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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with locals from Bago District



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with residents of Bago District at the Town Hall in Bago yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, who was in Bago, Bago Region paid homage to the Shwemawdaw Pagoda accompanied by Union Ministers U Min Thu, Dr. Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Myint Htwe, Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Region ministers and officials.

After offering flowers, water, oil lamps, fruits, soon and incense sticks and going around the pagoda the State Counsellor donated K 500,000 to the pagoda trustee board for all-round maintenance work of the pagoda and signed the visitors' book.

Following the pagoda visit the State Counsellor met with residents of Bago District in the Bago Town Hall.

> As Bago had a tradition of being politically active, voices of the people were being listened to. It was very beneficial to hear of the problems in the country.
>
> State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Present at the meeting was the entourage led by the State Counsellor, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin, Region High Court Chief Judge U Maung Maung Shwe, Region Advocate U Ohn Myint, Region Auditor Daw Than Win, Hluttaw representatives,

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PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes 11th session after 16th meeting

THE 16th meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held with 11 agenda yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put on record the second bill amending Penal Code considered as approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Next, Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe (Yangon Region constituency 3) tabled a motion to the Hluttaw to approve by paragraph the Consumer Protection bill sent with remarks by the President and obtained the approval of the Hluttaw.

Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe also tabled a motion to the Hluttaw to approve by paragraph the Boundary Measurement and Demarcation bill in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement and obtained the approval of the Hluttaw.

Furthermore Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe tabled a motion to the Hluttaw to approve by paragraph the bill amending the Myanmar Engineering Council Law in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement and obtained the approval of the Hluttaw.

Afterwards a total of 21 Hluttaw representatives consisting of 15 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives including 9 Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and 6 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives discussed the report of Joint Committee to study a bill to amend the Constitution for the second time.

Later Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker delivered a speech marking the conclusion of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session.



The 16th meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened.
PHOTO : MNA

Finally an announcement was made of the conclusion of the 16th meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the successful conclusion of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA ■

MIC approves seven investment proposals with over 1,100 job opportunities

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (4 / 2019) was convened at the meeting room of MIC in Yangon on 15th March 2019. U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC and 11 members attended the meeting.

The meeting approved seven projects in production and sales of flower seeds from Japan, manufacturing and marketing of plastic mould and plastic accessories (spare parts) from Hong Kong, production and marketing of plastic product from Myanmar, Hotel Service from the People's Republic of China, floating storage unit for storage of LPG as transit point from Singapore, education service from Myanmar and education services for hospitality and business management from Myanmar.



Union Minister U Thaung Tun addresses the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting in Yangon.
PHOTO :MNA

The amount of USD 71.786 million and kyats 2,854.74 million have been approved for above projects which will be create (1,161) job opportunities for citizens.—MNA ■

Committee on Reviewing and Returning Myanmar Migrant Workers holds first coord meeting



Coordination meeting for Committe on Reviewing and Returning Myanmar Migrant Workers being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.
PHOTO : MNA

THE Committee on Reviewing and Returning Myanmar Migrant Workers held their first coordination meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The committee aims to engage in negotiations with relevant countries to repatriate undocumented Myanmar migrant workers, to prevent non-citizens from entering Myanmar, provide necessary support to migrant workers, prevent human trafficking, and to ensure migrant workers are returned to their homes safely and smoothly.

The committee was formed on 19 February 2019 with orders from the Office of the President. It is headed by the Director-General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department and is composed with relevant ministries, sub-national governments, and relevant district administrators.

The first coordination meeting focused on the committee's main duties which include communicating with relevant countries to compile lists of migrant workers re-entering Myanmar, reviewing whether they are actual Myanmar citizens, finding out whether they are suspects or fugitives on the run and taking actions in accordance with the law if they are verified as Myanmar citizens, providing temporary accommodation and necessary services to returnees, and arranging transportation for the migrant workers back to their homes.

The meeting also discussed forming additional subcommittees and working committees as necessary, implementing a mechanism for facilitating government-to-government negotiations with other countries, assessing the sub-national government's readiness for designating gates for accepting returning migrant workers and other relevant tasks, including reviewing them.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with locals from Bago District



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi takes a documentary photo together with ethnic youths in Bago yesterday **PHOTO:MNA**

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residents of Bago District, local and foreign media and officials.

At the meeting the State Counsellor said the reason she went to meet local people of States and Regions was to learn about the situation of the people, local government, and public servants in the administrative sectors. Only when the people, government and the public servants were united as one can the destination be reached smoothly and quickly. So they need to be like close friends.

If people considered the administration to be a foe or an enemy, something was definitely wrong and the administration was most likely to be in the wrong. In most cases, the requests or demands of the people were reasonable. However, it was not always the fault of the administrative personnel if all the requests and demands of the people were not met. It was very much due to the system. The system was being changed. As the system changes, administrative personnel were expected to change too.

Another matter was the government's part. A democracy government elected by the people must be responsible to the people. It must do the best for the country and the people. It must have 'cetana' towards the country and the people. In addition to having cetana they also must be capable. Some had cetana but were not capable. Some were capable but didn't have cetana or were weak. They need to have both.

If the government, people and public servants works in unity, had cetana and capability, there would not be any reason for the country not to develop.

Only with stability can the country develop. Only then can all the people, citizens, government and public servants live a safe and secure life. All were responsible for this sort of security.

First security for the inner self was needed. For security of the inner self, correct conduct was needed. If things were done correctly, there would be a sense of security. The outer, physical safety would be the responsibility of the government governing under rule of law. People need to abide by the law in order for there to be rule of law. The laws also need to be fair and just. If the laws are not just nor fair, it must be amended to make it just and fair. Law was made by the people and can be amended by the people. It must be amendable. It must be in line with the time and era. It must be fair and just to all.

Citizens should be law abiding. The most developed and fastest developing countries were seen to be countries with citizens who were disciplined.

Once upon a time the whole world thought Myanmar would become the most developed country in Southeast Asia. Now that situation has changed and she has become one of the least developed countries in the region. This potential force should be used to make the country developed as expected in the past. If this were done with determination, commitment and perseverance, there was no reason this country could not develop.

The laws also need to be fair and just. If the laws are not just nor fair, it must be amended to make it just and fair. Law was made by the people and can be amended by the people.

As a union, the country faces numerous challenges. It was a union with diverse ethnic people, religions and languages. However these diversities could be a force that could be utilized. It would be an incomparable force and not available in other countries. Diversity could be used as a force and expanded even further. If diversities were combined, it would become a complete and powerful force.

On visits such as these, there was advance planning to ask the people what their worries were. That was the reason for these visits. In fact some matters were to be resolved by state/region government by connecting with the people. It has been said quite often, State/Region governments were responsible. They must go down and meet the people. They must be in touch with the people all the time. They need to listen to the voices of the people. Questions raised should be answered. The most important thing for a government that was responsible to the people was to explain whatever they did to the people. It would be a terrible wrong if they could not explain. Public servants must be able to answer to the people in a straightforward way. Sometimes, due to security reasons of the country, they might not be able to answer in full but any answer must be true. Tell truthfully about why an answer could not be given. Do not try to fool the people. The people will know. Let this be a warning for all of you.

People have the right to criticize the works of the government and public servants. But when using this right, care must be taken that the criticism was made with cetana towards maintaining unity and stability. Criticisms were requested to be constructive. The government, the public servants and the people were urged to strive towards changing and reforming with an intention of improving for the better. The government and public servants were to work for the benefit of the people with full cetana. It has always been noted that even though those who had worked for the benefit of the people with full cetana left their lives without having much of their own to show, what they left behind for the country and people were inheritances that were so abundant that it could not be spent by all the people. To leave incalculable inheritances for the people those serving in the government and the public services need to work with full cetana for the country.

