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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor opens Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 2, power station in Myawady

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and ministers from the two countries pose for the commemorative photo at the opening ceremony of Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 2 in Myawady, Kayin State, 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 Kayin State, Hpa-an town left by helicopter and arrived in Myawady Town yesterday morning and attended the opening ceremony of Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 2.

Before the opening ceremony started, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha met in the briefing hall of the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge Project and cordially discussed bilateral friendship and cooperation matters.

The opening ceremony started off with a traditional cultural dance performance by ethnic people from Myanmar and Thailand and a video presentation of the implementation of the bridge project followed with an explanation by Thai Minister for Transport Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith on how the project came about.

> It would be a friendship bridge that created wellbeing and development of countries in the region.

Next, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke briefly expressing her appreciation for being able to attend the ceremony with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. The presence of high ranking officials from both countries at the completion ceremony of the bridge was an indication of the great emphasis placed by both sides on bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Friendship Bridge was successfully constructed due to the close cooperation and efforts of officials and peoples of the two countries. The successful outcome indicated the unity and singleness the peoples of the two countries as well as cooperation for mutual benefit.

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Coord meeting held for systematic electrical systems in Hluttaw buildings

A COORDINATION meeting between Hluttaw Meeting Organising Central Committee and relevant work committees for systematic electrical systems in Hluttaw buildings was held at Hluttaw Building, Zabuthiri Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivered an opening speech and officials from Hluttaws, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Construction participated in the discussion.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat addresses the coordination meeting for systematic electrical systems at the Hluttaw's building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 8/2019

MEETING 8/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

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

(Translated by TTN)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the meeting of the Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Education meets Kachin State basic education personnel

UNION Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi together with Kachin State Minister for Social Affairs U Nay Win and Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Deputy Director General Dr. Nay Myo Tun met with Kachin State basic education personnel at Kachin State Putao District head of administration office hall on 18 March.

In his opening address the Union Minister said the ministry was striving towards all school-age children to attend school and prioritizing education development in regions where transportation was difficult. Education personnel were urged to cooperate with relevant government organisations toward all school-age children to attend school, remain in school, continue education and teach the students patiently. Students who had completed Grade-3 must be able to read and write Myanmar language and conduct mathematic calculation. The teaching method must encourage a discerning mind as well as instill a desire for continuous learning. School development funds were to be used together with parents-teachers association transparently and effectively according to financial and auditing procedures. Township Education heads must carefully study and fulfill the requirements of the schools and difficulties faced by the teachers. In-school sports competitions, maintaining and developing ethnic literature and culture need to be conducted more while libraries were to be supported. Teachers play an important role in raising the education quality. Only qualified teachers were to be employed under a fair and competitive system. The ministry was also ensuring the full provision of salary, daily and travel allowances for teachers, provision of text books and teaching aids in a timely manner and conducting summer training courses for teachers to start using new text books in Grade-3 and Grade-6 said the Union Minister.

Next Kachin State Minister for Social Affairs U Nay Win discussed about education status in far and remote Khaunglanphu region and fulfilling requirements in education.

The Union Minister then responded to questions raised by teachers and coordinated on the discussions made.

Afterwards the Union Minister handed over text books to Khaunglanphu Township Education Head. The meeting was attended by Kachin State, district/township education heads, schoolmaster/mistress, teachers and relevant officials.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the meeting with Kachin State basic education personnel in Putao. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor opens Myanmar-Thai Friendship …

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and Union Minister U Win Khaing formally open the Myawady primany sub-station in Myawady. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand on 24 August 1948, the two countries had maintained and valued friendship, good neighborliness and mutual understanding. Last year the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations was held and had upgraded the bilateral relations to Natural Strategic Partnership level. Great emphasis had been placed on bilateral relations and Myanmar has always been ready to work together with Thailand to increase the benefits to the peoples of the two countries, said the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor then took the opportunity to share on how Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 2 came into existence. The bridge spans the Moei/Thaungyin River and connects Myawady Township on the Myanmar side with Mae Sot District, Tak Province on the Thai side.

A joint inspection was conducted in May 2012, stake driving ceremony was held in August 2015 and the bridge came into existence after four years of joint efforts and the people of the two countries would greatly benefit from the bridge.

The friendship bridge not only connected the two countries physically but also increased the connection and relations between the peoples of the two countries.

The bridge was believed to become a major link that connects Southeast Asian countries over the Greater Mekong Sub-Region economic corridor. The bridge would also ease traffic congestion on the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 and allow free movement of goods and people between the two countries.

Due to the construction of the bridge, bilateral trade, investment, travel, cultural exchange, transport, relations between people and regional trade would increase and expand cooperation. It would be a friendship bridge that created wellbeing and development of countries in the region.

