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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the photo exhibition at the event in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to mark the 70th Pa-O National Day. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor attends event to mark Pa-O National Day in Nay Pyi Taw

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a ceremony to welcome the 70th Pa-O National Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Also present at the ceremony at the Myanmar Inter-

national Convention Centre-II were Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U

Tun Tun Hein, Union ministers, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and their wives, deputy ministers, ministers for ethnic affairs, chairman of the regional leading committees, chairmen of Hluttaw affairs

committees, permanent secretaries, departmental officials, the Patron of Pa-O National Liberation Organization, the chairman of the committee for holding the Pa-O National Day in Nay Pyi Taw, the chair-

man of the Pa-O Literature and Culture Committee and representatives Pa-O communities from different parts of the country.

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PYITHU HLUTTAW

Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 24th-day meeting of 11th Regular Session

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw convened the 24th meeting of its 11th Regular Session yesterday. MPs raised questions on whether Myanmar's maritime security will receive the needed support, IDPs fleeing from conflict zones will get proper citizenship verification, discussed the Rural Development Bill, and a motion tabled by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency urging the Union Government to take decisive action in improving security and the rule of law in civil society.

Increasing maritime security

Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan constituency raised a question on whether additional security will be increased for Myanmar's maritime security and whether they will be provided with the needed technological and basic requirements.

Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe replied that the navy is currently assuming the duties pertaining to coast guards as Myanmar does not have one yet. He said when the coast guard has been formed, the navy will take the lead in forming



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

an Integrated Command Centre (ICC) consisting of experts from the Maritime Police Force, Customs Department, Immigration Department, Department of Marine Administration, Myanmar Port Authority, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, Inland Water Transport, and the Department of Fisheries.

The Deputy Minister said the navy will coordinate exchange of information between these different marine organizations and execute prompt decisions to safeguard Myanmar's waters.

He said the navy will coordinate with relevant organizations at the moment for maritime security while awaiting the formation of the coast guard.

Proper NRC verification for IDPs

U Lamar Naw Aung of Ingyanyan constituency raised a question concerning the verification of national registration cards (NRC) and household registrations of Myanmar citizens living in IDP camps. He asked whether segregating and oppressing genuine ethnic people

of the Union was in line with the Constitution and what authorities have planned to verify NRCs and household registrations for ethnic people in other IDP camps.

U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, first replied that his ministry has not segregated or oppressed any citizen of the nation. He said the inspections at checkpoints in Ingyanyan are conducted legally to preserve the security and rule of law of the country. He said his ministry places no restrictions on any citizen and every process they do follows the Constitution.

The Union Minister said they have provided temporary household registrations to IDPs from Ingyanyan Township temporarily seeking shelter in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships. He said they can issue official household registration documents and NRCs to the people when the relevant ward or village-tract administrator validates them.

The Union Minister explained that the 54 villages under 15 village-tracts of Ingyanyan Tsp are located in areas undergoing peace negotiations and are outside the administrative reach of the Kachin State Government.

He said these villages were also unable to participate in the 2014 Population and Housing Census. He said his ministry is following rules and regulations to assist the IDPs of Ingyanyan Tsp with no hint of discrimination.

The Union Minister U Thein Swe and Nay Pyi Taw Council members U Nyi Tun both then answered to questions raised by U Moe Shwe of Putao constituency, U Kyaw Soe Lin of Pyigyidagun constituency, U Shwe Hla (a) U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun constituency, Dr. Sai Mauk Kham of Lashio constituency, and U Myint Oo of Magway constituency.

Rural Development Bill

Next, Bill Committee member U Wai Hlaing Tun submitted the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee's proposal to make 59 amendments to the Rural Development Bill submitted by the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker called for the deliberation of the Hluttaw. With no objections raised from the assembly, the Speaker announced the proposal has been approved and passed on to further procedures.

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AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds its 24th meetingBy Aung Ye Thwin ,
Lu Maw

Eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 24th meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw's building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the Hluttaw session, questions and answers were raised, three reports were clarified and two motions were discussed.

Construction of a three-storey RC residential unit with 90x30 feet

At the Hluttaw session, U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6 asked if there was a plan to construct a three-storey RC residential unit with 90x30 feet, for the health employees for the 25-bed hospital in Sinbyugyun Town, Salin Township, Magway Region. Regarding to this query, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein replied that the housing unit for the health employees had been included in the list of the scheme of the department of health in the 2019-2020 FY.



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Necessary assistance would be rendered

U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 asked if there was a plan to construct a football field together with a 60x30 feet bleacher in Lailinpi Town, Matupi Township, Chin State. Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein replied that there was no plan to build it currently, but necessary assistance would be rendered in cooperation with

the Chin State Department of Sports and Physical Education.

Question-and-answer Session

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied the queries raised by U Sai Tun Aung of Shan State constituency 2, U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint

Than of Mon State constituency 11 and U Whey Thin of Chin State constituency 11.

Bill to build bridges

Then Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Tint Lwin clarified the report of the Bill Committee regarding the Bill to build bridges. Then Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than approved of the Bill to build bridges resubmitted by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Putting a motion on discussing some points of disagreements of the Major Bridge Bill

U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10 put a motion on discussing some points of disagreements of the Major Bridge Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Then Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker declared that some points of disagreement between the two Hluttaws should be submitted to

the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Report of the Bill Committee regarding the Child Rights Bill

Next, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Thein Lwin clarified on the report of the Bill Committee regarding the Child Rights Bill approved and submitted by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker approved of the bill after obtaining the decisions of the Hluttaw.

Setting up a single mapping system and a land registry

Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion raised by U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11 calling for the Union Government in order to set up a single mapping system and a land registry, as part of a long-term scheme, in cooperation with development partnership associations from foreign countries and local and international experts.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the event to mark the Pa-O National Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

State Counsellor attends event to mark Pa-O National Day in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-1

Speaking at the event, the State Counsellor elaborated the day designated as the National Day for Pa-O ethnic people, saying that is a good tradition for the Union as Pa-O ethnic people considered the birthday of their king Thuriya Sandar as their national day because the meaning of his name has shown the ways for leaders.

“Thuriya Sandar means the Sun and the Moon. A king who follows their example rules with high moral value and vision. The Sun and the Moon show the importance of working at the right time and in the right way. It is not appropriate for the Sun to come out at night. If the Moon does rise

in the daytime, it will not shine as much as it does at night,” she said.

“Leaders should be brave and courageous when the situation demands, and they should be benevolent and compassionate when the time demands,” she said.

Referring to the line ‘unity is strength’ in the song performed at the event, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the importance of loving kindness and truth in building unity among all ethnic people of Myanmar.

“The term ‘Union’ is a very beautiful word. It means a country which is built collectively. Such a country is based on unity. Loving kindness and truth are based on unity. Only when we love and are loyal to

each other can we build unity,” said the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor said our country is facing a lot of challenges but treading forward tirelessly to establish a Union that ensures peace of mind and physical security to all its citizens. I believe all our ethnic brothers and sisters will come together in this effort, said the State Counsellor, adding that the Pa-O have always stood by the Union during

times of difficulties. She said we will always remember this custom of the Pa-O. Friends and family who stand by our side during difficult times are true kin, she said.

The State Counsellor said kin are not always necessarily related by blood. She said people with strong bonds and shared beliefs are kin as well. When the nation was in its fledgling independence state, the Pa-O joined hands with us

to protect the nation, she said. She added that while we may have separated paths in the past the Pa-O are now walking together with us on the peace process. She said this is a genuine reason for happiness and a good omen for the nation.

The State Counsellor said it builds on the integrity of the nation and strengthens development when all the citizens of the country stand together in unity and harmony. She said as we are able to gather on auspicious occasions and monumental days for commemorations, we will be able to band together in times of need. She said what is important for one must be important for all. She said we must cast away indifference and collaborate with each other to bring about uniform development for the entire country.

The State Counsellor said we are currently attempting to establish our country as a democratic federal Union. This type of union is centred on the people and as such, greatly depends on the skills and mindsets of the people. While governments are central in countries without democracy, the people are central in a democratic nation where the government is elected by the citizens.

The State Counsellor said equal rights and opportunities will be incorporated in establishing a democratic federal Union. However, we must remember that with opportunities come responsibility, reminded the State Counsellor, adding that she believes the Pa-O will contribute in strengthening the nation.