Finally, during Q and A sessions, questions and answers should be short and concise. Answers provided should be brief and to the point, said the State Counsellor.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets …

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Bago Region's governmental officials in Bago yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

Afterwards, pre-submitted matters to the meeting covering mitigating the almost yearly flooding and inundation occurring in Bago District; depending upon the road transport in the region to downgrade some post-primary schools in Nyaunglebin Township where there were inadequate teacher-student ratios, releasing unused plantation land of Bago District DaikU Township ministry of industry seasoning powder factory (now a coffee factory) and if not released to use it for regional development, as irrigation water distributed to Waw and Thanatpin townships from Moe Yun Gyi reservoir was inadequate for both townships, only Waw township to be provided with irrigation water and if this were not possible, to provide alternate arrangements; upgrade the 50-bed People's Hospital in Kyauktaga Township due to increasing numbers of patients treated; Hinthakone football field site to be transferred back to the people as a public areas, transferring a congregation hall in Shwemawdaw Pagoda to the pagoda trustee board together with clearing the accounts; Independence Monument site taken over by Ministry of Health and Sports to be returned to the public as a public land and to explain about how Nyunt, Aung Chan Tha, Yetagun and Mawkan cinemas in Bago town were privatized; matters raised by 10 locals outside the meeting covering the removal of Shan Kaing Village administrator lawlessly; digging drains in back alleys of Bago town that had yearly flooding and inundation; removing hawkers on roadside platforms; removal of squatters on empty and fallow lands in Lower Gabar village; laying a road from Hlawga to Pan Khin; laying Yadanapon Road as a public road in Bago Town Myotwingyi Ward; farmland confiscated by No. 1 Ammunition Depot and Tatmadaw (Air) in 1996 and 1997; relevant officials to resolve and return confiscated land in Waw town Myitkyo Village back to the original owners; flood affected people in Bago Region to obtain full support and assistants provided; systematically issuing form 7 to Waw Township Latpan Village; private companies taking over more empty and fallow land than permitted in Hlawga Village; rights of farmers from Bago Town, Ottha New Town Ward 8; and matters raised by three locals in the meeting hall covering difficulties faced by Muslims and Hindus in making national registration identity card; constructing a new school building in Kyauktaga Township Aungmyin Village; enacting fresh water fish rule as quickly as possible and taking action until truth was exposed on matters raised by the people were answered by Union Ministers, Region Chief Minister, Region ministers and officials while the State Counsellor provided additional explanations.

> It is important to establish the practice of resolving problems through discussion. Every civilized society does this.

In her concluding remarks to the meeting the State Counsellor spoke of noticing two main points in Bago Region. One was the feeling of injustice felt by some people. The reason for this was either there truly were injustices, unfairness on the side of the administration side or a full explanation was not provided on why a matter was being conducted. If there were truly injustices and unfairness, the Union government would take action according to rules and regulations. If full explanations were not provided on why matters were conducted and thus there were misunderstanding from the people, the capacity of the officials will be raised so that they perform their duties more effectively and the officials will be required to put in more efforts.

But sometime the feeling of injustice was being incited by others. These need to be noted. There were some individuals and entities who did not care for the country's stability and incite problem.

People should be aware of this and not trust those instigators on the sides. Try to understand matters on your own. Assessment would be made of every submission made on any feeling of wrongs. After assessment, what is needed would be done. On each matter submitted at this meeting and whatever response might have been given by the government, everything would be assessed fairly and the Union government would stand on whoever is right.

It is important to establish the practice of resolving problems through discussion. Every civilized society does this. If no agreement was reached, civilized people continue discussions and negotiations. An answer agreeable to both sides was pursued.

As Bago had a tradition of being politically active, voices of the people were being listened to. It was very beneficial to hear of the problems in the country. That was why much thanks was owed to the people who came to the meeting. She concluded by saying that the best effort will be made toward the benefit of all.

Next, U Tin Soe donated Ks 20 million to the State Counsellor for the peace process and then the State Counsellor took a commemorative group photo with students attending the meeting.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi feeds the baby elephant at Wingabaw elephant camp yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with local people at Kyuntawsu Village in Yedashe Township, Bago Region yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

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Following this State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyt attended another meeting with Region Chief Minister, region ministers and officials at the Shwe War Tun Hotel guest hall.

At the meeting the State Counsellor spoke about matters raised by the people and to resolve whenever cases occurred. Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Region Government and Region Law Office were to cooperate and resolve the matters as quickly as possible. Farmers' affairs were to be handled speedily, said the State Counsellor.

After this meeting the State Counsellor went by motorcade to the Wingabaw Elephant Camp where Myanma Timber Enterprise Managing Director U Saw John Shwe Ba explained about the camp, aim, future goals, services provided, care provided to the elephants and elephant care based travel business matter using a video projector.

The State Counsellor then donated Ks 500,000 to care for orphaned elephants.

The State Counsellor and party left the elephant camp by helicopters and proceeded to Swa Dam in Yedashe Township and were welcomed upon arrival by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and officials.

The State Counsellor and party then went by motorcade to inspect the Swa Dam spillway damaged on 29 August 2018 and the construction of a temporary rock fill embankment nearby.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu and Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department Director General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing explained to the State Counsellor on timely works conducted after the spillway was damaged, status of constructing temporary rock fill embankment, working together with international experts to prevent similar incidents from happening again and the State Counsellor provided remarks where necessary.

After the briefing the State Counsellor went to the reconstruction site of flood affected Kyuntawsu Village and inspected the construction of two 30x60 ft. single story reinforced school building for Basic Education Sub Middle School donated and constructed by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

At the under construction hall of the Kyuntawsu Basic Education Sub Middle School, the State Counsellor met with the local people.

At the meeting Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein explained about the reconstruction status of Kyauntawsu Village affected by the Swa Dam spillway collapse.

Later the local people attending the meeting raised the matters of Thaingwa Village tract farmlands confiscated by a company in 2010, former owners not receiving the confiscated farmlands released by the Tatmadaw, constructing an irrigation canal to distribute irrigation water for summer paddy, assessing confiscated lands, allocating land near village land for increasing numbers of households and illegal sales for village lands.

Union Ministers and the Region Chief Minster explained about the matters raised after which the State Counsellor provided additional explanations.

> As Bago Region relied on agriculture, the matter of agriculture land was very important and it would be speedily resolved.

The State Counsellor said the matter of resolving the farmland matters fairly was decided by the Hluttaw in 2012 and not much was accomplished in the earlier years. However, month by month momentum had picked up and much was being accomplished. As Bago Region relied on agriculture, the matter of agriculture land was very important and it would be speedily resolved.

She found that the main point was to reinforce the Land Records Department. Once the Land Records Department has been provided with adequate resources, cases would be speedily assessed and resolved. It was a happy opportunity to meet with the villagers and it was understood that the villagers were unable to say all they wanted to say. At the same time, the government delegation was not able to say all it wished to say to the people.

As the country changed and developed, there would be more challenges. All need to be united to overcome the challenges. The country can develop only when there was capability to overcome the challenges.

In talking about progress and development, all the people must have both physical and psychological security. There was a strong conviction that the country would develop soon. This conviction need to be instilled in the people too. Only then can there be progress. This conviction would be the strongest force. Without strong conviction of your work, you would not achieve success. Whatever the difficulties may be, with conviction success would be achieved.

The Region Government members had been instructed to have closer and permanent contacts with the people. They are to listen to the voices of the people and think of resolving the problems faced by the people. The central government would also provide as much support as possible.

An important notice to youngsters would be never ever to try out drugs as it would be a very dangerous thing. Do not chew betel nut either as it would adversely affect the health. Study hard and never let go of the opportunity to learn. It was for your livelihood that you learn and study.

However, to become a learned person does not necessarily mean that you must have a school education. If you can earn a living, you would be a learned person. Priority must be given toward youths having jobs. Only when they have jobs could the youth have goals and target for life. Unemployed youths will become aimless goalless persons. The Union Government would do the best it could to enable youths to attend school and to provide employment after leaving school. However, youths on their side also need to do their parts.

The government would support the best it could towards development of the people. The people also need to put in their best effort toward their own development. It everyone put in their efforts together success would be achieved, said the State Counsellor. After taking a commemorative group photo with the local people, the State Counsellor left by helicopters and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Vice President U Myint Swe attends first Stakeholders' Symposium of National Export Strategy (2020-2025)

MYANMAR National Export Strategy (2020-2025)'s first Stakeholders' Symposium was held at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) with an opening address by Vice President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice President said holding the first Stakeholders' Symposium and e-Commerce Payment Platform for Digital Economy at the same time in the same venue can be considered a strong step towards the all-round development of the country and the digital economy sector can be called as a driving force for development of the National Export Strategy.

He stressed the need to make proportional development of the trade and investment sectors as they are considered driving forces for the country's economy.

Vice President U Myint Swe expressed thanks to the UK Department for International Development-DFID and International Trade Centre-ITC for their monetary and technical assistance to the Myanmar to keep the economic development trajectory with the implementation of the trade and investment plan and the National Export Strategy.

To develop the trade sector, Ministry of Commerce took a leading role with the technical assistance of the International Trade Centre in implementing the National Export Strategy giving priority to seven sectors and four support sectors.

The country has been some achievements as the ending of the five-year implementation period is drawing near, said the President, acknowledging that the National Export Strategy helped to build a road map for drawing a work plan for promoting export of Myanmar products and build a link between the government and the private sector.





Vice President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, delivers the opening speech at the National Export Strategy (2020-2025)'s first Stakeholders' Symposium yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Five new products to be added to National Export Strategy (2020-2025)

In the National Export Strategy (2020-2025), five new products including jewelry, digital economy, fruits and vegetables, agricultural products, basic food production and handicrafts, said the Vice President, adding that the strategy would be drawn together with producers from regions and states.