It was heartening to see bilateral relations and cooperation develop in an increasing momentum in the past few years. It was also a joy to note that mutual cooperation was not only among governmental organizations but also among the private sector and peoples of the two countries.

The State Counsellor reiterated that Myanmar would cooperate with Thailand not only for peace, stability and development in the region but also in the world too.

Thailand's efforts and sincerity to deepen and bring closer the bilateral friendship and cooperation that had existed for long was appreciated and recognized and prayed that this might increase many folds, said the State Counsellor.

Afterwards the Thai Prime Minister spoke of his happiness on the completion of the bridge and hoped that the bridge would bring many benefits to the peoples of the two countries.

After delivering the speeches, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha unveiled a plaque commemorating the successful completion of the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 2 by pressing a button.

After the ceremony, the State Counsellor, Thai Prime Minister, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and ministers from the two countries posed for a commemorative group photo.

State Counsellor, Kayin State Govt hold meeting

Following the bridge opening ceremony, the State Counsellor met with Kayin State government members at the Myanmar Border Gate Control Station (Myawady).

At the meeting, the State Counsellor spoke of agriculture sector development, resolving land issue cases quickly, drug prevention and eradication, State government conducting visits down to villages, the need to meet with people and resolving matters raised by the people in a practical manner.

> Progress does not mean our people getting electricity and light but to catch up technically to be in accord with the time and era.

Later in the afternoon, she attended the opening ceremonies of the 55.34 miles long 230 KV Mawlamyine-Myawady transmission line and the 230/66/11 KV 11 MVA Myawady primary sub-station.

At these ceremonies, she said that ever since the beginning of this government's term road communication and electricity were designated as priority matters. Having electricity did not mean having some light once the sun sets. The aim was to develop the livelihood of the people with the use of electricity.

Earlier this morning in Myawady, the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge was opened and was aimed at friendship between the two countries. It was to raise the development of our people's livelihood through increasing friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Whatever we did, the main aims were for the development of the livelihood of our people. Progress and development meant changing things according to the time and era.

Having a power line laid as had now been done was progress. Progress does not mean our people getting electricity and light but to catch up technically to be in accord with the time and era.

Before independence, our leaders fought for independence to determine our own destiny. At the moment, people need to review how capable they were for self-determination. Self-determination required capabilities in many matters as well as support.

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State Counsellor opens Myanmar-Thai Friendship …

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and officials from the two countries enjoy the traditional Kayin dances at the opening ceremony of Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 2 in Myawady yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Our priority was to provide road communications and electricity that the people needed.

The Union Government, Hluttaw and State government participated in the day's ceremonies. This was an indication of our country's federalism and democracy. As per democratic principles we have administrative, legislative and judicial sectors. The aim was to establish a democratic country with these three pillars. A true union was being established through strengthening states and regions and fulfilling the requirements of the people.

Thus, our aim was for the development of the people's lives and for the people to stand tall with dignity as cultured and civilized people in the world. Having road communication and electricity alone would not let our people stand in a dignified way in the world. The main requirements were the quality of the people. Quality includes not only physical attributes but moral attributes too and all must strive towards developing both.

Two countries cooperated toward constructing the bridge. Related organizations in the countries need to cooperate. The people also must have the will and desire for it. Once everyone played their respective parts, the entire project was successfully implemented. The same goes with opening of a power line and sub-station. Those came about due to our cooperation.

Requirement for electricity was high in Myanmar. The expectation was for Ministry of Electricity and Energy to fulfill 50 per cent of the country's electricity requirement before the end of this year. It was our strong belief that this would be done. Through this power line and power station more than 90,000 households would have electricity in Kayin State. This showed progress. Progress must be everywhere and efforts were being made towards improving road communication and electricity in the entire country, the 7 states and 7 regions.

As she came here, she noticed that road communication had improved very much. The roads were straight and were very convenient to travel. The roads could be deemed to have reached the required standard. Whatever we did much achieved such standard. We could not go for cheap stuff to get things done quickly or do things for the sake of completing it quickly. It would be very important to remove those thoughts and way of doing things.

In the short run, there may be some benefit for having something quickly but in the long run the cons outweigh the pros in doing things in such a way. All must strive toward doing things for the progress of the country.

Everyone needs to strive for self and family. Whatever amount you may put in for self and family, a portion needs to be set aside for the country. Do not forget the important requirements of the country. Set aside a portion for the country, the land and the people you were living with. Make sure this spirits lives forever in you.

It would be akin to lighting a candle in a dark room if you were doing something for your country. However, it would be akin to switching on a light in a dark room if you were doing something for your country together with others. This would be the spirit that all must have. If you think at least once a day on what you could do for the country, it would greatly benefit the country.

