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Consumer Protection, Demarcation, Engineering Council bills brought to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Union Election Commission members U Nyunt Sein, U Thet Tun, U Myint Aung, U Saw Daniel Kyi, U Aung Soe Win, U Than Aung, U Min Swe and U Swe Tint Lwin appointed by the President swear in at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

A 14th meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 11th regular session was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Swearing-in of Union Election Commission members

In the first agenda of the day Union Election Commission members U Nyunt Sein, U Thet Tun, U Myint Aung, U Saw Daniel Kyi, U Aung Soe Win, U

Than Aung, U Min Swe and U Swe Tint Lwin appointed by the President were sworn-in in the presence of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat.

Joint Bill Committee reports on bills read

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee reports on its findings and comments on Consumer Protection bill, Boundary Measurement and

MPs discuss Joint Public Account Committee Report on findings on complaints made against private jade companies in Mandalay.

Demarcation bill and bill amending the Myanmar Engineering Council Law were then read by Joint Bill Committee members U Zaw Win, U Kyaw Kyaw and Joint Bill Committee Vice Chairman U Zaw Min respectively.

After each reading of the report Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Explanation and discussion to Hluttaw representatives' debate on CBM loan

Next, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge explained and discussed the Hluttaw representatives' debate on CBM loan to cover Union Government Current Account deficit.

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Consumer Protection, Demarcation, Engineering Council bills ...



Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing.



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.



MP U Kyaw Thaung.



MP U Zaw Min Latt.



MP Lt-Col Kyaw Zeya.

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In his discussion and explanation Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said the government's current account deficits were being fulfilled mainly through loan from CBM up to fiscal year 2013-2014 and it was then being gradually reduced year by year while dependence had been shifted toward the market condition with CBM practicing monetary policy methods. Therefore the Hluttaw was explained and requested to approve the K 1,016.818 billion loan from CBM with Government Treasury Bonds as collateral.

When the Hluttaw voted on the matter, there were 513 for, 16 against and 2 abstaining and an announcement was made of Hluttaw approving the loan.

Hluttaw approves acceding to and becoming signatory of CACJ Charter

Afterwards Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on acceding to and becoming signatory of Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) Charter sent by the President. As there were no dissent against it, an announcement was made of Hluttaw approving to accede to and becoming signatory of CACJ Charter.

Hluttaw explained about Yen 82.273 billion loan from JICA

Following this Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained to the Hluttaw about Yen 82.273 billion loan from Japan Interna-

tional Cooperation Agency (JICA) for urban development projects.

After the explanations Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the loan matter to register their names.

MPs discuss Joint Public Account Committee Report 5/2019

Later, Hluttaw representatives discussed Joint Public Accounts Committee report 5/2019 on findings and remarks on complaints made against private companies in Mandalay conducting raw jade exhibitions and the status of tax received from those exhibitions.

The report was discussed by U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Kyaw

Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Htein Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 4, U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Col. Tin Tun Oo, U Thant Zin Htun of Dekhinathiri constituency, U Khin Muang Myint of Kachin State constituency 9, U Tint Soe of Hpakant constituency and Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11.

Hluttaw discusses report of Joint Committee to Study a bill to amend the Constitution

As a final agenda of the day Hluttaw representatives discussed the report of Joint Committee to study a bill to amend the Constitution for the second time.

The report was discussed by

U Zaw Min Latt of Shan State constituency 1, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Kyaw Zeya, U Kyaw Myint Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 10, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Soe, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj. Ye Tun, U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj. Kyaw Min Han, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpadaung constituency, U Win Aung of Sagaing Region constituency 3 and Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj. Tin Lin.

The 15th meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 14 March, it is learnt. — Aung Maw, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) (Translated by Zaw Min)

Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 5/2019



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein (Left) and Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung (Right) chair the meeting of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MEETING 5/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Com-

mittee 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)

People visit Pyidaungsu, Amyotha Hluttaws

A total of 316 people visited the convening of 14th meeting of 11th regular session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

As of 12 March, a total of 49,859 visited the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Similarly, a total of 63 including 12 trainers and 51 trainees attending women leadership capacity building course organized by Yaungchithit Organization in Yangon Region visited Amyotha Hluttaw on 12 March.

They also met with members of the Women and Chil-

dren's Rights Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw.

From the first meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw to 12 March, 18966 people from local and 1854 foreigners visited the Amyotha Hluttaw meetings.

Those wishing to visit the Hluttaws can seek permission from offices of Pyidaungsu, Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws. The requests should be sent the Directors-General of respective Hluttaw offices 3 days in advance of their visits. — MNA (Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

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



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 continued at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The second-day meeting was attended by the member

sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bharmo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Also present at the meeting

were Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and officials of the ministry.

Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa presided over the meeting and Sayadaw Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka

Committee Agga Maha Gantavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nanda Sara acted as the master of the ceremonies.

At the meeting, member Sayadaws discussed the measures taken during the sixth period of the duty taken by the first branch of the 7th State Sangha

Maha Nayaka Committee and made resolutions.

Joint Secretary Sayadaw sought the approval for the report of the first branch of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the meeting came to an end in the afternoon.—MNA ■

First meeting of Legal Affairs Work Committee on Elimination of Child Labor

A first meeting of Legal Affairs Work Committee on Elimination of Child Labor was held at Union Attorney General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint delivered a speech.

In his speech, the Deputy Attorney General said the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Elimination was formed on 5 February 2018 and the National Committee formed eight work committees including a Legal Affairs Work Committee. The functions of the Legal Affairs Work Committee include providing the legal information, amending laws related to child labour, suggesting to the National Committee on drawing up new laws,

establishing and implement work programs on eliminating child labor. Protection for child labors is to be provided according to international norms and standards. Effective cooperation among relevant organisations are to be established in order to take action according to law on problems related to child labor and meeting attendees are urged to discuss and suggest on what ought to be done.

Work committee members in attendance then discussed child labor elimination legal frames and works to be continued.

The meeting was attending by Legal Affairs Work Committee members and departmental officials. — MNA ■



Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint delivers the speech at the meeting of Legal Affairs Work Committee on Elimination of Child Labor in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney General receives legal expert from Britain



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Sir Jeffrey Jowell QC, a legal expert from Britain, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Sir Jeffrey Jowell QC, a legal expert from Britain in the guest hall of the Union Attorney General's office, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting matters relating to efforts made toward legal and judicial sector development, implementation of People's Justice Strategy Project

(2019-2023) that was drawn up based on a coordination congress on rule of law being held in March 2018, works of rule of law and justice coordination group and sub groups, status of amending Bar Council Act, role of lawyers in development and improvement of judicial sector, legal information works of UNDP and IDLO's rule of law

centers and status of Union Attorney General Office cooperating with My Justice and IBJ's legal support works were discussed.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, Directors-General Dr. Thidar Oo and Dr. Swe Swe Aung. — MNA ■

Workshop on enhancing rural nutrition held in Nay Pyi Taw

AT the workshop on enhancing rural nutrition with European Union (EU) assistance in Myanmar held in Office No. 15, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu spoke of the requirements for food security and nutrition to be conducted mainly in the agriculture sector, working toward planting variety of crops, raising income and livelihoods in a co-ordinated and connected way.

Next, European Union Deputy Head of Cooperation Mr. Pedro Campo Llopis explained about the reason for holding the workshop.

Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will be cooperating with Ministry



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu addresses the workshop on enhancing rural nutrition with EU assistance. **PHOTO: MNA**

of Health and Sports in the agriculture sector to implement nutritious food to be accessible in state/region household level

markets, raising income to ensure intake of variety of foods, food safety and increasing access to safe food that was drawn

up in the MS-NPAN (Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition) under the EU-FAO assisted First Program's tech-

nical support.

Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation had been conducting agriculture sector development and rural development works with related departments and partner organisations and EU had been provided technology and supports.

EU was providing technical support via My Governance Project to monitor and review the project, M&E support to Department of Rural Development, technical support to Agriculture Development Strategy Implementation and Support Unit (ADSISU) and support all round works in nutrition it was learnt. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister for SWRR gives lecture at international relations capacity building course



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye gives lecture at the international relations capacity building course at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye gave lecture at international relations capacity building course held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Zabuthiri Hall yesterday afternoon.

At the capacity building course, the Union Minister gave lecture on the works of Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, implementation of 87 out of 88 recommendations made by Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, recommen-

dations being included under 18 main sectors, difficulties faced by ministries in implementing sector wise recommendations on the ground, challenges and future works.

Next, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung lectured on works conducted by Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) in Rakhine State; committee's organisation works on development in Rakhine State, status of the opened accounts; works conducted in

cooperation with Bangladesh and United Nations agencies on accepting returnees; cooperation by ASEAN and regional countries on Rakhine State development; preparations made for resettlement; challenges and difficulties faced and future work processes.

Afterwards, questions raised by Hluttaw representatives were answered by the Union Minister and officials. —MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Over 725,000 take matriculation exam on sixth day

A total of 725,449 students appeared for the matriculation exam for Physics 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 sixth day of the matriculation exam, 725,449 of the total 763,643 students registered across Myanmar took the test,

while 38,194 students remained absent.

Thus, 95 per cent of the students took the examination yesterday.

Of the total students, 139 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)



School children are seen in Lewe after the sixth day of the matric exam yesterday. **PHOTO: LEWE IPRD**

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Permanent Representative of Myanmar stresses the need of Special Rapporteur to strictly adhere to the principles of independence, impartiality and integrity and to avoid bias reports and non-constructive statements

AN INTERACTIVE Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was held on 11 March 2019 during the 40th Session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 25 February to 22 March 2019.

During the dialogue, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar presented her report on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to the Human Rights Council.

In response to the Special Rapporteur's biased report and unconstructive remarks on Myanmar, U Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to United Nations, made a rebuttal Statement as a concerned country. In his statement, Permanent Representative highlighted that human rights and inclusiveness are fundamental to successful transformation of Myanmar to a democratic society. He apprised the Council of the government's concerted efforts for sustainable peace and genuine national reconciliation, inclusive development, promotion of rule of law, democratic practices and good governance. He also underlined the visible progress in many areas including health, education, and on-going implementation of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Speaking about the peace process, the Permanent Representative informed the Council of the successful holding and the fruitful results of 3 sessions of the Union Peace Conference as well as 3 more sessions to be held by 2020.

He highlighted the measures



taken in the economic sphere by promoting responsible investment with careful consideration of environment and social governance as well as the recent initiative of the government to amend the undemocratic provisions of the 2008 Constitution.

With regard to the situation of human rights in Myanmar, he said, despite numerous challenges and constraints, Myanmar will continue to do its best to take its primary responsibility to promote and protect the rights of all its people. In this regard, he apprised the Council of significant steps taken by the Government especially for the rights of children, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Myanmar will submit its national report to the UPR third cycle in 2020. Being a state party to CRC, CEDAW, CRPD and ICE-SCR, Myanmar has set the target to sign the ICCPR this year. In addition, steps are being taken to enact legislations including the new Child Rights Law and the draft laws to address the issues of hate speech and violence against women.

He underlined the govern-

ment's close cooperation with the Special Envoy, Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General and the opening of the office of Special Envoy in Nay Pyi Taw. He also touched on the setting up of National Committee to prevent the issue of six grave violations relating to the children and armed conflict as well as drawing of a national action plan to implement Joint Communiqué signed with Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict.

On the issue in Rakhine State, Permanent Representative explained recent outbreak of fighting ignited by the attacks of AA insurgents against police outposts which has further complicated the situation. He reiterated the government's commitments and explained efforts to find sustainable solution to bring peace, stability and development for all people, including the implementation of the recommendations of Kofi Annan's Advisory Commission.

With regard to the repatriation process, he stated Myanmar's readiness to receive verified returnees in accordance

with the bilateral agreements with Bangladesh. Myanmar has informed Bangladesh side to resume the Joint Working Group Meeting in April to commence repatriation of verified displaced persons including 444 Hindus who are desperate to return of their volition. In this regard, the Permanent Representative questioned the Special Rapporteur whether she was aware that the displaced persons in the camps in Cox's Bazar repeatedly express their desire to return to Rakhine State.

Myanmar is working not only with the UNDP and UNHCR but also with ASEAN and regional partners to create conducive environment for the returnees.

While sharing Myanmar's concern over the plight of all affected communities due to violence triggered by coordinated attacks of ARSA against multiple security outposts in October 2016 and August 2017, he stressed that a campaign of terror was carried out by ARSA. The seeds of fear sown by ARSA led to massive displacement of people. Myanmar Permanent Representative rejected any call for referring Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC) but expressed the government's commitment to ensure accountability where there is credible evidence of human rights violation committed in Rakhine State. The Independent Commission of Enquiry, established by Myanmar Government, is investigating all alleged violations of human rights and atrocities. He stressed, "The Government is willing and able to address the accountability issue".

He further explained the position of Myanmar with regard to

the current Special Rapporteur, Ms. Yanghee Lee, that Myanmar is obliged to discontinue its cooperation with her and requested the Council for her replacement. In spite of Myanmar's fullest possible cooperation, her failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and her clear lack of impartiality in the discharge of her mandate caused public resentment against her and led to unanimous decision of Parliament in July 2017 to deny her access to the country.

In this regard, the Permanent Representative emphasized the importance of constructive engagement and cooperation to promote and protect human rights. He stated, "Every independent mandate holder or mechanism created by the Council must strictly adhere to the principles of independence, impartiality and integrity." He urged the Council to take into account of each nation's particular circumstances such as its historical and cultural background, capacity constraints as well as challenges and complexities. Highlighting the importance of the accuracy of information in making a right policy decision, Permanent Representative stressed, "It is also equally important for a mandate holder to avoid any harmful acts such as bias reports, non-constructive statements that will affect the prevailing social cohesion and unity in a country".

He concluded by expressing Myanmar's determination to continue the journey towards a democratic federal union in which the value of human rights and democracy take firm root, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh hold commanders meeting

A Myanmar-Bangladesh battalion commander-level meeting was held in a hall on the Bangladesh side near the Myanmar-Bangladesh friendship border bridge on 11 March.

Myanmar team led by No 1 Border Guard Police Force acting Police Lt. Col Kyaw Win Hlaing and Bangladesh team led by No 34 Border Guards Bangladesh Commander Lt Col Ali Haidur Ahamad attended the meeting, according to the news released by Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM ■

(Translated by TTN)



