SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
Vice President U Henry Van Thio graces opening ceremony of 56th Gems Emporium
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls on Privy Council President of Thailand
PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 330, 7th Waxing of Tabaung 1380 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Tuesday, 12 March 2019

47-member leading committee meeting of 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds meeting

The 47-member leading committee of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 19th meeting at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 19th meeting of the 47-member leading committee of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee began at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was opened with an address by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

The meeting was also attended by member sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and officials of the ministry.

In his opening address at the meeting, the Bhamo Sayadaw stressed the important role of dutiful monks in carrying out purification of the Buddha Sasana.

The Chairman Sayadaw also called for unity of the Buddhist monks for preservation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko also supplicated matters relating to religious affairs, asked the country's highest Buddhist regulatory committee to take action against unruly monks and novices doing things such as not following the Codes of Conduct of a Buddhist monk in crowded places.

> ... It is found today that some monks and people broke the rules for using the Sasana Flag in broad daylight ...

The Union minister stressed the need to enforce the rules for monks to uplift the Sasana.

Besides, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko also supplicated the rules for using the Sasana Flag and suggested the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee to enforce the rules for using the Sasana Flag.

"It is found today that some monks and people broke the rules for using the Sasana Flag in broad daylight. Due to lack of enforcement of rules, the flag can be seen even at political protest rallies," said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister also informed the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee that the ministry would make a count of Buddhist monks and nuns in the coming period of the Buddhist Monsoon Retreat with the use of a digital system.

There are over 66,600 monasteries and 4,500 nunneries in 330 townships and about 500,000 members of the Sangha in Myanmar. Nearly 90 per cent of Myanmar's population practices Theravada Buddhism, the more conservative of the two major branches of the religion.

— MNA ■ (*Translated by Tun Tun Naing*)

INSIDE TODAY

PARLIAMENT
Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session holds 23rd meeting
PAGE-2

PARLIAMENT
Eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 23rd meeting
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
NRPC, RCSS hold meeting to break deadlock in Nay Pyi Taw
PAGE-4

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session holds 23rd meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

The 23rd meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a report read and a motion discussed.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

MP U Thet Naing Oo.

Asterisk marked questions

The first asterisk marked question of the day was posed by U Thet Naing Oo of Yebyu constituency who asked if there is a plan to allocate entry into universities of medicine all over the country in ratio to the population of the states and regions. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the ministry does not handle this matter which was handled by Department of Human Resources for Health, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Department of Human Resources for Health, Ministry of Health and Sports adjust the minimum score required by matriculation students to study in universities of medicine all over the country according to maximum number of student acceptable and number of applications made. The selection is not dependent on which state or region the applicant is from. However, with an aim of all round development of remote, distant and self-administered regions, for those who were genuinely interested in the medical profession and are willing to return to their remote, distant and self-administer regions, regional allowance was provided by the State and the minimum scores were relaxed for six self-administered zones and division of Naga, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokang and Wa. For academicyears 2012 to 2016 three per cent of the total numbers of students accepted to universities of medicine were allocated to students from those regions while in 2017 about six per cent was accepted explained the Deputy Minister.

Next U Sai Maung Pwint of Tangyan constituency asked if there is a plan to remove three staff houses and construct 10 room 3-storey reinforced concrete building or a building with appropriate rooms for education personnel serving in No. 1 Basic Education High School in Tangyan Town. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that fund to construct a new 120x30 ft. steel structure single storey staff house will be earmarked in fiscal year 2019-2020 capital expenditure and constructed depending upon availability of fund.

Questions raised by U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency, U Kyaw Min Hlaing of Ottarathiri constituency, U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency, U Maung Maung of Htigyaing constituency and U Maung Maung Oo of Insein constituency were then answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee report read to the Hluttaw

Following the asterisk marked question session, Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee report was read by committee secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced for Pyithu Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to enlist their names.

Hluttaw discusses motion on reducing occurrence of rabies in human and animals

A motion tabled by Dr. Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency urging the Union Government to draw up plans in cooperation with local and foreign organisations to reduce occurrence of rabies in human and animals was discussed by Hluttaw representatives.

Dr. Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay constituency, Dr. May Win Myint of Mayangon constituency, U Bo Bo Oo of Sangyoung constituency, Dr Daw Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, U Ye Lwin of Ahlon constituency, Dr. U San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency, Dr. U Myint Thein of Nyaunglebin constituency, U Toe Win of Tamway constituency, Tatmadaw representative Maj Win Min Tun and U Sein Myint of Myingyan constituency discussed the motion. In discussing the motion Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said Ministry of Health and Sports Department of Public Health had been stocking up anti-rabies vaccines since 2012 and antibiotic since 2012 and providing free of charge treatment to affected persons in state/region public health departments, central level hospitals and township hospitals while Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department had cooperated with World Organisation for Animal Health since 2013 to prevent and control rabies.

Therefore the motion was proposed to be put on record said the Deputy Minister. As the motion proposer also told of putting the motion on record and to Keep In View (KIV) and there was no objection toward it, Hluttaw announced the motion being put on record and to KIV.

The 24th meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 13 March.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 23rd meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA)

ELEVENTH regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 23rd meeting yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered and a report of an Amyotha Hluttaw committee read.

Deputy Minister Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe.

MP U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than.

Asterisk-marked question session

The day's meeting starts off with asterisk-marked question session where the first question was raised by U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11. The MP was asking whether there was any plan to pay compensation for 85 acres of plantation lands from five farmers in Mon State, Kyaikto Township, Kyuntaw Village tract that was confiscated when a Tatmadaw regiment was established in the area back in 2001. Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe replied that there were now no plan to pay compensation because the land were confiscated under the order of Ministry of Home Affairs, there was no evidence of ownership of land, compensation was paid but was not taken out and the farmers had already signed letters of no objection when the lands were confiscated.

On the question raised by U Whey Tin of Chin constituency 11 on a plan to construct a new pedestrian suspension bridge to replace the 300 ft. long pedestrian suspension bridge over Shinlet Creek connecting Upper Shinlet and Lower Shinlet villages in Shinlet Village Tract, Paletwa Township, Chin State, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied that fund will be requested from 2019-2020 fiscal year border region development fund. Depending upon fund allocation the bridge will be constructed said the Deputy Minister.

U Aye Min Han of Mon State constituency 1 on the other hand asked whether there is a plan to repair the 3 miles 2 furlong section of U Nar Auk road (Kado, Kawnap, Zathapyin) connecting 13 villages in Mon State and Kayin State. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut explained that fund will be earmarked in the 2019-2020 fiscal year border region development fund and the road will be repaired depending upon fund allocation.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut also responded to a question raised by U Sai San Aung of Shan State Constituency 12 on the budget year in which water supply for Panwaing Town, Hopan District, Wa Self-Administered Division will be provided from ground water seepages. The Deputy Minister explained that Wa Self-Administered Division leading body and township/district committee were required to conduct detailed field survey and report on availability of water sources. Based on the assessment of the report and together with priority ranking designated, it will be put on record for implementation. To reply to the MP's question, the work can be planned in fiscal year 2021-2022 only if the work is in the priority program said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly a question raised by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 on plan to construct a 10 mile long Darlin Village-Lon Kywe Village-India border in Matupi Township, Chin State during fiscal year 2019-2020 was answered by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut who said that Darlin Village-Long Kywe (old) village-India border BP 23 road was constructed in fiscal year 2015-2016 and it was still being used by the local. Therefore there is no plan to construct any further during fiscal year 2019-2020 said the Deputy Minister.

Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee Report 2/2018 read

Finally Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee secretary U Win Kyaing read and submitted the committee's report 2/2018 to the Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names. The 24th meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 13 March.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio graces opening ceremony of 56th Gems Emporium

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the 56th Gem Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio graced the opening ceremony of the 56th Gems Emporium held at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

First, the Myanmar Gem Emporium Central Committee Chairman explained about the emporium and displayed exhibits to the Vice President on a LED Display Board.

Next, the Vice President inspected the displayed gems exhibits at the designated places.

The 56th Gems Emporium is the 94th exhibition and will be held from March 11 to 20. At the gems emporium raw jades, finished jade products, raw gems, finished gems, jewelries, gems similar to jade, carvings, gemstone arts and pearl lots will be displayed and sold on designated days.

At the gems emporium jade lot number 1 to 6974 will be put on sale through an open tender system from 15 to 20 March. Similarly 500 gems lots will be put on sale through an open tender system on 14 March while pearl lot 1 to 274 will be put on sale through an open tender system on 12 and 13 March.

The floor price for raw jade lots are Euro 5,000 and above, the floor price for finished jade lots are Euro 1000 and above. Floor price for gems lots were Euro 500 and above while floor price for pearl lots are Euro 1000 and above, it is learnt.

