lead at the top.

"It was clear it could happen as long as City wins," added Klopp. "We didn't think about City when they were a point behind us, now we are a point behind. They have to win, we have to win, we will see who wins more often."

Liverpool's upcoming fixtures at least appear more winnable after a difficult run that saw them also travel to Manchester United last weekend before a short trip to Goodison Park.

"Manchester United away and Everton away are tough games, you are not going to win 3-0, 4-0 or 5-0 every week," said Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson.

"We have to take the positives and keep going. We are still in the race.

"We want to win away at Manchester United and Everton, but we've got a point at both games. There is a lot of football to be played, a long way to go. I have got a lot of belief in this team."—AFP ■

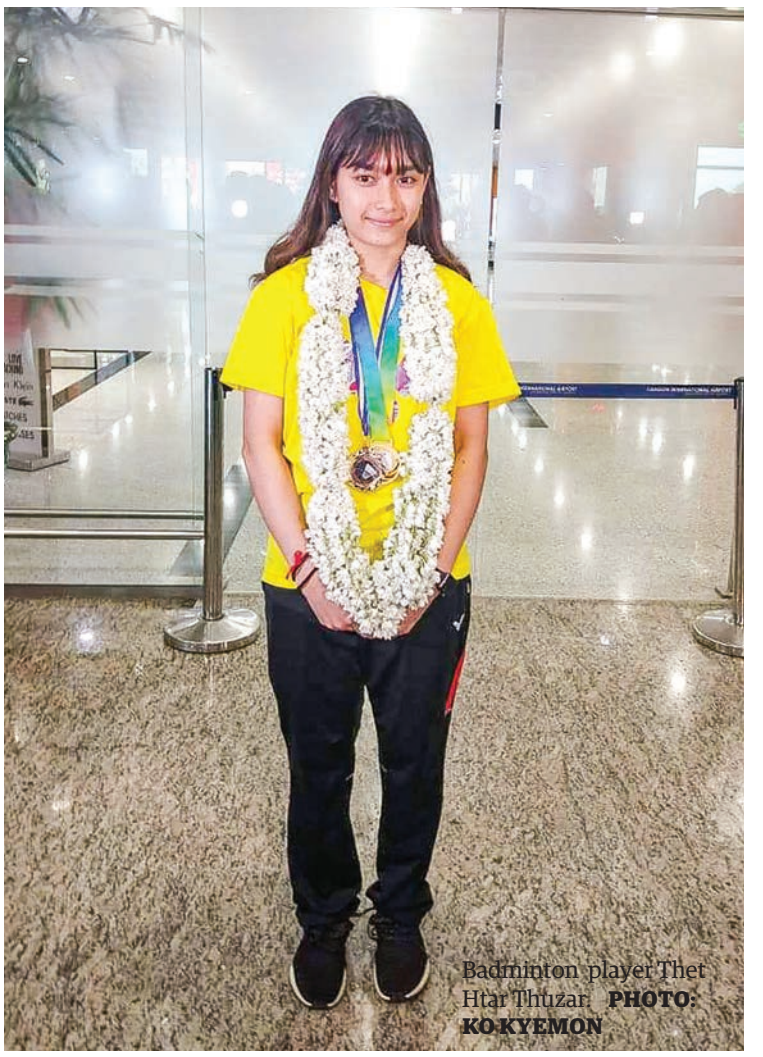
Badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar returns home

THET HTAR THUZAR, gold medal winner of both the Uganda International Series and Kenya International 2019 and rising badminton star, landed home in Yangon yesterday evening.

She was warmly welcomed by officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, fellow athletes from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), officials from the Myanmar Badminton Federation, and with bouquets from avid badminton fans at Yangon International Airport.

Asked about her experience in securing gold for Myanmar, Thet Htar Thuzar said the different environment and cuisine of her recent trip to Africa was challenging and although she faced a lot of hometown players, her efforts paid off in the end.

The 19-year-old athlete will be competing in another competition in Viet Nam this April but she has already secured a place among the top international players after her excellent performances at the Grade-3 Future Series in Africa, organized by the Badminton World Federation. But Thet Htar Thuzar is not stopping there. She aims to boost her world ranking from 150 to 100 and intends to one day compete in the Olympics and bring honour to her country. —Ko Kyemon



Badminton player Thet Htar Thuzar. **PHOTO: KO KYEMON**

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Kepa returns for Chelsea after Wembley mutiny

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Kepa Arrizabalaga was recalled for Chelsea's London derby at Fulham on Sunday after the rebellious keeper's one-game exile.

Blues boss Maurizio Sarri dropped Kepa for Chelsea's midweek 2-0 win over Tottenham as punishment for the Spaniard's refusal to be substituted during last weekend's League Cup final defeat against Manchester City.

The Italian was apoplectic at Kepa's Wembley mutiny and, already battling to avoid the sack in the midst of a nightmare campaign, he responded to the challenge to his authority by wielding the axe.

Popular Argentine veteran Willy Caballero replaced Kepa against Tottenham and delivered a confident performance while the world's most expensive keeper kicked his heels on the bench.

But Sarri had insisted Kepa remained his "first choice" keeper and would play in either the Fulham game or next week's Europa League tie against Dynamo Kiev.

With Chelsea chasing points in the race for a top four finish, Sarri opted to bring back the former Athletic Bilbao star for their Premier League clash at struggling Fulham, with Caballero left on the bench.—AFP ■

Chelsea's Spanish goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga fails to stop the ball from Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero in the penalty shoot out at the end of the English League Cup final football match between Manchester City and Chelsea at Wembley stadium in north London on 24 February, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Neymar hints at joining Real Madrid

SAO PAULO (Brazil) — Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar on Sunday left the door open for a potential move to Spanish giants Real Madrid.

The world's most expensive footballer is currently recovering from a foot injury which he suffered on 23 January and has been linked with a return to La Liga ever since joining PSG from Barcelona in 2017.

"In the future, everything is possible," he told Brazilian television channel Globo. "I'm not saying I'm going to Real Madrid, calm down. Everybody knows I have already accomplished my dream which was (playing for) Barcelona. "Real Madrid is one of the biggest teams in the world, every player perceived to have an interest in the club wants to play for them. Right now I'm very happy in Paris." Neymar said Barcelona's Lionel Messi had sent him his regards after hearing about the Brazilian's most recent injury.

"At the time I needed support the most, from people and the team, the best in the world came to me to say 'I'm here to help you'," Neymar said.

The 27-year-old said PSG team-mate Kylian Mbappe will be one of the world's greatest ever players despite the pair both eyeing the biggest individual prizes in the sport. "He's going to become one of the best players in the history of football and I'm trying to help him as best as possible. We have the same friendship as I had with Lionel, even competing for the Ballon d'Or," he said. Neymar will miss Wednesday's Champions League last-16 return leg against Manchester United with the metatarsal problem he suffered six weeks ago.—AFP ■