The Pa-O ethnic people are dutiful to the Union and I believe they will help in strengthening it:
State Counsellor



The Pa-O ethnic cultural troupe performs traditional dances at the event to mark the Pa-O National Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

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State Counsellor attends event to mark Pa-O National Day in Nay Pyi Taw

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She said our country is on the path to peace but it is not always a straight or easy path. Our peace was diminished due to various reasons but if we all pour in our hard work, mental fortitude and perseverance, we will succeed in restoring our Union peace, said the State Counsellor. She urged everyone to work hard for national stability, peace and to make successive generations proud of being children of our nation.

The State Counsellor wished for the Pa-O to be an aspirational role model for all ethnic people and to be in the

lead for instilling stability, development and peace in the Union. She expressed her hope for the Pa-O to be able to celebrate their National Day with continued pride and compassion in the years to come.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Ministers, ministers for ethnic affairs, Chairpersons of Hluttaw Affairs committees, the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone leading body and Pa-O leaders all took a documentary photo together.

The Pa-O National Day was



Pa-O ethnic dignitaries presents an award winning photo to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the ceremony to mark the Pa-O National Day event in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

celebrated this year to bring all the Pa-O ethnic people across the country in one place, to promote ethnic literature and tra-

ditions and share it with other ethnic people to increase kinship, and to join hands between the Pa-O and other ethnic peo-

ple in establishing a democratic federal Union. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends 9th Meeting of Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin arrived back Yangon yesterday evening after attending the 9th Meeting of Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) held from 11 to 12 March in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

The 9th JCBC meeting was held at the Government Guest House of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 12 March 2019 and co-chaired by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of Myanmar and Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam. During the meeting, the two sides discussed on a wide range of issues, on taking concrete actions for developing the Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership between Myanmar and Viet Nam and on further strengthening bilateral relations and multi-faceted cooperation, especially in the areas of political, security, economy, trade and investment, finance and banking, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, transportation, judiciary and legal, education



U Kyaw Tin is welcomed by Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. **PHOTO: MOFA**

and training, information and communication, labour, health, natural resources and environmental conservation, science and technology, culture, sports, tourism and people to people exchanges.

They, furthermore, discussed to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

between the two countries in 2020 and to encourage Myanmar's businesses and trade promotion organizations to participate in and display products at the Viet Nam International Trade Fair- Viet Nam Expo (April 2019) and Viet Nam International Food Exhibition- Food Expo (November 2019). The two sides

also discussed to continue working closely and extending support to each other at regional and international fora, especially within the frameworks of ASEAN, the United Nations, WTO, ASEM and Mekong sub-regional cooperation mechanisms and to coordinate more closely during Viet Nam Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2020. At the conclusion of the meeting, two leaders of the delegations signed the Agreed Minutes of the 9th JCBC.

Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the meeting.

The 9th JCBC meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting led by U Soe Han, Director-General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tat Thanh, Director-General of Southeast Asian-South

Asian- South Pacific Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 11 March 2019.

In the afternoon of 12 March, the Union Minister also attended the luncheon hosted by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Pham Binh Minh to the Myanmar Delegation at the Government Guest House.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin paid a courtesy call to Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Prime Minister's Office at 5:30 pm.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to further enhancement of cooperation in various sectors including political, economic, trade, investment and tourism between the two countries. They also discussed to exceed the target of bilateral trade volume to US\$ 1 billion in 2020 and to further consolidate bilateral relations through enhancing exchange of visits of the leaders of the two countries.—MNA

■ ■ ■

Union Election Commission Chairman receives Ambassador of Australia

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received Ms. Andrea Faulkner, Ambassador of Australia to Myanmar, yesterday morning, at the UEC's guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to formation and additional appointment of members in the commission, preparation being

made for the 2020 general election, making voter registration lists, measures of gender equality, preparation for amending Hluttaw election laws, 2020 election timetable and measures taken to grant the right to vote to overseas voters with the permission of the government.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein receives Australian Ambassador Ms. Andrea Faulkner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ASEAN-ERAT visits reception centres in Maungtaw as it cooperates in repatriation of displaced people

ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team-ASEAN ERAT delegation conducted a field visit to reception centres in Maungtaw from 8 to 10 March, conducting an initial survey for repatriation of displaced people from Rakhine State.

The delegation comprised of 10 members from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

During the visit, the delegation members practiced the process for accepting the returnees, including meeting with authorities and officials of the reception camps, security and administration at the camps, preparation for education, health, water and sanitation supply, food supply and accommodation, issuing the National Verification cards to returnees, humanitarian aid supply, arrangements for social harmony and diplomacy matters.

They also held talks with Maungtaw district and township level officials over repatriation readiness.

The ASEAN ERAT team

also visited the villages where the returnees would be resettled and observed the houses built with the assistance of UEHRD and donor countries.

On 11 March, the team met with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu in Sittway and discussed their findings during the visit.

The ASEAN-ERAT team called on Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and discussed their findings during their field visit to Maungtaw.

The team will report the areas for cooperation in Myanmar to relevant ASEAN members and will keep on cooperation in Myanmar.

ASEAN Secretariat Office, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance-AHA and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are working together for repatriation of displaced people from Rakhine State.

The ASEAN-ERAT conduct-



ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team meeting with local people during their visit to Pantawpyin Village in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

ed a training in Nay Pyi Taw for safety of the members of the team and called on Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye on 6 March.

At the meeting, the Union Minister briefed about bilateral

cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh for repatriation of displaced people from Rakhine State, implementation of UEHRD projects, arrangements for settlement of returnees with

safety and human dignity, information sector and cooperation with related ministries and UN agencies.—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

First American Business Corner opens in Mandalay

THE first American Business Corner in the ASEAN region was opened at the Mandalay Region Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Mandalay Region yesterday.

The business corner was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Chief Minister

of Mandalay Region, US Ambassador Mr. Scots Marciel, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, ASEAN, Ms. Margaret (Maggie) Hanson-Muse, MRCCI Chairperson U Kyaw Min, and Mr. John Fleming, a top US official for commerce.

The American Business

Corner aims to facilitate economic ties and successful deals between the U.S. and Mandalay businesses. It also aims to introduce American business practices to Mandalay businesspersons.

Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said the business corner is a platform for taking

the first steps to implement our dreams and aspirations. He said it is a special opportunity as the US chose Myanmar from among the ASEAN countries and then chose Mandalay first from the rest of the states and regions. He said we need to search a market that encompasses the

entire world in order to sustain Myanmar's development and democracy. It is hard for the government to implement this alone but it will succeed with the cooperation of the people, said the Chief Minister.—Tin Maung (Man Sub-printing House) ■
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 24th-day meeting of 11th Regular Session

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Increasing security in civil society

The Hluttaw then debated a motion tabled by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency urging the Union Government to take decisive steps to reduce the number of crimes and firmly establish the rule of law and public security in society.

Daw Khin Sandi of Launglon constituency seconded the motion. She said rule of law and public safety is important for citizens to live in peace and for national development. She said

these prerequisites are also important to attract domestic and foreign investors so that more businesses open up in the country and bring job opportunities with them.

Daw Khin Sandi said now is the time to systematically reduce crime throughout the entire country. She suggested reinforcing the Myanmar Police Force with modern trainings and weaponry to better protect the public, in addition to providing them with sufficient salaries. She also suggested increasing cooperation with ASEAN and international police forces and

spending more on the police force budget.

Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Major Htin Zaw Lwin said there needs be greater public adherence to existing laws. He said the root causes of criminal activities need to be resolved first to pave way for the rule of law and public security. The motion was further discussed by 19 MPs.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Maj-Gen Aung Thu then responded to the motion. He said preventing crime in an emerging democracy is the responsibility of every sector

in the nation and hence, there needs to be a national level crime prevention strategy. He said the committee for drafting and implementing said strategy was formed on 7 December 2016 with the Union Minister for Home Affairs as Chairperson and including representatives of relevant ministries and NGOs.

The Union Minister said they collaborated with UNODC and finalized the national level strategy on 4 December 2018 and was verified by the Union Government in January this year. Thus, the strategy has

been sent to all relevant ministries and sub-national governments for implementation. He asked the motion to be put on record.

U Tin Htwe, the MP tabling the motion, asked for the motion to be put on record in observation. The Speaker called for the deliberation of the Hluttaw and having received no objections announced for the motion to be put on record in observation.