The meeting between two border guard forces of Myanmar and Bangladesh. **PHOTO: MPF**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 10/2019
6th Waxing of Tabaung, 1380 ME
(11 March 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 9 March 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken
1	Information received of Hla Thein and his son-in-law Kyaw Kyaw, who live Hngetpyawlaw Village, Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9-3-2019, police searched the house of Hla Thein, aged 50, son of U Tun Yin, and seized him, together with his son-in-law Kyaw Kyaw (a) Phyto Kyaw, aged 27, son of U Than Pe, and Htet Paing, aged 18, son of U Kyaw Myat Moe, with stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 and WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Lewe), Ma Ya (Pa) 2/2019 under Section 19(a)/20 (a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Shan Lay, who lives in Hmaw Pon Village, Phakant Tsp, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9-3-2019, police searched the house of Shan Lay (a) Chan Mya Htwe, aged 37, son of U Hla Soe Oo, and seized him together with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Lone Khin), MaYa(Pa) 25/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Daw Khin Pyone, who lives in Zalaatma Village, Mingin Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7-3-2019, police searched the house of Daw Khin Pyone, aged 48, son of U Khin Maung, and seized her with heroin. A case has been opened her with MaMaSa(Mingin) MaYa(Pa) 1/2019 under Section 16(C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Zin Lin Oo, who lives in Chanmyaytharyi Ward, Kyalku Village, Myeik Tsp, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 4-3-2019, police searched the house of Zin Lin Oo, aged 31, son of U Win Khaing, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and speciosa powder. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Myeik) MaYa (Pa) 53/2019 under Section 19 (a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Ko Ko Oo, who lives Yadana Ward, Kyalku Village, Myeik Tsp, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 4-3-2019, police seized the house of Ko Ko Oo, aged 27, son of U Aung Htoo, and seized him together with Win Yin Thway Aung (a) Maung Maung, aged 20, son of U Win Aung, and Sithu Min, aged 17, son of U Aung Min, with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Myeik) MaYa (Pa) 54/2019 under Section 19 (a)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Ma Pu Pu, who lives Kanpauk Village, Yebyu Tsp, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 8-3-2019, police searched the house of Ma Pu Pu (a) San San Moe, aged 29, daughter of U Hla Shwe, and sized her with Ko Ko Zaw, aged 21, son of U Hla Thein, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa (Kanpak) MaYa(Pa) 3/2019 under Section 19 (a)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of the places near the Sabeisaung Housing Unit, between 19 and 22 streets, Mahaaungmye Tsp, Mandalay Region.	On 5-3-2019, police searched the Sabeisaung Housing Unit, between 19 and 22 streets, Mintae Ekin Ward, Mahaaungmye Tsp, Mandalay Region (a), and seized Tun Naing Win (a) Maung Naing, Lat Kauk, aged 37, son of U Tun Hme, together with heroin. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Aungmyethazan) MaYa(Pa) 10/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Ma Shwe Shwe Ei, who lives at 411/B, Myoma 6 th Street, 4/South Ward, Thakayta Tsp, Yangon Region.	On 3-3-2019, police searched the house of Myint Ngwe (a) Phalay, aged 50, son of U San Khin, and Wai Yan Aung, aged 29, son of U Maung Win, seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and marijuana. Acting on a tip-off, police seized Ma Shwe Shwe Ei, aged 32, daughter of U Maung Nu, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and ICE at her house. A case has been opened the three of them with MaMaSa (Thakayta) MaYa(Pa)8/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of using and distributing illegal drugs beside the Aung Mingalar rice mill, Danatheikdi Street, Kannar West Ward, Insein Tsp, Yangon Region.	On 5-3-2019, police searched near the Aungmingalar rice mill, Danatheikdi Street, Insein Tsp, Yangon. Acting on a tip-off, police seized Min Thiha Phyto Kyaing (a) Thiha, aged 19, son of U Hla Kyaing, Hein Htet Soe (a) Cho Kit, aged 14, son of U Kyaw Win Sein, and Aung Zayar Myint, aged 30, son of U Myint Thein, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case had been opened them with MaMaSa(Insein) MaYa(Pa)59/2019 under Section 19(a)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On a tip-off, police seized Moe Win Kyaw, aged 25, son of U Tin Aye, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case had been opened him with MaMaSa(Insein) MaYa(Pa)60/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Marlar (a)Marlar Soe, who lives Dana Theikdi Street, Kannar West Ward, Insein Tsp, Yangon Region, using and distributing illegal drugs.	On 5-3-2019, police searched the house of Marlar (a) Marlar Soe, aged 45, daughter of U Khin Soe, and seized the stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case had been opened her with MaMaSa(Insein) MaYa(Pa)61/2019 under Section 19(a)/20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

11	Information received of Nyein Nyein (a) Han Nyein, who lives in Dana Theikdi Street, Kannar West Ward, Insein Tsp, Yangon Region, using and distributing illegal drugs.	<p>On 5-3-2019, police searched the house of Nyein Nyein (a) Han Nyein, aged 48, daughter of U Pa, and she absconded from the house while the police came. Police seized stimulant tablets bearing WY letters at her house.</p> <p>A case had been opened her with MaMaSa(In-sein) MaYa(Pa)62/2019 under Section 19(a)/20 (a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>
12	Information received of using and distributing illegal drugs in wards of Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State.	<p>So far, 14 cases have been opened files as of last weeks, a total of 24 people, including 23 men and 1 woman had been arresting and police seized them with heroin and stimulant tablets.</p> <p>On 5-3-2019, police seized Ma Aye Sandi Moe, aged 27, daughter of U Soe Hla, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and heroin.</p> <p>A case had been opened her with NaMaSa(Taung-gyi), MaYa(Pa)23/2019 under 19(a)/21 of Anti-Nar-cotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p> <p>Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Daw Mar Khun and seized her with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and heroin.</p> <p>A case had been opened her with NaMaSa(Taung-gyi), MaYa(Pa)24/2019 under Section 19(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</p>

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 549 cases have been opened files as of 9-3-2019. A total of 863 people, including 724 men and 139 women had been arrested with seizures of 5831.33 g of heroin, 72.14 g of ICE, 38656.94 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18800.28 g of speciosa powder, 7363.99 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of opium tincture, 222971 stimulant tablets, 6088.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liter of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium block, 60 g of poppy seeds, 3.45 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 16 firearms, 257 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking have been stepped up and the ministry will report on furthered exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.

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

Two men were arrested with a seizure of 5 stimulant tablets and one motorbike near Kyaukgyi Taungthesu, Tatkon Tsp, Nay Pyi Taw. A man and a woman from Tawmaw Village, Phakant Tsp, Kachin State were seized with 1472 stimulant tablets and 1.5 g of heroin. Two men and two women were arrested with 24800 stimulant tablets and two motorbikes in Sanpya Street, Ward 3, Shwegu Township. A man from Saungkan Village, Loikaw Township, Kayah State was seized with 225 stimulant tablets and one motorbike. A man was arrested with 1362 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Ward 5, Myawady Township, Kayin State. Two men were arrested with 1469.7 g of speciosa and one motorbike in Aung San Street, Aung Tharyar Ward, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State. Six men were seized with 120 stimulant tablets in Ywathitkay Ward, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 380 stimulant tablets in Myomataung Ward, Buthidaung, Rakhine State. Acting on a tip-off, police seized a man with 1520 stimulant tablets. An ownerless bag containing 57000 stimulant tablets near the fields of Myaungnar Village. Two men were seized with 6