As a result of the National Export Strategy (2015-2019), it can be seen that Netherlands Trust Fund III (2014-2017) in Kayah State and Netherlands Trust Fund IV (2018-2021) in Taninthayi Region, the project for boosting income from peas and pulses (2015-2019), the project for gardening and tourism (2018-2021) around Inle Lake.

He urged the attendees to make efforts for attracting investment to prioritized sectors of the National Export Strategy (2020-2025).

Afterwards, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint reported on implementation of the National Export Strategy (2015-2019) and future plans for the National Export Strategy (2020-2025).

Afterwards, Dr. Gail Marzetti, Head of UK Department for International Development Myanmar, explained the components of the National Export Strategy 2020-2025. UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win also explained the detailed procedures of the NES. The Vice President then took a documentary photo with the attendees.

Public-private dialogue key to long-term solutions

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe, in his role as Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC), attended the 25th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at the UMFCCI.

In his speech the Vice President first said all the responses from relevant government departments to the submissions on difficulties and suggestions from the previous 24 meetings have been sent to all business associations submitting through the UMFCCI. He said the PSDC immediately takes care of all issues that can be resolved in a short period. He said the responses that require a significant length of time will be navigated step-by-step through public-private dialogues between the PSDC's five work committees, private businesses, and relevant ministry departments. As an example, the Vice President said the submittals from the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association held public-private dialogues until a final result was achieved.

> .... cooperation between the government and private sector in the investment sector will jointly shape the future of the nation's economy.

Development gaining traction for investments

The Vice President said it is evident to everyone that we are improving the investment environment for Myanmar by basing our work on four specific sectors. This includes making work related to investing go smoother, placing protections on investments made, increasing investment, and lessening restrictions on the investment sector. He said while it is true foreign investment is necessary for developing the national economy, it is equally true to develop the domestic investment sector so that domestic businesses and the general public will receive uniform socioeconomic development. He said we will eventually go from competing equally with foreign investors to having our citizens invest abroad. The Vice President said the PSDC is working on reducing economic restrictions and attracting more investments to develop Myanmar's economic community. He stated his belief that cooperation between the government and private sector in the investment sector will jointly shape the future of the nation's economy. As relevant Union ministries, Deputy Ministers and officials were in attendance, groups and associations participating in this meeting were urged to openly discuss about the difficulties they are facing, said the Vice President.

Officials discuss economic issues

Next, PSDC Vice-Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint explained about the aims and processes for private sector development and the UMFCCI President explained the implementation status on the previous meeting's decisions, future public-private dialogues, increasing imports and other tasks.

This was followed by discussions on the challenges and recommendations for relevant work sectors by Chairman U Ye Ming Aung Vice-Chair U Aung Than Oo of Myanmar Rice Federation, General-Secretary U Myo Myint of the Federation of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association, and U Ko Ko Gyi, member of the UMFCCI's Working Committee on Improving Border Trade. MoC Permanent Secretary U Aung Soe also explained plans in motion to launch the Myanmar Doing Business Website.

The Vice President, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Yangon Region Minister of Development Affairs, and other officials then responded to the recommendations submitted and gave suggestions as necessary. The meeting concluded with a closing speech from the Vice President. The 25th regular meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs was attended by Deputy Ministers U Win Maw Tun and U Maung Maung Win, CBM Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, regional ministers, the President, Vice President and Central Executive Committee members of UMFCCI, officials from the 5 working committees, department heads and other officials. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects South Nawin Dam, Thayet-Aunglan Bridge

YESTERDAY, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, inspected the South Nawin Dam in Bago Region undergoing reinforcing and safety procedures, and the construction of the Thayet-Aunglan Bridge over the Ayeyawady River in Magway Region.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the safety peocedures of South Nawin Dam in Bago Region yesterday. **PHOTO : MNA**

Inspecting South Nawin Dam

The Vice President was accompanied by Deputy Ministers Rear-Adminiral Myint Nwe, Dr. Ye Myint Swe and U Kyaw Lin, along with departmental officials, as they travelled by motorcade to Paukkaung Township in Bago Region yesterday morning. They arrived at South Nawin Dam's project briefing room and received a briefing from Deputy Director-General U Bo Bo Kyaw, from the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management, on the dam's history and the work in progress to make the dam safer.

The Vice President responded by giving suggestions as necessary. He instructed officials to clearly communicate with the local residents on the progress of the dam's reinforcement and safety implementations and to continue giving their best efforts in truly making the dam safer. He also told them to continually monitor the dam for any changes and to increase sustainability efforts on conserving older dams.

The Vice President then inspected South Nawin Dam and looked over the process of repairing the dam's embankment. He also cordially greeted the dam and geological experts from Japan working on the dam and took a documentary photo with them.

Inspecting Thayet-Aunglan Bridge

The Vice President and entourage arrived at the site of the Thayet-Aunglan Bridge later in the day. They were welcomed by Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, regional ministers and Hluttaw representatives, and other officials.

In the construction project's briefing room, Deputy Director-General U Khin Maung Swe and Director U Tun Lin of the Department of Bridges explained about the reason for constructing the bridge and tasks related to the Vice President, with Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin adding in an explanation on the financial segment.

The Vice President instructed officials to use the funds allotted for constructing the bridge, to only use the genuine required area of land for the bridge, and to patiently and openly explain to the public the benefits that the bridge would be bringing. He then inspected the bridge construction site.

The Thayet-Aunglan bridge will link the eponymous Aunglan and Thayet towns in Thayet District, Magway Region, over the Ayeyawady River. The bridge is also part of the economic corridor connecting Kyaukpyu Economic Zone to Shwe Li through Thayet, Aunglan, and Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Fighting between Tatmadaw, AA insurgents occurs around Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw

THE TATMADAW forces conducting proper security operations around Rakhine State Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw towns engaged in a fierce fighting with an AA insurgent group and captured armaments and remains of AA insurgents.

The Tatmadaw forces also occupied a temporary base camp setup by AA to attack towns, villages and departmental buildings in Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw townships.

About 9 p.m on 7 March, an AA insurgent group led by Aung Zaw Lin arrived near Ponnagyun Township, Pane Ne Taw Village and sent his hard core group members to Ponnagyun Township ward administrators with letters demanding a total of K 65 million from wards in Ponnagyun town within 7 days. If the demand was not met, Ponnagyun town, Tatmadaw regimental headquarters and police stations will be attacked after the completion of matriculation examinations, said the letter.

The local populace reported the matter in a timely manner to Tatmadaw and security forces while refusing to pay the extorsion.

Accordingly security forces spread out and increases security works within and around Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw townships. On 9 March Yotayoke Police Outpost in Ponnagyun Township where only about 11 police forces were stationed was attacked by an overwhelming force of AA. The police outpost was responsible for security in the area, maintaining communal peace, the rule of law and storing exam and answer papers of the ongoing matriculation exam conducted in exam centers in the area.

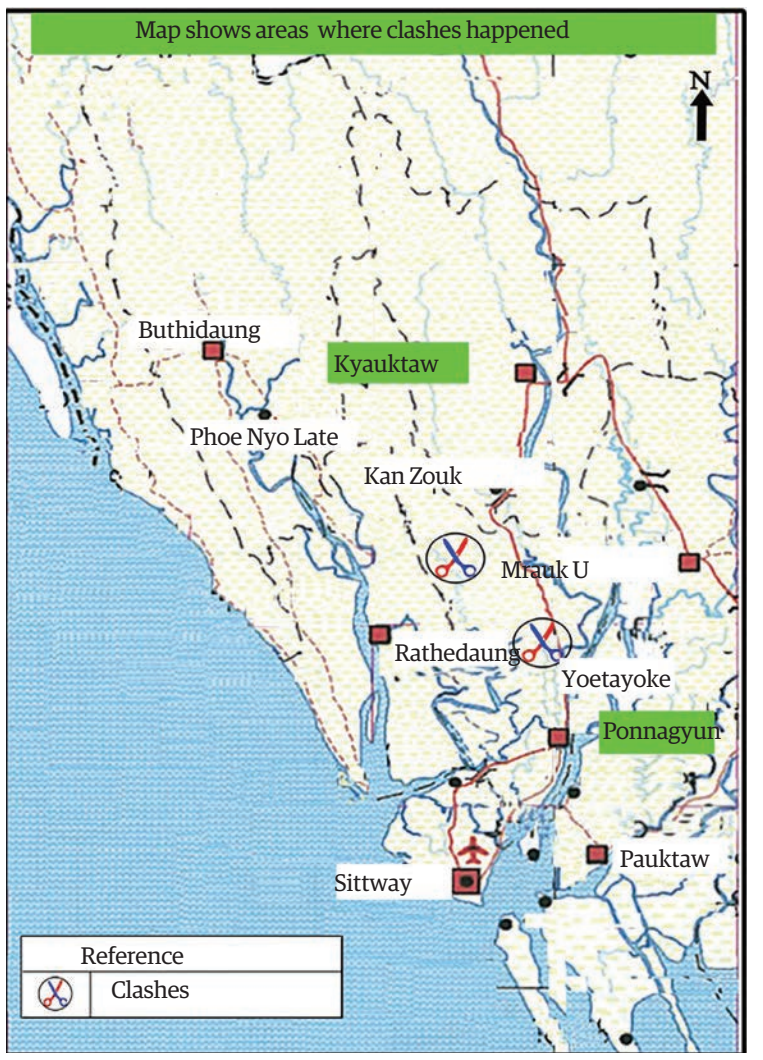
As information were received of AA insurgents plan to attack ward and village security stations, security forces conducting security operations between Kanzauk and Ponnagyun came into contact with an AA insurgent group and local villagers forcefully conscripted based in a temporary base camp 7000 meter south of Kyauktaw town Kanzawuk village on the afternoon 11 March. The temporary base camp was setup to harass and attack Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw townships.

