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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 324, 1st Waxing of Tabaung 1380 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Wednesday, 6 March 2019

Obtaining CBM Loan, report on 2nd bill amending constitution brought to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

THE 12th meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 11th regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

President nominate Union Election Commission members

At the meeting Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw of the President nominating the appointment of U Nyunt Sein, U Thet Tun, U Myint Aung, U Saw Daniel Kyi, U Aung Soe Win, U Than Aung, U Min Swe and U Swe Tint Lwin as Union Eletion Commission members and announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to object the matter to register their names.

> ... The bill to amend the Constitution for the second time was about amending Section 261 and would require amending related sections as well.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened in Nay Pyi Taw, discussing issues including getting CBM loan and amending constitution . **PHOTO: MNA**

Hluttaw explained about CBM loan to cover Union Government Current Account deficit

Next the Hluttaw was explained by Ministry of Planning and Finance and Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) on the matter of obtaining loan from CBM to cover Union Government Current Account deficit for fiscal year 2018-2019 that was sent by the President.



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained that the ministry was regularly reporting on the status of government's local and foreign debt status according to Public Debt Management Law.

The government's capacity on debt management was being raised while the country's debt burden had been kept at a fair bearable level. Myanmar's debt risk is at the Low Risk level according to the assessment of World Bank and International Monetary Fund, said the Deputy Minister. Therefore Hluttaw is requested through the Speaker to approve the earmarking of Ks 1,016.818 billion loan from CBM with Government Treasury Bonds as collateral.

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

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Obtaining CBM Loan, report on 2nd bill amending constitution …

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



Dr. Myat Nyana Soe.



Daw Nwe Nwe Aung.

Report of Joint Committee to Study the Bill to amend the Constitution for the second time read

Following this secretary of Joint Committee to Study the Bill to amend the Constitution for the second time Dr. Myat Nyana Soe read the committee's report on the matter of the bill to amend the Constitution for the second time submitted by U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency and group.

The report said the bill to amend the Constitution for the second time was about amending Section 261 and would require amending related sections as well. To be in accord with the most important point of Union Accord Part 1 approved at 21st Century Panglong Conference that say "The State must be set up as the Union based on democracy and federalism," Chapter 1 of the Constitution "Basic Principles of the Union" also need to be amended so that it is in accord with the amended Section 261.

This would require submission to the Hluttaw of many bills to amend relevant sections. Joint Committee to Implement Steps to Amend 2008 Constitution was also reported to be in a situation to review Section 261 when it reviews the entire Constitution.

As the ultimate aim of Joint Committee to Implement Steps to Amend 2008 Constitution was to prepare a bill to amend sections in the Constitution that will also include Section 261, it was the opinion of the majority of the joint committee members that including the bill to amend Section 261 in the preparation works to Amend 2008 Constitution would be more systematic and appropriate.

Joint Committee members Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, U Ba Shein, U Kyaw Kyaw, Brig-Gen Tint Lwin and Brig-Gen Maung Maung proposed the matter to be discussed and approved in the Hluttaw. The majority members of the Joint Committee to Study the Bill to amend the Constitution for the second time were of the opinion that it was not appropriate to amend Section 261 alone and should be amended together with other related Sections and thus amending Section 261 should be included in the work process of the Joint Committee to Implement Steps to Amend 2008 Constitution, said the report read by Dr. Myat Nyana Soe.

After the report was read, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker made an announcement for Hluttaw representatives who wish to discuss the report to register their names.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee reread the committee's report on Gambling Bill

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung then reread the committee's report on Gambling Bill in response to a submission by U Tin Ko Ko Oo of Bilin constituency to include additional amendments

In response to a submission made by U Tin Ko Ko Oo of Bilin constituency to include additional enactments in the Gambling Bill, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung then reread the committee's report on Gambling Bill and explained that the submission made by the Hluttaw representative was already included in Clause 23 and thus not required to be add in an enactment and Clause 27 should be approved as amended by the joint committee.

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

Hluttaw discusses and decide on motion to respond against OIC, EU and UNHRC

As a final agenda of the day, a motion urging the government to respond against the efforts of OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation), EU (European Union) and UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) that had consistently strived toward approving a resolution on "Situation on human rights in Myanmar" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 22 December 2018 before the end of this month was discussed by Dr. Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency, Daw Htu May of Rakhine constituency 11, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives Maj. Moe Myint Aung, U Win Myint Oo @ U Nay Myo of Nyaungshwe constituency, U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 2, U Aung Kyi Thein of Chaungzon constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency, U Myo Zaw Oo of Lewe constituency, Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5, U Nan Mon Htin of Machanbaw constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency, Dr. Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay constituency, U Tin Aye of Metmung constituency, U Zaw Min of Sagaing Region constituency 6, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Col. Han Thu, U Sai Lone San Khat of Shan State constituency 7, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State constituency 6, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Col. Soe Shwe, Daw Pyone Kay Thi Naing of Kalaw constituency, U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9, U J Yaw Wu of Kachin State constituency 1, U Yi Mon @ Maung Tin Thit of Pobbathiri constituency and U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency.

In discussing the motion Union Minister for International Cooperation explained that the government was doing what the proposer of the motion urged while all need to be aware of the fact that our acts and words could be in violation of international laws. Therefore, the Union Minister suggested on putting the motion on record only.

However the proposer of the motion still want the Hluttaw to approve the motion and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker put the matter to a vote. As there were 219 for, 326 against and 6 abstaining to approve the motion, an announcement was made of Hluttaw keeping the motion on record.

The 13th meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled for 8 March it, is learnt. — Aung Maw, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

UEC Chairman receives Ambassador of Denmark



PHOTO: MNA

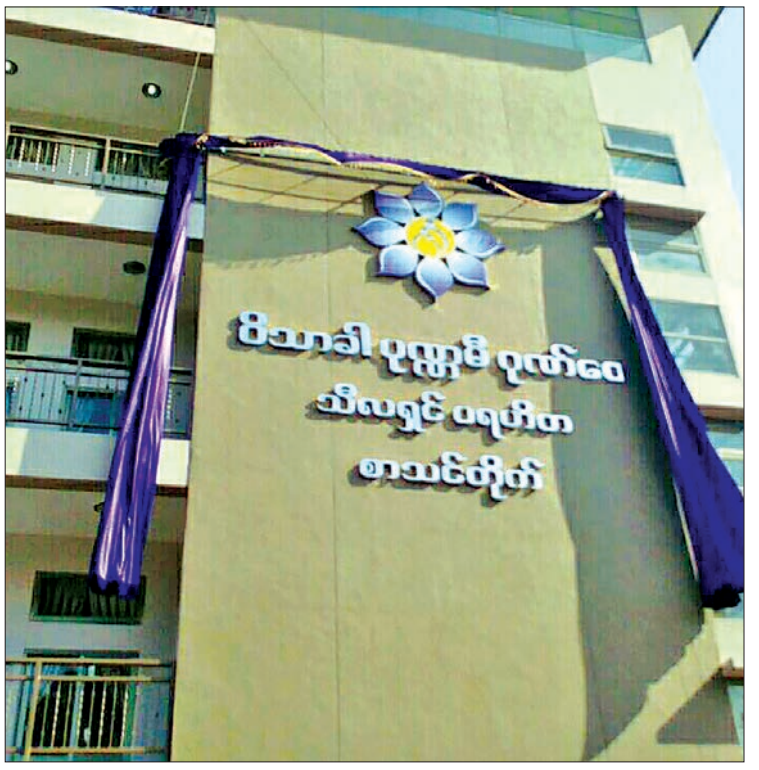
Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received Ambassador of Denmark Mr. John Nielsen and party at 3:00 pm yesterday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed on matters related to preparation for voters list for the 2020 general election, educative programs for voting, tackling challenges for holding the general election, registration of political parties, and help for election process. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

"Visakha Ponami Gonwei,", philanthropic building in Lewe inaugurated





First Lady Daw Cho Cho (Right) and Daw Su Su Lwin, wife of President (Retd) U Htin Kyaw unveil the signboard of the Visakha Ponami Gonwei Nunnery in Lewe yesterday. **PHOTO MNA**

A nunnery building, "Visakha Ponami Gonwei," and a four-storey philanthropic building in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township was inaugurated yesterday in the presence of First Lady Daw Cho Cho.

The nunnery building was formally opened by Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Vice President U Myint Swe, Dr. Shwe Hlwan, wife of Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Patron of the Visakha Foundation Prof. Dr. Win Min Thit, Chairperson of the Association for Reducing and Protection Orphans, and officials.

Afterwards, the signboard of the building was unveiled by First Lady Daw Cho Cho and Daw Suu Suu Lwin, wife of President (Retd) U Htin Kyaw.

Afterwards, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and party visited the newly opened building.

At the new building, Patron of the Visakha Foundation Prof. Dr. Win Min Thit explained the purpose of the donation of the building.

Afterwards, the ceremony was followed and Daw Su Su Lwin, wife of President (Retd) U Htin Kyaw expressed delight for the donation and Prof. Dr. Win Min Thit handed over the documents related to the building to the Head of the nunnery Nun Daw Zeya Theingi.

Daw Su Su Lwin, wife of President (Retd) U Htin Kyaw and party posed for documentary photo together with the donors and attendees.