The 25th-day meeting of the 11th Regular Session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held today. ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister for Information receives Australian, Chinese ambassadors, movie delegation separately

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received Ambassador of Australia Ms. Andrea Faulkner, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr. Hong Liang and a delegation of Exploring Myanmar Culture & Tourism Organization from the PRC at his office in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

At the meeting with Australian Ambassador Ms. Andrea Faulkner, the two sides discussed possible areas of cooperation in Myanmar, improved conditions in Myanmar during the transition period, efforts for promoting freedom of speech, changing situation in the media world due to technological advances, challenges posted social media and hate speech and the role of the State-run media in Myanmar.

The meeting with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang focused on paying visits to China's movie and media industries and libraries, exchange of visits by media personnel, shooting documentary movies and making a donation of the book "The Governance of China" written by President Xi Jinping to Myanmar.

At the meeting with the delegation of the Exploring Myanmar Culture and Tourism Organization, the two sides discussed matters related to producing a TV series with scenes of cultural heritage and natural beauty and traditional customs of Myanmar.

Also present at the meetings were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives a delegation led by Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Third day of Gems Emporium adds pearl lots sales to 269



The uncut jade seen at the gems emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

THE 56th Gems Emporium continued its third day yesterday and sold 91 pearl lots, combining with previous sales to make a total of 269 lots sold under the open tender system.

A total of 92 pearl lots were put up for sale through an open tender system out of which 91 were sold. Of the sold lots, all 66 Government-owned pearl lots were sold for Euro 355,739 and 25 of the 26 company-owned pearl lots sold for Euro 133,892.

Likewise, 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 company owned pearl lots out of which 46 were sold at Euro 389,422

The South Sea Pearls sold at the Gem Emporium are the rarest and most valuable variety in the world pearl market. Coming in gold and silver colours,

the gold pearls from Myanmar are the best in terms of quality and durability, establishing its place as a popular choice in the global market.

The 56th Gems Emporium will be held till 20 March at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall and will put up 6,973 jade lots and 500 gem lots for sale.

A total of 2,859 gem merchants from China, Thailand, Australia, US and India, along with 1,531 domestic gem merchants have registered for the gem emporium.—Mawsi ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Eleventh regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds its 24th meeting

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U Khin Myo Win of Taninthayi Region constituency supported the motion and which was discussed by U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1 and U San Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3. In his discussion regarding the motion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw suggested to put the motion on record.

After that, U Hla Myint (a) U Hla Myint Than, who put the

motion, submitted the motion to gain the decision of the Hluttaw. When the matter was put a vote, the Hluttaw voted 142 for, 9 against and 6 abstaining for the motion, the Amyotha Hluttaw announced that the motion had been approved.

Works condition of report (2/2018)

Hluttaw Representatives discussed the works condition of report (2/2018) of the Amyotha Hluttaw's Public Complaints Committee.

Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6 and U Kyi Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 12 took part in the discussion.

The member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee U Win Aung tabled a motion on the report (2/2018).

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that the motion was approved after seeking the consensus of the Hluttaw.

Member of Amyotha Hluttaw's Public Accounts Committee Mahn Tun Kyaing read out

and submitted the report on the works committee. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that those Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report should register their names.

Amyotha Hluttaw's Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee

Member of the Amyotha Hluttaw's Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Min

Swe Naing read out a report on motions and questions that had been submitted from the first regular meeting to tenth regular meeting. Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that those Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report should register their names.

The 25th-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be convened on 14 March.

■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives Ambassador of Switzerland



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives Switzerland Ambassador and delegation. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Tim Enderlin, yesterday, at the Maykalar Hall of the Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to social protection programmes, counter-terrorism measures

on women, hazard mitigation, bilateral cooperative matters with Switzerland in the rehabilitation programmes and sharing mine risk education, social harmony in Rakhine State, cooperative measures on drawing up National-level strategy to shut down IDP in cooperation with Professor Waler Kalin from Switzerland, cooperation

with The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and the Office of the ASEAN Secretary in the repatriation process in Myanmar and disaster risk protection by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. —MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Deputy President of Institute of Justice

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Mrs. Lee Young Joo, Deputy President of the Institute of Justice, yesterday, at the guest hall of the Union Attorney General's Office, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to exchanging experiences on setting up legal framework that can enhance flourishing the democracy system and economic development, conditions of work process of disseminating

legal education with the use of Myanmar legal information system joint-conducted by KOICA and Union Attorney General's office, programmes on conducting training classes for the legal officers to take action against the crimes utilizing technology, and boosting bilateral cooperation between legal institutions and safeguarding in protection of legal rights to the people in line with the laws.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo receives a delegation led by Deputy President of the Institute of Justice, Mrs. Lee Young Joo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Over 848,000 take matriculation exam on seventh day

A total of 848,006 students appeared for the matriculation exam for biology and economics subjects for the 2018-2019 academic year at exam centres in Myanmar and overseas yesterday.

The number of exam centres totalled 1,712, with 21 based overseas and 1,691 across the country for Biology Subject.

The number of exam centres totalled 1,879, with 21 based overseas and 1,858 across the country for Economics Subject.

On the seventh day of the matriculation exam, 190,602 of the total 196,888 students regis-

tered across Myanmar took the test for Biology Subject, while 6286 students remained absent.

Likewise, 657,404 of the total 699,394 students registered across Myanmar took the test for Economics Subject, while 419,90 students remained absent for the subject.

Thus, 96.81 per cent of the students took the examination for Biology and 94 per cent took the examination for Economics yesterday.

Of the total students, 41 are taking the exam from the hospital, one is hearing impaired, 30 have physical disabilities, 17 are in prison, for Biology and



Students sit for matriculation exam yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

119 are taking the exam from the hospital, 24 are blind and 14

are hearing impaired, 108 have physical disabilities, 164 are in

prison, for Economics.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Constructive engagement, cooperation key to promote, protect human rights

MYANMAR is determined to continue its journey towards establishing a democratic federal Union in which the values of human rights and democracy have taken firm root. While carrying out reforms for building such a Union, the Government has been working to bring about peace and national reconciliation, promote the rule of law, develop democratic practices, and ensure a clean government and good governance.

Despite facing challenges along the way, the government is committed to reaching the goal of transforming Myanmar into a democratic federal Union with collective strength. It has been moving step-by-step to make the peace process successful and find a sustainable resolution for the Rakhine issue.

The recent outbreak of violence ignited by attacks on police outposts by AA insurgents has further complicated the situation in Rakhine.

It has been moving step-by-step to make the peace process successful and find a sustainable resolution for the Rakhine issue.

Hindus, who are yearning to return, of their volition. It has been questioned as to why the Special Rapporteur has said she was not aware that the displaced persons at the camps in Cox's Bazar have repeatedly expressed 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 a favorable environment for returnees.

Myanmar has taken into consideration the plight of all communities affected by the violence triggered by coordinated attacks of ARSA against multiple security outposts in October, 2016 and August, 2017.

The reason for the massive displacement of the people is the seed of fear sown by ARSA.

The government has said it is committed to ensuring accountability where there is credible evidence of human rights violations in Rakhine State.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry, established by the Union Government, is investigating all alleged violations of human rights and atrocities.

The Government is willing and able to address the accountability issue.

In the meantime, every independent mandate holder or mechanism created by the UN Human Rights Council must strictly adhere to the principles of independence, impartiality, and integrity.

It is also equally important for a mandate holder to refrain from making biased reports and unconstructive statements that can affect prevailing social cohesion and unity in a country.

■■■

Sittway District: the homeland of ethnic Rakhine people

By Maung Tha
(Archaeology)

R AKHINE PEOPLE, once steeped in long traditions of culture, have lived in Rakhine State in the western part of Myanmar. Throughout history Rakhine kingdoms had had kings and palaces which were contemporary with those of Myanmar. Among tangible and intangible cultural heritages in Rakhine State, olden MraukU has been arranged by the government to be able to put in the UNESCO heritage list.

Rakhine State is composed of five districts with 17 townships with the capital city of Sittway. With better transportation, it is easily accessible to the State by Roads; people once reached the State by means of waterway. The journey between Sittway and Thandwe was once only reachable by a domestic flight.

State capital city of Sittway

According to the records of Home Affairs Ministry, the Rakhine went under the British rule after the First Anglo-Burma war on February 24, 1826. The British earlier used the city of MraukU as an administrative headquarters but moved to a commercial hub of Sittway in 1836.