On 12 March, as the security forces fought to contain the AA insurgents, the AA insurgents attempted repeatedly to encircle the security forces and also blocked a Tatmadaw column sent to reinforce the security force that was engaged in the fight since 11 March.

During the night of 13 March and on 14 March security forces broke through the blockade and counter-attacked the AA insurgents attempting to overrun the position of the security forces containing them. AA insurgents finally retreated in all directors with heavy casualties on the evening of 14 March.

During these engagements, there were some casualties the security forces while armaments, remains of AA insurgents and the temporary base camp setup by AA to attacking towns, villages and departmental buildings in Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw townships was captured. Security forces were continuing security operation in Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw townships according to news released by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services' Office.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



The map shows the conflict areas of AA insurgents.
PHOTO : MNA

Democracy needs proactive, responsible citizens

A DEMOCRATIC government is "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Such a government is made up of the people, is elected by the people, and works in the interests of the people of a nation.

In a democracy, the people have the right to express their opinions and their preferences, and ensure the government takes those opinions into account, and in this way, they can make sure the government is acting responsibly and is accountable for its actions.

There must be a connection between the people and the machinery responsible for governing them. The people and the officials must listen to each other and give the opportunity to explain. Sometimes, those who govern may be autocratic and pay no heed to the voices of the people.

> All citizens have the freedom and the right to speak up and raise questions. But they must not misuse these rights, and instead, use them for the benefit of the people and the country.

Sometimes, the people themselves may refuse to listen to the government. They may question the government and not wait for an answer. For a democracy to work, both the government and the governed must not only listen, but have the will to listen to each other.

In the end, it comes down to collective will. If there is a will, any problem can be overcome.

The citizens and politicians must be free to express their opinion and inform about governmental processes and public affairs. If this is not done, citizens will not have sufficient information and they will not be able to make free and informed choices.

The citizens, on their part, must adopt a responsible approach towards issues that affect their quality of life.

Before exercising their democratic rights, the citizens have a responsibility to critically analyze themselves first, before criticizing the administration.

We must not forget that the members of the executive are also citizens, and they are being assigned duties because they have been elected by the people to the government.

"People need to assume responsibility. Only then will the government elected by the people reach a situation where it can take full responsibility. Don't forget the fact that all high-ranking officials in the government have been elected by the people," said State CounsellorDawAung San SuuKyi while meeting people in Pyay on 14 March.

All citizens have the freedom and the right to speak up and raise questions. But they must not misuse these rights, and instead, use them for the benefit of the people and the country. More importantly, they must exercise their rights for the development of the Union spirit.

Our country is facing numerous challenges. The most important factor that will help us face challenges is unity. Our country's progress depends on how much we can give and what we can do for it.

Monywa Twintaung Aspiring Geopark

By Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)



Twintaung lake is about 9 kilometres away from Budalin in Sagaing Region.

NOWADAYS all nations in the world are striving to transform their country by UN Agenda 2030 known as 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The UNESCO Global Geoparks are successfully contributing the sustainable development goals in Asia Pacific and Europe.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concepts of protection, education and sustainable development.

Sagaing Region covers 93527 sq. km which is the largest region in Myanmar. The region posses natural resources, biodiversity and fertile soil. The single and the best quality jade, gold, copper deposits, industrial raw materials, shallow petroleum reserves, teak and other hard woods, agricultural products such as rice, wheat, sesame, peanut, cotton, tobacco, geologically significant extinct volcanos, maar lakes, well known Stone Age or Neolithic and Bronze cultural heritages, Religious and Archaeological sites are situated in Sagaing Region.

The Sagaing Region lies at a vital place and is bordering India, Nagaland, Manipura, Kachin State, Shan State, Mandalay Region and Magway regions. The estimated urban population is more than one million and rural population is five millions in the Region. According to the chronicle of Myanmar History since 1278 at which Bagan dynasty had ended the North Eastern part of Myanmar was controlled by Sagaing Dynasty from 1315 to 1364, by King of Ava from 1364 to 1555, by King Taungoo from 1555 to 1752, before annexation by British in 1885 Konbaung Dynasty ruled the region from 1752 to 1885. Just after Independence in 1948 the government designated as Sagaing Division. In the Sagaing Region Sagaing District, Shwebo District, Monywa District, Katha District, Kalay District, Tamu District, Mawlaik District and Hkanti District are included. Monywa which the Chief Minister's office is located is situated at the eastern bank of Chindwin River in Central Myanmar and 136 kilometre away north west of Mandalay. Monywa can be reached by car, by train, by boat and by air from various places in Myanmar.



A geologist conducts a study at the Monywa Twintaung Geopark.

Geology of Monywa Twintaung area

The geology of Lower Chindwin area had been studied by geologists since pre-war days. Professor A. Boxtorf in 1903, Dr. P. Katerborn in 1924, Dr. R. D. Oldham 1906, E.S. Pinfald, A.E. Day, L.D. Stamp, H; L; Chhibber, Dr. C.T. Barller, Conard Buri and Dr, Hans Huber studied geology in the area during 1921 and 1934. From 1973 to 1974 joint programme with Columbo plan and MMDC studied in detail in Twintaung and surrounding areas. In 1970 an author from Daily Newspaper wrote an article that due to the volcanoes at Monywa Twintaung area are lying on a straight line he postulated that these volcanoes are formed by the jumping of fallen meteorite on earth. The geologists who know volcanology and volcanism clarified that those are intruded and extruded features of the earth surface.

In 2010 Ali Akabar Khan @ U Khin Maung Htwe from Mandalay University studied the area for his PhD degree and his doctoral dissertation is "Geological and Pertrological Significance of the Volcanic Rocks Exposed in Twintaung-Silaung Area, Monywa District". Twintaung area is situated on the Central Volcanic Belt of Myanmar and 50 kilometer from North of Mt. Popa. The rocks are of Tertiary in age except the igneous rocks of Salingyi area (Ali A Khan,2010). Eocene rocks are exposed in western part and Miocene clays and sandstones of Irrawaddy Formation, Mio-Pliocene in age, are exposed in the east. The rhyolite, dacites and andesites and copper mineralization are found at Sabe Taung, Lapadaung Taung and Kyesin Taung. The area is mainly covered by volcanic lava, volcanic rocks, Irrawaddy sandstones, granite, diorite, ultramafic rocks and gneiss.

> The extinct volcanoes of Lashe, Twinma and Taungbyauk are situated in Kani Township in the west bank of Chindwin River and Twintaung and Nyaunggan volcanoes are situated in the east of Chindwin River.

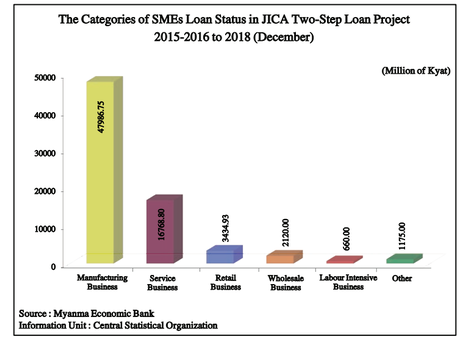
The extinct volcanoes of Lashe, Twinma and Taungbyauk are situated in Kani Township in the west bank of Chindwin River and Twintaung and Nyaunggan volcanoes are situated in the east of Chindwin River. All craters are cone shape and East Twintaung and Taungbyauk crater are phreatomagmatic cones (maars) and the others are cinder cones. The craters are not so high in the flat land but the view from the craters are so beautiful and tephra with thin layers are also valuable for geology and attracted to researchers who are interested in volcanoes and volcanism.

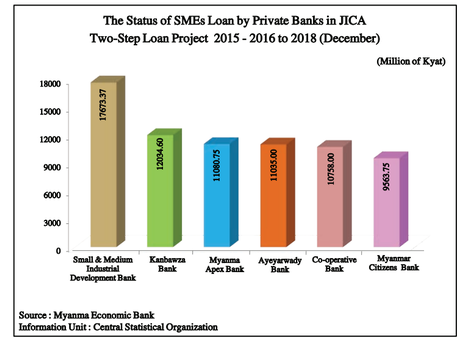
The younger volcanic rocks are deposited after Irrawaddy Formation and age dating by K and Ar on basalt shows 0.44+ or – 0.12 millions years. The older tuff and Irrewaddy Formations are the same age.