Children and nuns are seen outside Visakha Ponami Gonwei nunnery and the philanthropic building in Lewe. **PHOTO: MNA**

The "Visakha Ponami Gonwei," building and the philanthropic building were constructed at the cost of over K550 million by the Visakha Foundation.

Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nannisara delivered a sermon in Lewe at 7 pm yesterday to mark the inauguration of the building.— MNA



JMC-U Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae receives support materials to JMC presented by Korean Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa. **PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG**

ROK Embassy donates support materials for use in JMC work processes

A donation ceremony of support materials for use in Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) works by the Republic of Korea (ROK) Embassy to Myanmar was held at National Reconciliation and Peace Center in Shweli Street, Yangon yesterday morning where one KIA car, 110 Samsung Tablet PC and 20 Daewoo brand small generator sets were donated.

At the ceremony ROK Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa explained about the reason for the donation and said, "Korea and Myanmar was close historically while both are of the same mentality. Today's donation show the support of Korea toward Myanmar's pace process."

Next, the Korean ambassador transferred the support materials donated to JMC-U Chairman and members. JMC-U Chairman in return presented certificate of appreciation to the Korea ambassador.

In his words of thanks for the donation JMC-U Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said, "LCM (Local Civilian Monitoring) Groups will be formed at local level to monitor whether armed organisations are abiding by the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement). The support materials donated by ROK embassy will be used mainly at state level JMCs and the 110 Samsung Tablets will be used when LCMs are expanded and established. The small generator sets will be used in conflict areas where electricity is still not available."

The ceremony was attended by JMC-U Chairman and committee members, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, officials and invited guests.
— Ye Gaung Nyunt

Dr. Shwe Hlwan attends Forum ahead of World Water Day 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw

A forum ahead of the World Water Day 2019 was held, yesterday, at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw, and Dr. Shwe Hlwan, wife of Vice President U Henry Van Thaio, who is the Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee, and patron of the World Water Day Committee, attended the event.

In the afternoon, Dr. Shwe Hlwan, patron of the Water Mother Myanmar, acted as a moderrator at the discussion entitled "Multi stakeholder Forum" and experts took part in the subject-wise discussions. The discussion on the World Water Day 2019 was convened in the morning, where Secretary of the National Water Resources Committee, who is also Director-General, U Tun Lwin Oo delivered an opening speech.

The event was attended by water-related ministerial organizations, officials from the states and region governments, Hluttaw representatives, representatives from INGOs and NGOs, CSOs and other officials. At the forum, academicians and participants made suggestions and discussed water and energy, agriculture and climate change, development of water transports, water management, integrity, involvement in multi stakeholder forum from societies, water and hygiene, all-round development of delta area, economy in delta area, collecting rainwater and underground water management. Myanmar has been hosting the World Water Day Celebrating since 2014, organized by the National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) in cooperation with water-related relevant ministerial organizations, organizations, partnership countries, NGOs, INGOs, private enterprises and other water-related stakeholders. The ceremony to mark the World Water Day 2019, seminars and exhibitions will be held on March 6, it was learnt. — MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung) ■



Dr. Shwe Hlwan, wife of Vice President U Henry Van Thio, chairs the discussion entitled "Multi-stakeholder Forum". **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for NREC receives World Bank Program Leader

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (NREC) U Ohn Win received the World Bank Program Leader Mr. Mark Austin and party at the Ministry's guest hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting the process of distributing to states and regions the findings and outcomes of Country Environmental Analysis (CEA) on Myanmar conducted under the World Bank Environmental and Natural Resources Programme, arrangement to participate and invest in the ongoing 10-year reforestation project, establishment of forest owned by local people, maintaining of mangrove forests, participating in works to strengthen natural reserve protection area and cooperating in assessing and reviewing the environmental impact report were discussed it is learnt. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (NREC) U Ohn Win meeting with the World Bank Program delegation led by Mr. Mark Austin. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

Sun Outage might interrupt TV, Radio transmission from 6 to 17 March

A sun outage occurs when the apparent path of the Sun across the sky it directly behind the line of sight between an earth station and a satellite.

All satellites can be affected by sun outages.

A sun outage is a natural phenomenon and occurs every year. Sun outages usually occur one time in March, one time each in late September and early October.

The time for sun outage and signal interruption can vary depending on a satellite, size of TVRO receiver and location.

TV Channel and Radio programs of the MRTV which uses Thaicom-6 can be affected by the sun outages from 6 to 17 March for three minutes to 15 minutes, according to the Myanma Radio and Television.— MNA

Technical talk by urban experts in Sule Shangri La Hotel on 8 March

A technical talk titled "towards continuous urban development" jointly organized by Myanmar Architects Association and Ami Myay Sein Lan Phunt Phyo Toe Tet Yay Athin will be held at Sule Shangri La Hotel in Yangon on 8 March from 9 a.m. to half past twelve noon.

Talks by local and foreign experts covering Myanmar urban development experience; benefit, strength and weaknesses of block chain technology for transparent and responsibility urban tax management; and many other interesting topics will be held. Interested persons who want to attend are to register at Myanmar Architects Association during office hour via telephone 09 731 54460, 09 9634 22556 and 09 443 154460. As limited seats are limited, prior registration is required. — MNA ■

CBSPTP holds meeting in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe delivers the opening address at the meeting of the Central Body for Suppression and Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (CBSPTP). **PHOTO: MNA**

CENTRAL Body for Suppression and Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (CBSPTP) held a meeting at Ministry of Home Affairs meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. CBSPTP Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attended the meeting and delivered an opening speech.

At the meeting work groups under CBSPTP discussed works to be conducted on the matter of American government's Trafficking in Persons Report.

Next state/region ministers for security and border affairs and members of CBSPTP in attendance discussed and explained anti-trafficking works conducted.

The meeting was attended by CBSPTP member, invited guests and news media and CBSPTP Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs delivered a closing speech.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

RfP (Myanmar) holds Asia Regional Consultation for 10th World Assembly



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko delivers an opening address at the Asia Regional Consultation of the Religions for Peace in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO ZAW MIN LATT**

RELIGIONS for Peace-RfP Myanmar hosted the Asia Regional Consultation for the 10th World Assembly in Yangon yesterday.

The coordination meeting began with an opening addresses by Chairman of RFP U Myint Swe and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko.

In his speech, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko expressed hopes the RfP consultation and the World Assembly would achieve good means and ways for environmental issues, conflicts related with religions, educational issues and gender equality issue.

He also called for promoting understanding among different faiths in Asia and harmony among the communities with diverse culture and religions.

He also urged the religious organizations to participate and cooperate in promoting in tackling the climate change problems.

Afterwards, Patron of the RfP (Myanmar) Cardinal Charles Bo, Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin of RfP (Asia), Deputy Secretary General Rev. Kyoichi Sugino of RfP (International), Ambassador of Germany Madam Dorothee Janetzke Wenzel delivered addresses.

The meeting was participated by representatives RfPs from 21 countries and religious leaders, women leaders, youths and officials.

The meeting will end on 7th March.

Today meeting focused on prevention of conflicts and seeking common solution.

RfP has formed organzations in 90 countries and hold meeting every five year. Myanmar is the 90th member of RfP—Yi Yi Phyo

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)



Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees accepts a gold plate donated by wellwishers at the pagoda yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

568th Ceremony held to offer cash donation to Shwedagon Pagoda, present certificates of honour

THE Shwedagon Pagoda's Board of Trustees conducted a 568th ceremony to offer cash donation and present certificates of appreciations to the donors in the old Buddha images hall of the southern stairway of the Shwedagon Pagoda's platform yesterday.

At the ceremony, donors offered cash donations, and which was accepted by alternating chair and members and in return of the Board of Trustees presented certificates of appreciation to the donors.

The congregation took the Five Precepts from Trustee Board Ovadacariya State Sangha Maha Nayaka member, Agga Maha Panita Agga Maha Gandavasaka Panita, Yangon Region, Bahan Township Nyaungdon Pali Takkatho Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pawara Bivamsa, shared merit, listened to a sermon and concluded the ceremony. A total of 115 donors offered 119 gold plates and cash totaling more than K 967739650 million, it is learnt.— MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Czech Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr. Martin Tlapa arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by flight yesterday.