stimulant tablets and one vehicle at the Taungponegyi check-point, Taung-gup Tsp, Rakhine State. A man with 3430 stimulant tablets was seized at Myohaung Ward, Aungban Tsp, Shan State. Five men were arrested with 17100 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Fatyingone Village, Yaksawk Township, Shan State. A man was arrested with 1200 stimulant tablets near the milepost 24/0 on Pinlong-Aungban Road. A man was seized with 790 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Loilin-Taunggyi Highway. A man was arrested with 1840 stimulant tablets in Nantpatkar Village, Kutkai Township, Shan State. A man was arrested with 1900 stimulant tablets and one motorcar at the milepost 80/4, Naunghkio Township, Shan State. A woman and a woman were arrested with 10270 stimulant tablets in Seepain Village, Mabein Township, Shan State. A woman was arrested with 1000 g of opium in Panmetmon Village, Kengtung, Shan State. A seizure of 2000000 stimulant tablets was seized in the bag of the vehicle on Maiset-Tachilek Road. A woman was arrested with 4000 stimulant tablets in Ponehtun Ward, Tachileik, upon acting on a tip-off, a man was seized with a motorbike. A woman was seized with 10000 stimulant tablets near Mineheat Village. A man and a woman were arrested with 784 stimulant tablets, 10 g of heroin and one motorbike in Nyaungwon Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region. A man was arrested with 6 stimulant tablets and 18100 g of speciosa in Shwebay Ward, Myeik Township, Thaninthayi Region. A woman was arrested with 3960 g of speciosa in Innlaymyine Ward. An ownerless seizure of 16920 g of speciosa was seized near the football field of Kanponmartan Village, Kawthoung Township, Thaninthayi Region. Police seized a total of 1668 stimulant tablets from the house in Ward 5, Inntakaw Township, Bago Region. A man was seized with 59500 stimulant tablets at the Padan checkpoint, Ngape Township, Magway Region. Two men were arrested with 295 stimulant tablets in 12th Street, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region. A man was arrested with 1510 stimulant tablets and 2.9 g of heroin in Haymazala Ward, Chanayet-hazan Township, Mandalay Region. A man and a woman were arrested with 2000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Ngwetawgyigone Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region. Acting on tip-off, police seized a man with 24 stimulant tablets and a man with 42 stimulant tablets. A man and a woman were arrested with 10850 stimulant tablets in Myopyakwetthit Ward, Kyaukse Township. A man was seized with 2100 stimulant tablets at the 16-mile checkpoint, Patheingyi Township. Two men were seized with 11371 stimulant tablets, 0.7 g of ICE in Myotaw Village. A man was seized with 10 stimulant tablets, 27 Tramadol Capsules and one motorbike in Taunglei Village, Thabeikkyin Township. A woman was arrested with 15 stimulant tablets, 6 g of heroin, 1.45 g of ICE and one vehicle Ayeyawon Street, Industrial Ward, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region. Upon acting on tip-off, a total of 2233 stimulant tablets, 99 g of heroin, 9 g of ICE in Yuzana Housing Unit, Ward 94, Dagonseikkan Township, Yangon Region. A man was seized with 39 g of marijuana and one vehicle in Ward 26, Dagon (South) Tsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 79 stimulant tablets in Ward 3, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region.

There has been one seizure of ammunition. A man was seized with 3 stimulant tablets, one air gun and 25 steel balls in Aungmingalar Ward, Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region.

There has been one seizure involving one foreigner. An illegal Indian man entering the border area was seized with 15 stimulant tablets and 5 g of heroin on Bo Naing Win Road, Tamu Tsp near the Myanmar-India Border.

There have been 235 cases being opened between 3-3-2019 and 9-3-2019. A total of 351 people, including 305 men and 46 women, were seized with 375.384 g of heroin, 14.65 g of ICE, 2483.16 g of opium, 2232825 stimulant tablets, 69.5 g of marijuana, 39680 g of speciosa powder, 1559.7 g of speciosa, 27 Tramadol Capsules, one air gun and 25 steel balls.

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

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

Ensure there are no sacred cows in fight against corruption

As the Union Government steps up efforts to combat corruption and malpractices in governmental institutions, it is important that it spares no one, notwithstanding their role in the government machinery, so the message is loud and clear that in the eyes of the law, all are equal, and that things are to be done in accordance with the law.

In our efforts to combat corruption, which has become customary and has taken root in most departments, we must not spare anyone. This is because corruption poses a major obstacle to economic development, efforts to raise the living standard of the people, measures for reducing poverty, and the smooth flow of foreign investment.

People who seek to profit from graft are selfish, dishonest, and cruel.

The Union Government has taken steps to form anti-corruption units tasked with scrutinizing corruption cases, tackling the issue, and preventing graft among civil servants.

In his message to the people on New Year's Day last year, President U Win Myint had said: "The Anti-Corruption Commission, the media, and the people will have to weed out corruption in a proper manner. It is very important that those involved are reported to the authorities, along with any efforts on their part to interfere, with accurate information and credible evidence. To intensify efforts to combat corruption, I have already asked the Anti-Corruption Commission to draw

up an action plan and to make more efforts in this endeavor."

Since then, the task of combating corruption is being carried out as a national duty.

To ensure a clean government and a good system of governance, the Anti-Corruption Act was amended to bring it in line with international standards during the tenure of the incumbent government.

The Union Government has been working to improve the administrative, legislative, judiciary, political affairs, and economic affairs sectors as the country makes the transition to a democratic system, while at the same time, it has clamped down on corruption, deeming it a national duty. This is being done to bring about clean governance, and to ensure greater transparency, responsibility, and accountability to prevent wastage of public funds and to protect public interest.

We would like to urge institutional leaders to lead the efforts against corruption and tackle it themselves to change the situation. This is because we all understand that people in positions of authority are often the ones to commit graft.

Leaders who want to eradicate corruption and want reform must ensure that no one is set-free without punishment for any act of corruption. Only then can there be no corruption.

Beware of crowding pigeons and stray dogs in urban Yangon

By Shan Win Shan

MYANMAR people are kind by nature and we have heart-felt pity on other living things. If someone were to say this sympathetic nature is engendering the dangers caused by pigeons and dogs on the streets of Yangon, animal lovers will be quick to provide a stream of comments. But this is a serious and very real problem.

Just recently a post surfaced on Facebook telling how a six-year-old passed away in Mayangone Township. Doctors say it was the culprit of the meningococcus bacteria but this just left the parents puzzled. The child reportedly took a late bath and developed a high fever. He passed away almost immediately after being admitted to the hospital.

Doctor's remark

When the parents questioned the doctor concerning their child's sudden death, they were asked whether there were any birds kept at their homes and living in close proximity to people. The parents replied there weren't any. The doctor remarked that the child had contracted bacteria that targeted deep into the internal organs.

The bewildered parents



A woman feeding pigeons on a street in Yangon. PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

act of kindness for the simple act of feeding a being termed weaker than ourselves.

Danger cannot creep up on the wary

However, we are living in a

serious threat to phone lines as well. "In the areas where people regularly feed them, pigeons will wait by the hundreds for their daily meals. When they rest on the telephone lines their gathered weight can loosen the fastenings in place or even snap the cables," they said.

A community doctor also pointed their detrimental behavior towards our health. He said when flocks of pigeons fly up at once from their feeding grounds it kicks up dust and feathers into the air.

Unnoticeable at first, prolonged breathing in of pigeon droppings can lead to a buildup of the fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans* that can lead to meningitis.

Curbing the dog population

Another urban threat to public health is the stray dogs roaming around the city. While majority of dogs are benign, the infections they carry pose a serious threat to our health, with rabies topping the charts of annual casualties caused in Asia. The municipal committee used to leave poisoned meals for stray dogs late at night to reduce their numbers, about once a year. But now in favor of humane treatment of animals, the practice has ceased completely and officials are now spaying or injecting reproductive impediments into the stray dogs instead.

Dog lovers strike again as we

hear stories of how they hide away the stray dogs when municipal workers come place poison food while some personally take the issue to the workers.

Accountability still zilch

This is from personal experience too as I have worked in the ward administration section and accompanied municipal workers on this task. We were subject to blaming and profanity from so-called dog lovers on multiple occasions. But when those dogs sink their teeth on an unsuspecting passerby then you will be hard-pressed to find a trace of any own-

er or anyone claiming a shred of responsibility.

I imagine it was three or four months ago when news circulated on the unfortunate death of a child in the rural areas who was pounced upon by a pack of dogs.

In another incident in Ohnne Village in Bago Region, ten people sought medical treatment on the same day because they suspected the stray dog that bit them had rabies. And in Kadar Ward, Paung Tsp in Mon State, 15 people were sent to the hospital due to attacks from rabid dogs.

Stray dogs on the rise

With authorities performing less population control and people protecting stray dogs from them, the canines have bred at an alarming rate and can be found on almost every street of every ward. This has deterred people from venturing into areas said to contain aggressive dogs and has instilled a sense of vulnerability in the general public.