Tax rates will be based on the sale price and is 15 per cent for raw jades, 10 per cent for raw gems, 3 per cent for jewelry and 1 per cent for finished products.

MGJEA Chairman U La Phai Kunsar said the emporium was thought to be better than the past one because there were many high quality gems. Over 3,000 local and foreign gems merchants were expected to attend. He thought the emporium would be beneficial for the country, people and businesses, he added.

Present at the occasion were Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu and Dr. Than Myint, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Amyotha Hluttaw Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman U Kyaw Thiha, Deputy Ministers U Kyi Min and Dr. Ye Myint Swe, members of emporium central committee and work committees, Hluttaw representatives, Permanent Secretaries, officials from Myanmar Gems & Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association (MGJEA), local and foreign gem merchants, local and foreign media and officials. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin signs the book of condolences.
PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin signs book of condolences for former Foreign Minister of Germany

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin signed the book of condolences for former Foreign Minister of Germany, Dr Klaus Kinkel, at the Embassy of Germany in Yangon yesterday. Dr Klaus Kinkel served as Foreign Minister of Germany from 1992 to 1998. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Interim Census Central Committee holds first coord meeting

Interim Census Central Committee held its first coordination meeting in Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

First Interim Census Central Committee Chairman Union Minister U Thein Swe said the ministry will take interim census for about 14 days in 2019 November countrywide from about 4,300 sample lots. The collected information are planned to be confirmed and published in 2020 June. Four work processes of preparation, collection, processing and publishing of a report will be conducted and preparation works were being started.

Of the preparation work, updating of collecting map is the biggest and most difficult work. The sample collecting maps will be updated through field visits and participation of ward/village administrators, members and locals are very important. The interim census will not use paper questionnaire as in the past censuses and will use modern CAPI system with mobile tablets and would require SIM cards and high speed internet. As CAPI technology is being used for the first time, support of UN organisations, development partners and donor countries are also required. Central Committee members are urged to participate and support by providing suggestions and discussion said the Union Minister. Next, Central Committee secretary Population Department acting Director General U Win Zaw Aung explained about preparation works and works to be conducted while meeting attendees discussed and explained about sector wise work status.

Central Committee Chairman Union Minister coordinated on the discussions and suggestions and remarked on conducting the entire work process successfully to reflect the country's image. The interim census will be conducted country wide in November 2019 with an aim of obtaining required figures for Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan it is learnt. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

PHOTO: MNA

C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls on Privy Council President of Thailand Gen Prem

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meeting with General Prem Tinsulanonda, President of the Privy Council and chief royal adviser of Thailand. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called on General Prem Tinsulanonda, President of the Privy Council and chief royal adviser of Thailand, yesterday at the latter's residence.

At the meeting, they discussed the progress of the friendship between the two armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand, the role of the Tatmadaw in peace, stability and development of Myanmar, promotion of the cooperation between the two armed forces and exchange of goodwill visits between them.

Following the meeting, the Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Thailand by air. They departed from the Don Muang Airport's Wing-6 and arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in the afternoon.

The delegation was welcomed by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, Commader-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, according the statement released by the Officer of the Commander-in-Chief. — MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing) ■

NRPC, RCSS hold meeting to break deadlock in Nay Pyi Taw

A National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) delegation led by Vice Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win met with Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) peace negotiation representative group led by Sao Baung Khay at NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting NRPC Vice Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win said the unofficial meeting was held for damage control of problems prior to holding the fourth session of 21st Century Panglong Conference and once the issues were thoroughly discussed an official meeting will be restarted. Such unofficial meetings were held numerous times between government and NCA-S-EAOs. RCSS representatives had participated in the unofficial meeting held between NRPC and NCA-S- EAOs leaders on 13 February 2019. Afterwards government representatives and RCSS was able to meet unofficially again in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The result is the NRPC-RCSS meeting. Good results are expected from this meeting. Establishment of a democracy federal union was included in the first section of the NCA. It was a pledge toward establishing a union based on democracy and federal system according to the result of the discussion. A union based on freedom, equality and justice fully guaranteeing democracy, national equality and self-determination rights according to Panglong spirit. There were differences in understanding and views during the implementation. All were striving toward the success of the work process and an open and cordial discussion is invited and matters to be fulfilled from the government side are to be discussed.

National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) delegation holds the meeting with Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) peace negotiation representatives in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Next, head of RCSS peace negotiation representative group said the RCSS had decided to continue along the NCA path. However, the group was attending the meeting to discuss obstacles and misunderstandings. The main obstacle was detention and imprisonments and NRPC is requested to consider the matter emphatically. Misunderstandings between civilians and between troops will also be discussed. The matter of Shan national level meeting is also another obstacle in going down the NCA path. It is difficult to attend the conference without knowing the wish of the people. Conducting development works is important. There were misunderstanding over drug issue and civilians and troops were being imprisoned. Once these issue are resolved the group will have no difficulty going down the NCA path, said the head of RCSS peace discussion representative group.

Afterwards Director General U Zaw Htay explained about peace related matters conducted after the third session of Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong.

This was followed by meeting attendees discussing about freeing 31 RCSS personnel detained and imprisoned, holding national level peace negotiation, regional development, drug eradication, internal displaced person matters and future peace process works and then comments of both sides were compiled.

Both the head of RCSS peace negotiation representative group and NRPC member Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo declared the meeting to be beneficial and after the meeting Drietor General U Zaw Htay and RCSS secretary 2 U Sein Win explained to the media about the outcome of the day's meeting.

The meeting was attended by NRPC members Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu and U Khin Maung Tin, NRPC secretary Lt-Gen (retired) Khin Zaw Oo, NRPC advisory group member U Hla Maung Shwe, Director General U Zaw Htay, head of RCSS peace negotiation representative group Sao Baung Khay, secretary 2 Sai Win, U Hsaung Han, Sai Han, Sai Oo, U Day Wein, Sai Kham San, U Sein Shel Mai. — Myo Myint (MNA) ■

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with Ms. Norah Babic, Technical Cooperation Program Manager in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Program Manager of IPU

MAHN WIN KHAING THAN, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, received Ms. Norah Babic, Technical Cooperation Program Manager of the Inter-Parliamentary Union-IPU, at the Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed on matters related with assistance from IPU for development of Myanmar Hluttaw and members of Parliament, cooperation from IPU for Myanmar Hluttaw strategis and participation by the Myanmar Hluttaw in the meetings organized by IPU.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw office. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 4/2019

The Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution holds the meeting 4/2019, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Meeting 4/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

Union Supreme Court sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges to pass judgments on four special criminal appeal cases and two special civil appeal cases and heard 5 special civil appeal cases. — MNA

State-run newspapers to increase in basic price

THE News and Periodicals Enterprise has announced that the basic price for *the Myanma Alinn daily* , *the Kyemon daily* and the joint-venture English daily *The Global New Light of Myanmar* will increase from K50 to K100 starting 1 April 2019.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated border patrols

BORDER guard forces of Myanmar and Bangladesh conducted a coordinated patrols in the Naf River and along the border between nautical mile 15 and 18 on 10 March. A troops led by Police Inspector Kyi Soe of Kyekyun Outpost, sub-division 3 of No 1 Border Police Force in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, left from Naval Vessel Outpost (Maungtaw) with two high speed naval vessels and met with a Bangladeshi troop led by Subedar Md Syed Enayer Ali of No 2 Border Guards Bangladesh at nautical mile-15 in the middle of the Naf River between the two countries on 10 March. They conducted a coordinated naval patrol along the Naf River and arrived at the nautical mile-18 near the mouth of Thechaung Stream. During the patrol, the two troops discussed future coordinated patrols on a naval vessel No. 004 according to the Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM

(Translated by TTN)

Myanmar Border Police and Border Guards Bangladesh conducting coordinated naval patrols. **PHOTO: MPF**

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.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with your name and title.

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.

The congregation attend the ceremony to launch the Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Shwedagon Pagoda. **PHOTO: MNA**

The 2607th Anniversary of Shwedagon Pagoda's Tabaung Festival begins

A ceremony to open the 2607th anniversary of Shwedagon Pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya Festival was held yesterday at the Pagoda.

The ceremony was opened with three times recitation of 'Namo Tassa' by the pagoda trustees and religious teams.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from the State Avadacariya Sayadaw and Avadacariya of the pagoda's Board of Trustees Bhaddanta Gunaythana, Presiding Sayadaw of Kyaikpi Monastery in Yankin Township.

Member of the Board of Trustees U Win Naing supplicated a report on opening of the 2607th Buddha Pujaniya Festival.

Afterwards, Sayadaws and laymen light candles to the Pagoda and opened the Tabaung festival. Members of the Pagoda board of trustees donated offertories to all Sayadaws.