The Deputy Minister and his delegation were welcomed at the airport by U Than Htwe, Deputy Director-General of Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Aung Ko, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek and other officials. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr. Martin Tlapa arrives at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 9/2019
13th Waning of Tabodwe, 1380 ME
(4 March 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 2 March 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken
1	Information received of Naing Nge and wife Aye Aye Win, live in Myayni Taung Village, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing illegal drugs.	On 24-2-2019, police searched the house of Naing Nge and wife Aye Aye Win living in Myayni Taung Village, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region and they happened to go out to sea. Police searched a boat and seized Aye Min Oo (a) San Shay, aged 33, son of U Kyi Lwin and Tin Aung, aged 40, son of U Pe Hlaing together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters bought from Naing Nge and his wilfe. A case has been opened four of them with NaMaSa (Kanmaw), MaYa (Pa) 3/2019 under Section 19(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Nyi Nyi Zaw, lives in Pa-Auk Village, Mawlamyine Tsp, using and selling narcotic drugs.	On 2-3-2019, police searched the house of Nyi Nyi Zaw (a) One, aged 29, son of U Aung Thein and seized Aung Soe Moe, aged 25, son of U Thaung Nyunt, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters, speciosa and the liquid speciosa in his house. A case has been opened both of them with NaMaSa(Mupon), MaYa(Pa) 10/2019 under Section 16(c)/20 (a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Wa Hat, lives in Maygawaddy 1st Street, Yeiktha Ward, Hlegu Tsp, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 24-2-2019, police searched the house of Wa Hat (a) Thura Myint (a) Naing Oo, aged 36, son of U Myint Swe and seized with marijuana with him. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Hlegu) MaYa(Pa) 5/2019 under Section 16(C)/20 (a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of using and distributing illegal drugs in wards of Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State.	So far, 11 cases have been opened files as of last weeks, a total of 21 people, including 20 men and one woman, had been arresting and police seized them with heroin, stimulant tablets and opium blocks. On 24-2-2019, police searched the house of Nay Myo Than, aged 36, son of U Tun Ngwe, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and opium blocks. Acting on tip-off, police seized San Htoo Aung (a) Pho Kwar, aged 20, son of U Aye Win and Win Ko Tun (a) Ga Gyi(a) Gaung Gyi, aged 19, son of U Tun Naing together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. Cases has been opened against them, with NaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa (Pa) 20/2019, MaYa (Pa) 6/2019 and MaMaSa(Taunggyi) MaYa(Pa) 7/2019 under Section 19(a) and 16 (C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of selling illegal drugs on the hill of Group 10 Ward, Kutkai Town, Shan State (North).	So far, 44 cases have been opened files as of last weeks, a total of 49 people, including 45 men and four women, had been arresting and police seized them with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 25-2-2019, police seized the cycle of She Yin Sein, aged 30, son of U She Wan Chauk, living in Ward 8, together with heroin. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa (Pa) 25/2019 under Section 19 (a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Bo Bo Zaw, lives in ward 2, Kyauk Myaung Village, Ywangan Tsp, Shan State (South), distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27-2-2019, police searched the house of Bo Bo Zaw, aged 32, son of U Myint Maung, together with marijuana. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Nwangan) MaYa(Pa) 6/2019 under Section 16(C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 534 cases have been opened files as of 2-3-2019. A total of 843 people, including 709 men and 134 women had been arrested with seizures of 5746.43 g of heroin, 67.14 g of ICE, 38,656.94 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18,795.28 g of speciosa powder, 7,363.99 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 21,7715 g of stimulant tablets, 6087.27 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 3.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 16 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.

During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates.

A man from Sinkyone Village, Bhamo Tsp, Kachin State was arrested with a seizure of 2205 stimulant tablets and 15.6 g of Heroin. Acting on a tip-off in Thegone Village, Hopin Tsp, Shan State, police searched a motorbike and found a man with1900 stimulant tablets, one motorbike. A man from Phonekyan Village, Sunprabum Tsp, Kachin State, was arrested with 9 g of low-quality opium. A man from Htaythama Ward, Loikaw Tsp, Kayah State, was arrested with 108 stimulant tablets. A man on Zar Tha Pyin-Kyarkalay rioad, Hpa-an Tsp, Kayin State, was arrested with 200 stimulant tablets and one motorbike. A woman from Kawlamu Village was seized with 14,000 stimulant tablets. Police stopped Honda Fit vehicle and a man was seized with 282 stimulant tablets, 1,120 g of marijuana and one car in Taungyoe Sreet, Mayangone Ward, Mawlamyine Town, Mon State. A man was seized with 941 stimulant tablets and one motorbike near Kyauktalone Village, Kyaikmaraw Tsp, Mon State. A man was arrested with 4,000 g of speciosa in Wareyat Village, Ye Tsp. A man was seized with 2154 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in 1st Street, Zayarmon Ward, Kyaikhto Tsp, Mon State. Three men were arrested with a seizure of 965,250 stimulant tablets while they crossed the Naf River in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. Two men were seized with 66, 300 stimulant tablets while they crossed over the Naf River in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. Four men were seized with 25 stimulant tablets and one motorcar near Makye Creek, Four Miles Ward. Seven men were arrested with 208 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Gonner Village. Two men were arrested with 14, 880 stimulant tablets in Maungni Village. A man was seized with 1, 460 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Lattharout Village. A man was arrested with 182 stimulant tablets in the western Shwezar Village. A man was arrested with 14 stimulant tablets and a motorbike on the Taungbazar Road, Buthidaung Tsp, Rakhine State. Two men and a woman were seized with 250 stimulant tablets in Sinkulan Ward, Sittway Tsp, Rakhine State. A man was seized with 532 stimulant tablets in Thatkaypyin Village, Rakhine State. A man was seized with 263 stimulant tablets in Mawseenyar Village, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 1, 150 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State. Two men were seized with 80 stimulant tablets, 270 g of opium and one motorbike in Narpa Village, Lashio Tsp, Shan State. Two men were arrested with 400 stimulant tablets, 22.5 g of heroin and one motorbike in Hsenwi Tsp, Shan State.

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Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

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Five men were seized with 4 stimulant tablets, 0.7 g of heroin, 10 Tramadol Capsules and 2 Buprenorphine Tablets in Kalay Tsp, Sagaing Region. A man was seized with 530 stimulant tablets, 26 g of heroin and one motorbike near Paygone Village, Homalin Tsp, Sagaing Region. Two men were arrested with 1393 stimulant tablets in Hteinthit Ward, Dawei Tsp, Taninthayi Region. Three men were arrested with 210 g of speciosa and one motorbike on Taninthayi-Myeik Highway. A man was seized with 1550 stimulant tablets in Shwehintha Ward, Kawthoung Tsp, Taninthayi Region. Three men were arrested with 1,300,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcar at the Padanpyinwa check point, Ngape Tsp, Magway Region. Three men were arrested with 2120 stimulant tablets in Thirimar Ward, Aungmyethazan Tsp, Mandalay Region. One man and one woman were arrested with 143,990 stimulant tablets and 1782 g of heroin in Dawnabwar Ward, Mandalay Region. A man was seized with 36,000 liter of Ethyl Acetate at the Myohaung Station, Chanmyathazi Tsp, Mandalay Region. Acting on tip-off, 16,500 L of Tindar was seized on Mandalay-Lashio Train. An ownerless 4,000 L of Sulphuric Acid were seized in Ohnchaw Village, Patheingyi Tsp. A man was seized with 1350 stimulant tablets in Ayemyakyilin Ward, Kyaukse Tsp. A total of 50,000 stimulant tablets and 4 g heroin were seized at the Aungmingalar Bus Terminal, Mingalrdon Tsp, Yangon Region. A man was seized with 165 stimulant tablets, 0.2 g of heroin and one motorbike. A man was seized with 273 stimulant tablets in Ward 6, Pathein Tsp, Ayeyawady Region.

There has been one seizure involving foreigners. Three Thai men and one Myanmar were arrested with a seizure of 10 stimulant tablets and two motorbike.

There have been three seizures of ammunitions. Two men were seized with 600 stimulant tablets, one Kirby gun, one gun casket, 10 cartridges, one pistol and its 10 cartridges, one MG-1 hand grenade and one motor vehicle parked on Zarthapyin-Kyarkalay Raod, Hpa-an Tsp, Kayin State. A woman was arrested with 176 stimulant tablets, one MG-1 hand grenade, one fuse, one gun, two Kirby cartridges, 13 9-mm-cartridges in Udaung Village, Maungtaw Tsp, Rakhine State. One Thai man, one Thai woman, one Myanmar man and one Myanmar woman were arrested with 5 g of crushed stimulant tablets, one revolver and its 6 cartridges and one motor vehicle in Lwesiton Village, TachilekTsp, Shan State. A man trying to ran away was arrested while police were seizing with 8,775,000 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle.

There have been 208 cases being opened between 24-2-2019 and 2-3-2019. A total of 325 people, including 299 men and 26 women, were seized with 2033.633 g of heroin, 285 g of opium, 11361503.25 of stimulant tablets, 26.6 g of crushed stimulant tablets,1378.7 g of marijuana, 11.5 g of low-quality opium, 210 g of speciosa powder, 4000 g of speciosa, 10 Tramadol Capsules, 2 Buprenorphine Tablets, 36000 L of Ethyl Acetate, 4000 liters of sulphuric Acid, 16500 liters of tinder, 4 kinds of different guns, 41 cartridges, one bullet casket, two hand grenades and one fuse.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Auto Telephone No.	—067-590200
Fax Phone No.	— 067-590233
Email Address	— antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

PPST meeting held in Thailand

A meeting of Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) consisting of ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) that had signed the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) was held in Thailand, Chiang Mai yesterday morning where changes in the PPST representative was made it is learnt. The meeting was an extraordinary meeting.

Top leaders of EAOs that had signed the NCA, PPWT members and technical supports attended the meeting.