In my own ward there are over 100 stray dogs. Let me calculate on their demographic in the nearest ward and township. Kyimyindine Township has 22 wards, Sanchaung Tsp has 18 wards and Ahlone Tsp has 11 wards. Combined, they have 51 wards and if there are 100 stray dogs per ward on average then that will put their numbers at over 5,000 for all three townships together. We, in this simple calculation, just imagine how much the number of stray dogs has risen in all 33 townships.

Given these circumstances, it is no surprise that people have been calling for an organized plan to address this major issue. There should be more cooperation between the municipal committee, animal lovers and other philanthropic organizations. As a Buddhist, I wish to urge everyone to practice the precept on refraining from killing (Panaṭipata) and increase efforts to spay stray dogs or make them impotent.

Furthermore, summer is approaching and the bombax flowers (Letpan flowers) will soon blossom to realize the old adage, 'rabid dogs breed when the letpan flowers bloom', warning us all to be cautious and mindful of our surroundings.

(Translated by Pen Dali)



A woman feeding stray dogs in Yangon. PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued Tuesday 12 March 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30

hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, Weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (3°C) below March normal temperature in Northern Shan State and about March normal temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) in Chauk, (39°C) each in Bawlahe and Ye and (38°C) each in Aunglan, Taungdwingyi, Toungoo, Nyaunglaybin, Gyobingauk, Yangon (Northern Dagon), Patheingyi, Ngathachauk and Myawady.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 13 March 2019: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of day temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Rakhine and Kayin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (22) miles Southwest of Phu), latitude 18.31°N, longitude 96.15°E, depth (10) kilometers about (45) miles Southwest of Toungoo seismological observatory was recorded at (03)hr (49)min (01)sec MST on 12 March 2019.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Farmers in Indawgyi receive organic and PGS Certification

A ceremony to present Organic and Participatory Guarantee system (PGS) Certifications to local farmers was held at Indawkyi Wetland Education Centre in Kachin state on Monday.

It was jointly organized by Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA) and Fauna and Flora International (FFI).

The use of soil and organic fertilizers in Indawkyi region is more frequent, with chemical pesticides being used more heavily. Therefore, Indawkyi region seeks to be an organic zone for Kachin state, with improved organic farming practices. As the Indawkyi organic zone has become recognized in the global market, it is helping Kachin state's reputation, and farmers to increase their incomes, said U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Kachin State Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation.

In 2015, MOGPA and FFI teamed up to conduct organic farming and develop production

Local farmers attend the Organic and PGS Certification Ceremony. **PHOTO: SALAI MANG NGAI**

projects, with the aim to encourage the local people to conserve the natural environment, produce marketable quality products and not affect the aquaculture and biodiversity of Indawkyi Lake and its environment.

At this ceremony, Dr. Than Than Sein, vice president of MOGPA, handed out organic

certificates to 68 growers of 580 organic acres of plantation, who are members of the Indawkyi Natural Farming Association.

There are 12 criteria for growers to adopt organic farming. At first, 71 growers were targeted to receive certificates, but three failed to meet the criteria. Organic products were sold

out last year during the pagoda festival and paddy, soybean, peanut, onion and garlic are cultivated, not only for commercial purposes, but also for health and safety, said U Hla Win, a grower from Layponelay village.

— Salai Mang Ngai

(Translated by La Wonn)

Yangon-Magway flights to resume from Apr-end

A Myanmar National Airlines's Grand Caravan Cessna aircraft seen at the airport. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NATIONAL AIRLINES**

At the request of the Magway Regional Government, the Ministry of Transport and Communications is planning to resume flight services between Yangon and Magway from April-end, said Dr.

Aung Moe Nyo, the region's Chief Minister. The flights will be operated once a week on Tuesdays.

The Magway regional government had asked the Ministry to resume flight services

between the two airports, and operate flights twice a week on Mondays and Fridays.

"The Myanmar National Airlines will now operate Yangon-Magway flights once a week, with the flight to Magway leaving from Yangon airport between 8.00 and 9.30 and the return flight leaving Magway between 10.00 and 11.30. The airlines will use Caravan aircrafts on the route. With few passengers flying on the route, it is possible the airline may not recover costs, leave alone make a profit," said Dr. Aung Moe Nyo.

"The Ministry of Transport and Communications submitted a proposal in this regard to the Union government on 15 February. In a communication on 4 March, the Union government confirmed it received the propos-

al," he said.

"The MNA will come and build staff quarters and the airline office, once they receive instructions from the authorities concerned. A ticket sales counter needs to be opened in the downtown area for the convenience of passengers. If international and domestic airlines use Magway airport, the operating costs may be recovered," said U Min Aung, the officer in charge of the Magway airport.

The Magway Airport was constructed on 818.82 acres of land. It was opened on 6 June, 2003, but was operational only for a few years. Since 2006, no airplane has landed in the region, according to the Department of Civil Aviation (Magway).

— Zeyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

15 migrant workers return to Myanmar

THE Thai authorities sent 15 migrant workers back to Myanmar as their border passes had expired and they did not have any other valid documentation. They were brought to Myanmar via the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge-2 around 1 p.m. on 11 March, and handed over to the authorities in Tachilek, eastern

Shan State.

The Thai government had arrested seven of the 15 workers as they did not have work permits and they were found holding expired border passes. Currently, the Township General Administration Department, the Immigration and Population Department, the Anti-trafficking

Police Force, the Caring and Negotiating Committee for Myanmar Citizens in Mae Sai, Thailand CNCMC members, the Labor Department, and the Myitima Social Association are discussing arrangements to send the illegal workers safely back home.

Most of the migrant workers who have returned are from

Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, Yangon, and Bago regions, and Mon and Rakhine states. A total of 428 migrant workers, including 263 men, 146 women, and 19 children, returned home between 1 January and 11 March this year.

— Sai Aung Zaw Lin

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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.

Sagaing Region mango output reaches 40,000 tons; bulk of it exported to China

About 40,000 tons of mangoes were produced across 12,000 acres of plantations in Sagaing Region, and they were mostly exported to China, said U Kyaw Win, the deputy director of Sagaing Region's Consumer Affairs Department.

"There are 250,000 acres of mango plantations across Myanmar, and 200,000 acres can yield 700,000 tons of mangoes, if we estimate the yield per acre to be 3.5 tons. Sagaing Region has 12,000 acres of mango plantations and so, the yield is estimated to be around 40,000 tons. Myanmar's mangoes are primarily shipped to China, and also to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan," said U Kyaw Win.

"Merchants came to the farm and purchased the Seintalone mango variety (Dia-

mond Solitaire). They offered K650,000-1.4 million per ton of Seintalone (weighing 200-400 grams and above)," said U Soe Win, a mango grower from Dabayin.

"Getting a high price is of vital importance to growers. They spray trees with the necessary pesticides before the flowering stage. They practice a good packaging system to ensure that the fruits are delivered to the markets in a good condition. Last year, some unscrupulous growers resorted to artificial ripening of mangoes. That is a dishonest practice, and can hurt the production industry in the long run," said U Soe Win.

"India is the world's largest mango producer, as per world mango production data, followed by China, where the mango harvest season falls around July. Therefore, exporters send man-



Myanma Seintalone mango. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

goes to China prior to the first week of July. Brunei and Singapore are potential markets for mango exports, as they do not produce the fruit themselves," said U Khin Maung Nyunt, the

director of Sagaing Region's Agriculture Department.

"Mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification.