Sayadaws and laymen at all four entrances of the Shwedagon Pagoda recited the religious verses to mark the beginning of the festival. —MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Capacity building workshop for curbing illegal trade in Lashio

Authorities, trainees and trainers of the capacity building workshop to reduce illegal trade of forest products and wildlife pose for documentary photo at opening of the workshop in Lashio. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CAPACITY building workshop to reduce illegal trade of forest products and wildlife has been organized on 11 and 12 March at the Golden Hill Hotel in Lashio Town. The workshop is being jointly conducted by the Forest Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Myanmar.

Shan State Forest Department Director U Aung Mya delivered the opening speech at the workshop. He said 50 per cent of Myanmar's legal trade with other countries is taking place on the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Union Road in Shan State (North). However, some goods are being traded illegally, he added.

"During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the authorities confiscated 1,786 tons of teak and other hard wood. During the six-month interim budget period in 2018, the authorities seized over 3,200 tons of teak and other hard wood. This year, more action could be taken against those involved in the illegal trade of timber compared to last year thanks to the active and conscious participation of the public," he said. "The authorities are now giving rewards to those who provide information on illegal trade. During the 2017-2018FY, the authorities presented rewards amounting to K762.89 million, including over K366 million to the Tatmadaw, over K389 million to the forest department, over K1.3 million to the police force, over K4.9 million to the public, and over K1.4 million to the mobile team," he said.

"The authorities also presented rewards amounting to K179.48 million during the six-month interim budget last year. Although our department is taking measures to reduce the illegal trade of forest products and wildlife, it needs to be more active and seek conscientious cooperation from other related departments as well as the public," he added.

WCS Myanmar Project Manager U Aung Kyaw then explained the purpose behind conducting the workshop, which is being attended by officials from Lashio, Kyaukme, and Hopan District Forest Departments, and other related departments.—Han Htay (Lashio)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fire started by candles guts 13 homes in Chauk Tsp

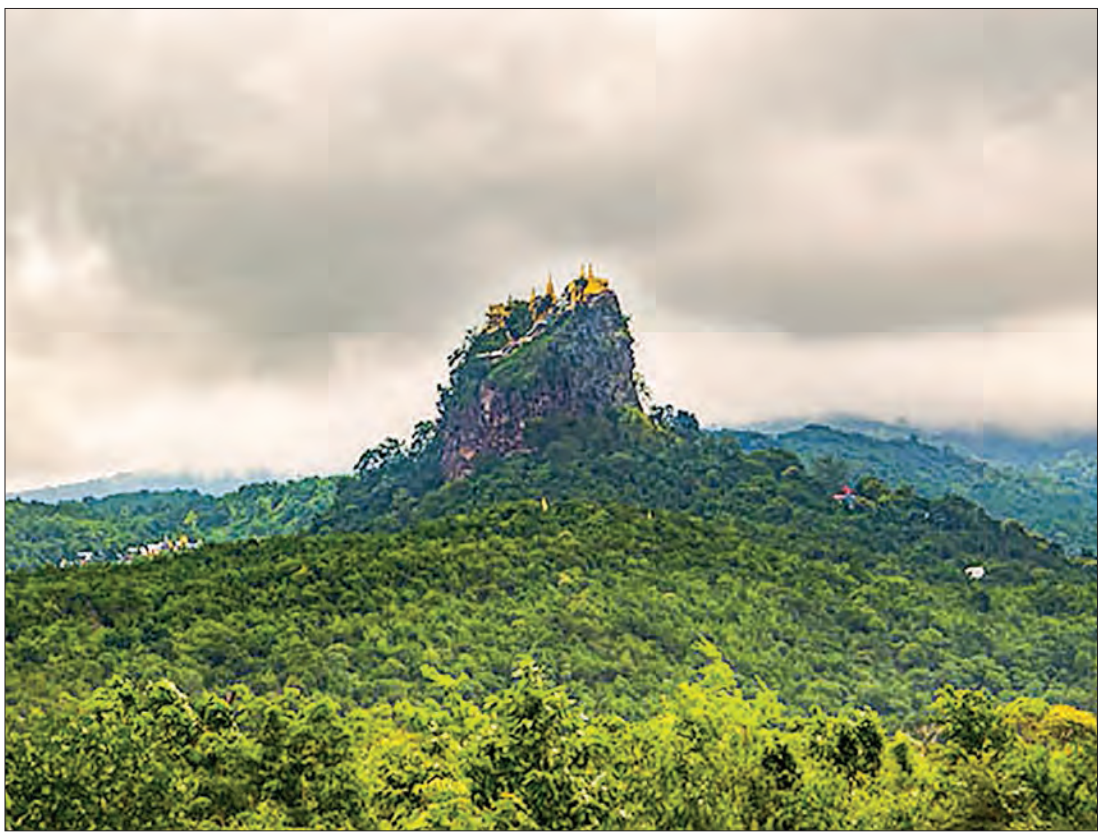
A fire that was reportedly started by candles destroyed 13 small houses in Hsin Ka Village, Htein Kan Village tract, Chauk Township, on 10 March. About 50 residents from the 13 households were relocated. No one was injured in the blaze.

According to investigators, the fire broke out after U Yan Gyi Aung, 67, lighted prayer candles at his home to worship the Buddha. Firemen and residents brought the blaze under control by 10:15 p.m. The fire caused damages to the tune of K495,000.

The police have filed a case of negligence against U Yan Gyi Aung.—Chauk (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Mount Popa attracts over 2,000 tourists in Jan-Feb



The rocky volcanic plug of Mt. Popa. **PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)**

THE number of tourists visiting Mount Popa in the last two months touched over 2,000, according to the site's board of trustees. In addition, several locals also visited the pilgrimage site in Mandalay Region in central Myanmar. Mount Popa is situated about 50 kms southeast of Bagan.

Tourists usually head to Mount Popa after visiting the Bagan ancient cultural zone, said U Kyaw Win Swe, the secretary of Mount Popa's board of trustees.

Over the last two months, tourists from more than 20 Asian and European countries visited Mount Popa, and a majority of them were from France, followed by Germany. Among Asian countries, the number of visitors from Japan was the highest, followed by the Republic of Korea.

During the summer holidays in primary schools, Mount Popa is crowded with pilgrims and tourists. However, most visitors make day trips and the number of visitors staying overnight is extremely low at present.

Over 15,500 tourists visited Mount Popa in 2018. Macaque monkeys found on the site have become a tourist attraction. Tourists like to take pictures of the monkeys, besides buying locally produced herbs and products. Visitors are also keen to explore the geological features of Mount Popa.

Meanwhile, locals head to Mount Popa on a pilgrimage, with some visiting the site to worship Nat (Spirits). — Ko Htein (Ngathayauk)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Chief Minister asks Kayah investment panel to share challenges faced in screening projects

THE Kayah State Investment Committee held a meeting yesterday to discuss boosting investments in the state and creating more jobs for locals.

Kayah State Chief Minister UL Phaung Sho gave the opening speech at the meeting. He asked KIC members to strictly follow investment rules and regulations set by the government, work towards attracting more investments into the state, provide reasons for any delay, and point out challenges faced while screening investment proposals.

Afterwards, Daw May Myo Zaw, the secretary of the KIC, discussed matters concerning land, preparing endorsements, and conducting awareness campaigns. Then, the members of the committee shared their opinions.

At present, 11 local enterprises have received endorsements for hotel projects, while one foreign enterprise has brought in a capital of US$3.18 million to carry out grandparent pig farming in the state, according to data from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Under the new Myanmar Investment Law enacted in 2017, the MIC has delegated the power to permit investments to regional and state authorities to encourage business. The Region and State Investment Committees are allowed to grant permissions to local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or $5 million.

— Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Animal products exports exceed $265 mln

MYANMAR'S exports of animal products between 1 October, 2018 and 1 March, 2019 reached a high of US$265.9 million, a sharp rise compared with less than $36 million registered in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Myanmar's animal products exports are mainly driven by the private sector, with income from the public sector remaining less than $1 million.

At present, the volume of cattle exports to China is on the decline owing to trade suspension, said Mandalay cattle exporters.

Only some companies, which had entered into advance purchase agreements, have traded in recent days. According to traders in the Muse market, a large cow is currently priced over K2 million, while a small one is fetching below K2 million.

Myanmar's livestock exports are forecast to rise as trade of livestock was allowed in late 2017. The country is exploring new export markets for cattle.

Cattle that are more than five years old are being exported along with vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 census, there were a total of 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

An increase in the value of animal products exports can help reduce the trade deficit.

Besides animal products, Myanmar also exports agricultural products, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other marketable products. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

12 MARCH 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Solid waste management is everyone's business

WASTE not, want not. This old saying rings true even today, as global leaders and local communities alike increasingly call for a fix for the 'throw-away culture'. But beyond individuals and households, the issue of waste also represents a broader challenge that affects human health and livelihoods, the environment, and welfare.

According to a 2012 World Bank report, Myanmar produces 5,616 tons of solid waste per day, which amounts to 0.44 kilograms per person.