Sittway is situated at the mouth of Kaladan and Mayu Rivers, getting a lot cool winds from the sea and its location is militarily vital. The Arkyat Hill is two miles west of Sittway and the British changed its name as Akyab after several changes of name for the Capital. Sittway Township is 9.88 miles long from the east to the west; 13. 24 miles long from south to north and area of Sittway town covers six square miles. Pauktaw township and Kaladan River are situated in the east, with the Bay of Bengal in the west and the south and in the north lie Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships. Sittway is situated in the coastal plain, just 15 feet above the sea level. It has a tropical climate with winter temperature lowest degrees of 13.7 centigrade and summer temperature highest degrees of 34.5 centigrade during the period of four years. Every year the township has a rainfall of 200 inches, but in 2017 there was a rainfall of only 48 inches.

According to a statistics issued in March, 2017 the township consists of 33 wards, 27 village tracts and 87 villages with a pop-



The hundreds of pagodas in MraukU are the treasures of Myanmar. PHOTO: NYIZAW MOE

ulation of 229,376 of which 136,869 are Rakhine people, larger than in numbers than any other communities. Sittway has an airport, six helipads, and many seaports; people could go there by air as well as by sea. Buthidaung Township is 80 nautical miles; 40 nautical miles from Rathedaung, MraukU and Minbya townships; 16 nautical miles away from Ponnagyun township; 128 nautical miles away from Kyaukpyu; 224 nautical miles from Taungup and Manaung; 176 nautical miles from Yanbye; 70 nautical miles from Kyauktaw; 64 nautical miles from Myebon and 16 miles from Pauktaw. Now there is a direct link of 534-mile road between Yangon and Sittway which can be covered by car.

Economically vibrant Sittway has two big bazaars: Myoma has 826 shops and Mayu has 144 shops. The town has the Sittway University, the technological University and the Computer University. There are 8 high schools, 6 branch high schools, 6 middle schools, branch middle schools, primary schools and nursery schools. It has a State 500-bed hospital and 16-bed hospital and three Clinics for Leprosy, tuberculosis and malaria. Medical services are being provided for different kinds of patients in the hospitals and clinics.

There are ten pagodas, 172 monasteries and four nunneries with 1030 monks, 1699 novices and 240 nuns residing and keeping the Sabbath in those monasteries. Some monasteries such as Konawin Aye Pagoda, Atulamarazein Pylone Chantha Pagoda and Lawka Nanda Pagoda are famous among others. Myanmar's first lighthouse tower was established in Shukhintha Ward in 1844.

As the capital city of the State, Sittway has been prosperous and highly developed with smooth transportation and infrastructural developments.

Ponnagyun township

As the Sittway District consists of Sittway, Ponnagyun, Yathedaung and Pauktaw townships, the Ponnagyun township is situated on the left bank of the Kaladan River. It is 20 miles away from Sittway by road. In ancient times, the Brahmins were allowed to live to be mingled with the locals, thus getting the name of Ponnagyun. During the days of Rakhine kings, Ponnagyun was known as Uritaung; it was a branch of Yathedaung on 1 April, 1887 and again a branch of Kyauktaw town on 1 July, 1891 after the First Anglo-Burman war: Ponnagyun was then located near Mingan and Natseitma villages at the foot of Uritaung Pagoda. Uritaung town was badly damaged by a fierce storm on 23 October, 1868 and then moved to the present-day Ponnagyun. The

Ponnagyun township is 21 miles from the east to the west and 55 miles from the south to the north and area of Ponnagyun Town covers a total square mile of 0.52.

Pautaw and MraukU townships lie east of Ponnagyun town, in the west lie Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships, in the south lies Sittway and in the north lies Yathedaung Township.

Ponnagyun is 20 feet above the sea level with mountainous regions in the north and a plain in the south. Situated in a tropical monsoon, the town has a temperature ranging between 13 centigrade and 36 centigrade.

According to the statistics issued in October, 2017, Ponnagyun town consists of 4 wards, 92 village tracts and 193 villages with a population of 2137845. Among them are 122070 are Rakhine nationals; 90% of its population are Buddhists.

The town has two hospitals: 25-bed hospital and 16-bed hospital are for the welfare and healthcare of the people.

In addition, there are five high schools and two branch schools and other basic schools in the township.

There are 115 pagodas, 186 monasteries and 8 nunneries; according to the statistics issued in 2017, there were 388 monks, 46 novices and 33 nuns keeping the Sabbath in those monasteries and nunneries.

Yathedaung Township

The township which lies in the north of Sittway was established in 1863. With reference to stories of hermits who once dwelt in mountains, the name of the town is known as Yathedaung (Hermits' mountain). Buthidaung and Maungtaung townships were allowed to join the border administration on 25 July, 1960. Yathedaung consists of 29 village tracts which were transferred and again allowed to come under the Administration of Yathedaung township.

Present-day Yathedaung is 12 miles wide from east to west and 34 miles from the south to the north, and Yathedaung Town's area covers a square of 1.73 miles. It borders with Ponnagyun in the east, in the west with Maungtaung and Buthidaung townships, in the south with Sittway and in the north with Buthidaung township. Religious buildings include pagodas and stupas with 200 monasteries in which 315 monks, 461 novices and 20 nuns residing and meditating in those buildings. There are many famous pagodas Buddha statues and stupas in the township.

The people have depended on agriculture and animal husbandry for their livelihood; less development is found in the township due to difficult transportation.

Pauktaw township

The town, situated in the east of Sittway, was established in 1788.

According to the records of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Zinchaung village of Ramawaddy town chief U San Phyu Aung and his wife Daw Mi Hla May bought a plot of pasture from U Mra Phaw Aung of Thayay village for the Rakhine 30 coins; the village of Thawway Pautaw was established in 1788. The name 'Pauktaw' implies the felling of trees grown on the rich pasture. As the village became a town in 1898 to be ruled by the British Township Officer for being in a strategic waterway. Under the Revolutionary Council government, the town was upgraded to B-level status.

The town is 19 miles from the east to the west, 40 miles from the south to the north, and area of Pauktaw Town covers 0.14 square miles. It is in the east of Sittway and Ponnagyun townships; in the west of Minbya township and in the south of MraukU. It is 11 feet above the sea level and the southern part borders with the Bay of Bengal. The township is composed of five wards 53 village tracts and 177 villages with a population of 187000; among them are 154326 Rakhine Buddhists. There are only 18804 townspeople in the wards of the town. A 25-bed hospital and 16-bed station hospital are open to the public. For the students in the township, there are five high schools, seven branch schools, seven middle schools and other basic schools have already opened.

There are 29 pagodas, 244 monasteries with 339 monks, 432 novices and 20 nuns residing and meditating in those buildings. Among the famous pagodas are Sandawshin Pagoda on Myegnu Island and Layudaw Pagoda in the west ward and other pagodas in Taungnyo and Kyauksu wards. The town is situated on the left bank of Kyweku River and in the south there are 8 islands including three Frongar islands.

Sittway District is situated veering towards the west of Myanmar. With better transportation more and more people keep visiting the town for various reasons. Those who wish to go to MraukU will have to go via Sittway so that they are able to study Rakhine's rich cultural heritage.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 13 March 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, Weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Northern Shan and Rakhine states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (2°C) above March normal temperature in Upper Sagaing Region and about March normal temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) in Chauk, (39°C) each in Taungdwingyi, Ngathaichau and Bawlahe, (38°C) each in Magway, Aungmye, Pauk, Sinbyugyun, Thayawady, Nyaunglebin, Phu, Gyobingauk, Hmawbi, Yangon (Kaba-Aye), Yangon (Northern Dagon), Hinthada, Patheingyi, Zalun, Labutta, Myawady and Ye.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 14 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 Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Northern Shan 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, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

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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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.

Low-cost housing units in Hlinethaya go on sale



Low-cost housing units in Hlinethaya. **PHOTO: THAN SOE**

THE Urban and Housing Development Department has announced the sale of Kyansitmin low-cost housing units, located

beside the Kyansitmin Road, near the Yangon-Nyaungdon Road, in Hlinethaya Township in western Yangon Region.

U Sithu Phyo Wai, housing manager, said while construction is currently on, the sale of completed units has been officially launched, with the price of apartments ranging from K9 million to around K50 million.

The Kyansitmin Housing project is being developed in phases by the Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction. Phase I of the project involves construction of 73 buildings with 3,104 housing units, developed by 11 companies. Phase I is now 70 per cent complete. Phase II of the project will involve construction of 73 buildings with 664 apart-

ment units by 18 companies.

"Application forms for the units are available at the department's office near the Pansodan flyover. Buyers will have to make a 30-per cent down payment for the apartment. Nineteen buyers have already moved into their apartments," said U Sithu Phyo Wai.