The spirit of doing for the country in whatever you do would be an important point to highlight. If each of us did our duty, it would be like flipping on a light switch in a room. Collective efforts could bring light to the entire country. People need to bear this in mind.

It would be unnecessary to say peace would be important for Kayin State. People had suffered for decades the effect of conflict in Kayin State. Due to this, they truly understood the benefit of peace. Only when you were through it would you understand. All were urged to strive together towards allowing the lights of peace enter into the country.

> People had suffered for decades the effect of conflict in Kayin State. Due to this, they truly understood the benefit of peace.

Just as people in Kayin State Myawady get electricity and light starting from today, may the people get light of life that brought forth peace and development, said the State Counsellor.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing then explained about the laying and construction of power line and sub-station and benefit that would be obtained.

On behalf of the people of Myawady Town and the region Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung spoke words of thank.

Later, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nann Khin Htway Myint, State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, Kayin State minister for electricity and industry U Soe Hlaing, State Hluttaw representative U Aik Kyan Khan and U Thant Zin Aung cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the power line and sub-station.

The State Counsellor, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Union Ministers, State Chief Minister, Deputy Minsters, state ministers, Hluttaw representatives and local the people then posed for a commemorative photo.

After the commemorative group photo session, the State Counsellor, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing unveiled the commemorative pillar of the sub-station and sprinkled scented water onto it.

The State Counsellor then observed the sub-station from the project view point, left Myawady by helicopter and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the late afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu, U Win Khaing and U Han Zaw, State Chief Minister Daw Nann Khin Htway Myint, Deputy Ministers, state ministers, state advocate general and departmental officials.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Tatmadaw sports personnel and coaches honored

PRIZE winning Tatmadaw sports personnel and coaches who participated in the 28th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet, International Invitation Boxing Competition and the 19th ASEAN University Games were honored in a ceremony held at the Bayintnaung Guest House, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the event and presented certificates of honor and cash prizes to the Tatmadaw sports personnel and coaches.

At the event, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief outlined the prize winners and coaches in the 28th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet, International Invitation Boxing Competition and 19th ASEAN University Games and said the success of the Tatmadaw in these events were the success of the country and the prize winners and coaches were being honored for bringing forth these successes.

Next the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and wife, Deputy Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wife, Chiefs of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and Commander-in-Chief (Air) presented certificates of honor and cash awards to prize winning Tatmadaw sports personnel and coaches.

After the event the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief cordially met with the honored Tatmadaw sports personnel and coaches according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets Tatmadaw officers participating in 28th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet, International Invitation Boxing Competition and 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO : OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Tatmadaw negotiating team meets KNPP representatives in Nay Pyi Taw

TATMADAW negotiating team and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) met at Nay Pyi Taw Command Paunglaung Guest House, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, signing of NCA before 30 June 2019, building trust between the two forces, both side honoring and abiding by the state and union level agreements and to coordinate when there were requirements to hold unofficial meetings were discussed, according to news released by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Tatmadaw negotiation team meets with representatives from KNPP at Paunglaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

AA attacks military convoy, MraukU district police office

The photo shows a bullet ridden fence of a local battalion fired by AA group. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

AA GROUP on Monday attacked a convoy carrying military personnel conducting security operations in MraukU Township, and the MraukU district police office, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

AA members positioned themselves inside civilian homes and opened fire at the military convoy at the entrance of MraukU at 7:35 p.m. on 18 March. The gunfight lasted about 30 minutes. The security forces also retaliated to the firing, said police.

In a separate incident, security forces and AA members reportedly clashed after AA members entered homes in Htammariz Ward in MraukU Township and launched an attack on the district police office, using small arms and RPGs.

In a bid to disrupt stability in MraukU Township, which is home to ethnic Rakhine people, the AA has been using ancient pagodas and houses to carry out destructive acts intentionally, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA ■