The number is expected to reach 0.85 kg by 2025, driven by an increase in consumption and growth in urban population, and lack of effective waste treatment.

> We need to educate people to practice waste management in homes or offices, prior to garbage collection and transportation.

Local authorities in the regions and states are carrying out clean-up programs to combat the waste issue. But, we need to do more. We need a system that can go beyond visible cleanliness.

Solid waste management is a universal issue that matters to every single person in the world. And with over 90 per cent of waste in low-income countries being dumped openly or burned, it is the poor and the most vulnerable who are disproportionately affected.

As the population increases, natural resources are over-extracted, waste is improperly disposed, emissions from factories increase, water, land, and air become polluted, the natural environment is degraded, and problems related to climate change are encountered.

These pose major challenges to sustainable development and severely hinder efforts to reduce poverty.

It has been found that waste is not traditionally separated at the source — our homes, offices, or businesses — before it goes into a collection bin.

We need to educate people to practice waste management in homes or offices, prior to garbage collection and transportation.

In the majority of towns in Myanmar, there is no formal mechanism for processing and disposing waste. This means trash is dumped — anywhere and everywhere.

To counter this problem, trash bins must be installed at regular intervals along the streets and in public places in the cities. Waste bins must be emptied by trash collectors on a daily basis.

The collected waste must then be disposed of properly, according to the standard operating procedures.

Moreover, reusable waste can be separated and recycled for further useful applications.

Solid waste management is everyone's business. Ensuring effective and proper solid waste management is critical to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, waste needs to be disposed efficiently in accordance with the present time and system.

Measles that needs 20-hour monitoring

MEASLES is an airborne disease which spreads easily through the coughs and sneezes of infected people. It may also be spread through contact with saliva or nasal secretions and sharing living space with an infected person.

Myanmar faced the outbreak of measles once in 2011 and 2012, and in 2013 measles infection occurred 15 times among the youngsters between 18 and 20 years. The infection was worse in border areas were vaccination programs were weak. As there were signs of the possible outbreak of measles and German measles in 2015 in Myanmar a new vaccination program was launched in the whole country with energetic efforts.

School girls receive measles vaccination in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)**

Vaccination program

The vaccination program was divided into two sectors – school-based program and public-based program. The school-based program involved the vaccination of children from five to 15 years between 19 and 27 January 2015. The public-based program was launched from 19 to 28 February 2015, and vaccinated all the children between nine months and five years and children who missed the first vaccination campaign.

The school-based program gave vaccine to under-15 primary, middle and high school students (including students who had reached 15) of government schools, private schools and monastic education schools. In the public-based program, the vaccine was delivered to all the children of ages between nine months and 15 years, and those who were not vaccinated by the school-based program.

> A vaccination program will be launched on a national scale in November and December this year. Records showed that 1276 persons were suffering from measles in the entire country in 2018.

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, a vaccination program covering children of ages between nine months and 15 years will be launched in highly infected seven townships of Yangon Region.

Vaccine will be delivered through injection at the Health Department offices and gathering points of wards in the seven highly infected townships – Hlainethya, Shwepyitha, Insein, Mingaladon, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) townships.

Because of a major outbreak of measles in Hlainthaya Township in 2016, an emergency vaccination program was launched in five townships – Twantay, Insein, Kyimyindine, Hlinethaya and Thakayta.

The cause of measles

Measles is caused by the measles virus. The virus is highly contagiou and is spread by coughing and sneezing.

"We are delivering injection-based vaccine regularly. We launched additional vaccination programs during the years when the infection rate was high. Mothers or guardians should willfully let their children to be inoculated with vaccine during the campaigns," said Dr Aung Naing Oo, Assistant Director of Public Health Department.

A vaccination program will be launched on a national scale in November and December this year. Records showed that 1276 persons were suffering from measles in the entire country in 2018.

"We never inject children who are allergic to the vaccine or unhealthy," Dr Aung Naing Oo explained.

The Health Department launched an emergency vaccination program in August 2016 in Naga Self-Administered Zone where measles was broke out. The outbreak even killed people in the villages of Lahe and Namyun townships of Naga Self-Administered Zone.

Elimination of measles

A special vaccination program covering Kachin, Kayah and Rakhine states and Wa and Kokang areas apart from Naga area where the vaccination campaign was weak was launched. Myanmar adopted a project to wipe out measles and control the inborn German measles totally in 2020. UNICEF, World Health Organization, UN, US Red Cross and US Disease Control Centre are the frontrunners in implementing the project.

Children who are not vaccinated are prone to measles and sequel diseases. Vaccine must be delivered to a child when he reaches nine months for the first and for the second time when he reaches the age of 18 months. Myanmar started the measles vaccination program in 1978.

Myanmar launched the mass vaccination program three times from 2002 to 2004, and another three times in 2017. Vaccine was delivered in the places hit by Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Full course of vaccination

According to a research paper submitted at the Myanmar research conference, 45 per cent of children between 12 months and 23 months fail to undergo full course of vaccination. Of them 32.5 percent are in urban areas and the remaining 49.6 percent are in rural areas. Among the states and regions, Ayeyawady Region has the largest number (over 66%) of non-vaccinated children.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has launched the hospital-based vaccination program for the children who were not vaccinated for various reasons. The program is being launched in 90 over-100-bed hospitals with the goal of giving full course of vaccination to children and ever availability of the vaccination campaign.

Additional program

An additional vaccination program will be launched in Insein, Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (East) and Mingaladon where measles epidemic occurs. Nearly 600,000 children between nine months and 15 years will be given vaccine.

Normally over 10 per cent of children failed to take the vaccine in accord with the course, and in some cases it exceeds 15 percent, said the program manager Dr Htar Htar Lin. The Ministry of Health and Sports will implement the Outbreak Response Immunization soon after the start of the nation-wide mass immunization program.

In Myanmar, there are children who miss the vaccination programs or who fail to take the complete course of vaccine. All parents or guardians should pay attention to the announcements and campaigns of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

(Translated by TMT)

School children receive vaccination against measles and German measles in Pyinmana. **PHOTO: THET OO (THATON)**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
(Order 9/2019)

6th Waxing of Tabaung 1380 ME
11 March 2019

Termination of duty of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr Lae Lae Maw has been terminated from her duties with effect from today.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. U Ko Lay Win Deputy Director-General Department of Basic Education Ministry of Education	Director-General Department of Basic Education Ministry of Education
2. Dr Soe Oo Deputy Director-General (Civil Service Affairs) Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health and Sports	Director-General Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health and Sports

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 10/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 9 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 9 March.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 13 March issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

Trade Mark Ads
Call
Thin Thin May,
09251022355
09974424848

Report to the People submitted by the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, on its activities from September to December 2018

This report to the people covers the activities of Ministries, Government Organizations and Rakhine State Government involved in the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, during the period from September to December 2018.

A thorough assessment of these recommendations will show that while some of them are easily discernible by facts and figures, others remain more subtle and pervasive, likely to take more time to follow them step by step, until a certain stage is reached to comprehend the whole process. This report covers activities and progress which can be easily shown in facts and figures, but is silent on such factors as social cohesion and long-term economic development, which can be seen only on the long-run.

The third meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group

The Third Meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group for Repatriation was held at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 29th and 30th October 2018.

International Red Cross Society (ICRC) and Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) had made preliminary survey on 12th September 2018 in order to find out possibility of giving assistance to those living near the border of two countries.

UN Asst. Secretary General Mr. HaoliangXu, who is concurrently Asia-Pacific Regional Director and Asst. Executive Officer had visited the villages, already inspected by UNDP and UNHCR survey teams, on 10th to 12th December 2018.

Border Trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh

Sittwe Trade Centre

The volume of import /export border trade at Sittwe trade centre, during the period from 1st September to 14th December 2018, amounts to USD 18.826 million, which is USD 13.649 million more than the amount registered in the same period last year.

Maungtaw Trade centre

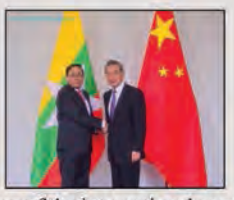
The volume of import/export trade at Maungtaw trade centre, during the period from 1st September to 14th December 2018 amounts USD 2.235 million, which is USD 0.254 million less than the amount registered for the same period last year.

Regional Relations

5 Calls and 3 International Meetings

At the meetings respectively held with the delegation led by the President of India, British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Singapore Foreign Minister , Special Representative of China to Myanmar and Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General as well as on occasions such as 27th World Economic Forum, 10th Mekong-Japan Summit, 33rd Asean Summit and related meetings held during the period from September to December 2018, the State Counsellor had elaborated on events that took place in Rakhine State and the potential for development of the region.

14



At the meetings with governments and representatives of the international community as well as at the international meetings held during the same period the Union Ministers and responsible government officials had also elaborated on events that took place in Rakhine State and co-operative efforts scheduled to be made for the region's development.