Earlier, the government had successfully developed the Shwelinban low-cost housing project in the same township to fulfil the housing needs of the people. Buyers opting for units in Shwelinban had been given the option to pay in instalments.—
Than Htike ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Upgrading road to Alaungdaw Kathapa to begin after pilgrimage season

THE road to Alaungdaw Kathapa Cave in Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region, is to be upgraded to a concrete road following the pilgrimage season, said U Htee Maung, associated secretary of the Alaungdaw Kathapa Board of Trustees.

The pilgrimage to Alaungdaw Kathapa Pagoda occurs annually from January to April and is crowded with pilgrims coming from across the country.

Although the current road was maintained at a cost of K40 million per year, the road is not convenient for travellers. The seven mile road from Goneyinpin to Nathtake was upgraded to a concrete road at a cost of K270 million last year.

Arrangements have been made to upgrade the section of the road from Kapaingpwin to Goneyin, from Nathtake to Thabatesayyichaung and from Thabatesayyichaung to Shukh-



Pilgrims take elephant ride to Alaungdaw Kathapa Cave. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

intha, along with a reinforced concrete bridge, at a cost of K400 million.

There are 70 elephants at the

base camp to transport pilgrims who visit Alaungdaw Kathapa Cave, and the trip is governed by monks from Pale, Salingyi, Kan-

ni and Yinmabin townships and trustees from Alaungdaw Kathapa pagoda.—Min Htet Aung ■
(Translated by La Wonn)



Fire destroys nine houses and left 34 people homeless in Ngamyinchaung Village on 12 March. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN (MYAUNGMYA)**

Fire destroys nine houses in Myaungmya

A kitchen fire destroyed nine houses and left 34 people homeless in Ngamyinchaung Village of Myaungmya Township on 12 March.

The fire reportedly started from a kitchen stove in the home of Nant To Tay, 25. Firemen and local residents managed to bring the blaze under control by 1:30 p.m. The fire destroyed two motorcycles, four engines,

nine houses, and 700 baskets of paddy rice.

A total of 34 people from nine households were rendered homeless, and have taken shelter at the Thuzitar monastery in Ngamyinchaung Village.

The Myaungmya Township Police is taking action against Nant To Tay. — Aung Min (Myaungmya) ■ *(Translated by La Wonn)*

Fish farming licence arrears amount to K150 mln: officials



Workers harvest fish at a farm in Ayeyawady Delta. PHOTO: ZWE MAN

By Aye Yamone

Arrears of fish breeders defaulting on license fees have piled up to more than K150 million, according to the Yangon Region Fisheries Department. Of the total arrears, breeders in Twantay Town account for over K100 million. The Fisheries Department has announced that it will take legal action against those who fail to pay the license fees.

“Some of the fish breeders are holding a licence. But they have not been paying the monthly fee to our department. So we don’t know if they are still breeding fish or not. We come to know this only when we inspect their ponds,” said U Hla Htay, the Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

He made the remarks during a regular meeting with entrepreneurs, which was held on 12 March at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, Yangon.

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation said the ministry will grant permits to fish breeders who have been operating their farms without a licence after they pay a fine of K30,000. However, it will not renew permits of fish farmers who have not been paying their license fee, he said.

“The Fisheries Department levies a licence fee of just K3,000 per acre a year on fish farms. Breeders who wish to pay their arrears can contact the Township Fisheries Department,” he said.

“Currently, we are collecting

K10-50 million per year as fish farming licence fees. The licences of breeders can be revoked if they fail to pay the fees for several years. We have already sent notices to breeders who have failed to pay the licence fees,” he added.

The Fisheries Department will have to check whether entrepreneurs are in the red, that is, whether they have any arrears, when they come to pay the fine for illegal fish farming, which has been set at K30,000, said U Win Kyaing, the General Secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation. There are more than 80,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms in Yangon Region, but permits have been granted for only around 40,000 acres.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Individual border trade tops K25 bln as of 1 March

BORDER TRADE using individual trading cards (ITCs) exceeded K25 billion as of 1 March in the present fiscal year, with exports worth K4.145 billion and imports worth K20.873 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Border merchants have traded with neighbouring China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh through 16 active land borders—Tamu and Reed gates with India, Sittway and Maung-taw gates with Bangladesh, Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpaiktee and Kengtung with

China, and Myawady, Tachilek, Myeik, Kawthoung, Mawtaung, Htikey, and Maese with Thailand.

Between 1 October and 1 March this FY, the country traded with neighbouring states through only ten border trade camps. The total individual border trade included K2.365 billion from Tamu, K19.259 million from Muse, K11.881 billion from Myawady, K60.407 million from Tachilek, K4.117 million from Lwejel, K1.003 million from Kanpaiktee, K1.902 billion from Kawthoung, K162.876 million

from Reed, K7.327 billion from Mawtaung, and K290 million from Kengtung.

In the last week of February, the country exported domestic products worth nearly K4.058 billion and imported K19.4 billion worth of foreign commodities, totalling K23.5 billion.

From the beginning of the programme, to date, the Ministry of Commerce issued 1,623 ITC holders operating at border crossings.—Shwe Khine

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar-India trade in January up 28%

MYANMAR-INDIA bilateral trade totalled US\$147 million in January, the fourth month of the fiscal year 2018-2019, with \$70.4 million in exports and \$77.4 million in imports, according to the monthly trade report of the Ministry of Commerce.

When compared with the same month in the previous 2017-2018 FY, the current trade value between the two countries has increased by \$32.9 million, or 28.6 per cent. During the period, Myanmar’s imports outperformed exports in external trade with India, the vast Southeast Asian neighbour.

This FY saw a significant increase in export value by \$46.8 million, whereas import value declined by nearly \$14 million in bilateral trade with India.

In January 2018, Myanmar-India trade stood at \$114.9 million, with exports worth \$23.6 million and imports totalling \$91 million.

Myanmar delivers commodities to India via both the sea and border routes. In border trade, the two countries trade goods chiefly

through Tamu and Reed border checkpoints.

The marketable items between the two countries include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, fishery and forest products, and human hair, medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.

According to the ministry, trade with India reached its peak of \$1.9 billion in the 2016-2017FY. The figure dropped to \$1.47 billion in the 2017-2018FY. During the 2018 mini-budget period (April and September), bilateral trade exceeded \$800 million, with \$292 million in exports and \$508 million in imports.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Indian investment in Myanmar during the 2018 mini-budget period was \$19.9 million. The country has seen no new investments from India in the current fiscal year.—Swe Nyein

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Onion prices decrease slightly from its peak in wholesale market

THE prices of imported onion decreased to K2,100 from its peak of K2,200 per viss (3.6 pounds) in the wholesale market in Yangon Region, said Zaw Tun, onion merchant.

In wholesale market, the prices of imported onion were below K1,200 per viss since mid-2018. Beginning in the second week of this February, the onion prices went above K1,200 per viss. A single viss of onion was sold for K1,500 on 4 March. The prices increased to K2,200 on 8 March. The market saw a slight decrease in value of imported onion to K2,100 per viss on 12 March, he continued.

Zaw Tun said this was linked

to the increase in flow of locally harvested bid-sized onion into the market.

The wholesale prices of newly harvested imported onion on 9 March 2017 was between K5,700-K5,800 per viss, while the old crop of onion was sold for K6,500-K6,700 per viss. Compared to that of 2017, the prices of newly harvested imported onion decreased to K1,450 per viss on 9 June 2018.

Myanmar exports domestically produced onions, especially to China and Thailand. It imposes the same crop, mainly from China and India.—Maung Se Aung

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



PHOTO: SHWE MYINT OO (SHWEPYITHAR)



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi . PHOTO: AFP

Indian PM Modi in 29-tweet pre-election blitz

NEW DELHI (India)—Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched an early-morning Twitter blitz on Wednesday calling directly on Bollywood and sports stars and others to urge Indians to vote in the country's upcoming mammoth elections.

In 29 rapid-fire tweets, Modi tagged cricketers Virat Kohli, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Bollywood actors Ranveer Singh and Vicky Kaushal, asking them to inspire others to exercise their franchise in the world's largest democracy.

"Dear @msdhoni, @imVkohli and @ImRo45. You are always setting outstanding records on the cricketing field but this time, do inspire the (1.3 billion) people of India to set a new record of high voter turnout in the upcoming elections," one message ran.

"When this happens, democracy will be the winner!"