Tertiary Maar Lakes

A maar is a shallow volcanic crater with steep sides that is surrounded by tephra deposits. The tephra deposits are thickest near the crater and decrease with distance from the crater. A maar is formed by one or more underground explosions that occur when hot magma comes into contact with shallow ground water to produce a violent steam explosion. These explosions crush the overlying rocks and launch them into the air along with steam, water, ash and magmatic material. The materials usually travel straight up into the air and fall back to Earth to form the tephra deposits that surround the crater. If the tephra lithifies, it will become an igneous rock known as tuff. After the eruption, an inflow of groundwater often turns the crater into a shallow lake. The elevation and water depth of the maar lakes in this region is about tens in meters. The eruption is not only once but also again and again, sometimes, it may take many days.

TO BE CONTINUED





Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Friday 15 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 State and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (2°C) above March normal temperatures in Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states, (3°C) above March normal temperature in Kayah State and about March normal temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) in Chauk, (40°C) each in Magway, Aunglan, Taungdwingyi, Sinbyugyun and Pyay.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 16 March 2019: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 March 2019: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay regions.

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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.

Ancient votive tablets unearthed in Thaton

OVER 240 ancient votive tablets were found recently while workers were digging a pit for the construction of a new building in the compound of the Myanmar Roman Catholic church at Theinkone ward in Thaton Township, Mon State. Some of the tablets were found in a damaged condition. "More than 100 ancient votive plaques were found together, and other tablets were discovered at different places, when pits were being dug for a new refectory. The plaques will be handed over to officials," said an official from the church.



The ancient votive tablets found recently in Thaton. **PHOTO : THET OO**

The votive tablets were inspected by Daw Khine Khine Lei from the No. 1 constituency of Thaton Township and other officials. Further studies will be conducted to trace their history, said officials. The artwork and design of the ancient votive tablets bear resemblance to others found on 15 June, 15 July, and 8 August in 2015 at the Ngattwin monastery, located near the Catholic church, they said.

"Over 650 votive tablets from the earlier find were in quite good condition and the figures on 900 were damaged. The votive tablets seem to date to an early Bagan period and appear to have originated in India, their design seems to bear the style of Pala-Sena art," said archaeologist U San Win. More than 1,000 votive tablets have been unearthed near the No. 2 high school in the area over the last 40 years. The discovery of clay plaques at the Ngattwin monastery was the second such case in Myanmar, and the find at the church is the third such instance where artefacts have been unearthed in Myanmar. The tablets unearthed at the church are being stored temporarily at the Township's General Administration Department —Thet Oo ■ (Thaton)
(Translated by La Wonn)

Bird population at Indawgyi Lake rises by over 10,000

THE number of birds at the Indawgyi lake has increased by over 10,000, and two new species of birds have also been spotted near the lake in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State, according to data provided by the Environment and Wildlife Conservation Department. As per records, more than 20,500 birds were registered in 2018, and the number has increased to over 31,050 in 2019. "The increase in the population can be attributed to higher food availability en route for migrating birds at the Indawgyi lake. Most species of migratory birds found near the lake are from Siberia in Russia and the frozen mountainous regions of northern China, where birds find it hard to survive in the winter. Thus, they have flocked to Indawgyi Lake to rest and feed during the winter season. The new species of migratory birds spotted at the lake are the Common Goldeneye, a species of waterfowl, and Clesser Blacked Gull, a species of seagull," said U Saw Hmuu, the warden. Indawgyi Lake is recognized as one of the largest lakes in Southeast Asia and an ASEAN heritage park. It was established a wetland area in 2016, and granted the status of a biosphere reserve in 2017. There are 669 biosphere reserve sites in 120 countries. —Win Naing (Kachin) ■ *(Translated by La Wonn)*



An informative booth enables the visitors to learn the ecosystems and bio-diversity. **PHOTO : WIN NAING (KACHIN)**

To prevent African Swine Fever, upgrading farm biosecurity vital: Ministry

By Nyein Nyein

UPGRADING biosafety and biosecurity in farms is essential to prevent an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Myanmar, according to the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

"Over 100 pig farms in China have reported an ASF outbreak, with 1 million pigs being slaughtered. The affected farms are located in some northeast, central, and eastern provinces, including Yunnan, which shares a border with Myanmar. Thus, Myanmar needs to take preventive and precautionary measures against ASF," according to a notification issued by the LBVD.

"The high virulence forms of ASF make it highly contagious. The virus affects both domestic and wild pigs, and spreads easily through direct contact or contact with contaminated objects. Biosecurity at pig farms is important to prevent an ASF outbreak. There are some preventive measures which need to be taken as well. They include spraying acaricides in pig markets, refraining from feeding leftover feedstuff to domestic pigs, conducting systematic farming, buying only pedigree pigs, and breeding newly bought and existing pigs separately," the department stated.

"In addition, people must avoid consuming imported frozen pig and pork products such as bacon, ham, and sausage. Hunting of wild pigs and farming of wild pigs along with domestic pigs must be avoided. If they come upon any suspicious signs in pig farms, people must inform the nearest LBVD and the Myanmar Livestock Federation. They must also cooperate with the related departments and organizations to carry out preventive measures and research on the disease," the notification stated.

According to the LBVD, the government is cracking down on illegal imports of pigs and pork products through the Sino-Myanmar checkpoints ASF cannot be transmitted to humans through contact with infected pigs or pork, according to the World Organization for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

MRF urges members to work together to boost exports

By Nyein Nyein



Workers loading sacks of rice on a ship at a jetty in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

THE Myanmar Rice Federation has asked member companies to consider cooperative exports to increase rice trade.

The federation said it has asked members to work together for exporting rice through government-to-government agreements and cooperative exports, under an arrangement with the MRF. Member companies wishing to participate in the initiative have been asked to apply by March-end, according to the federation.

"To boost rice exports, MRF is trying to identify more external markets in collaboration with the concerned government departments. They are seeking to link exporters with markets in Africa, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and other countries," said U Aung Than Oo, the vice chair of the federation.

"A delegation led by Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, including members of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), attended the 2nd China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Forum held in the Yunnan Province of China in February. The delegates met with their Chinese counterparts in Yunnan to discuss increasing the quota limit for rice to 400,000 tons. China had granted a quota of 100,000 tons to Myanmar in 2016," according to a statement released by the MRF on 25 February.

Additionally, traders from the two countries can enter into a legal agreement for trade of broken rice produced in Myanmar by paying a tax, the press release stated.

Myanmar exports rice to foreign trade partners through the maritime route and border gates. China has been cracking down on illegal trade, prompting its merchants to halt trade, which has resulted in a drop in rice exports through Myanmar's border channels.

"The Ministry of Commerce has forwarded a request to China, seeking a legal export channel for rice through the border gates, and so, Myanmar merchants need to make the necessary preparations for meeting China's quality standards in order to pass its food safety inspection mechanism — the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ)," said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

Between 1 April, 2018 and 15 February, 2019, 2.115 million tons of rice and broken rice were sent to foreign markets, fetching an estimated income of US$699.46 million.

Myanmar exports rice to 50 countries and ships broken rice to 21 external markets.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Magway Region holds three-day workshop on GAP in sesame production

WITH countries such as Japan eyeing sesame produced in Myanmar using Good Agriculture Practices, a three-day workshop on improving GAP in sesame farming was held from 12 to 14 March at the Magway Region's Agriculture Department

Representatives from the Network Activity Group and Winrock International, non-profit organizations which will work across 3,000 acres of GAP farms and sesame grower groups from 11 townships of Magway Region, officials and project managers and staff attended the workshop.

"Post-harvest technology, manufacturing and preserving technologies, transportation, export, and tender process were explained at the workshop. Therefore, GAP in sesame production will improve," said U Khin Maung Win, the head of Magway Region's Agriculture Department.

On the first day of the workshop, representatives from Winrock discussed matters regarding sesame farming and use of GAP, climate change, and growing methods. Dr. Wunna Tun from the Vegetable and Fruit Research Development Center shared 16 facts about GAP and organic farming.

Officer Dr. Win Than shared ideas for pest control and systematic use of pesticides. Dr. Tin Ohn Mar Win discussed methods for reducing waste during harvesting and post-harvest management on the second day of workshop.

On the last day of the workshop, Deputy Director U Toe Min and Assistant Director U Thein Lwin of the Magway Region Agriculture Department exchanged ideas with growers, and discussed difficulties and challenges on using GAP and follow-up inspections.

Myanmar's sesame seeds are shipped to markets in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among countries in the European Union. Markets in the EU prefer organically grown sesame seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Organization.