Special Envoy of the UN. Secretary-General visited Myanmar

Ms. Christine Burgener, Special Envoy of the UN. Secretary-General visited Myanmar during the period from October to December 2018 and met with the State Counsellor. She had also visited Maung Taw township, Rakhine State, and Myitkyina township, Kachin State and met with local people in connection with regional stability, peace and development.

Implementation of the Commission's Recommendations

The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has submitted its reports to the people via the public media, in accordance with its terms of reference. The first report was submitted in February 2018, the second report in June 2018 and the third report in October 2018.

The Committee is privileged to mention in this report that it will continue with its all-out efforts for stability, peace and development of Rakhine State.

15

Over 725,000 take matriculation exam on 5th day

A total of 725,701 students appeared for the matriculation exam for Chemistry for the 2018-2019 academic year at exam centres in Myanmar and overseas yesterday.

The number of exam centres totalled 1,870, with 20 based overseas and 1,850 across the country.

On the fifth day of the matriculation exam, 725,701 of the total 763,643 students registered across Myanmar took the test, while 37,942 students remained absent. Thus, 95.03 per cent of the students took the examination yesterday.

Of the total students, 119 are taking the exam from the hospital, 11 are hearing impaired, 101 have physical disabilities, 105 are in prison, and 118 are from Myawady Township, Kayin State. —MNA/*(Translated by TTN)*

Sagaing looks to Japan for help in managing, disposing waste

The Sagaing Region's Development Affairs Committee is coordinating with Fukushima City, Fujita Corporation, and Mitsubishi Research Institute of Japan to manage and dispose waste produced in towns in the region, said U Thit Htoo Myint, the Director of the Development Affairs Committee.

"Currently, garbage trucks equipped with GPS are going around the region to collect waste, and we are coordinating with Japanese companies to manage and dispose waste collected in the region," he added.

"Waste disposal, which was one of the main functions of the Monywa Town garbage management system, had some weak points, and so, the municipal committee will now work with Fukushima city to get technical assistance and help from experts with the FUGTA company, to ensure better garbage collection in the towns in Sagaing Region," said U Kyaw Myo Win, the chairman of the Monywa township's Development Affairs Committee.

"For better management of waste, the authorities are taking measures to implement a garbage transfer system. The waste that is collected will be kept near the Japan graveyard in Dawna Ward, Monywa, and then disposed in Kaingtaw. Monywa region yields about 130 tons of garbage a day. We are planning to implement the garbage collection project over three years to cover the whole town," he said. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trump to seek another $8.6 billion for border wall

WASHINGTON (United States) —US President Donald Trump will seek $8.6 billion in fresh funding for a wall on the US-Mexico border in the 2020 budget request, likely triggering another fight with Congress, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on Sunday.

The request, which is to be unveiled on Monday, would far exceed the $5.7 billion Trump demanded last year, which led to an impasse that resulted in a 35-day partial shutdown of the US government, the longest ever.

Democratic congressional leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer decried the move, warning Trump that another legislative defeat would await him.

Kudlow, interviewed on "Fox News Sunday," conceded that the new request would likely mean a renewed fight in Congress over wall funding.

"I suppose there will be," he said.

But he said Trump "is going to stay with his wall. He is going to stay with his border security. I think it's essential."

'Expensive and ineffective'

In a joint statement, Pelosi and Schumer charged that Trump "hurt millions of Americans and caused widespread chaos when he recklessly shut down the government to try to get his expensive and ineffective wall."

"Congress refused to fund his wall and he was forced to admit defeat and reopen the government. The same thing will repeat itself if he tries this again. We hope he learned his lesson," they said.

The *Washington Post* reported that the president's request for wall funding will come in the form of $5 billion from the Department of Homeland Security and another $3.6 billion from the Pentagon. That will be on top of the $6.7 billion in wall funding that Trump has ordered redirected from other government programs under a national emergency he declared last month.

He declared the emergency after the Congress approved only $1.375 billion for construction of 55 miles (90 kilometres) of barriers along the border in Texas.

On a separate issue, Kudlow expressed optimism that US economic growth will surpass three percent "in 2019 and beyond," adding that the 2020 budget anticipates a five percent reduction in government spending. — AFP ■

Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed acting president Juan Guaido (c) speaks during a press conference at the Venezuelan National Assembly in Caracas on 10 March, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Guaido to ask legislature to declare 'state of alarm' in Venezuela

CARACAS (Venezuela) — National Assembly leader Juan Guaido said on Sunday he will ask the Venezuelan legislature to declare a "state of alarm" in order to request international aid amid a massive power outage.

Guaido, who declared himself acting president in January, told reporters he has convened an emergency session of the National Assembly on Monday "to take immediate actions with respect to the necessary humanitarian aid."

The move came amid a crippling power outage that has paralyzed much of the country and put at risk patients in need of hospital care or dialysis since it began on Thursday.

Hospitals with generators were using them for emergency care. Concerns were growing that already limited food supplies were beginning to spoil.

"We must attend to this catastrophe immediately. We cannot turn away from it," said Guaido, who has been recognized as acting president by more than 50 countries.

President Nicolas Maduro has so far rejected international aid, using his security forces to repel an opposition bid last month to bring in aid through neighboring Colombia and Brazil.

Maduro has claimed that the power outage at the country's Guri hydroelectric complex, the source of 80 per cent of the country's power, was caused by a cyberattack.— AFP ■

The new Boeing 737 MAX: two crashes in six months

PARIS (France) — The 737 MAX, a new plane from US aircraft manufacturer Boeing, faces fresh scrutiny of its safety record after being involved in two crashes in six months.

The single-aisle airliner, which undertook its first commercial flight in May 2017, came under the spotlight in October last year in the wake of a fatal accident in Indonesia.

This photo taken on 10 October, 2018 shows a Lion Air Boeing 737-800 aircraft at the Mutiara Sis Al Jufri airport in Palu. An Indonesian Lion Air passenger plane went missing on 29 October, 2018 shortly after taking off from the capital Jakarta, an aviation authority official said, adding that a search and rescue operation is under way. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lion Air Flight 610 vanished from radar shortly after taking off from Jakarta on 29 October, crashing into waters off the north coast of Java Island and killing all 189 people onboard.

About 30 relatives of the crash victims have since filed lawsuits in the United States against Boeing, alleging that faults with the new airliner, including with its anti-stalling system, led to the deaths. Questions were raised by experts and a pilots' union in the US about whether pilots had been properly trained and whether Boeing had fully shared data about changes made to the on-board control systems.

Boeing responded by saying that the 737 MAX was "as safe as any airplane that has ever flown the skies."

There is no indication that a technical problem was to blame for the crash of the Boeing 737-800 MAX operated by Ethiopian Airlines on Sunday which crashed minutes after taking off from Addis Ababa bound for Nairobi.

An investigation by aviation experts and analysis of the black-box flight recorders is expected to shed light on the causes of the crash.

Boeing is struggling to keep up with demand for the new aircraft, which offers far better fuel efficiency than earlier versions of the 737, the world's top-selling airliner. Around 350 planes have been delivered to customers, with another 5,011 orders taken by Boeing, according to figures at the end of January.

Component suppliers and particularly the manufacturer of its engines — CFM, a joint venture between US-based General Electric and France's Safran — have struggled to keep up with demand.— AFP ■

Malaysia court frees woman in North Korea murder case

SHAH ALAM (Malaysia) — An Indonesian woman accused of assassinating the North Korean leader's half-brother was freed on Monday after Malaysian prosecutors dropped a murder charge against her, in a shock decision a year and a half after she went on trial.

Siti Aisyah smiled as she was ushered through a pack of journalists and into a car outside the court, where she had been on trial alongside a Vietnamese woman for the murder of Kim Jong Nam at Kuala Lumpur airport in February 2017.

"I feel happy. I did not know this will happen. I did not expect it," said the 27-year-old, who was wearing a red headscarf.

It was a surprise move as the Shah Alam High Court, outside Kuala Lumpur, had been due only to hear Vietnamese accused Doan Thi Huong testify on Monday.

Huong's lawyer said she was "traumatised" that only Aisyah had been released, and the court agreed to adjourn the Vietnamese suspect's testimony to allow her legal team to apply for her murder charge to be dropped.

The women had always denied murder, saying they were tricked by North Korean spies into carrying out the Cold War-style hit using VX nerve agent and believed it was a prank for a reality TV show.

Their lawyers presented them as scapegoats, saying that authorities were unable to catch the real killers. Four North Koreans — formally accused of the murder alongside the women — fled Malaysia shortly after the assassination. The trial, which began in October 2017, had been due to resume on Monday with the defence stage of proceedings after a break of several months.