The Agriculture Department has been instituting criteria for long-term organic farming," he said. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Lower imports drag maritime trade down \$197 mln

The value of Myanmar's maritime trade for the period from 1 October, 2018 to 1 March, 2019 in the current fiscal year totalled US\$10 billion, a decrease of \$197.9 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the October-March period, maritime imports outperformed exports, which saw a sharp decline of \$395 million from the year-ago period. Mari-

time exports were valued at \$3.77 billion, while imports were registered at \$6.35 billion.

During the four-month period, the value of trade through the border gates exceeded \$4 billion, an increase of \$145 million amid tight confiscation and trade suspension by Myanmar's main trade partner China.

The country's total external trade topped \$14.17 billion, a decline of \$52 million from the previous FY.

Myanmar exports agricul-

tural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports incorporated with sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — Mon Mon (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Workers select fish at the Nyaungtan Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

MRF to set floor price for paddy this month

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) will declare at floor price for paddy this month. U Ye Min Aung, the chair of the federation, made the remarks at the MRF central executive meeting, held in the first week of March.

During the meeting, MRF stakeholders discussed matters concerning the export of rice and broken rice through the maritime and border trade routes, obtaining export quotas for rice, conducting trade through Government-to-Government agreements, forming region and state committees, registering rice mills, rice quality and standards, and the rice market.

Last year, the MRF had set the basic price of paddy (low quality variety) at K500,000 per 100 baskets (one basket is equivalent to 46 pounds). Merchants, mills, agents, and private companies, and MRF members purchased paddy at the set rate, if it met the prescribed criteria: 14-per-cent moisture content and a fixed percentage of impurities such as sand, weed,

and small stones.

If the market price was above the basic price, the merchants had to purchase paddy at the prevailing market rate. However, if the market price was below the basic price, they had to buy paddy at the floor rate fixed by the MRF, the federation had stated in a press release announcing the basic price.

The price of the most common variety of paddy usually drops during harvest. The MRF decided to set the rate to protect the interests of farmers working on a manageable scale.

According to last year's press release, the MRF fixes the basic price depending on the production cost and benefit to farmers, as well as expected trend in future domestic and international market prices.

The MRF had also stated it would lead private millers and companies to promote the export market, and help farmers get a decent price during harvest time.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

178 pearl lots sold on day two of Gems Emporium

News: Kyaw Thu Htet
PHOTO: AYE THANT (MNA)



Traders check the quality of jade stones at the 56th Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



178 pearl lots were sold out at Euro 1.029 million yesterday.



Over 2,400 gem merchants from China, Thailand, Australia, US and India and more than a thousand local gem merchants check the jade stones displayed at the 56th Gems Emporium.

ON THE second day of 2019 56th Gems Emporium, 178 pearl lots were reported to be sold at Euro 1.029 million.

A total of 182 pearl lots were put up for sale through an open

tender system on the second day of the emporium out of which 178 lots were sold. Of the sold lots, all 132 Government owned pearl lots were sold fetching Euro 719,794.

There were 50 private companies owned pearl lots out of which 46

were sold at Euro 389,422 said Pearl Work Committee secretary Assistant General Manager Daw

Mya Mya Win. Through local and foreign exhibits and emporiums, more people were getting to know

Myanmar pearl and its market share had been expanding. In the world's pearl market South Sea Pearls are rare and most valuable with gold and silver colors and Myanmar's golden pearls were not only of good quality but also durable for long term and thus is becoming a favored pearl in the world market. Myanmar pearl production is learnt to be around Myeik archipelago in Taninthayi Region it is learnt.

Over 2,400 gem merchants from China, Thailand, Australia, the US and India and more than a thousand local gem merchants were registered to attend the gems emporium. The 56th Gems Emporium will be held from March 11 to 20 at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. A total of 6,974 jade lots, 400 gem lots and 274 pearl lots will be put on sale it is learnt.

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Traders evaluate the quality of raw jade stones at the 56th Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun receives RFA new Director for Southeast Asia



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun holds talks with RFA Director Matthew Pennington. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY MINISTER for Information U Aung Hla Tun received Radio Free Asia (RFA) new Director for Southeast Asia Matthew Pennington at

the Ministry of Information yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters on current situation and challenges that media

in Myanmar are facing, important role of international media in democratic transition time, arrangement by Ministry of Information for guided media

tours for local and foreign media to Rakhine State and promotion of collaboration between MOI and RFA. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Over 22,000 workers take up jobs overseas in Feb

A total of 22,523 Myanmar workers officially accepted jobs overseas in February, according to figures released by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Of the total workers, 4,225 took up jobs in Malaysia, 30 in Singapore, 154 in the Republic of Korea, 17,748 in Thailand, 317 in Japan, 20 in the

United Arab Emirates, 10 in Qatar, 17 in Jordan, and two in Macau.

The ministry is making concerted efforts to create more employment opportunities for both domestic and overseas job hunters through a new online labour exchange management system, which has been designed to serve as a bridge be-

tween employers and employees.

Meanwhile, 25,451 locals accepted jobs across the various states and regions of the country in February. Among them, 277 found employment on Union territory area, 16,592 in Yangon Region, 540 in Ayeyawady Region, 4,279 in Bago Region, 1,136 in Mandalay Region,

355 in Sagaing Region, 427 in Magway Region, and 133 in Taninthayi Region.

Among the states, 115 locals found work in Kachin State, 34 in Kayah State, 329 in Kayin State, 34 in Chin State, 593 in Mon State, 78 in Rakhine State, and 429 in Shan State.—MNA

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Meiktila hiking team cannot reach peak of Mount Phonekanrazi

THE Meiktila hiking team has only reached the 11,000-foot snow-capped Mount Phonekanrazi in Putao Township because of an ice and snow storm, said U Tun Lwin, the information officer for the Meiktila hiking team.

Mount Phonekanrazi is 11920 feet high. The Meiktila hiking team, comprising 20 members, left Meiktila for Putao on 3 March, where they slept overnight. On the follow-

ing day, the team traveled to Shan Khaung village in Putao Township by three-wheel motorbikes and started climbing the following day. "All 20 members, including hiker U Win Shine, reached the ice camp, which is at a height of 9,700 feet, on 8 March. Then, they were faced with the poor weather conditions."

As a consequence, only six members of the hiking and mountaineer-



Meiktila hiking team celebrates as they reach 11,000-foot Mt. Phonekanrazi. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

ing team reached the 11,000-foot height of Mount Phonekanrazi. "The mapping team told us to stop continuous climbing of the Mount Phonekanrazi," said U Tun Lwin. In 2018, the team hiked Mount Popa, Mount Hasin, Mount Myinmahti, Mount Pyatkhayay, and Mount Sein Kanaut Mya Kanaut.—Chan Tha (Meiktila)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

569th Ceremony held to offer cash donation to Shwedagon Pagoda, present certificates of appreciation

THE Shwedagon Pagoda's Board of Trustees conducted a 569th ceremony to offer cash donation and present certificates of honour to the donors in the old Buddha Images Hall of the Southern Stairway of the Shwedagon Pagoda's platform, Yangon yesterday.

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

The congregation took the Five Precepts from the Senior Lecturer Sayadaw of the Nyaungdon Pali University Monastery. They then shared their merits, listened to a sermon and concluded the ceremony. A total of 153 donors, including one cash donor, offered 178 gold plates and cash totaling K 191260000. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



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Chicago Symphony Orchestra members go on strike

CHICAGO (United States) — Members of the renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra went on strike on Monday after 11 months of labor negotiations failed to reach an agreement.

The contract between the musicians and the leading 128-year-old orchestra's association expired at midnight.

A picket line formed early Monday in front of Chicago's Symphony Centre. Musicians said they would march daily until a deal was reached.

The orchestra's leadership indicated that performance cancellations were possible, as the strike was expected to last at least until Friday, when the two sides are next set to meet.

"We are firmly united today in our shared responsibility to ensure the future of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra," the orchestra's president Jeff Alexan-

der told reporters in a telephone conference.