In his greeting message to the meeting PPST leader Saw Mutu Sae Poe said, "Today our PPST and NCA implementing partners NMSP, LDU

In his greeting message to the meeting PPST leader Saw Mutu Sae Poe said, "Today's meeting is a special meeting where our PPST and NCA implementing partners NMSP (New Mon State Party) and LDU (Lahu Democratic Union) are discussing their views on implementing the NCA and there was a requirement to review whether our efforts were successful or not. As there is a requirement to call an extraordinary meeting, this meeting has been convened."

On the matter of KNU (Karen National Union) and RCSS (Restoration Council of Shan State) Saw Mutu Sae Poe said, "Our two groups will discuss thoroughly on the setup of PPST and will transform toward a coordination meeting to jointly implement aims that are same. As per this proposal KNU and RCSS will change representatives that are appropriate."

PPST leader also urge toward recognizing the differences which was the essence of democracy, establish cooperation toward achieving the common goal of democracy and federal.

PPST was formed as a policy steering company in March 2016 and contain eight leaders of eight EAOs that had signed the NCA. The meeting will be held until 6 March it is learnt. —Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) meet in Chaing Mai, Thailand, yesterday. **PHOTO: EPRN**

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi receives Ambassador of Denmark



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi meeting with Denmark Ambassador Mr. John Nielsen. **PHOTO: MNA**

ANTI-CORRUPTION Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received Ambassador of Denmark Mr. John Nielsen and party at 8:30 am yesterday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters the implementation process of anti-corruption procedures, implementations plans of anti-corruption in 2019, establishing corruption prevention units in union ministries and national level organizations, future works and technical assistance. – MNA

(Translated by TTN)

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Our cultural heritage on global list is a matter of dignity

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passed the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions Law on 28 February. The new law was drafted as the previous law passed in 1998 no longer suited the current requirements. The new law guarantees conservation and preservation of Myanmar's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Thus, we need to explore the hidden traditions and culture of ethnic people.

The people of Myanmar are duty-bound to preserve our cultural heritage, and thanks to preservation efforts undertaken by the previous generations, the cultural heritage of the indigenous people has survived to this day.

The cultural heritage sites spread across the country are something to be proud of. Man set foot in Myanmar even before the pre-historic times, and the country has a long history and possesses a rich heritage, which is yet to be researched.

It is the duty of our people to conserve our heritage sites, before they can be systematically researched with the use of modern technology.

With the passing of the new law, all people concerned are urged to participate in cultural and historical development tasks in the States and Regions, help formulate policy to draw up rules and regulations for research works so they are conducted in line with the needs of local people, work to preserve and explore ethnic culture and traditions at heritage sites in cultural zones.

It is the duty of our people to conserve our heritage sites, before they can be systematically researched with the use of modern technology.

The government is committed to placing Bagan in central Myanmar and MyaukU in Rakhine State on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The stone inscriptions at the Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthotaw Pagoda in Mandalay, the Myazedi (Yazakuma) stone inscriptions, and ancient Pyu cities have also been included in the list.

Earlier, the government had submitted the old bill to UNESCO to fulfil the requirements for getting sites declared as Cultural Heritage Areas on the World Heritage Sites list. However, the earlier law no longer conforms with the current conditions.

The new law for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage will help ensure Bagan is added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

If and when our heritage zone is declared a global heritage site, one invisible benefit will be that it will add to our national dignity.

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How do parents manage during the summer vacation for children

By Maung Sein Ei (Nabemye)

MATRICULATION students are going to sit for the exams on March 6. Students from Basic Education Schools have already finished their final examinations. Summer holidays have already begun, letting their parents take a rest for a while after taking pains of alternate sending their children between private tuition classes and schools. But all students are not free on summer holidays. Some parents have already enrolled their children on a three-month course for the coming academic year.



People make their day at the Chaungtha Beach. **PHOTO: MNA**

Letting children take a rest for a moment

Students who have finished their final examinations should be allowed by their parents to take a rest for a certain period of time. Children have to ply regularly between private tuition classes and schools from the beginning of the academic year.

They could not take a rest at night; even on Thadingyut and December holidays they have to run between private tuition and roundtable classes. Suffice to say, they have gone through with their classes mentally and physically. That is why they should be given to take enough time to rest for a week or two.

They must be allowed to watch movies, play computer games and have a chat with friends. Excessive activities must be supervised by their parents.

Tours for leisure and recreation

Occasional visits to beaches should be arranged for them depending on the incomes of their parents; family recreational visits are beneficial; recreational tours should be arranged by sending them to pagodas and prominent places. By sending them to these places, they tend to get a chance of getting historical backgrounds of these pagodas or places. For instance, sending them to Bagan will come to know about the history of successive ancient Myanmar kings. They are in a position to examine the mentality of Myanmar kings. In the same way, they could visit the Myanansangyaw and Kanbawzathadi palaces so that the tours for the students are highly beneficial.

A visit to grandparents

Some children haven't got a chance of meeting their grandpa and grandma. Because they have to get along with their parents in towns where government offices and businesses are located. That is why they should be sent to their grandparents in villages to make acquaintance of their relatives.



Family members enjoy playing at the shore of Changtha beach. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Students who have finished their final examinations should be allowed by their parents to take a rest for a certain period of time.

They would also get a chance of paying respect to their grandparents and gaining knowledge of villagers' lifestyles. Travelling tends to make them fresh in mind and body. They would feel renovated after a long journey.

Allowing for meritorious deeds

It is never easy to become a human being. So it is an opportune moment for the students to become sons and daughters of Lord Buddha. Some students want to join the meditation center; some want to become novices and nuns. Their wishes should be fulfilled. If allowed to join the meditation center, to let them become novices and nuns, they are sure to get a chance of practicing the doctrines of Lord Buddha.

Taking a complete rest

During our young days, we had to watch plots of farmland during summer holidays. After daybreak, we went to the farmland with lunchboxes to prevent animals from eating crops and also from thieves. While watching the farmlands, we had a chance of reading under shady trees.

Eating plum fruit, we played with friends. We went fishing and swimming in the River Ayeyarwaddy; at this time, we threw stones at the birds. No summer classes and we were happy. Today youths don't have that sort of feeling as they have been grappling with summer classes. Children are not allowed to take a rest during a period of fierce competitions.

Letting them take enough rest

Parents naturally want their offspring to be outstanding, learned and progressive. But some parents regard their children as robots.

They are overburdened, making them concentrate on school lessons without getting in touch with the outside world. That is the reason why students should be allowed by parents to take enough rest during summer holidays.

Learning from lessons

Japan is a top country in Asia where children try to commit suicide due to stress and strain in their classes. Seventy teenagers are found daily to have thought of committing suicide; the main reason is related with educational problems. Children are being kept under pressure by their parents concerning with education; at the same time , they are also bullied by their classmates. The consequence is that Japanese children choose the wrong ways for being under stress and strain. So, parents should learn a lesson from the Japanese story.

Health Hazards

During summer holidays, children should be given enough time to rest and allowed to attend a suitable training which they are interested in. If they have to attend the classes successively, they are of no avail. Attending successive classes may create a serious health hazard for them. Children have grappled with schools, private tuition and roundtable classes throughout the whole year, growing tired mentally and physically. At this time, enough rest, playtime and recreation should be set aside for them in order to make fresh in mind and body. Parents are therefore urged to give their children a period of taking a rest, playtime and mental recreation even if not a complete rest.

Translated by Arakan Sein

HE U Soe Lynn Han presents Credentials to His Royal Highness Grand Duke of Luxembourg

U Soe Lynn Han, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, presented his Credentials to His Royal Highness Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, on 28 February 2019 in Luxembourg.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued on Tuesday 5 March 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers has been fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and isolated in Mandalay Region. Weather has been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Shan State and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (2°C) above March normal temperatures in Magway and Taninthayi regions, Eastern Shan State and about March normal temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) in Chauk, (39°C) in Aunglan, (38°C) each in Meiktila, Magway, Taungdwingyi, Sinbyugyun, Tungoo, Thayawady and Bawlakhe. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.32)inch, Putao (0.27)inch, Tiddim (0.20)inch, Falam and Ramthlo (0.08) inch each.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 6 March 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region, Northern Shan and Chin states, and isolated in and Mandalay and Magway regions, (Southern, Eastern) Shan and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon ,Taninthayi regions, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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

Tourist arrivals in Mandalay Region in Jan up by 10,000

TOURIST arrivals in Mandalay Region in January rose by more than 10,000 compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, with the majority of travelers coming to the country from China, according to a report from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

"Tourist inflow is positively related to a country's situation. The number of tourists from Asian countries has been increasing, and most travelers are from China. The hotels and tourism department has been creating new destinations and promoting more inbound tourism sites," said an official.

In January last year, the Mandalay Region hosted 56,793 tourists, with 29,265 travelers arriving from Asian countries. The number of Chinese travelers stood at 18,436.

There has been a high influx of Chinese tourists in January this year. Of the 67,204 tourists entering Mandalay Region, 31,968 were from China.



U Bein Bridge in Amarapura is one of the most popular attractions in MandalayR egion. **PHOTO: KHAING SET WAI**

"Tourist arrivals from China doubled in January against last year. After China, the highest number of tourists were from France and Thailand. High tourist inflows contribute to the growth of related businesses such as hotels, motels and restaurants, and souvenir shops," he continued.