Indonesian national Siti Aisyah (C) is escorted while leaving the Shah Alam High Court, outside Kuala Lumpur on 11 March, 2019 after her trial for her alleged role in the assassination of Kim Jong Nam, the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. An Indonesian woman accused of assassinating the North Korean leader's half-brother was to be freed on 11 March after a prosecutor withdrew a murder charge against her, a judge said. **PHOTO: AFP**

But at the start of the hearing, prosecutor Muhammad Iskandar Ahmad requested that the murder charge against Aisyah be withdrawn and that she be given a discharge, without providing a reason.

The judge agreed to the request for a discharge not amounting to an acquittal, and ordered Aisyah's immediate release. This means Aisyah has not been formally cleared of the charge and could in theory be arrested on suspicion of Kim's murder again.

Aisyah's lawyer Gooi Soon Seng said he was grateful for the decision: "We still truly believe that she is merely a scapegoat and she's innocent".

Huong 'traumatised'

But speaking to reporters through an interpreter in court, Huong said she felt "terrible" about her own position.

"I do not know what will happen to me now. I am innocent — please pray for me," she said. Huong's lawyer, Hisyam Teh Pok Teik, added that she was "traumatised by what happened in court".

In the northern Vietnamese province of Nam Dinh, her father Doan Van Thanh expressed shock his daughter was still behind bars and called for her release.

"Why did they release the Indonesian girl without releasing my daughter?" he told AFP.

It was not immediately clear why Aisyah was released and not Huong, but Indonesia often makes concerted diplomatic efforts to get its citizens on death row overseas released.

"There has been a long process to free her... since she was detained," Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman Arrmanatha Nasir told reporters in Jakarta.

Indonesian ambassador to Malaysia Rusdi Kirana told reporters outside court he was pleased about the release of Aisyah, who was taken to the Indonesian embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and that she would be flown home as soon as possible.

Prosecutors had presented their case in the first stage of the trial. Witnesses described how the victim — the estranged half-brother of Kim Jong Un and once seen as heir apparent to the North Korean leadership — died in agony shortly after being attacked.

CCTV footage seen in court during the trial showed the suspects rushing to separate bathrooms in the airport after the murder, before leaving in taxis, and prosecutors likened it to something out of a James Bond movie. But their lawyers argued the four North Koreans were the masterminds, and provided the women with poison on the day of the murder before fleeing.

In August, a judge ruled there was sufficient evidence the suspects had engaged in a "well-planned conspiracy" with the North Koreans to murder Kim, and ordered that the trial continue to the defence stage.

South Korea has accused the North of ordering the hit, which Pyongyang denies.

Malaysia had been one of the nuclear-armed North's few allies but the assassination badly damaged ties, and led to the countries expelling each other's ambassadors. A murder conviction carries a mandatory penalty of death in Malaysia. The government has vowed to abolish capital punishment for all crimes, although parliament still needs to vote on changing the law.—AFP ■

Thai junta-aligned party reaches out in opposition heartland

NAKHON RATCHASIMA (Thailand) —Hundreds shouted and waved flags emblazoned with the face of Thailand's junta chief at a Sunday election rally held in territory with strong ties to the powerful opposition Shinawatra clan.

The army-aligned Phalang Pracharat party — which will push for General Prayut Chan-O-Cha to return as a civilian premier after the 24 March poll — campaigned across the northeastern "Isan" region this weekend in a bid to win over voters with deep antipathy to the military. In Nakhon Ratchasima, party secretary-general Sonthirat Sonjirawong said a vote for Prayut would help end Thailand's decade-long political gridlock.

"Today, the Korat people will have to decide if you want to see General Prayut Chan-O-Cha keep the country in peace and move it forward," he yelled at the crowd, using a local nickname for the city. Hundreds of supporters chanted "Uncle Tu!" — a nickname for Prayut, who was born in the province — and were eager to hug and take selfies with their local candidates. But thousands of plastic chairs stood empty and the crowd dispersed quickly after the leaders left the stage.

With the second largest number of constituencies after Bangkok, Korat holds to key to victory "so we have to win here", said party spokesman Kobsak Pootrakool. Aiding in the contest are a number of politicians poached from Pheu Thai, Thailand's most popular party, which swept most of Isan in the previous polls. "It will help very much... You have to have the person who knows the locals," Kobsak told AFP. —AFP ■

China's parliament takes up new foreign investment law

BEIJING (China) —China's rubber-stamp parliament took up on Friday a draft foreign investment law that could help smooth out trade talks with the US as the world's top two economies angle towards a deal.

The legislation was presented at a session of the National People's Congress in Beijing and is expected to be approved on 15 March, the last day of the annual parliamentary meeting.

The bill will ban the illegal transfer of technology and "illegal government interference" in foreign businesses, a key point in Washington's contention that Beijing steals American technology.

The law aims to assuage concerns about China's business environment for foreign firms, but earlier versions of the draft drew criticism from some business groups.

The law "clearly stipulates that the state protects the intellectual property rights of foreign investors and foreign-invested enterprises and bars the use of administrative means to force technology transfer," said Ning Jizhe, vice chairman of China's state planner, the National Development and Reform Commission.—AFP ■

40,000 join first national climate march in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM (Netherlands) — Tens of thousands of people marched through the heavy rain in Amsterdam on Sunday, calling on the Dutch government to act to counter the effects of climate change.

The organizers, including Greenpeace and a number of Dutch groups, said around 40,000 turned out for the demonstration, the first of its kind in the Netherlands.

"The high turnout is the proof that people now want a decisive policy on climate from the government," they said in a statement. The Netherlands is particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, as part of the country lies below sea level and some of its land has been reclaimed from the sea. "We are under sea level, so we really need to do something about it," said one demonstrator, Esther Leverstein, a 21-yer-old climate studies student at Amsterdam University.

"We're great with water (management) but we need to step up our game."

Gert van Rees, a 72-year-old pensioner, said she was concerned for future generations.

"We have seven grand-children and sometimes we are really worried. So that's why we are here, it really should change."

In February, around 15,000 school students skipped school to march for action on climate change, following the example of their fellow students across the border in Belgium.

A second youth march for the climate is scheduled for Thursday in Amsterdam.—AFP ■

Tens of thousands of people turned out for the demonstration in Amsterdam despite the pouring rain. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japanese city works on farming of sea urchins by cabbage waste

AOMORI (Japan) — A northeastern Japanese city has been working on a project to farm sea urchins, an expensive delicacy in the country and elsewhere, by waste cabbages in lieu of wild ones during the winter season.

The project by the city of Mutsu in Aomori Prefecture is aimed at securing a new source of income for local fishery operators when they do not catch wild sea urchins, which grow by eating seaweed and come into season between April and July.

Natural sea urchins do not grow well in winter as there is not much fresh seaweed. A fishery cooperative in the city's Ohata area, participating in the project, has refrained from picking them up during the season. "We want to create a new business model that can give hope for fishery operators," said Mutsu Mayor Soichiro Miyashita of the experiment using leaf vegetables disposed of by supermarkets.

Their challenge started after officials heard about the idea of cultivating sea urchins with cabbages when they visited the Kanagawa Prefecture Fisheries Technology Centre in Miura, south of Tokyo, last June. The edible interior "lobe" of the sea urchin, a small creature with a round prickly shell, is among the most popular items for sushi. After carrying out the experiment between September and December, the city and the fishery cooperative learned that sea urchins raised by the vegetables were almost equivalent of those in high season and tasted good. — Kyodo News ■

Photo taken on 23 January, 2019, showed sea urchins cultured using leftover cabbage at a fisheries cooperative farm in Mutsu, Aomori Prefecture, northeastern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Australia blames firms for slow response to Solomons oil spill

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australia expressed alarm on Friday at the slow response from firms linked to a grounded cargo ship that has for weeks been leaking oil into a World Heritage-listed coral atoll in the Solomon Islands.

MV Solomon Trader ran aground during high winds on 5 February while loading bauxite at remote Rennell Island.

More than a month later, the 225-metre (740-foot) ship is still stuck on the reef and has leaked more than 70 tonnes of heavy fuel oil into the sea, with another 600 tonnes still on the stricken vessel.

"We needed much speedier action in response to what is potentially a very significant natural disaster," Australia's minister for international development and the Pacific, Anne Ruston, told AFP on Friday.

"We would have liked to have seen that the operator and their necessary insurers were a little bit quicker to respond to what was happening, instead of leaving it up to Australia and the Solomon Islands to respond."

The ship's insurer, Korean Protection and Indemnity Club (KP&I), issued an apology late Wednesday on behalf of itself and the vessel's Hong Kong-based owner, King Trader Ltd.

Addressing delays in responding to the disaster, KP&I said a tug initially tried to manoeuvre the ship off the reef but poor weather intervened and pushed it further onshore.

Rennell Island is the largest raised coral atoll in the world and includes a UNESCO World Heritage site which extends kilometres out to sea.

The islanders rely on waters in the ecologically delicate region for their livelihoods.

Experts and specialised equipment are now on site from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, the United States, Singapore and Europe.