"The decision to strike was the union's choice and theirs alone."

The musicians say management is asking them to accept reduced salary and benefits despite increasing revenue from sales and donations. A major sticking point is the structure of the musicians' retirement compensation.

Members want to retain a guaranteed pension structure. Management wants to switch to retirement savings accounts commonplace in the private sector.

The CSO's leadership has called the musicians' demands "unreasonable," while orchestra members warn that the board's plans would hurt their ability to attract and retain high-level players.—AFP ■



Members of the renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra carry signs as they strike on 11 March, 2019 in Chicago, after 11 months of pay talks failed to reach an agreement. The musicians say the company is asking them to reduce overall salary and benefits despite increasing revenue from sales and donations.

PHOTO: AFP

Jaguar that attacked selfie-taking US woman won't be put down

LOS ANGELES (United States) — A jaguar that attacked a woman at a US zoo after she jumped a barrier to take a selfie with the animal will not be put down, officials said.

"We can promise you nothing will happen to our jaguar,"

the Wildlife World Zoo in Arizona tweeted on Saturday.

"She's a wild animal and there were proper barriers in place to keep our guests safe - not a wild animals fault when barriers are crossed."

According to witness ac-

counts, the woman, who has not been identified, on Saturday evening crossed a barrier at the zoo located near Phoenix to take a photo. The jaguar reached through its enclosure and dug its claws into her arm, refusing to let go until someone threw a water bottle to distract the big cat.

"I hear this young girl screaming, 'help, help, help,' and without thinking, I just run over there," Adam Wilkerson, who was at the zoo, told a local news station. "I see another girl with her up against the cage of the jaguar and the jaguar has clasped its claws outside of the cage around her hand and into her flesh."

He said his mother threw a water bottle into the cage to distract the animal long enough so that he could pull the woman away. The woman, in her 30s, reportedly needed some stitches on her left arm and returned to the zoo on Sunday to apologize for her behaviour.—AFP ■



The jaguar, like this one pictured in Tbilisi on 10 February, 2010, dug its claws into the woman's arm. PHOTO: AFP

Slovenian woman cut off hand for insurance payout: police

LJUBLJANA (Slovenia) — A Slovenian woman and her relative have been detained for allegedly cutting off her hand with a circular saw to get nearly 400,000 euros (\$450,000) in insurance compensation, police said on Monday.

The 21-year-old and her relative, 29, face up to eight years in prison on charges of attempted fraud.

"With one of her accomplices, she intentionally amputated her hand at the wrist with a circular saw, hoping to stage it as an accident," police spokesman Valter Zrinski told a news conference.

The woman is thought to have staged the incident, together with three relatives, earlier this year shortly after the group signed life and injury

insurance contracts with five different insurance companies.

All four were arrested initially, but two were released.

The woman was hoping to get around 380,000 euros of compensation and a life-long monthly payout of some 3,000 euros, police said.

The group intentionally left the hand behind rather than bringing it with them to the hospital, hoping to receive three times higher compensation for permanent disability, police said.

But authorities managed to pick up the hand in time, and doctors in a hospital in the capital Ljubljana managed to sew it back on, Zrinski said.

The average monthly net income is around 1,000 euros in Slovenia.—AFP ■

US seizes nearly 1.5 metric tons of cocaine in New York

NEW YORK (United State) — US authorities on Monday announced the seizure of nearly 1.5 metric tons of cocaine with a street value of \$77 million, the biggest drug haul in nearly 25 years at the port of New York/

Newark.

Sixty bundles of the white powder weighing 3,200 pounds were found in a container at the port on 28 February, the Drug Enforcement Administration said. No arrests have been made

in the case, which remains under investigation.

"Cocaine, New York's nemesis of the 90s, is back," DEA special agent in charge Ray Donovan said. Donovan said the size of the seizure — the second

largest in the port's history and the largest there since May 1994 — reflected a push by traffickers to build a market for a mixture of cocaine with fentanyl. The United States, the world's largest consumer of illegal drugs, is

currently experiencing a deadly epidemic of opioid use. Deaths from drug overdoses in the United States hit an average of 197 a day in 2017, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.—AFP ■



The next launch of the Soyuz MS-12 carrier rocket to the International Space Station is planned for 14 March. **PHOTO: TASS**

Roscosmos head discusses upcoming Soyuz launch with NASA administrator

MOSCOW — Head of Russia's space corporation Roscosmos Dmitry Rogozin has held a telephone conversation with NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine about the upcoming launch from the Baikonur spaceport.

"Today I had a telephone conversation with Jim Bridenstine. We discussed the upcoming launch from Baikonur and future

bilateral contacts. The NASA administrator shared his delight over the approval of their funding request for the development of the Moon programme," Rogozin wrote on his official Twitter account.

The next launch of the Soyuz MS-12 carrier rocket to the International Space Station (ISS) is planned for 14 March.

The carrier rocket will deliver Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin and NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Christina Koch to the ISS. Ovchinin and Hague were supposed to fly to the ISS in October 2018. However, their flight was postponed due to an accident with the Soyuz-FG rocket carrier on 11 October. —Tass ■

Rainfall changes affect world's crop-growing regions by 2040: study

WASHINGTON — A new study showed that the rainfall on wheat, soybean, rice and maize globally would be changed by 2040 even if humans reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The study published on Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences showed that almost 14 per cent of land growing the four major crops would be drier while up to 31 per cent would be wetter.

However, in a scenario with low greenhouse gas emissions, most regions have two to three

decades more to adapt than a high-emission scenario, according to the study released by International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

The study showed that Southwestern Australia, Southern Africa, southwestern South America and the Mediterranean would become drier while Canada, Russia, Indian and the Eastern United States would be wetter.

China and India, the world's most populous countries, are among those that will have much

wetter fields for the four crops included in the study under any emission scenario.

More precipitation may mean higher production, but when coupled with rising sea levels, higher temperatures and increased potential for flooding, higher production is not assured, according to the study.

"Farmers growing crops in those areas are going to experience significantly different conditions than what they are used to," said Julian Ramirez-Villegas, a scientist at CIAT.—Xinhua ■

Eye scan may detect early signs of Alzheimer's: study

WASHINGTON — American scientists found that a quick, non-invasive eye exam might see signs of Alzheimer's disease in a matter of seconds.

The study published on Monday in the journal Ophthalmology Retina showed that the loss of small blood vessels in the retina at the back of the eye were linked

with Alzheimer's disease at an early stage. In people with healthy brains, microscopic blood vessels form a dense web at the back of the eye inside the retina, as seen in 133 participants in a control group, according to the study of more than 200 people at the Duke Eye Centre. However, in the eyes of 39 people with Alzheimer's dis-

ease, that web was less dense and even sparse in places than those of people with mild cognitive impairment and healthy people.

The scientists could also distinguish between people with Alzheimer's and 37 participants with mild cognitive impairment, a precursor to Alzheimer's disease.—Xinhua ■

WHO launches strategy to fight 'inevitable' flu pandemics

GENÈVE (Switzerland) — The World Health Organization on Monday launched a strategy to protect people worldwide over the next decade against the threat of influenza, warning that new pandemics are "inevitable".

Influenza epidemics, largely seasonal, affect around one billion people and kill hundreds of thousands annually, according to WHO, which describes it as one of the world's greatest public health challenges.

WHO's new strategy, for 2019 through 2030, aims to prevent seasonal influenza, control the virus's spread from animals to humans and prepare for the next pandemic, WHO said.

"The threat of pandemic influenza is ever-present," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

The world has suffered through a number of devastating influenzas pandemics, including the Spanish Flu, which in 1918 killed tens of millions of people globally.