Additionally, there is demand in Japan for black sesame seeds grown in Myanmar through GAP. Japanese traders buy black sesame after a quality assessment. China also purchases a variety of colored sesame seeds from Myanmar.

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

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

Sesame in cultivated throughout the year in the country, and Magway Region, which is known as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. Sesame is also cultivated in Mandalay and Sagaing regions. —Zayyatu / Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Germany exceeds $240 mln

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and Germany was recorded at US$241.3 million for the period between 1 October, 2018 and 31 January, 2019 in the current fiscal year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

During the first four months of the 2018-2019FY, Myanmar's exports to Germany surpassed imports, with exports registered at $182 million and imports valued at $59 million.

Along with regional trade partners, Myanmar has established trade links with EU members. Germany is Myanmar's largest trade partner in the European Union, followed by the UK and France.

Myanmar mainly exports rice, pulses, tea leaves, coffee, garments made on a cut-make-pack basis, and fishery products to Germany. It imports machinery, data-processing equipment, electrical and optical goods, chemical products, motor vehicles and parts, pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, food and beverages, and consumer goods.

Myanmar was reinstated in the EU's Generalized Scheme of Preferences on 19 July, 2013. The country enjoys GSP on exports of fishery products, rice, pulses, agro products, bamboo and rattan finished products, forestry products, apparels, and finished industrial goods.

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Germany was registered at $373 million in the last mini-budget period (April-September 2018), $584 million in the 2017-2018FY, $342 million in the 2016-2017FY, $153 million in the 2015-16 FY, $147 million in the 2014-2015FY, $123 million in the 2013-2014FY, $187 million in the 2012-2013FY, and $137 million in the 2011-2012FY.

EU member countries have invested in petroleum and natural gas enterprises, manufacturing, transportation, hotels and tourism, and livestock businesses in Myanmar. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to remains of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing went to Gaing Htauk monastery in Nay Pyi Taw Council area, Lewe Township, Ayelar Town and paid homage to the remains of Gaing Htauk Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida yesterday morning.

At first Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party pay homage to the remains of the Gaing Htauk Sayadaw. Afterwards, the monastery's head monk Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanissara explained about the funeral ceremony arrangements and the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief asked for necessary assistant to be provided.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to remains of Gaing Htauk Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kawvida at Gaing Htauk monastery in Lewe Township yesterday.
PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Later the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief made cash donation and offertories for the funeral ceremony and high ranking Tatmadaw officers donated offertories to the Sayadaws.

The Gaing Htauk Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida was 100 years old with 80 Vassa on 10 March.

The funeral ceremony will be held on 16 March, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Emporium continues in Nay Pyi Taw

ON the fifth day of 56th Gems Emporium, 1050 jade lots were reported to be sold at Euro 46.505 million. A total of 1200 jade lots were put up for sale through an open tender system on the fifth day of the emporium out of which 1050 lots were sold.

At the gems emporium, a total of 6973 jade lots, 79 lots owned by government, 4332 lots owned by companies, cooperative organizations and 2562 owned by joint venture companies with government, will be put on sale till 20 March at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.



Big jade seen on the fifth day 56th Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO : MNA**

A total of 4539 gem merchants, 2911 from China, Thailand, Australia, the US and India and 1628 local gem merchants, were registered to attend the gems emporium.

Myanmar Gem Emporium Central Committee allowed 82 jewellery shops opened in the Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

The central committee also allowed bank counters to provide financial services easily to merchants. —Hmwe Kyu Zin ■

(Translated by TTN)

Transferring Distributor and Change Trade Name

Distribution and registration processes of pesticide produced by ACI Formulation Limited are transferring from Net Work Marketing Limited to Bloom Trading & Manufacturing Group Limited and Bloom Trading & Manufacturing Group Limited are change trade name the following pesticides produced by ACI Formulations Limited. Any regarding to this change can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (2) weeks.

No.	First Submission	Amendment	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	Nuben 72WP	PinSein – Mancome 72WP	Mancozeb 64% + Metalaxyl 8%WP	Provisional	2016-3161
2	Super Power 10WP	PinSein – PZE 10WP	Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 10%WP	Provisional	2016-3163
3	AC Mix 55EC	PinSein – Cyperfos 55EC	Chlorpyrifos 50%+Cypermethrin 5%EC	Provisional	2016-3164
4	Protect 50SG	PinSein – Emectin 50SG	Emamectin Benzoate 5% SG	Provisional	2016-3165
5	Sunup 480SL	PinSein – Gate 480SL	Glyphosate 48%SL	Provisional	2016-3167
6	Squad 20SL	PinSein – Quat 20SL	Paraquat Dichloride 20%SL	Provisional	2016-3168
7	Care 50 SP	PinSein – Cart 50SP	Cartap 50% SP	Provisional	2016- 3169
8	Gola 48EC	PinSein – Chlopi 48EC	Chlorpyrifos 48% EC	Provisional	2016-3170
9	Goolee 50SC	PinSein – Fipro 50SC	Fipronil 5% SC	Provisional	2016-3171
10	Tiddo 20SL	PinSein – Miprid 20SL	Imidaclopride 20% SL	Provisional	2016-3172
11	Nemispore 80WG	PinSein - Manco 80WG	Mancozeb 80%WG	Full	F2018-1646

Net Work Marketing Limited.

Invitation for Bids

Date:	18th, March ,2019
Loan No. and Title:	Loan 3748-MYA Power Network Development Project
Contract No. and Title:	Package No (3) - 23(T) DPTSC(PTP)/ (2018-2019): Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 230kV Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei Transmission Line
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	16th, May, 2019, 12:30:00 hours (local time)

1. The Republic of the Union Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Power Network Development Project. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 230kV Mawlamyine-Ye- Dawei Transmission Line (the Facilities). The Facilities are all located within Mon State and Thaninthayi region.
3. International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
   - Net worth for the last year calculated as the difference between total assets and total liabilities should be positive.
   - Minimum average annual turnover of US$50 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years.
   - Financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments, meet or exceed US$10 million. Joint Venture must meet the requirement, in which each partner must meet at least 25% of the requirement, and one partner at least 40% of the requirement.
   - Participation in at least two (2) contracts of Overhead Transmission Line of 220kV or higher that have been successfully completed within the last ten (10) years, where the value of the Bidder's participation in each contract exceeds US$50 million.
   - Executed an overhead transmission line contract of 220kV or higher with not less than one hundred fifty (150) km route length, including engineering, procurement and construction on turnkey basis in Outside Bidder Country as main contractor that has been successfully completed within the last ten (10) years.

   The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.
5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, bidders should contact the following from 9:30- 16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:
   Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)
   Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
   Telephone: 95 67 8104286
   Email: sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com, dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com ,
   Fax: 95 67 8104286
6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders should write to the address above requesting the bidding documents for the Facilities, and pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) in Myanmar Kyats equivalent to US$ 100.
7. A Pre-bid meeting shall take place on 1st,April, 2019 at 12:30:00 hours (local time) at the address above, Yadanar Hall, Ministry of Electricity and Energy.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before the deadline: 16th, May, 2019 at 12:30:00 hours (local time) together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents. Electronic Submission is not allowed.
9. Bids will be opened immediately after the bid submission deadline in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
10. Any request for the extension of Bid submission dead line shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Power Transmission and System Control
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209

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Peru fighting mining pollution with little green algae

LIMA (Peru)—Scientists in Peru have removed small green algae from polluted lakes and rivers in a bid to strengthen them with nutrients and oxygen before returning them to purify those water bodies from harmful mining waste.

Mining is the motor that drives Peru's economy but at a huge environmental cost, particularly around Lake Junin in the center-west of the country.

"Every two years these microalgae are given nutrients to strengthen them with the aim of absorbing the polluting minerals," Enoc Jara, head of the investigation team at the National University of San Marcos, told AFP.

The algae are reinforced with nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium in a Limba laboratory before being returned to the contaminated lakes and rivers.



Peruvian biologist Enoc Jara is leading a team of scientists fortifying algae in order to combat water pollution. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Right now we're working on the large-scale reproduction of the fortified microalgae," said Jara, who for the last decade has been studying the use of mushrooms, plants and enzymes to depollute soil and water bodies. Jara said the algae had proved their worth in the laboratory "in a tough battle" with the microorganisms that contaminated Lake Junin.

Gold the worst polluter

Junin — or Chinchaycocha, to give it its Quechua name — lies 200 kilometres (124 miles) northeast of Lima at an altitude of 4,000 metres (4,374 yards) and is the largest lake entirely within Peru's borders.

At 530 square kilometres (205 square miles), it is the most polluted lake in Peru due to mineral residues. Gold mining, much of it illegal, is the worst polluter in a country which is the sixth-largest producer of the yellow metal in the world. Other metals mined in Peru are zinc, iron and copper, which is Peru's largest export at 2.4 million tons (tonnes) in 2018.