They are cleaning up the shore and removing the remaining oil from the ship, while divers were to inspect the hull and seal any leaks. The Australian government has sent salvage experts to assist the response and vowed to help the Solomons make sure those responsible for the spill are held to account. —AFP ■

Advertise with us **Hot Line** : 0997442484

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (906S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (906S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XING FU SONG

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XING FU SONG (V.42) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 COSCO SHIPPING SPECIALIZED CARRIERS CO., LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

‘Captain Marvel’ soars to rarefied heights in N American opening

LOS ANGELES (United States) — “Captain Marvel,” the first Marvel Studios/Disney superhero film with a female lead, has soared to rare heights in North American theaters, with whopping weekend ticket sales of $153 million, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported.

Added to the $302 million taken in internationally, the film’s estimated total of $455 million for the three-day weekend would give it the sixth highest global debut ever, according to Variety, and the best domestic start for a superhero film since Disney and Marvel’s “Black Panther” opened last year with $202 million.

The film stars Brie Larson, winner of a 2016 Best Actress Oscar for “Room,” as Carol Danvers, a former fighter pilot who gains superhuman powers in a fluke accident and finds herself in the middle of a galactic conflict. Also starring are Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn, Djimon Hounsou, Annette Bening and Jude Law. The film, which opened on International Women’s Day, was co-directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck.

Trailing light-years behind in second place, at $14.7 million, was Universal’s “How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,” which had topped the North American box office for two straight weekends. The final installment in the “Dragon” trilogy, voiced by Jay Baruchel, America Ferrera, Cate Blanchett and F Murray Abraham, tells the story of young Hiccup and his dragon Toothless on their quest to find a reputed dragon utopia. In third, down one spot, was Lionsgate’s “A Madea Family Funeral” from actor/director Tyler Perry. The latest comic chapter about the irreverent but caring elderly title character (played by Perry) earned $12.1 million. Fourth spot went to Warner Bros.’ “The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part,” at $3.8 million. Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks and Will Arnett voice the animated toys in a story of love and apocalypse in a plastic universe. And in fifth was Fox’s “Alita: Battle Angel” at $3.2 million. The sci-fi fantasy stars Rosa Salazar as a nearly human cyborg who has lost her memory.

Rounding out the weekend’s top 10 were:

“Green Book” ($2.5 million)

“Isn’t It Romantic” ($2.4 million)

“Fighting With My Family” ($2.2 million)

“Greta” ($2.2 million)

“Apollo 11” ($1.3 million)

—AFP ■

“Captain Marvel,” starring Brie Larson – seen here at a New York screening of the film – had huge opening-weekend ticket sales “Captain Marvel,” starring Brie Larson – seen here at a New York screening of the film – had huge opening-weekend ticket sales. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kane Tanaka, a 116-year-old Japanese woman, celebrates with the official recognition of Guinness World Records’ world’s oldest verified living person in Fukuoka on 9 March, 2019.– **PHOTO: AFP**

Japanese woman confirmed as world’s oldest person aged 116

TOKYO (Japan) — A 116-year-old Japanese woman who still enjoys studying math and playing board games has been recognised as the world’s oldest person, the Guinness World Records said on Saturday.

Kane Tanaka was born on 2 January 1903, the year when the Wright brothers launched humanity’s first powered flight, according to Guinness.

Tanaka’s recognition was celebrated at the nursing home where she lives in western Japan’s Fukuoka by city mayor Soichiro Takashima and other well-wishers. Asked what moment she was the most happy in life, she replied: “Now.”

She married Hideo Tanaka in 1922, giving birth to four children and adopting a fifth.

Kane normally wakes each morning at 6 am and passes the afternoons by studying mathematics and practicing calligraphy.

“One of Kane’s favourite pastimes is a game of Othello and she’s become an expert at the classic board game, often beating rest-home staff,” Guinness said.

Japan has one of the world’s highest life expectancies and has been home to several people recognised as among the oldest humans to have ever lived.

They include Jiroemon Kimura, the longest-living man on record, who died soon after his 116th birthday in June 2013.

—AFP ■

Slovakia’s ice church draws visitors closer to heavens

HREBIENOK (Slovakia) — A young nun breathes deeply as she peers up at a statue of an angel bathed in softly coloured light streaming through a church, and as she exhales, you can see her breath.

Instead of wood or bricks and mortar, this chilly house of worship perched among the snowy peaks of Slovakia’s High Tatra Mountains has been built from massive crystal-clear blocks of ice. At 1,285 metres (4,200 feet) above sea level, the ice replica of Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome is higher than any of Slovakia’s 4,158 churches, more than half of them Roman Catholic.

Although it has not been consecrated, another visitor, Zlatica Janakova from southern Slovakia, says it feels like a real church.

“It’s so good for your soul; it provides you with tranquillity,” she whispers.

“All of nature is inside and around this temple,” she adds, gazing at the surrounding alpine vistas. Englishman Martin, who declined to give his surname, describes it as a “beautiful, religious place, so peaceful and calm”.

Since 2013, ice sculptors have flocked to the Slovak Tatra mountain hamlet of Hrebienok every winter to build a Tatra Ice Temple, or scaled-down replica of a famous church using only crystal-clear ice blocks.

This year, it’s an 11-metre (36-foot) tall version of the 16th-century Vatican basilica, complete with the imposing two half-circle wings of Bernini’s colonnade.

A quarter of a million tourists last year took the short funicular ride up the mountain to see the ice replica of Barcelona’s soaring and intricate Sagrada Familia.

Ice almighty

A team of 16 sculptors from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Wales and the United States worked 12 hours a day for a month to create this year’s ice temple. On Sundays, the venue vibrates with the sounds of sacred music concerts.

“I’m glad to see people crossing themselves and praying inside,” says Slovak chief sculptor Adam Bakos.

The interior boasts sculptures modelled on the works of Italian masters side-by-side with those of chamois, marmots and other wildlife native to the High Tatras. “I gave them a free hand with the decoration, so each artist added their signature style to the sculptures,” Bakos said.

Slovak-Greek artist Achilleas Sdoukos designed and produced stained-glass decorations incorporated into the temple’s icy walls. The building material, namely 1,880 ice blocks weighing a total of 225 tonnes, was imported from neighbouring Poland.

“We tried different suppliers, from the Netherlands, England, Norway and Hungary, but Polish ice seemed to have the highest quality, it really looks like glass if kept cold enough,” says Rastislav Kromka, technical director of the Tatra Ice Temple.

Challenging

With an unusually warm winter threatening to melt details on their sculpture, Bakos and his team covered it with a geodesic dome, measuring 25 metres in diameter.

They also installed refrigeration units to ensure a bone-chilling minus 10 degrees Celsius (14 degrees Fahrenheit) to keep the ice solid. “Cold wind was blowing in our faces from the AC (air conditioning) all day long.

“It was like a chopper ride in January. “Once we were done, I didn’t even want to open the freezer at home anymore,” he jokes. More than 15 carpenters helped sculptors with the demanding task of stacking the ice blocks, each weighing 125 kilogrammes (275 pounds).—AFP ■

Things to be expected of aerospace by 2050: study

AUSTIN (United States) — Flying air taxi, drone delivery, supersonic business travel between continents, and an emerging market for space-based research and manufacturing — these are among the innovations in the vision of scientists and experts in the aerospace industry by 2050.

The new developments were highlighted in What's Next for Aerospace and Defence: A Vision for 2050, a study conducted by the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) in partnership with McKinsey & Company and released at the on-going South by Southwest (SXSW) Conference and Festivals, a platform that gathers innovators and entrepreneurs from across the globe to breed and fund new ideas.

Built on interviews with over 70 industry leaders, Vision 2050 finds that the aerospace and defence industry will continue to be the driving force behind the way the world moves, connects, explores and inspires, and the innovations in aerospace sector will shape the world over the next thirty years.

These experts see a world shaped by the ease and convenience of urban air mobility and widely available autonomous drone delivery, the speed of supersonic air travel, and the promise of emerging markets for resource extraction and manufacturing in space — all underpinned by artificial intelligence and more rigorous, self-evolving, and proactive cyber security defenses, according to the study.

Realizing these interrelated and mutually reinforcing technological innovations will require stakeholders across government and industry to begin investing today in the new capabilities and partnerships needed to build this bright future, the report of the study said.

"For over 100 years, the aerospace and defense (A&D) industry has moved, connected, secured, explored, and inspired the world.

From the first time humans took flight to our journey to the Moon and beyond, the industry's innovations and achievements have shaped modern life," said Eric Fanning, president and CEO of AIA.