Three pandemics have occurred since — in 1957, 1968 and in 2009 — when the H1N1 swine flu pandemic claimed around 18,500 lives in 214 countries.

"Another influenza pandemic is inevitable," the UN health agency said, adding that "in this interconnected world, the question is not if we will have another pandemic, but when."

Launching the new strategy, the WHO chief stressed the need for vigilance and preparation.

"The cost of a major influenza outbreak will far outweigh the price of prevention," he said.

While pandemic preparedness is estimated to cost less than \$1 per person per year, WHO said responding to a pandemic costs roughly 100 times that amount.

The new strategy called for every country to strengthen routine health programmes and to develop tailor-made influenza programmes that strengthen disease surveillance, response, prevention, control, and preparedness.

Not prepared enough

WHO recommends annual flu vaccines as the most effective way to prevent the spread of the disease, especially for healthcare workers and people at higher risk of influenza complications.

It also called for the development of more effective and more accessible vaccines and antiviral treatments.

Due to its mutating strains, vaccine formulas must be regularly updated and only offer limited protection currently.

But Martin Friede, WHO's vaccines coordinator, urged broader use of seasonal vaccines, which help protect vulnerable populations but also help prepare countries to rapidly deploy vaccines in the case of a pandemic.

"In a perfect world, everyone would be vaccinated," Friede told reporters in Geneva.

Tedros said progress in recent years had made the world better prepared than ever for the next big influenza outbreak.

"But we are still not prepared enough. This strategy aims to get us to that point," he said.

WHO said it would expand partnerships to increase research, innovation and availability of new and improved vaccines and other tools to fight influenza.

It insisted its new strategy would also have benefits beyond the fight against influenza, since it would also increase detection of other infectious diseases, including Ebola. — AFP ■



WHO recommends annual flu vaccines as the most effective way to prevent the spread of the disease, especially for healthcare workers and people at higher risk of influenza complications. **PHOTO: AFP**



Real Madrid's newly appointed French coach Zinedine Zidane arrives to give a press conference on 11 March, 2019 in Madrid. **PHOTO: AFP**

Zinedine Zidane returns to Real Madrid

MADRID (Spain) — Zinedine Zidane has made a sensational return as coach of Real Madrid after Santiago Solari's sacking was finally confirmed on Monday.

Zidane has been given a contract until June 2022, just nine months after he resigned at the end of last season, having led Madrid to an historic third consecutive Champions League triumph.

Solari's dismissal was ex-

pected after three consecutive home defeats — to Barcelona, twice, and Ajax — deemed Madrid's season all-but over before the middle of March.

But Zidane coming back, with only 11 games left in La Liga and almost nothing to play for, is a surprise, particularly after he left on the incredible high of yet another European triumph.

"Real Madrid's board has decided to terminate Santiago So-

lari's contract as coach of the first team," read an official statement on Monday. "Real Madrid appreciates the work done by Santiago Solari and the commitment and loyalty he has always shown to this club. "The board has also agreed to the appointment of Zinedine Zidane as the new coach of Real Madrid with immediate effect for the remainder of the season and the next three, until 30 June, 2022."—AFP ■

Pelle hits another brace to grab point for Fellaini's Shandong

SHANGHAI (China) — Former Italy striker Graziano Pelle struck twice to earn Marouane Fellaini's Shandong Luneng a 2-2 draw with holders Kashima Antlers in the AFC Champions League on Tuesday.

Former Manchester United

star Fellaini had a quiet game in midfield for the hosts, who had Pelle — another Premier League import — to thank for rescuing a point.

It was the 33-year-old Pelle's second brace in as many Champions League matches, having

scored twice at South Korea's Gyeongnam FC last week.

J-League side Kashima had looked set to run away with it, forward Sho Ito twice finishing slick team moves in the 10th and 14th minutes to stun Shandong.

But the imposing Pelle, who joined the Chinese Super League side from Southampton for about \$17 million in July 2016, single-handedly dragged Shandong back into the match.

He buried the penalty on 20 minutes after Kento Misao handled in the box and then arrowed the ball into the top corner four minutes before the break on the half-volley. The 31-year-old Fellaini, who left Manchester United for Shandong in the winter transfer window, had his head in his hands in the 65th minute after putting a free header over the bar following a corner.—AFP ■



Graziano Pelle (centre R) of China's Shandong Luneng heads the ball away from Tomoya Inukai (centre L) of Japan's Kashima Antlers during their AFC Champions League group stage football match in Jinan in China's eastern Shandong province on 12 March, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Osaka, Nishioka book 4th round spots at BNP Paribas Open

INDIAN WELLS (California) — Japanese singles players Naomi Osaka and Yoshihito Nishioka won their respective matches on Monday to earn a place in the fourth round of the BNP Paribas Open.

World No 1 and top seed Osaka beat Danielle Collins 6-4, 6-2, benefiting from seven double faults by the 25th-seeded American in the women's match as she continued her title defense and set up a fourth-round meeting with Swiss Belinda Bencic.

When asked in her on-court interview whether she is feeling more relaxed on the court, Osaka said she has enjoyed playing tennis for a while now and is grateful for the opportunity to be back at the Premier Mandatory event in the Southern Californian desert.

"I just kind of realized there's nothing else I'd rather do and I'm privileged to be here in the first place, so I might as well enjoy every step of the way," said Osaka, who won her first WTA title in Indian Wells last year.

"Here I have really good memories and you guys are super awesome," she said to the cheering crowd. Osaka hit 29 winners and made 21 unforced errors compared to Collins' 11-22 ratio.

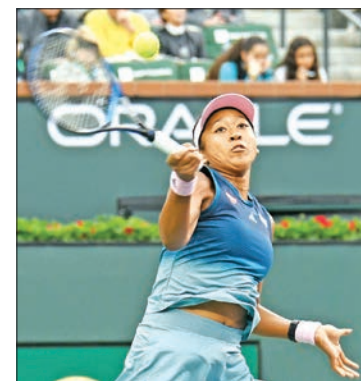
The reigning US Open and Australian Open champion was

more confident in the second set, where she won five straight points before she closed out the match with a backhand winner.

In men's action, Nishioka rallied past Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-7(2), 6-4, 7-6(5) to book a round of 16 matchup with Serbian lucky loser Miomir Kecmanovic.

Nishioka squandered a 5-1 lead in the third set but took advantage of loose play from the 18-year-old Montreal native to win the final four points of the 2 hour, 55 minute match. Nishioka reached the round of 16 two years ago, but suffered a knee injury two weeks later and missed the rest of the season after undergoing surgery.

—Kyodo News ■



Naomi Osaka of Japan plays a shot in her third-round match against Danielle Collins of the United States at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California on 11 March, 2019. Osaka won 6-4, 6-2. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Asian Cup hosts UAE punished for shoe, bottle barrage

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) —The United Arab Emirates were fined \$150,000 and ordered to play a match behind closed doors after home fans pelted Qatar players with shoes and bottles in ugly scenes during an Asian Cup semi-final defeat.

The tournament hosts were punished following January's combustible 4-0 loss in Abu Dhabi, when plastic water bottles and footwear — a traditional insult — were hurled at the Qataris, the eventual Asian Cup champions.

The Asian Football Confederation's disciplinary and ethics committee handed out the sanctions for infringements related to spectator conduct and match

organisation.

Along with the fine, the UAE were told to their play next home qualifier for the 2023 Asian Cup "without spectators" in an empty stadium, a statement said late on Monday.

The Asian Cup was held in the midst of the transport and diplomatic blockade of Qatar by several countries, including UAE, who accuse it of supporting terrorism — a charge Doha denies.

As a result Qataris are generally barred from UAE, meaning the Maroons were largely devoid of their own fans as they romped to their first Asian crown — three years before hosting the World Cup in 2022.—AFP ■