Modi, 68, swept his right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party to power in 2014, forming the country's first majority government in almost three decades.

But despite remaining popular, he faces a challenge to repeat the feat when India's 900 million voters cast ballots between 11 April and 19 May.

The opposition says Modi's flagship policies have failed to produce promised jobs, while thousands of debt-ridden farmers have committed suicide in recent years.

His party however seems to have gained ground after India launched air strikes on Pakistan last month in response to a suicide bombing that killed 40 Indian troops in Kashmir.

Modi, who has a massive 46.3 million followers on Twitter, also reached out to his political rivals, including Rahul Gandhi who heads the centre-left Congress party.

"A high turnout augurs well for our democratic fabric," he said in his tweet marked to Gandhi.

In his tweet to Bollywood stars Singh and Kaushal, Modi picked dialogues from their hit movies "Gully Boy" and "Uri: The Surgical Strike" and said they could motivate youngsters to use their voting right.

"It is time to tell them (youngsters): Apna Time Aa Gaya Hai (our time has come) and that it is time to turn up with high Josh (fervour) to a voting centre near you."

Results from the election are due 23 May.—AFP ■

Viet Nam asks Malaysia to free Kim assassin suspect

HANOI (Viet Nam)—Viet Nam on Tuesday asked Malaysia to free the Vietnamese woman charged with assassinating the North Korean leader's half brother in Kuala Lumpur, a day after her Indonesian co-accused was suddenly released. Vietnamese citizen Doan Thi Huong is on trial for murder in Malaysia for the brazen Cold War-style killing of Kim Jong Nam, the half brother of Kim Jong Un, in a busy Kuala

Lumpur airport in 2017.

Huong was accused alongside Indonesian Siti Aisyah, who was suddenly freed on Monday by a Malaysian court where the women were being tried. Viet Nam's Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh called his Malaysian counterpart on Tuesday asking Huong to be released as well, according to state media. "(He) asked Malaysia to ensure a fair trial, and to

set free Doan Thi Huong," Voice of Viet Nam radio reported on Tuesday after Minh's call with Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah. Huong is set to appear in court on Thursday after her lawyers asked the attorney-general to withdraw her murder charge. Prosecutors may decide then inform the court whether the application is successful. The call from Viet Nam's foreign

minister was an unprecedented public request from Hanoi, which generally does not get involved in criminal cases involving its citizens overseas.

Viet Nam provided legal counsel to Huong, but has refrained from publicly lobbying for her release until Tuesday. Siti's sudden release prompted questions about interference in Malaysia's justice system, particularly after the

Indonesian government revealed that it had lobbied Kuala Lumpur on the case. Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad said on Tuesday the decision was in line with "the rule of law". Huong and Siti have consistently denied the murder charge and have said they were tricked into carrying out the killing using a toxic nerve agent for what they thought was a prank. The women's lawyers say the

real killers are four North Koreans —formally accused of the crime alongside the women—who fled Malaysia shortly after the assassination.

South Korea accuses the North of plotting the murder of Kim, an estranged relative of Kim Jong Un who was once seen as heir apparent to the North Korean leadership. Pyongyang denies the accusation.—AFP ■

15 years on, family of disappeared Thai lawyer 'waiting for justice'

BANGKOK (Thailand)—The wife of a lawyer who vanished after being snatched off the streets of Bangkok 15 years ago urged Thailand on Tuesday to toughen laws to end impunity of officials accused of carrying out enforced disappearances. Rights groups say 30 human rights activists have disappeared or been murdered in Thailand since 2001. While local officials have been accused of being involved in some disappearances, they are

rarely held accountable and the perpetrators are rarely—if ever—brought to justice.

A draft law on preventing enforced disappearances is currently in parliament. But the bill must be toughened up as it currently is focused "on protecting government officials", said Angkhana Neelapaijit of Thailand's National Human Rights Commission. "The state must stand with the victims." Angkhana is the wife of prominent Mus-

lim human rights lawyer Somchai Neelapaijit, who disappeared on this day 15 years ago when he was bundled into a car off the streets of Bangkok, according to eyewitnesses.

Well-known for representing clients accused of insurgency-related violence in Thailand's deep south, Somchai's abduction came while he was defending suspected Islamic militants who had accused authorities of torturing them while in custody.—AFP ■

NOTIFICATION

This is to notify that the pilot test run of Risk Based System, utilizing Building Categorization Matrix (BCM) will be initialized in scrutinizing the building construction application cases in YCDC area, starting June 2019, replacing the current system, with an aim to speed up the building construction permitting procedure for businesses and investors alike. Level of risk will also dictate the requirement of documents. Categorization of risk will give more transparency to the public allowing them to estimate time and cost from the time of submission. It also aims at allowing public service providing organizations, better access to more accurate data based on risk, regarding the building, for both issuing permits as well as managing the building after construction. Online submission system based on internationally recognized ICT technology will follow soon to make the risk based system more effective.

Haed of Department (Deputy Director General)
Engineering Department (Building)
Building Control Authority
Yangon City Development Committee

Raw materials behind half of global emissions: UN

NAIROBI (Kenya)—Extracting and processing materials, fuel and food contributes as much as half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, the UN said on Tuesday, as experts gathered in Kenya to find ways to rein in exploding global consumption. Using dozens of data sources, the authors of a major new report presented lawmakers and businesses with a stark choice: drastically reform the global economy to get more from less, or risk the collapse of global infrastructure.

With countries already committed under the Paris climate deal to curb emissions to fend off the worst impacts of global warming, experts said there was little hope of meeting that goal without an "urgent and systemic transformation" in how we use Earth's resources. The Global Resources Outlook 2019 said that worldwide consumption of basic commodities such as water, minerals and fossil fuels had tripled since 1970. With high-population nations such as China and India rapidly expanding their economies, the team behind the report called for a drastic overhaul in how that growth is fed.

"Nobody is claiming that the countries which are on the lower level of development should not have the right to develop," said Janez Potočnik, co-chair of the International Resource Panel. "The question is, is it possible to do it differently



Global resource extraction and use has vastly outstripped population growth, the UN said Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

to how we have done it, with fewer consequences than we see today?"

The report paints a grim picture of relentless demand for resources as the global population ticks towards eight billion people. The use of climate-warming fossil fuels has increased worldwide from 6 billion tonnes in 1970 to 15 billion tonnes in 2017 despite decades of efforts to steer nations towards greener energy. Water use for agriculture and industry outstripped population growth in the second half of the 20th Century. In 2017, 3,900 km³ of water was withdrawn for commercial purposes—70 per cent of which went to farming. "The bad use of natural resources has a big impact on our quality of life and environment," said Bruno Orbele, Swiss former environment minister and one of the report's co-authors.

In line with most economic measurements, the study found that per capita consumption of raw materials in high-income nations was more than double the global average.

Richer nations use 27.1 tonnes of raw material per person per year, compared to just two tonnes a head in low income countries.

The "Towards Sustainability" scenario boosts policy measures to slow the growth of resource use, leading to reduced pressure on food and water supplies and boosting global economic growth by 8 percent. Conversely, the "Historical Trends" projection—which assumes a business-as-usual approach to resource use—would see greenhouse gas emissions shoot up 43 per cent by 2060.

The corresponding agricultural pressure to feed a global population expected to tip 10 billion by

mid-century would see land given over to agriculture increase by 20 per cent, reducing forest cover by 10 per cent and other habitat such as grasslands and savannah by a fifth.

Such a trajectory would shatter any remaining chance mankind has of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit), as countries committed to achieving in the landmark 2015 Paris accord. "The way we are currently organized, it isn't simply enough," said Potočnik. In a message to lawmakers and heads of state due in Nairobi for Thursday's One Planet Summit, Potočnik said the time for vague political commitments on the environment had passed.

"If you are in public office, defend public interest. And it's clear what is public interest today: we have to survive."—AFP ■

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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.

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Major Rome exhibition to celebrate Leonardo da Vinci



A visitor watches reproductions of Leonardo da Vinci's "Multi-barrelled Cannon" during the exhibition "Science Before Science" (La Scienza prima della Scienza) on March 12, 2019 at the Scuderie del Quirinale palace in Rome. **PHOTO: AFP**

ROME (Italy)—A major exhibition dedicated to the scientific genius of Leonardo da Vinci opens in Rome on Wednesday, part of festivities to mark the 500th anniversary of the death of the artist and

inventor. The show at the Scuderie del Quirinale palace, entitled "La scienza prima della scienza" (the science before science), traces the technological and scientific work of da Vinci and reflects on

how "the myth of Leonardo" was developed.