"As new technologies emerge and evolve, A&D is poised to become even more essential to our daily lives," he said. He said that it is impossible to perfectly predict how technologies and their uses will develop over 30 years, but these experts have painted a remarkable picture of the potential uses of these technologies; the scientific and technical advancements, regulations, and cultural factors that enable them; and the extent to which they are likely to be a part of everyday lives by 2050. —Xinhua ■

Alzheimer's treatment holds promise for Primary Progressive Aphasia patients: study

CHICAGO — Researchers at Northwestern Medicine have discovered that an existing therapy frequently used to treat Alzheimer's disease might work on patients with Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA), a type of dementia that destroys language and currently has no treatment.

PHOTO:XINHUA

To conduct the study, the researchers used brains of individuals who suffered from PPA and had the pathological diagnosis of Alzheimer pathology in the brain postmortem. Their brains were compared to those of cognitively normal individuals.

Chemical brain scans called positron emission tomography (PET) can determine if there is Alzheimer's Disease pathology in someone's brain while they are alive. This makes it possible to see if someone has the type of PPA associated with Alzheimer's disease or not, said the study by Northwestern Medicine, an integrated healthcare system that brings together physicians and researchers from award-winning facilities in the Chicago area.

The study found for the first time that individuals with PPA undergo the same loss of cholinergic neurons and axons in the forebrain as individuals with Alzheimer's. Therefore, they might also benefit from Alzheimer's treatment, according to a news release posted on the website of Northwestern University on Wednesday.

Currently, Alzheimer's patients are treated with a class of drugs called cholinesterase inhibitors, which lessen Alzheimer's symptoms by preventing the breakdown of acetylcholine, a chemical messenger that contributes to learning and memory.

"The findings provide the basic scientific foundation to spur a clinical trial to test the treatment on patients with PPA," said senior author Changiz Geula, a professor of cell and molecular biology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

The study was published Wednesday online by Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.—Xinhua ■

GDFI France, Mandalay Yoma Energy join hands to promote Myanmar minigrids projects

GDF International SAS (GDFI), a member of the ENGIE Group, will be partnering and investing in Myanmar with Mandalay Yoma Energy to enable faster development of energy access projects in the country.

The contract signing ceremony between Sol Partners, the Singapore-based holding company of Mandalay Yoma Energy, and GDFI was held in Naypyidaw and was attended by high-level representatives from

Myanmar's Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the French and European Embassies, the World Bank, GIZ, DICA as well as national media.

By combining ENGIE's global expertise and Mandalay Yoma Energy's local experience, the partners intend to promote access to clean and reliable energy, supporting Myanmar Government in reaching its goal of universal access to electricity in the country. The partners will implement solar mini-grids across villages in 2019 to 2020, leading to electrification of thousands of rural households. The development of projects will be under the DRD minigrid program that is aligned with the National Electrification Plan 2030 supported by the World Bank.—GNLM

First ever images of black holes to come out soon: scientists

AUSTIN (United States) — After years of global efforts, the first ever images of our own Galaxy's central black hole are expected to come out within this year, according to scientists working in the project. "We're very optimistic that it will succeed. We've done almost everything," Sheperd Doeleman, project director and senior astronomer at Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, told Xinhua at a conference session of the on-going 10-day South by Southwest (SXSW) Conference and Festivals, a platform that gathers innovators and entrepreneurs from across the globe to breed and fund new ideas.

Doeleman said that the remaining work is testing and double checking what have been obtained, after that the images will be finalized and officially announced sometime in 2019.

According to four scientists, involved in the project along with about 200 scientists globally, who delivered speeches at the conference session, the expected images are products of the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), which is a global effort to construct an Earth-sized virtual telescope array, able to actually "photograph" nearby supermassive black holes. It had its first full run in April 2017, collected data of black holes with eight telescopes around the globe, including one in the South Pole.

"We've a goal of seeing something that struggles with all of its might to be unseen, and we're pushing the technology as far as we can go," said Doeleman. Sera Markoff, professor of theoretical astrophysics and astroparticle physics at the University of Amsterdam, said that the EHT images will be the first real bird's eye view which helps understand how the black hole can profoundly impact the largest structures in the universe.—Xinhua ■

Arsenal inflict first domestic defeat on Solskjaer to surge into top four

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Arsenal inflicted Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's first domestic defeat as Manchester United caretaker manager to leapfrog their opponents into the Premier League's top four with a vital 2-0 victory at the Emirates on Sunday.

Granit Xhaka's early strike and Pierre Emerick-Aubameyang's penalty 21 minutes from time moved the Gunners into fourth, two points above United in fifth.

Unai Emery's men also close to within just a point of third-placed Tottenham and now hold the upper hand in the race for Champions League qualification.

Arsenal do not face any of the top six in their remaining eight league games, whilst United host title-chasing Manchester City and Chelsea in the coming weeks on top of their Champions League and FA Cup commitments.

European trips to France for both sides in midweek produced vastly contrasting results as United shocked free-spending Paris Saint-Germain 3-1 to progress to the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

The Gunners on the other hand went down 3-1 to Rennes to give themselves a mountain to climb in Thursday's second leg to reach the last eight of the Europa League.

Emery made five changes from that side and was rewarded with a fast start that could have been rewarded inside two minutes had Alexandre Lacazette connected with Sead Kolasinac's wicked cross.

However, Arsenal were nearly hit with a sucker punch when with United's first attack, Romelu Lukaku turned Luke Shaw's cross onto the crossbar for the first of a series of wasted chances for the Belgian striker.

David de Gea made 14 saves as the Red Devils won 3-1 at the Emirates last season in one of the Spaniard's best ever United performances.

But for once De Gea was found wanting for the opening goal as he failed to read the swerve on Xhaka's long-range strike.

United seemed to feel the after-effects of their heroics in Paris early on, but soon clicked into gear to look more like the side that had suffered just one defeat in Solskjaer's first 17 games in charge.—AFP ■

Arsenal's English midfielder Ainsley Maitland-Niles (r) and Manchester United's English defender Luke Shaw (l) during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium in London on 10 March, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nadal races into third round at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS (United States) — World number two Rafael Nadal steamed into the third round of the ATP Indian Wells Masters on Sunday with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over American Jared Donaldson.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion, who owns three Indian Wells titles, needed just 72 minutes to get past world number 192 Donaldson, who returned to the tour in February after six months sidelined by a knee injury.

The Spanish star is playing his third tournament of a year that opened with a runner-up finish to Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open.

He next faces Argentina's Diego Schwartzman, a 6-3, 6-1 winner over Spain's Roberto Carbralles.—AFP ■

Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp applauds on the pitch after the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Burnley at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on 10 March 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Klopp defiant after Liverpool battle back to beat Burnley

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Jurgen Klopp warned title rivals Manchester City that Liverpool will not give up their title bid quietly after a 4-2 victory over Burnley cut Pep Guardiola's lead at the top of the Premier League to a single point.

Liverpool responded impressively to City's win against Watford on Saturday, rallying strongly after falling behind to a controversial opening goal from Burnley, with two goals each from Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane.

And the German manager, whose side visit Bayern Munich in their Champions League last-16 second leg tie on Wednesday, insisted that the performance demonstrated his team's ability to handle the pressure.

"The message from today is that nobody gets rid of us," said Klopp. "We had the perfect mixture of fighting the opponent and playing football.

"All we have to do is make sure that we stay in this really interesting competition on top of the table. We have no problem with confidence, we're in a good moment."

The victory was also a triumph for Adam Lallana, the England midfielder whose inclusion in the starting line-up was not universally popular among Liverpool supporters but who turned in a man-of-the-match display.

Lallana changed the momentum of the game just before the half-hour, charging down a poor clearance from Phil Bardsley and seeing Mohamed Salah tackled by Charlie Taylor before the ball broke kindly to Mane, who curled in from 15 yards.

"It is not only Adam but it was clear, if he can play like he trained, then he will help us a lot and that is exactly how it happened," said Klopp.

"He is always good on the ball but he is an aggressive boy. The counter press is a game-changer. It didn't look really promising until he jumped in so well done, really pleased for him."

It was a strong response from Liverpool after they fell behind against Sean Dyche's struggling team in the sixth minute.

Defender Joel Matip needlessly conceded a corner which Ashley Westwood curled directly into the Liverpool goal with keeper Alisson Becker protesting furiously that he had been impeded, earning a booking for sprinting 40 yards to remonstrate with referee Andre Marriner.

"The early goal we conceded, usually it would have been disallowed, if the ref had a view," said Klopp. "I saw the first minute it is a foul, you cannot treat the goalie like this. The good thing is it is early, we had time to turn it around."

This was a real test of Liverpool's mental fortitude after a run that had seen them draw five of their previous seven games in the league and Champions League but a test they passed impressively.

They trailed for just 13 minutes, equalising with a flowing move started when Salah and Georginio Wijnaldum exchanged passes, the former crossed and, after Tom Heaton and James Tarkowski missed the ball, Firmino was able to tap into an open net. After taking a 2-1 lead into the interval, courtesy of Mane's goal, Liverpool effectively killed off the game midway through the second half.—AFP ■