Chinese tourists account for 48 per cent of overall arrivals in the Mandalay Region. In January, 3,907 tourists arrived from the Americas, 31,968 from China, 16,221 from west European countries, 1,573 from east European countries, 4,359 from Asian countries, 499 from the Middle East, and 1,393 from other countries. —Khaing Set Wai ■

(Translated by E'i Myat Mon)

Locals collect teak seeds near Indawgyi Lake for extra income

WITH traders offering K2,000 for a basket of teak seeds, locals residing near Indawgyi Inn in Kachin State have taken to collecting the seeds to generate additional income.

The forestry department in Indawgyi region, Mohnyin Township, has been growing CF plants and forest plants on a large scale under a 30-year land rental system, in order to reduce crimes such as stealing and indiscriminate felling of trees, which can adversely impact the climate.

"Some entrepreneurs are extending their plantations to grow teak and other commercial trees and plants. Therefore, they are purchasing teak seeds from locals," according to officials with the forestry department.

Thus, entire families from Ton Lon village near Indawgyi region can be seen waiting under teak trees to collect the fruit.

"My family is collecting teak fruits because one private entrepreneur has asked us to collect them and has promised to pay us K2,000 per basket. Now, we have almost got three baskets. This is our family's extra income, which can cover the cost of running our kitchen," said a local villager from Nam Mon village.— Ngwe Oho (Katha)■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Now, see world's largest star tortoise at Lawkananda sanctuary

THE world's largest star tortoise can be seen at the Lawkananda wildlife sanctuary near the Lawkananda pagoda in Bagan township, NyaungU district, Mandalay region, said U Shwe Htay, the warden of the sanctuary.

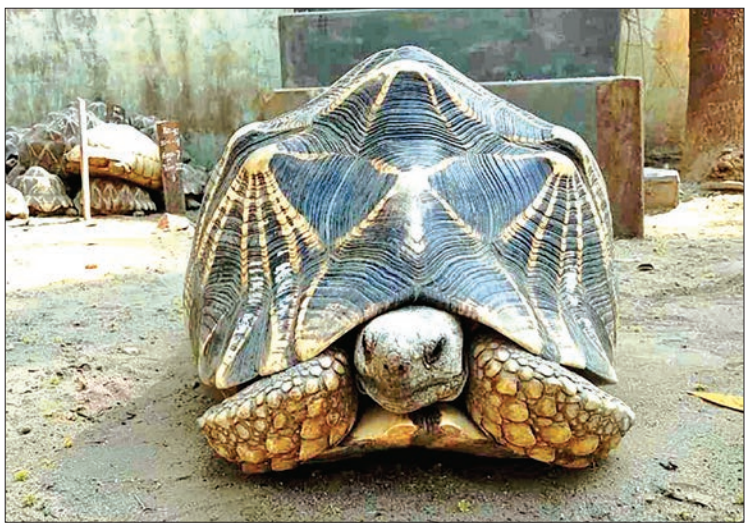
In 2001, 82 star tortoises — 42 males and 40 females — were seized from illegal wildlife traders, and some were brought to the Lawkananda wildlife sanctuary. Some baby star tortoises, belonging to a rare species that is found only in Myanmar, were set free in their habitat.

One of the female tortoises conserved at the sanctuary is now registered as the world's largest star tortoise, after 18 years in captivity. She is numbered 146 among the star tortoises at the sanctuary, and her age is estimated to be 20 years.

The age of star tortoises is deduced from the stripes on their backs, which increase every year, said U Shwe Htay Aung.

The world's largest star tortoise has a shell size of 45.5 cm, and measures 32 cm in width, 25 cm in height, 17.45 kg in weight.

"It is a virgin female star tortoise. The normal shell size of male tortoises is just 33 cm in terms of length, and there are no male tortoises to mate with her. If a male tortoise is found, officials will arrange to breed her," said U Shwe Htay Aung.



The world's largest star tortoise seen at the Lawkananda wildlife sanctuary. **PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)**

The average age of a star tortoise is 80 years. They reach adulthood at 56 years if bred in farms, while the estimated age of maturity is 10-11 years for tortoises who live in naturalhabitats. —Ko Htain (Ngathayauk) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Agro exports up $81.9 mln in Oct-Feb

Myanmar's exports of agricultural products from 1 October to 22 February in the current fiscal year increased to over US$1.28 billion from $1.2 billion in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best along with the natural gas sector. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses, corn, and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Nevertheless, agricultural exports have not seen a remarkable increase in terms of trade value owing to China's tight confiscation on some agro products, including rice, since the second week of October.

The Commerce Ministry is negotiating with Chinese authorities to increase quota limit and carry out barter system for Myanmar's rice and broken rice. It is also working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. — Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon) ■



Natural rubber sheets seen at a rubber production Factory. **PHOTO: KUN(WIN PA)**

Workshop to promote GAP-based sesame farming held in Kyaukse

A workshop on use of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) to improve sesame production in Myanmar was held on Monday at the city hall in Kyaukse Town of Mandalay Region. It was jointly organized by Mandalay Region's Agriculture, Livestock,and Irrigation Ministry and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

At the workshop, Dr. Soe Than, the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, and U Hla Myint Aung, the Deputy Director-General of the Agriculture Department, spoke about good agricultural practices.

Afterwards, Mr. Jose Ricardo Silva from the IFC explained GAP technology. Later, representatives from the private sector discussed matters related to the sesame market, sesame exports, post-harvest risk management, industrial farming, and GAP certification. In addition,topics of use of solar energy, quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, and loan plans for farmers were also explored at the workshop.

Myanmar's sesame seeds are shipped to markets in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland in the European Union. The EU markets prefer organically grown sesame seeds, said an official with the Trade Promotion Department.

There is also a demand in Japan for Myanmar's black sesame seeds, cultivated using good agricultural practices. Japan purchases them after a quality assessment. China, too, buys a variety of colored sesame seeds from Myanmar.

"A growth in sesame seeds acreage combined with GAP has helped increase exports. Farmers who used GAP have reaped benefits," said exporters.

Magway was the first region to adopt the GAP system for sesame farming. In 2017, sesame growers from 50 villages of Magway, Minbu, Minhla, and Natmauk townships applied GAP over 3,000 acres of farmland.

Sesame is cultivated throughout the year in Myanmar. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds.

The seeds are also cultivated in Mandalay and Sagaing regions. — IPRD/ Ko Khant ■

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February YSX Stock trading value dips into K409 mln

STOCK trading of 80,179 shares by five companies listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in February 2019 was estimated at K409 million, which was plunged from last month's record of K526 million, according to YSX monthly report.

The share prices were closed at K8,800 for FMI, K2,850 for MTSH, K7,000 for MCB, K21,000 for FPB and K2,650 for TMH in February.

Capital market infrastructure still lacks. Only 15 per cent of 36,000 securities accounts are active. Stock trading this year is on the low side. In order for the stock market to grow in momentum, the government support is vital of importance. With the support of government, more public companies will be enticed to participate in stock market and more institutional investors such as financing companies, investment banks, insurance companies will emerge, U Thet Htun Oo, executive senior manager of YSX told the Global New Light of Myanmar last year.

In 2016, YSX was seen trading shares of only three companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB). One more public company, First Private Bank (FPB), entered the YSX market in 2017, stock prices are still on the decline. Last year saw a new entry of TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd on YSX.

Over 2.5 million shares were traded by three listed companies on YSX in 2016, their value estimated at K70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock trading volume to 2.6 million shares, the trading value was only K22 billion. Five companies traded K11.5 billion worth 2.3 million shares on YSX in 2018, according to annual report of YSX.

Last year, YSX increased the matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, YSX held a promotional event for investors in order to increase number of new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively by letting know them about financial review and future prospects of YSX's listed companies. Amid promotion events for investors, YSX's trading is still lackluster. — Htet Myat ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Rice exports exceed 2 mln metric tons in Apr-Feb

THE volume of rice and broken rice exports for the period from 1 April, 2018 to 15 February, 2019 is estimated to have topped 2 million metric tons, valued at about US$699.4 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

In the last ten and a half months, Myanmar has shipped over 1.74 million metric tons of rice, worth $591 million, to 50 countries. Meanwhile, the country has exported more than 370,000 metric tons of broken rice to 21 countries, earning $108 million.

Border trade remains relatively high compared to sea trade in rice export. The income from rice exports through the border checkpoints is estimated at $360 million. Meanwhile, maritime rice trade has generated an income of $339 million.

The value of rice and broken rice exports in April-February has declined compared to the year-ago period. The drop in trade through the border channels has been attributed to China's tight confiscation of some agro products, including rice, since the second week of October, 2018.

The capacity for maritime trade is limited owing to shipping problems, port logistics, and financial constraints, coupled with currency fluctuation.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar exported 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth $1.13 billion. — GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers a government work report at the opening meeting of the second session of the 13th National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on 5 March, 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Premier admits severe challenges in China's economy

BEIJING — Premier Li Keqiang admitted that China faced severe challenges caused by the growing pains of economic transformation, when delivering the government work report to the annual legislative session on Tuesday.

"Looking back at the past year, we can see that our achievements did not come easily," said Li at the opening meeting of the second annual session of the 13th National People's Congress.

"An interlacing of old and new issues and a combination of cyclical and structural problems brought changes in what was a generally stable economic performance, some of which caused concern," he continued.