More than 200 pieces will be on display including some of his most famous works, which are credited with developing the para-

chute, helicopter and tank, the museum said ahead of the launch. Da Vinci was a "European citizen of the world," said exhibition curator Claudio Giorgione. The polymath was a driving force behind the Renaissance and worked in numerous fields, including painting, sculpture, architecture, science, mathematics and astronomy. His most recognisable artworks include the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.

The exhibition devotes an entire room to da Vinci's "military genius" with several reproductions of his designs, including his famous "giant crossbow". Da Vinci was born in the Medici-ruled Republic of Florence in 1452. He died in France in 1519 and is the most famous left-handed painter in history. French President Emmanuel Macron has said he will host his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella at Amboise, central France, on 2 May to celebrate the 500th anniversary of da Vinci's death "with French and Italian youth".—AFP ■

Hollywood stars among dozens charged over college entrance scam

NEW YORK (United States)—"Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman and fellow Hollywood actress Lori Loughlin were among 50 people indicted Tuesday in a multi-million dollar scam to help children of the American elite cheat their way into top universities. The accused, who also include chief executives, financiers, a winemaker and fashion designer, allegedly cheated in admissions tests or arranged for bribes to get their children into prestigious schools including Yale, Stanford, Georgetown and the University of Southern California, federal prosecutors said.

They paid a bogus charity run by Californian William Rick Singer millions both to arrange for people to fix SAT and ACT entrance exams for their children, and also to bribe university administrators and sports coaches to recruit their children, even when the children were not qualified to play university-level sports. Huffman, 56, and Loughlin, the 54-year-old star of "Full House," were among 33 parents accused of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud in joining the scheme. Loughlin's fashion designer husband Mossimo Giannulli was also on the list. Four people accused of running the scam, and 13 officials associated with university sports and the testing system were also charged. The payments ranged from \$200,000 to \$6.5 million, according to Andrew Lelling, the US attorney in Boston, Massachusetts where the case was filed. "Wealthy parents paid Singer about 25 million dollars in total," Lelling said.

Coaches, including the women's soccer coach at Yale University and the sailing coach at Stanford University, took between \$200,000 and \$400,000 to accept the students onto their teams. "Some simply never showed up," he said. "Some pretended an injury and some played and then quit," he said. None of the students were charged and most remain at the universities, he said. "The parents and other defendants are clearly the prime movers in this fraud." The investigation, which went on for one year, did not lead to charges against any universities.—AFP ■

Stephen Hawking's nurse struck off over care failings

LONDON (United Kingdom)—The nurse who cared for late British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking was on Tuesday banned for failing "to provide the standards of good, professional care that we expect and Professor Hawking deserved".

Britain's Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) made the ruling at a hearing where Patricia Dowdy, 61, faces multiple misconduct charges over her care of the professor—who died last year—including financial misconduct, not providing appropriate care and not having the correct qualifications. Hawking was confined to a wheelchair, almost completely paralysed and unable to speak except through his trademark voice synthesiser after having being

diagnosed with motor neurone disease aged 21.

"As the public rightly expects, in serious cases such as this—where a nurse has failed in their duty of care and has not been able to (provide) evidence to the panel that they have learned from their mistakes and be fit to practise—we will take action," said the NMC's Matthew McClelland. "We have remained in close contact with the Hawking family throughout this case and I am grateful to them—as they approach the anniversary of Professor Hawking's death—and others for sharing their concerns with us." Dowdy, who nursed the scientist for 15 years, had already been suspended after she was reported by Hawking's family,

according to the Mail on Sunday.

Hawking defied predictions that he would only live for a few years, although his rare condition—amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)—gradually robbed him of his mobility. Despite his illness, Hawking became one of the world's best-known and most inspiring scientists, known for his brilliance and his wit. His work focused on bringing together relativity—the nature of space and time—and quantum theory—how the smallest particles behave—to explain the creation of the universe and how it is governed.

But he was also a global star—his 1988 book "A Brief History of Time" was an unlikely worldwide bestseller, and he appeared as himself in television

shows from "The Simpsons" to "Star Trek: The Next Generation". The Royal Mint on Tuesday said he would be commemorated in a new 50 pence coin inspired by his pioneering work on black holes. "It is a great privilege to be featured on a coin and I hope my father would be pleased to be alongside Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin as scientists who have made it onto money!" said Lucy Hawking, his daughter.

Nicola Howell, director of consumer at the Royal Mint, said: "We are very pleased to honour Stephen Hawking on his own coin.

"As one of the world's most brilliant physicists he was a great ambassador for science".—AFP ■

Basquiat and the photocopier, on exhibit in New York

NEW YORK (United States)—Amid the success in New York of a major Basquiat exhibition from Paris, a gallery in the painter's hometown is paying homage to the late American artist's intensive use of the photocopier and collage in his work.

"Jean-Michel Basquiat / Xerox," at Nahmad Contemporary, shows that the Brooklyn-born artist of Haitian and Puerto Rican de-

scend integrated the machine into his creative process from his first attempts to transition from the world of street art and graffiti to contemporary art. The famous postcard that Basquiat sold in the streets in 1979, and which were his first point of contact with Andy Warhol, were color photocopies of collages that integrated painting, text and found objects.

Later, when he turned to larger media, he

used photocopies to add density to his works, covering his collages with small drawings, phrases and names, as evidenced in several of the pieces on display. The Nahmad Contemporary show runs from Tuesday to May 31, while the Louis Vuitton Foundation's big Basquiat exhibition's New York iteration, at the Brant Foundation, is sold out through its closing 15 May.—AFP ■

NASA astronaut Nick Hague calls Russia's Soyuz rocket 'technical marvel'

NEW YORK—NASA astronaut Nick Hague on Tuesday described as a “technical marvel” a Soyuz-FG carrier rocket which is to put the Soyuz MS-12 manned spacecraft into the orbit on 14 March.

“The production director told us it will be the 1901st launch of a Soyuz rocket. 40 tons of well designed hardware, and 270 tons of propellant, it's an engineering marvel!” the US astronaut wrote on his Twitter page. The departure of ISS Expedition 59/60 crew

members—Russian cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin and NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Christina Koch—was initially scheduled for October 2018. However, the mission was foiled by the abortive launch of the Soyuz-FG carrier rocket on 11 October.

Following a smooth liftoff, the Soyuz's booster malfunctioned between the first and second stages of separating, whereupon the crew was forced to abort the flight and switch to ballistic

descent. The manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft ended up landing safely in the Kazakh steppe. The crew was not hurt. This was the first emergency situation with the launch of a manned spacecraft over the past 35 years.

Currently, Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko, NASA astronaut Anne McClain and astronaut of the Canadian Space Agency David Saint-Jacques are working aboard the world's sole orbiter.—Tass ■



NASA astronaut Nick Hague. PHOTO: TASS

Paralympic fast track? Japan firm develops hi-tech wheelchairs

CHIBA (Japan)—In a small workshop just outside Tokyo, mechanics hammer, weld and measure as they craft “the Porsche of wheelchairs” for the world's top Paralympic athletes ahead of the 2020 Games. Paralympians using wheelchairs built by OX Engineering, a small company in the city of Chiba, have won a total of 122 medals since 1996—making them the gold medal champion among Japan's main manufacturers.

Since Tokyo won the bid to host the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, orders have flown in, increasing by around a fifth every year. The firm now makes about 500 sports wheelchairs a year for athletes from 21 countries. “We have the technology to make a wheelchair fit perfectly for each athlete and to help them perform at their best,” company president Katsuyuki Ishii told AFP. OX Engineering

was founded in 1988 by Ishii's father Shigeyuki who used to sell motorbikes until his life was turned upside down by injury. Road-testing a new bike, he had an accident that caused spinal injuries and left him paralysed. He tried out several wheelchairs and, unable to find a suitable one, finally decided to create his own model.

“My father wanted a wheelchair with a cool design like a motorbike but there was nothing like that around at the time,” Ishii said. “Then he decided to make one himself.”

‘Everything is tailored’

Manufacturing sports wheelchairs is high-precision work—they have to be specially designed for speed and agility, depending on the sport.

Tennis wheelchairs, for instance, have two large, angled wheels for stability in quick

turns, with two casters wheels at the front and one at the back. Racing wheelchairs, on the other hand, look completely different, with two large rear wheels and one small front wheel connected by a long shaft.