After the first successful laboratory tests in Lima, the next step is to evaluate the algae's effectiveness in purifying Junin Lake.

The same thing will happen at the San Juan river that feeds the lake and whose color has changed due to pollution. "We've already had good laboratory results in the depollution of water from the lake. The microalgae absorbed the metals," said Jara. Two of the lake's emblematic species are the Junin grebe, a flightless bird with striking red eyes found only at this lake, and a giant aquatic frog unique to high altitudes in the Peruvian Andes. Both are in danger of extinction because of pollution. The giant frog faces "threats ranging from mining pollution, sewage and hunting for consumption," Luis Castillo, an ecologist from the Grupo Rana (Frog Group) non-governmental organization, told AFP.

Alan Chamorro, from ECOAN, another NGO, said the Junin grebe is critically endangered. "We've counted 350 birds," he said, adding that the species' numbers were recovering from just 50 in 2000, thanks to the efforts of specialists at ECOAN. To complete the final stage of the experiment — returning the algae to Lake Junin — the team needs financing. "If we had support from the central government, local government or from the mining companies in the Pasco region that throw their waste into the rivers whose waters empty into the lake, we could depollute it in 10 years," said Jara. Cerro de Pasco, one of the highest cities in the world at 4,350 meters, is the mining capital of Peru but it is in a state of "environmental emergency," according to the health ministry. In the middle of the city is a hole — almost two kilometers long, one kilometer wide, and 500 meters deep, created by the mining that pollutes Lake Junin. Jara's team does get $21,000 a year from the university, the oldest in the Americas, and it won some financing in a competition, "but we need more funds," he said. While the team has been working only in the Andes, it has "identified plants that can combat soil damage from mining" in the Amazon region of Madre de Dios, the epicenter of illegal mining in Peru. The same method could also be used to clean the waters of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, and Peru's biggest, which it shares with Bolivia.—AFP

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   - HARD WOOD LOGS **(INCLUDING 2018-2019 EXTRACTION YEAR)**
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2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.myanmatimber.com.mm).
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OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

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MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(11/2019)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-189(18-19)	Spares for HT 400 Pump (2) Groups	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-190(18-19)	Spares for D 375 Pumps (29) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-191(18-19)	Insert Pumps and Accessories (5) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricty and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm)as from **15 March 2019**.
3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 22 April 2019**.
4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **22-4-2019, 14:00 pm**

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

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M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO. (433W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO. (433W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINE

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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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Joss Stone plays 'unofficial gig' in North Korea

SEOUL (South Korea)—British singer-songwriter Joss Stone performed an informal gig in the capital of nuclear-armed North Korea as part of her ambitious project to perform in every country on earth.Stone, who has performed in more than 175 countries since embarking on the Total World Tour five years ago, was pictured singing in a bar in Pyongyang in front of a small group of tourists and guides on Wednesday night.The 31-year-old artist, who has recently sung in Syria, Pakistan and Iraq, announced the trip on Instagram on Tuesday before boarding a plane to the North."It's a fine day to go to North Korea," she said in a video message taken at the Beijing Capital International Airport.

"We'll be getting on a plane very soon to go to Pyongyang...? A place in North Korea, anyway. It's gonna be fun," she added.

Stone said she was practicing a traditional Korean folk song 'Arirang' —listed as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in both the North and South —for her audience in Pyongyang.The visit was arranged by Simon Cockerell, who runs Koryo Tours, which specializes in trips to the isolated country.Cockerell described the performance as an "unofficial gig" and posted photos of Stone singing for around 40 tourists and guides at a bar he identified as the Yanggakdo cinema complex.

"Let's do it again with a full band and thousands of local fans not too far in the future!!" he wrote on his Instagram with a picture of Stone departing from the North Korean capital.



Joss Stone, pictured here in London in 2016, has performed in over 175 countries since her world tour started five years ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

It is rare for North Korea to allow foreign musicians to perform for ordinary citizens, though last year a handful of South Korean pop artists were invited to Pyongyang amid a rapid rapprochement on the Korean peninsula.—AFP ■



This photo taken on 25 January, 2019 shows a bar staff preparing the "Singapore Sling" cocktail for customers at a bar in Singapore. **PHOTO: AFP**

Singapore Sling refreshed: shaking up an old cocktail for a new generation

SINGAPORE—The Singapore Sling is being shaken up in the city where it first caused a stir as mixologists pour new life into a drink in danger of being dismissed as something solely for the tourist trail.

The distinctive pink, gin-based drink has long been a favourite with visitors to the colonial-era Raffles Hotel, where it is served in the historic Long Bar.

A stalwart of cocktail menus and sometimes dubbed Singapore's national drink, it has nonetheless struggled to capture the attention of a younger generation spoilt for choice with a buzzing bar scene offering everything from trendy craft beer to artisan vodka."We've taken away the sweetness and we've balanced the drink much better," Christian Westbeld, the Raffles Hotel's general manager, told AFP.

It is still made from the same recipe, including gin, cherry liqueur, pineapple juice and bitters, but uses superior ingredients which the creators say make it better suited to the modern palate.The Long Bar recently reopened to the public after renovations—part of a broader overhaul of the entire hotel —and it was decided the Singapore Sling also needed a revamp.

The cocktail was first created in 1915 at the bar, which was a hangout for British colonialists and rubber planters visiting from neighbouring Malaya.

At the time it was socially unacceptable for women to drink in public but the Singapore Sling—so colourful for the era that many believed it was fruit juice—gave them a chance to have a sneaky tipple and quickly became a hit.

Creators hope the updated version will extend its appeal beyond visitors to Singapore's local and expat workforce. But in a recent trip, the bar was still packed primarily with tourists, many of whom were happy to sample the new version of the classic cocktail.British tourist Bridget Stevenson said: "Lovely texture and lovely drink, and I love the experience of being in here."—AFP ■

Ten arrested in India for playing PUBG mobile game

AHMEDABAD (India)—Indian police have arrested ten university students for playing PUBG, the hugely popular smartphone game described by one minister as a "demon in every house".

The arrests occurred Wednesday in western Gujarat state, where local authorities enforced an outright ban on PUBG last week over concerns about its impact on the "behaviour, conduct and language" of those playing it.

The students were released on bail later the same day, police inspector VS Vanzara said on Thursday.

Another police official, Rohit Raval, told the Indian Express newspaper the game was "highly addictive and the accused were so engrossed in playing" they did not even see police approaching.

Gujarat is the only Indian state to ban the game — which has been downloaded more than 100 million times around the world.

But concern has been raised in other parts of the country, where close to half a billion people are online and cheap smartphones and data plans are bringing more first-time users into the digital realm.

Parents and educators say the game incites violence and distracts students from their studies.

A minister in coastal Goa state described the PUBG as "a demon in every house". Last month, a mother complained to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about her son's addiction to online games during a public interaction and he replied: "Is this the PUBG one?"

Often likened to the blockbuster book and film series "The Hunger Games", PUBG is free to download and pits players stranded on islands against one another in a virtual fight to the death.—AFP ■

Kit Harington, Emma Stone to host SNL



Kit Harington. **PHOTO: AFP**

LOS ANGELES—"Game of Thrones" star Kit Harington will debut as the host of "Saturday Night Live" in the 6 April episode, NBC announced.

According to EW, the actor will be joined by Sara Bareilles, who will serve as musical guest.

Harington's hosting duties come ahead of the much anticipated on 14 April premiere of the HBO fantasy drama's final season.

"The Favourite" star Emma Stone will emcee the 13th April episode, with popular South Korean boy band BTS attached to perform, which will be their first appearance on the show.

This will be Stone's fourth stint at the "SNL".

The late-night stand-up show had previously announced that "Killing Eve" star Sandra Oh is set to host the 30 March episode, to be joined by Australian music group Tame Impala.—PTI ■

Three astronauts on Soyuz craft successfully reach ISS

BAIKONUR (Kazakhstan)—A Russian cosmonaut and two US astronauts arrived on Friday at the International Space Station aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft, five months after the failed launch of a rocket carrying two of the passengers.

NASA astronaut Nick Hague and his Russian colleague Alexey Ovchinin, who both survived a dramatically aborted Soyuz launch last year, were joined on the smoothly-executed trip by NASA astronaut Christina Koch.

The rocket blasted off without incident from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and docked at the ISS less than six hours later, more than 400 kilometers (249 miles) above the Earth at 01:01 GMT, a few minutes ahead of schedule.



Russia's Soyuz MS-12 spacecraft carrying the members of the International Space Station (ISS) expedition 59/60, NASA astronauts Christina Hammock Koch and Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin, blasts off to the ISS from the launch pad at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 14 March, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

During a live broadcast via high-definition cameras aboard the ISS, the mission commander Ovchinin reported that the mooring mechanism was engaged. A NASA commentator then confirmed the "capture."The liftoff was closely watched after the two men's space journey was cut short in October when a technical problem with their Soyuz rocket triggered a launch abort two minutes into the flight.Both men escaped unharmed.It was the first such accident in Russia's post-Soviet history and a major setback for its once proud space industry.