Li said that China also faced a profound change in its external environment in 2018. Setbacks in economic globalization, challenges to multilateralism, shocks in the international financial market, and especially the China-US economic and trade frictions, had an adverse effect on the production and business operations of some companies as well as on market expectations, according to the premier. Moreover, China was facing a complicated terrain of increasing dilemmas, with multiple targets to attain, such as ensuring stable growth and preventing risks, as well as multiple tasks to complete, like promoting economic and social development.

The country also had multiple relationships to handle, including that between short-term and long-term interests, while the difficulty of making policy choices and moving work forward increased markedly, Li said.—Xinhua ■

China to lower defence budget growth to 7.5 per cent

BEIJING — China will lower its defence budget growth rate to 7.5 per cent in 2019, from last year's 8.1 per cent, according to a draft budget report to be submitted to the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC) opening on Tuesday.

The 2019 defence budget will be 1.19 trillion yuan (about 177.61 billion US dollars), figures from the report show.

The rate marks a fourth straight year for the budgeted growth rate to dip into the single digit since 2016, following five consecutive years of double-digit increases.

China's budgeted defence spending growth rate stood at 7.6 per cent in 2016, 7 per cent in 2017, and 8.1 per cent in 2018.

Describing China's defence budget increase as reasonable and appropriate, Zhang Yesui, spokesperson for the annual session of the 13th NPC, said the raise aims to "meet the country's demand in safeguarding national security and military reform with Chinese characteristics."—Xinhua ■

Japan looks to allow NHK to start simultaneous online streaming

TOKYO — The Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday approved a bill to revise the broadcast law to allow public broadcaster NHK to start simultaneous online streaming of its television programmes.

"We would like to meet public demand for watching (NHK) programs on their smartphones," said communications minister Masatoshi Ishida. The bill is expected to be enacted in the current Diet session and NHK aims to start the service in fiscal 2019, ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

Under the current law, NHK's simultaneous streaming is limited to disaster and live sports coverage, as expansion of the national broadcaster's services could have an impact on private TV networks.

People installing a TV receiver capable of getting NHK programs are obliged to sign a subscription contract with the broadcaster under the law. Those who contracted with NHK, formally called Japan Broadcasting Corp, will be able to watch online programmes without extra fees.

NHK plans to maintain the cost of subscription in October when Japan's consumption tax is raised to 10 per cent from the current 8 per cent and reduce it in October 2020 by 2.5 per cent of its subscription contract income.

The bill makes it mandatory for NHK to disclose the costs for online distribution to strengthen its disclosure policy, while it gives authority to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications to oversee the distribution operations.

The bill also stipulates measures to improve corporate governance as requested by a government panel which gave the green light to simultaneous streaming.—Kyodo News ■



Photo taken in October 2010 shows the head office of Japan Broadcasting Corp., the country's largest public broadcaster widely called NHK, in Tokyo's Shibuya district. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

India shoots down Pakistani drone: reports

NEW DELHI (India) — India's air force shot down on Monday a Pakistani military drone that strayed over its border, Indian media reported as tensions continued to run high between the two arch foes.

An Indian Sukhoi-30 fighter downed the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) with an air-to-air missile near Bikaner in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan not far from the Pakistani border, the reports citing unnamed sources said.

It was the second attempt by Pakistan to send a drone inside India in the last six days after one was shot down on 27 February, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

There was no official comment from either side.

Last week the nuclear-armed Asian countries had their most serious standoff in years after a suicide bombing in Indian-administered Kashmir killed 40 Indian paramilitaries.

A militant group based in Pakistan claimed responsibility for the 14 February blast and 12 days later Indian jets bombed what New Delhi called a terrorist training camp deep inside Pakistan.

The next day Pakistani aircraft entered Indian airspace and the two nations' jets engaged in aerial dogfights, with at least one Indian aircraft shot down and its pilot captured by Pakistan.

The pilot was handed back to India last Friday in what Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan called a "peace gesture", easing tensions and soothing international alarm.

Both sides have continued to fire artillery and mortars over their de-facto border in Kashmir, the Line of Control (LoC), killing several civilians on both sides.

This continued on Monday, both countries said, but no new casualties were reported. Pakistan said a soldier killed on Saturday was "buried with full military honour for defending the motherland".—AFP ■

Ocean heatwaves devastate wildlife, worse to come

PARIS (France) — Invisible to people but deadly to marine life, ocean heatwaves have damaged ecosystems across the globe and are poised to become even more destructive, according to the first study to measure worldwide impacts with a single yardstick.

The number of marine heatwave days has increased by more than 50 per cent since the mid-20th century, researchers reported in the journal Nature Climate Change.

"Globally, marine heatwaves are becoming more frequent and prolonged, and record-breaking events have been observed in most ocean basins in the past decade," said lead author Dan Smale, a researcher at the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth, Britain.

Above the ocean watermark, on Earth's surface, 18 of the last 19 years have been the warmest on record, leading to more severe storms, droughts, heatwaves and flooding.



Globally, marine heatwaves are becoming more frequent and prolonged, and record-breaking events have been observed in most ocean basins in the past decade. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Just as atmospheric heatwaves can destroy crops, forests and animal populations, marine heatwaves can devastate ocean ecosystems," Smale told AFP. Compared to hot spells over land, which have claimed tens of thousands of lives since the start of the century, ocean heatwaves have received scant scientific attention.

But sustained spikes in sea-surface temperatures can also have devastating consequences.

A 10-week marine heatwave near western Australia in 2011, for example, shattered an entire ecosystem and permanently pushed commercial fish species into colder waters.

Corals have been the marquee victims of shallow-water heatwaves, and face a bleak future. Even if humanity manages to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius — mission impossible, according to some scientists — up to 90 percent of corals are likely to die, the UN's top climate science body said in October. But other bedrock species have suffered too: the 2011 surge of heat killed off large swathes of seagrass meadows and kelp forests, along with the finfish and abalone that depend on them.

Heat sponge

Another ocean hot spell off the coast of California warmed waters by 6 C (10.8 F) and lasted for more than a year.

Known at "The Blob", it generated toxic algae blooms, caused the closure of crab fisheries, and led to the death of sea lions, whales and sea birds.

More frequent and intense ocean heatwaves also have a direct impact on people by reducing fisheries harvests and adding to global warming, the researchers noted.

"Species of fish and crustaceans targeted for human consumption may be locally wiped out," Smale said.

"And carbon stored by sea grasses and mangroves may be released if they are hit by extreme temperatures."

To determine the full extent of marine heatwave impacts across different oceans, Smale and an international team from 19 research centres crunched data from more than 1,000 field studies that reported on how organisms and ecosystem responded.

By definition, marine heatwaves last at least five days. Sea water temperatures for a given location are "extremely high" — the top 5-to-10 per cent on record for that time and place. "Marine heatwaves can penetrate to hundreds of metres, though for our analysis we used data which only captures warming at the surface," Smale said.

As manmade global warming heats the planet, oceans have absorbed some 90 per cent of the extra heat generated.

Without that heat sponge, air temperatures would be intolerably higher. Even if humanity does manage to cap global warming at "well below" 2˚C (3.6 F), as called for in the Paris climate treaty, marine heatwaves will sharply increase in frequency, intensity and duration, earlier research has shown.—AFP ■

Philippines seizes 1,500 rare turtles in luggage

MANILA (Philippines) — Some 1,500 live exotic turtles — some restrained with duct-tape — have been found inside an airline passenger's luggage, Philippines authorities said on Monday, as they vowed a crackdown on the lucrative wildlife trade.

The Philippines is a major source and transit point of wildlife trafficking, according to a 2018 report by the US State Department.

The turtles and tortoises were found at Manila airport on Sunday in the luggage of a Filipino passenger, who had arrived from Hong Kong, hidden among clothes and shoes.

The person fled before authorities could confront him, customs officials said. "We saw the images from the x-ray (machine)," Manila airport customs chief Carmelita Talusan told AFP. "We never expected it would reach as many as 1,530," Talusan said.

"Our staff were taking care not to hurt them because duct tape was used to immobilise the turtles."

Talusan said the matter was under investigation and authorities had identified the passenger, who could face charges of violating the nation's illegal wildlife trading law, which carry a maximum two years in prison. —AFP ■



The turtles and tortoises were found at Manila airport on Sunday in the luggage of a Filipino passenger, hidden among clothes and shoes. **PHOTO: AFP**

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Crystal fountains to be built on the Champs-Elysees

PARIS (France) — Two French artists are set to install six 13-metre (42-foot) rotating fountains made of crystal and bronze on the Champs-Elysees, adding a new attraction to the famed French avenue.