The detailed process of designing and manufacturing wheelchairs at OX Engineering remains top secret, but one of the ways the company pioneered to enhance athletes' performance was to boost the durability of the vehicle. Over the years, the company has refined the shape of their pipes to strengthen the equipment. The ability to create personalised equipment is also key, said Ishii. “Each athlete has a different body shape and type of disability. They all play and race differently.” “The way the pipes are shaped, the way parts are assembled... everything is tailored” precisely to each athlete, Ishii said.—AFP ■



Paralympians using wheelchairs built by OX Engineering, a small company in the city of Chiba, have won a total of 122 medals since 1996. PHOTO: AFP

Mammoth moves: frozen cells come to life, but only just

TOKYO (Japan)—A team of scientists in Japan has successfully coaxed activity from 28,000-year-old cells from a frozen mammoth implanted into mouse cells, but the woolly mammal is unlikely to be walking among us soon. The project by an international team took cell nuclei from a well-preserved mammoth discovered in 2011 in Siberian permafrost and placed them into several dozen mouse egg cells.

Of those, five displayed the biological reactions that happen just before cell division begins, said Kei Miyamoto, a member of the team at Kindai University in western Japan. None, however, produced the actual cell division needed for a mammoth rebirth, the researcher told AFP. “This suggests that, despite the years that have passed, cell activity can still happen and parts of it can be recreated,” he told AFP.

“Until now many studies have focused on analysing fossil DNA and not whether they still function,” he added. The research—published Monday in the journal *Scientific Reports*—doesn't provide much hope for Jurassic Park-style resurrection of long-extinct species just yet, he cautioned. “We have also learned that damage to cells was very profound.” “We are yet to see even cell divisions. I have to say we are very far from recreating a mammoth.” The university has worked with other Japanese and Russian institutes to study and to possibly clone the mammoth and plans to study alternative methods to bring the prehistoric giant back to life. “We need new technology, we want to try various approaches,” Miyamoto said.—AFP ■

World's first TCM evidence-based medical centre established

BEIJING—The Chinese traditional medicine (TCM) evidence-based medical centre, the world's first organization of such kind, was officially established on Tuesday in the *China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences* (CACMS).

The centre will pool together efforts of CACMS and other organizations like Beijing University of Chinese Medicine for TCM evidence-based research.

Evidence-based medicine is a widely-used approach in medical practice that is intended to optimize decision-making in treating individual patients by emphasizing the use of evidence from well-designed and well conducted research.

Under this approach, clinical evidence serves as the main basis for evaluating effectiveness and

safety of treatment. Though increasingly recognized around the world, TCM still lacks evidence justifying its clinical effectiveness and safety, which according to experts hinders it from “going global.”

“Evidence-based medical studies evaluate the clinical verifiability and effectiveness of a medical theory with scientific examination and analysis,” said Huang Luqi, academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering and head of CACMS, at a Tuesday event marking the center's establishment.

Combining evidence-based medical studies and TCM's features will help enhance clinical effectiveness of TCM, as well as provide opportunities for TCM to prove its medical values to the world, Huang said.—Xinhua ■

Myanmar to play FIFA friendlies with Chinese Taipei, Indonesia teams

MYANMAR men's national football team will play FIFA international friendly matches with the Chinese Taipei and Indonesian teams in Mandalay this month.

Myanmar will play against the Chinese Taipei team on 19 March and the Indonesian team on 25 March at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium.

The friendlies are scheduled to start at 6 p.m., after office hours, so that officegoers and students alike can enjoy the match.

Tickets for the matches are priced at K2,000 for ordinary seats and K3,000 for grand seats.

Myanmar stars Aung Thu and Zaw Min Tun who are play-

ing in the Thai Premier League Clubs are expected to return on 17 March and join the national team.

Ayeyawady United defender Kyaw Zin Lwin and Yadanarbon player Hein Nay Zin are also training with team Myanmar, under the guidance of acting head coach U Myo Min Tun, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Football Federation.

As the matches are recognized by FIFA, Myanmar needs a win to change its FIFA ranking, and the national team has promised entertaining matches and urged fans to watch them.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Summer football courses start in three major cities

MONTH-long football training courses have begun from 5 March for children under 18 years of age at national football academies in three major cities — Yangon, Mandalay, and Patheingyi. The summer courses have been organized under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation.

Over 300 children from regions and states across Myanmar are attending the courses, said an official from the MFF.

A total of 220 children are attending the course at the football academy in Yangon, 120 in Mandalay, and 25 in Patheingyi.

A training is being conducted every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, said an official.

"The courses have been organized at a convenient time: the long summer holidays in schools," said an official.

The courses are being conducted and headed by qualified football coaches and trainers from the federation.

Children who pass the training courses will be given certificates. The training will conclude on 10 April, before the Thingyan holidays, according to the football federation.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Man City thrash Schalke 7-0 to reach Champions League quarter-finals

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Manchester City thrashed Schalke 7-0 at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday to romp into the Champions League quarter-finals and keep their quadruple bid alive. Pep Guardiola's men

held a 3-2 lead from the first leg, and equalled the record winning margin in a Champions League knockout-stage game as winger Leroy Sané scored once and assisted three other goals against his former club.—AFP ■



Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo shoots a penalty to score 3-0 during the UEFA Champions League round of 16 second-leg football match Juventus vs Atletico Madrid on 12 March, 2019 at the Juventus stadium in Turin. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hat-trick hero Ronaldo goads Atletico with Simeone crotch-grabbing celebration

TURIN (Italy)—Cristiano Ronaldo lifted Juventus into the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday with a spectacular hat-trick, and then goaded his old enemy Atletico Madrid by mimicking Diego Simeone's crotch-grabbing celebration on front of the Spanish fans. The 34-year-old Portuguese superstar scored two headers and a late penalty to clinch a place in Friday's last-eight draw with a dominant display and 3-2 aggregate victory by the Italian champions in Turin.

After scoring the decisive penalty four minutes from time, Ronaldo turned towards the Atletico fans and replicated Simeone's gesture after the Spaniards' 2-0 first leg win by grasping his genitals and thrusting out his groin. "He will have seen how I did it at the Wanda Metropolitano and, like me, was trying to show his character," said Simeone, who was fined 20,000 euros (\$22,000)

by UEFA for his gesture. "Cristiano Ronaldo is the best in the world, he can put in these performances on big nights," added the Argentinian coach. Former Real Madrid player Ronaldo has now scored 25 goals against Atletico in 33 appearances, including four hat-tricks. Two of his five Champions League titles, in 2014 and 2016, have also been won by beating Atletico in the finals. He scored the title-winning penalty against Atletico in 2016 and a hat-trick against them in the last four a year later. "In the history of Juve there was never a comeback like this," said Ronaldo. "That's why Juventus bought me, to help them in games like this. I do my job and I'm very happy, it was a magical evening."

'Special night'

Juventus signed Ronaldo last summer from Real Madrid for 100 million euros (\$117 million) hoping he would make the differ-

ence on the continent. The Italian title-holders have not won the Champions League since 1996, and have finished runners-up twice in the past four seasons. "It had to be a special night and it was, not just for the goals, but for the team and their incredible attitude," continued the five-time Ballon d'Or winner. "This is the mentality you need in the Champions League and we are on the right track. It's too early to talk about the final, let's take it one step at a time. Atletico was a complicated team to face, but we are also strong and we deserved to go through." Ronaldo has now joined Barcelona's Lionel Messi with the most Champions League hat-tricks, on eight. The Portuguese has been directly involved in 77 goals in 77 Champions League knockout appearances—63 goals and 14 assists. He has scored 124 goals in the Champions League, more than Atletico in the competition (118).—AFP ■

PSG win in first outing since Champions League nightmare

PARIS (France)—Paris Saint-Germain shook off their Champions League hangover and resumed their canter towards another French title on Tuesday as they cruised to a 4-0 win in Dijon.

Marquinhos, Kylian Mbappe, Angel Di Maria and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scored PSG's goals in their first outing since their disastrous exit from the Champions League in the last 16 at the hands of Manchester United last week. The result left Thomas Tuchel's team 17 points clear of

Lille in second place, and they still have a game in hand. With a French Cup semi-final to come early next month, a double remains a possibility, but any celebrations here were low key for a club whose priority has long been Europe.

The PSG squad had been given three days off in the wake of their 3-1 home reverse against United, which eliminated them from the Champions League on away goals, the third season running in which they have gone out of the competition in the last 16.—AFP ■