Speaking to reporters ahead of their six-month mission, Ovchinin said some faulty components in the launch vehicle had been found and replaced this week."Yesterday they found some minor malfunctions," the 47-year-old said on Wednesday. He insisted that the launch vehicle was in good shape."There are no problems," Ovchinin said. Hague, 43, said he was looking forward to the flight—his second attempt to get into space."I'm 100 percent confident in the rocket and the spaceship," he said.The October abort was caused by a sensor damaged during the rocket's assembly.

'Old but reliable'

Space expert Vadim Lukashevich said last-minute replacements were nothing out of the ordinary."The Soyuz is an old but reliable machine," he told AFP.

Russia's space industry has in recent years suffered a lot of mishaps including the loss of cargo spacecraft and numerous satellites.Ovchinin, who spent six months at the ISS during a previous mission in 2016, has been keen to play down the drama of the October emergency landing.

The abort was "a little disappointing" after preparations that lasted a year-and-a-half but also "an interesting and needed experience" that tested the depth of the space programme's preparedness, he said.Koch, Hague and Ovchinin's flight was being closely watched for another reason too.

SpaceX's successful test launch to the ISS of its Dragon vehicle has challenged an eight-year monopoly on travel to the space station enjoyed by Russia ever since NASA stopped launches of the Space Shuttle.

Speaking to reporters, the trio and their three-man backup crew stressed cooperation rather than competition following the Dragon mission, seen by some as the dawn of an era of commercial space travel driven by businessmen such as Elon Musk who owns SpaceX. Koch, a 40-year-old space rookie, called the SpaceX success a "great example of what we've been doing for a very long time." "And that is cooperating among partners and making things that are very difficult look easy," she said.— AFP ■

Why does breast cancer recur? New study finds clues

TOKYO (Japan)—For breast cancer survivors, the risk of tumours returning casts a long shadow, with recurrence possible up to two decades after a diagnosis. But new research could help identify and treat those most in danger.

Doctors have traditionally relied on factors such as the size and grade of a tumour at diagnosis, lymph node involvement and a patient's age to determine their risk of relapse.

But the rate at which breast cancer recurs, and why it does so, remains "poorly understood", according to the study published on Thursday in the journal *Nature*.

In a bid to change that, the researchers turned to data from over 3,000 breast cancer patients diagnosed in the United Kingdom and Canada between 1977 and 2005.



The rate at which breast cancer recurs, and why it does so, remains "poorly understood". **PHOTO: AFP**

Nearly 2,000 of the cases included molecular data about the cancers that provided the researchers with detailed information about the tumours.

The data was used to develop a computer model that identified four sub-groups with "exceedingly high risk of late distant relapse," said senior author Christina Curtis, assistant professor of medicine and genetics at Stanford University.

"These are the patients that remain in jeopardy of experiencing a relapse after their initial diagnosis," she told AFP.

The study found that around 25 per cent of women with the most commonly diagnosed form of breast cancer have a 42-55 per cent risk of seeing their cancer return within two decades.

"These are the women who seem to be cured but then present with systemic disease many years later," Curtis said in a press release issued by Stanford University.

"Until now, there has been no good way to identify this subset of women who might benefit from ongoing screening or treatment."

The study also opens up potential new avenues for additional treatment of breast cancer patients by identifying gene alterations in each of the four at-risk sub-groups.— AFP ■

Britain to build super-fast computer

LONDON —The University of Edinburgh in Scotland, Britain, won funding of 104 million US dollars on Wednesday to build a super computer capable of processing 10,000 trillion calculations every second.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond announced the funding as he unveiled his spring budget on Britain's economy to the parliament.

In his statement Hammond announced funding of 264 million US dollars, saying it will help maintain Britain's reputation as a pioneering and world-leading nation as it leaves the EU.

The new national supercomputer will be five-times quicker than Britain's current capabilities, and thousands of times more powerful than a traditional desktop computer.

It will be integral in aiding discoveries in medicine, climate science and aerospace, and will build on previous British breakthroughs in targeted treatments for arthritis and HIV.

"I am told it will be capable of a staggering 10,000 trillion calculations per seconds," said Hammond.

Other flagship projects are cutting-edge genetic research in Cambridge and state-of-the-art lasers in Oxfordshire.

Funding of 107 million US dollars will be used for state-of-the-art laser technology in Oxfordshire. Another 60 million US dollars will go to support genetic research in Cambridge.

"These investments will support innovators across the country to make the breakthroughs that will push biotechnology, medicine, science and aerospace forward," said Hammond.

Britain's research and technology industry is worth 48 billion U.S. dollars to the British economy and employs more than 231,000 people, he said.—Xinhua ■

Shan United bid goodbye to head coach U Min Thu

THE Shan United F.C. mutually parted ways with their head coach U Min Thu on Wednesday, according to a statement released by the football club.

U Min Thu led the club's senior football team to win the Charity Cup 2019, beating Myanmar National League defending champions, Yangon United.

He also helped Shan United's U-19 team claim the championship title. Under his guidance, the team got a good position in the national league.

Currently, Shan United is placed third in the national league scoring table, with 9 points from 2 wins and 3 draws. Yangon United is placed first and Hantharwady United is second, with 10 points each, but a goal difference.

In the AFC Cup 2019, Shan United got a drubbing, losing the two matches they played at the tournament.

With U Min Thu's departure, technical director U Aung Naing will be assigned as a new head coach.



Shan United's head coach U Min Thu. **PHOTO : SUFC**

The team and the coach have parted on good terms, and the team wishes the coach all the best in the future, according to a statement on Shan United's page. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

'We are One Cup 2019' to be held soon

THE 'We are One Cup 2019', mainly sponsored by Myanmar Brewery Limited, has invited young footballers to participate in the tourney, which will be held across Myanmar soon.

The Cup will be held in eight major cities: Yangon, Taunggyi, Lashio, Pathein, Taungoo, Sittway, Pyin Oo Lwin, and Pakoku.

It aims to provide young footballers a platform for honing their skills as well as help them gain tournament experience.

Those who wish to make enquiries or understand the registration process for the tournament can do so via the 'We are One Cup' Facebook page, according to a statement issued by the tournament committee.

Registration forms will be available in the eight cities until 15 April, and interested youths from Yangon can contact 09-43094275 and 09-254727727 for more information.

Youths must bring photos taken within the last six months and a copy of their National Identification Card for registration, said a source from the tournament committee.

There is a K5 million award for the first place, K3 million for the second place, K1.9 million for the third place, 1.7 million for the fourth place, besides a consolation prize of K1.5 million, said the source.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Solskjaer's United looking for response after rare defeat



Manchester United's Norwegian head coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. **PHOTO: AFP**

WOLVERHAMPTON (United Kingdom) — Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will look for Manchester United to respond to the first domestic defeat of his reign when they face Wolves in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Saturday as the Norwegian moves closer to landing the job on a permanent basis.

United's shock Champions League victory at Paris Saint-Germain last week carried them through to the last eight and all but confirmed Solskjaer will soon be named Jose Mourinho's successor on a long-term basis.Since that famous evening in France, United have tasted defeat for the first time in England on the interim manager's watch, beaten 2-0 in last weekend's league visit to Arsenal.

But although that setback dented United's bid for a top-four finish, it did little damage to Solskjaer's standing, especially given the nightmare injury list he has endured recently.

Some reports have suggested Solskjaer could be confirmed as manager during the forthcoming international break, which follows the Wolves Cup tie.

United officials have offered no guidance on whether the appointment is imminent, but it emerged last week that Solskjaer does not, as was commonly thought, have a contract with his former club Molde.

He revealed that, with regulations forbidding a manager from having concurrent contracts with more than one club, he tore up his deal with the Norwegian side to join United in December.

It is understood United and Molde have put in place a compensation package should Solskjaer win the post permanently, with a figure of around £500,000 ($665,000) mooted.—AFP ■

Thiem reaches Indian Wells semis as Monfils withdraws

INDIAN WELLS (United States) — World number eight Dominic Thiem advanced to the ATP Indian Wells Masters semi-finals on Thursday when scheduled quarter-final opponent Gael Monfils withdrew with injury.

France's Monfils pulled out with a left Achilles tendon injury shortly before the match was to start, taking the court to tell the crowd he didn't feel he could play at 100 percent.

Austria's Thiem advanced by walkover to face Canadian Milos Raonic, who defeated Serbian lucky loser Miomir Kecmanovic 6-3, 6-4.—AFP ■



Austria's Dominic Thiem against Serbia's Laslo Djere during their ATP World Tour Rio Open singles match at the Jockey Club in Rio de Janeiro on 19 February, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**