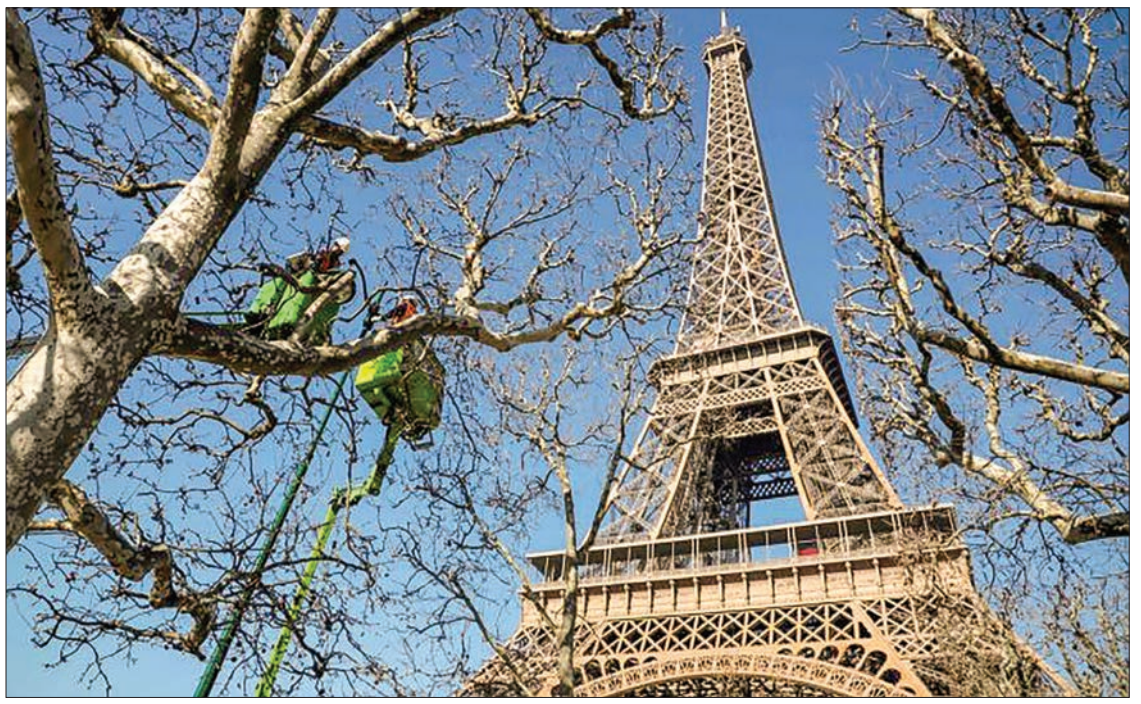
The fountains by brothers Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec will, to be inaugurated on 21 March, will grace a busy roundabout known as the Rond-Point des Champs-Elysees which lies about halfway up the boulevard.

Paid for with private funds, the translucent fountains will replace older water features and operate from April to October.

Early pictures of the project, which includes a renovation of the underground hydraulic system and will cost a total of 6.3 million euros ($ 7.1 million), were published exclusively in the *Paris Match* magazine.

"These six units will go round and round in a choreography," Ronan Bouroullec told AFP, mimicking the movement of the cars moving around the major junction on the Champs-Elysees.

Modern art installations in Paris have proved controversial in the past, notably a work by Jeff Koons which was created by the US artist as a tribute to victims of the 2015 terror attacks in the City of Light. The high-profile project — a giant hand holding multicoloured flowers — was denounced over its aesthetics and 3.5 million euro ($4 million) price tag. After lengthy deliberations, city authorities decided in October that the work will be installed in a garden of the Petit Palais exhibition space near to the Champs-Elysees.—AFP ■



Two French artists are set to install six 13-metre rotating fountains made of crystal and bronze on the Champs-Elysees, adding a new attraction to the famed French avenue. **PHOTO: AFP**

Teeny tiny handbag becomes a fashion sensation

PARIS (France) — It's so small wags joke that it can only hold a single Tic Tac, but French brand Jacquemus' teeny weeny bag, "Le Mini Chiquito", is arguably the biggest thing at Paris fashion week.

Never has something so tiny excited so much fashion passion — and hilarity — on social media.

The handbag — or should we say fingerbag — made its debut last week on the opening night of the Paris shows.

A shrunken version of the miniature and already cult $500 (440-euro) "Le Chiquito" bag — which the likes of Rihanna and Kim Kardashian have been spotted clutching between their thumb and forefingers — it is a mere 5.2 centimetres (two inches) long.



A model kisses a tiny Mini Chiquito handbag before the Jacquemus Paris fashion show My little treasure: A model kisses a tiny Mini Chiquito handbag before the Jacquemus Paris fashion show. **PHOTO: AFP**

Jacquemus has sold "tens of thousands" of Le Chiquito bags in the last year, according to Cosmopolitan magazine, with fashionistas so desperate to get their fingers on them that there are lengthy waiting lists for some colours.

Although the brand told AFP that they have yet to set a price for Le Mini Chiquito, if the reaction on Instagram and Twitter is anything to go by, demand could be equally brisk.

Fashion insiders have been laughing at themselves as they lap up the latest Lilliputian trend.

The hip style magazine Dazed declared "Jacquemus, your tiny bags are getting kind of ridiculous but we love them!" while Elle magazine headlined it as the "New It Bag" before quickly admitting that it can only hold an AirPod earphone. —AFP ■



It's cold outside: Chanel was showing its autumn winter line at Paris fashion week. **PHOTO:AFP**

Chanel brings out stars to honour Lagerfeld's final collection

PARIS (France) — Chanel paid a classy tribute to Karl Lagerfeld Tuesday as it presented his final collection at the Grand Palais in Paris, the scene of some of the legendary designer's greatest triumphs. With fashionistas and Hollywood stars Kristen Stewart and Marion Cotillard in mourning black — and Penelope Cruz on the runway — Chanel turned the Grand Palais into an Alpine wonderland for the show.

The vast vaulted venue where the "Kaiser" loved to stage his mega-shows became a set worthy of Lagerfeld at his showman best, with a dozen chalets with smoking chimneys and drifts of springy artificial snow.

The workaholic creator, the most prolific of the past century, died aged 85 on February 19, less than a month after missing a Chanel haute couture show at the Grand Palais.

The tribute began with models gathering on the steps of the grandest chalet to observe a minute's silence in honour of the German-born dandy who led the iconic French house for nearly four decades.

In something of a minor miracle in a world where the smartphone rules, not one rang.

Then Lagerfeld's voice was played, with him recalling how Britain's Queen Elizabeth II said that arriving at Chanel was "like walking into a painting" -- something which could equally be said of the set of his final show.

Wit from the grave

Next was a flash of the razor wit that won Lagerfeld so many fans — and foes.

"When they offered me the job (at Chanel)," Lagerfeld lisped, "everyone told me, 'Don't take it, it's rubbish, it's finished.'

"When they offered it a second time I accepted because everyone was saying that it couldn't be done and would never work..."

Thirty-seven years later Chanel is the second most profitable luxury brand in the world with sales of $9.62 billion in 2017.

The iconic fashion house most closely associated with the designer dubbed "the Sun King of Fashion" set an upbeat tone for the show from the start.

Guests including actress Monica Bellucci, South Korean singer Jennie Kim and supermodels Claudia Schiffer and Naomi Campbell, were given a drawing by Lagerfeld of him with the brand's founder Coco Chanel bearing the legend: "The beat goes on."

Lagerfeld's friends had insisted that the famously straight-talking creator would have detested a lachrymous display of grief.—AFP

Russian scientists plan expedition with National Geographic to Severnaya Zemlya

ARKHANGELSK — Russia's Northern branch of the hydro-meteorology service (UGMS) jointly with the National Geographic magazine plans an expedition to Severnaya Zemlya.

The expedition will be on board the Professor Molchanov scientific vessel, the hydro-meteorology service's head, Roman Yershov, told TASS on Monday.

"On board the Professor Molchanov we plan an expedition <...> to Severnaya Zemlya," he said. "The expedition is organized jointly with National Geographic with Enric Sala."

The expedition is planned for late August — September, 2019, he continued.

"It will be similar to the expedition of 2013 to Franz Josef Land, a complex expedition, but this time it will be to Severnaya Zemlya," he added.



PHOTO:TASS

In 2013, the Russian Arctic National Park participated in a joint expedition on board the Polaris to the Franz Josef Land Archipelago. National Geographic USA published an article about the archipelago.—Tass ■

'London patient': second case ever of HIV remission

PARIS (France) —A second person is in sustained remission from HIV-1, the virus that causes AIDS, after ceasing treatment and is likely cured, researchers were set to announce at a medical conference on Tuesday.

Ten years after the first confirmed case of an HIV-infected person being rid of the deadly disease, a man known only as the "London patient" has shown no sign of the virus for nearly 19 months, they reported in the journal *Nature*.

Both patients had received bone marrow transplants to treat blood cancers, receiving stem cells from donors with a rare genetic mutation that prevents HIV from taking hold.

"By achieving remission in a second patient using a similar approach, we have shown that the Berlin patient was not an anomaly," said lead author Ravindra Gupta, a professor at the University of Cambridge, referring to the first known functional cure.

Millions of people infected with HIV around the world keep the disease in check with so-called antiretroviral therapy (ARV), but the treatment does not rid patients of the virus.

"At the moment, the only way to treat HIV is with medications that suppress the virus, which people need to take for their entire lives," said Gupta.

"This poses a particular challenge in developing countries," where millions are still not receiving adequate treatment, he added.

Close to 37 million people are living with HIV worldwide, but only 59 per cent are receiving ARV. Nearly one million people die every year from HIV-related causes. A new drug-resistant form of HIV is also a growing concern. Gupta and his team emphasised that bone marrow transplant — a dangerous and painful procedure — is not a viable option for HIV treatment.

But a second instance of remission and likely cure following such a transplant will help scientists narrow the range of treatment strategies, he and others said.

'A cure is feasible'

"The second case strengthens the idea that a cure is feasible," Sharon R Lewin, director of the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity and the University of Melbourne, told AFP. "We can try to tease out which part of the transplant might have made a difference here, and allowed this man to stop his anti-viral drugs."

The International AIDS Society said in a statement on Tuesday that results from the second patient "reaffirm our belief that there exists a proof of concept that HIV is curable".

Both the London and Berlin patients received stem cell transplants from donors carrying a genetic mutation that prevents expression of an HIV receptor, known as CCR5.

"Finding a way to eliminate the virus entirely is an urgent global priority, but is particularly difficult because the virus integrates into the white blood cells of its host," Gupta explained.

The study describes an anonymous male patient in Britain who was diagnosed with HIV infection in 2003 and has been on antiretroviral therapy since 2012.

Later that year, he was diagnosed with advanced Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a deadly cancer.

He underwent a so-called haematopoietic stem cell transplant in 2016 from a donor with two copies of a CCR5 gene variant, a combination carried by about one percent of the world population. CCR5 is the most commonly used receptor by HIV-1. People who have two mutated copies of CCR5 are resistant to most HIV-1 virus strains, frustrating the virus' attempts to enter host cells. As with cancer, chemotherapy can be effective against HIV as it kills cells that are dividing.

But replacing immune cells with those that do not have the CCR5 receptor appears to be key in preventing HIV from rebounding after the treatment.

After the bone marrow transplant, the London patient remained on ARV for 16 months, at which point ARV treatment was stopped. Regular testing has confirmed that the patient's viral load remained undetectable since then. Timothy Brown, the "Berlin patient", was given two transplants and underwent total body irradiation to treat leukaemia, while the British patient received just one transplant and less intensive chemotherapy.

"I did not want to be the only person in the world cured of HIV," Brown wrote in a medical journal in 2015, explaining why he decided to reveal his identity. The research team for the London patient will present their findings at the annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Seattle, Washington.— AFP ■

Eating allium vegetables lowers risk of colorectal cancer: study

BEIJING — A recent Chinese study found that eating more allium vegetables may slash the risk of getting colorectal cancer.

Researchers from the First Hospital of China Medical University in Shenyang, Liaoning Province conducted case-control study from June 2009 to November 2011 in three local hospitals.

A total of 833 colorectal cancer patients were enrolled in the study and 833 healthy volunteers in control group. Demographic and dietary information was collected via food frequency questionnaire and face-to-face interviews.

A case-control study is a retrospective study that looks back in time to find the relative risk between a specific exposure and an outcome. A control group of people who do not have the disease is used for comparison.

The researchers reported on the Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology that in northeast China, a decreased colorectal cancer risk was observed in both men and women who have higher allium vegetables intake, which includes garlic, garlic stalks, leek, onion and spring onion.

For those with the biggest intake, they were 79 per cent less likely to develop colorectal cancer than those with the least. The greater the amount of allium vegetables, the better the protection, the researchers said.

However, the association of garlic intake with cancer risk was not significant among those with distal colon cancer.

According to the study, the health benefits can be observed when one eats about 16 kg of allium vegetables every year or 50 grams every day.

The researchers pointed out that cooking method can affect the nutritional value of allium vegetables. For instance, crushing fresh garlic is beneficial but boiling onions reduces useful chemicals.

Allium is the Latin word for garlic. Previous studies have found that allium vegetables have nutrients and bioactive compounds that can cut the risk of cancer, particularly cancers of the gastrointestinal tract. —Xinhua ■

Myanmar football team enters training camp for Asian U-23 qualifier



Caption: Myanmar U-23 footballers seen at the training ground. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

MYANMAR U-22 man football team who is making preparations for the Asian U-23 football qualified matches to be held on 22 - 26 March have training sessions starting from 4 March. With 28 preliminary footballers, Myanmar young team will get over two weeks for training before entering qualifier matches.

The Myanmar team will play a friendly match against Japanese Niigata football club on 9 March and after that Myanmar team will play friendly games with some local football teams. The coaching staff is led by head coach Velizar Popov, and consists of assistant coaches U Chit Naing, U Soe Myat Min, goalkeeping coach U Aung Kyaw Kyaw.

Myanmar young preliminary squad: goal keepers Phone Thitsar Min, Sann Set Naing, Soe Arker and Tun Nanda Oo; defenders Win Moe Kyaw, Htoo Khant Lwin, Thurain Soe, Ye Yint Aung(1), Zin Ye Naung, Soe Moe Kyaw, Ye Min Thu, Hein Phyo Win, and Zwe Htet Min; midfielders Lwin Moe Aung, Aung Naing Win, Myat Khaung Khant, Ye Yint Aung(2), Myat Tun Thit, Zeya Naing, Soe Lwin Lwin, Hein Htet Aung and Zwe thet Paing; strikers Kaung Htet Soe, Hlwan Moe Oo, Win Naing Tun, Htet Phyoe Wei, Sa Aung Pyae Ko and Aung Kaung Mann. —Nyi Myat Thawdar

(Translated by TTN)

De Gea's career crossroads a danger to Man Utd's revival

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Manchester United's solitary defeat 16 games in to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's caretaker reign in charge against Paris Saint-Germain exposed the gulf the English giants still have to bridge to become a European powerhouse once more.

But that the Red Devils travel to Paris on Wednesday trailing only 2-0 from the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie is thanks to David de Gea.

The Spanish number one made two brilliant stops from Kylian Mbappe and Juan Bernat three weeks ago as PSG threatened to run riot to again underline his calibre as one of the best goalkeepers in the competition.

With Paul Pogba suspended for the return to his native city, De Gea is the one United player who could walk into a PSG side that has divided goalkeeping duties between 41-year-old Italian legend Gianluigi Buffon and Alphonse Areola this season.

Worryingly for United that prospect is all too real with De Gea so far holding out in contract negotiations to prolong his current deal beyond the summer of 2020.

According to reports, De Gea is seeking at least parity with Alexis Sanchez as the club's highest earner.

The Chilean joined United on a contract worth up to £500,000 ($660,000) a week including bonuses last January, but has not had anywhere near the desired impact, scoring just five goals in 41 appearances. By contrast, De Gea has won United's player of the year for four of the past five seasons and believes his consistency should be rewarded.

But for a matter of minutes on the final day of August in 2015, De Gea's career could have been very different. A similar contract standoff between the player and club seemed to pave the way for a move to Real Madrid only for the fax confirming the transfer to miss the deadline.—AFP ■

West Ham's Snodgrass charged over alleged abuse of anti-doping officials

LONDON (United Kingdom) — West Ham midfielder Robert Snodgrass has been charged by the Football Association after allegedly abusing anti-doping officials, the English game's governing body announced on Monday.



Fulham's English defender Calum Chambers (l) vies with West Ham United's Scottish midfielder Robert Snodgrass during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Fulham at The London Stadium, in east London on 22 February, 2019.
PHOTO: AFP

The charge against the 31-year-old Scotland midfielder arises from a visit by UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) officials to London club West Ham's training ground in February. "Robert Snodgrass has been charged with a breach of FA Rule E3(1)," the FA said in a statement.

"It is alleged the player used abusive and/or insulting words towards UK Anti-Doping officials who were visiting West Ham United's training ground on 06 February 2019 to conduct out-of-competition testing. He has until 18 March 2019 to respond."

Snodgrass, signed from Hull for a reported fee of £10.2 million ($13.4 million, 11.8 million euros) in January 2017, has scored four goals in 32 appearances for the Hammers so far this season. —AFP ■

Don't write off Man Utd against PSG, says Young

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Ashley Young has warned that Manchester United should not be written off as they attempt to mount an improbable comeback against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men head to France for the second leg of their last-16 tie on Wednesday trailing 2-0 after a humbling experience at Old Trafford last month in what remains the only defeat they have suffered to date under their interim manager.

PSG are favourites to progress to the quarter-finals, but 33-year-old Young has advised them to take nothing for granted after seeing United revive their season since the Norwegian's arrival. "We know what we're capable of," he said. "People can write us off. People were writing us off at the start of the season and people are writing us off now. It's no different. "Obviously it's going to be tough. It's not going to be easy. We've got to go over there, win the game and score goals.

"I've got every faith if we defend well and if we create the chances that I know we can do, we can win the game."

Paul Pogba's red card in the first game means he is unavailable for the return while fellow midfielders Nemanja Matic, Ander Herrera, Juan Mata and Jesse Lingard appear on a casualty list that also includes Phil Jones, Matteo Darmian, Antonio Valencia, Anthony Martial and Alexis Sanchez. However, Young is confident the spirit that fuelled Saturday's 3-2 fightback victory over lowly Southampton will serve his team well once again. He said: "That's the club's way, the United way. Never say die." The odds are stacked against United but Solskjaer at least has striker Romelu Lukaku back in lethal form in front of goal after he claimed a fine double to help see off the Saints. The Belgium international has scored four times in his past two outings after a nine-game barren run.—AFP ■