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

The photo shows the houses which are used by AA group to attack a local battalion. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 11/2019
13th Waxing of Tabaung, 1380 ME
(18 March 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 16 March 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken
1	Information received of Ye Myo, who lives Yangyiaung Ward, Zegone Village, Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10-3-2019, police searched the barber's opened by Ye Myo (a) Ye Myo Tun, aged 26, son of U Tin Tun, and seized him with heroin. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa (Zegone), MaYa (Pa) 2/2019 under Section 16 (C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on tip-off, police searched the house of Kyaw Min Tun, aged 43, son of U Tin Nyunt, and seized Kyaw Thu, aged 35, son of U Than Aung, with heroin and stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters. A case has been filed both of them with NaMaSa(Zegone) MaYa (Pa) 3/2019 under Section 16(c)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Thet Soe Htike, aged 37, son of U Myint Soe, and seized him with heroin. A case has been filed him with NaMaSa(Zegone) MaYa(Pa)4/2019 under the Section 19(A)20/(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Aung Phyo (a) Ko Phyo, aged 30, son of U Than Tun, and seized him together with heroin. A case has been filed him with NaMaSa(Zegone) MaYa (Pa) 5/2019 under Section 16(C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Nyunt Lwin and Daw Chit Ohn, who live in Paukgone Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16-3-2019, police searched the house in the farm owned by Nyunt Lwin, aged 55, son of U Hla Tun, and seized his sons Win Myint Oo, aged 32, and Kyaw Soe Thein, aged 28, together with heroin. A case has been opened three of them with MaMaSa(Phaungpyin), MaYa(Pa) 32/2019 under Section 16(c)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Daw Chit Ohn, aged 70, daughter of U Shwe Maung, and seized her together with her son Win San, aged 35, son of U Than Tun, and Kyi Lin, aged 60, son of U Lar Paw, lives in Myintha(East) Village, with heroin and stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened three of them with MaMaSa(Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa)33/2019 under Section 19(a)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Myint Wai (a) San Shay, who lives in Myoma Ward (4), Mudon Township, Mon State.	On 12-3-2019, police searched the house of Myint Wai (a) San Shay, aged 64, son of U Chan Thaik, and seized Hein Min Oo, aged 19, son of U Ah Hein, Wai Yan Phyo (a) Wai Yan, aged 19, son of U Win Soe, Phyo San (a) Pu Pu, aged 22, son of U Shwe Kyaing, and Aung Myo Thet, (a) Maung Lu Aye, aged 24, son of U Myo Min Latt, Htet Lin Naing (a) Ah Pae, aged 22, son of U Zaw Oo, and Aung Aung, aged 22, son of U Aung Thaik, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened seven of them with MaMaSa(Mudon) MaYa(Pa) 8/2019 under Section 16(c)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Ye Ko Ko, who lives at No. 237/1, Ward 25, Thuwunna Town, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11-3-2019, police searched the house of Ye Ko Ko, aged 27, son of U Yi Ko, and seized his wife Ma Issini Htike, aged 30, daughter of U Than Htike, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened both of them with NaMaSa (Thuwunna) MaYa (Pa) 15/2019 under Section 16 (c)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Tin Moe and Ma Shay Gyi, who live in Mingalar Thiri lane (1), eastern Seikgyi ward, Seikkyi Khannaungto Township, Yangon Region.	On 13-3-2019, police searched the house of Tin Moe, son of U Hla Shwe and the house of Ma Shaygyi (a) Khin Than Win, daughter of U Than. But absconded from their house prior to the arrival of the police. Police seized Mai Khin Thet Lwin, aged 47, daughter of U Pho Min, with marijuana in Tine Moe's house. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Seikkyi Khannaungto) MaYa (Pa) 1/2019 under Section 19 (a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Zaw Min Lay, who lives in Nyaungpintha Ward, Kalaw Town, Shan State (South), distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12-3-2019, police searched the house of Zaw Min Lay (a) Swal Than, aged 49, son of U Tun, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Kalaw) MaYa(Pa) 3/2019 under Section 16 (c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Pauk Kway, who lives Ward 7, Lashio Town, Shan State (North), distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12-3-2019, police searched the house of Pauk Kway (a) Aung Kyaw Swe, aged 33, son of U Hla Win Swe, and seized stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters and heroin. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Lashio) MaYa(Pa) 33/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

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3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 560 cases have been opened files as of 16-3-2019. A total of 888 people, including 746 men and 142 women had been arrested with seizures of 5838.98 g of heroin, 72.14 g of ICE, 38699.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18800.28 g of speciosa powder, 7363.99 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of opium tincture, 223239 stimulant tablets, 6414.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liter of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium block, 60 g of poppy seeds, 3.45 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 0.001 g of Ecstsy, 16 firearms, 257 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking have been stepped up and the ministry will report on furthered exposed cases.

4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.

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

A man was arrested with a seizure of 55 stimulant tablets at the corner of Pale and Vitakyone Street, Pyinmana Town, Nay Pyi Taw. A man was arrested with 12000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on the Thegone-Tagwin Village Expressway, Hopin Town, Kachin State. A woman was arrested with 19500 stimulant tablets in Nyaungbin Ward, Bhamo Town. A man was arrested with 1230 stimulant tablets and 10 g of opium blocks in Myalei Village. A woman was arrested with 1610 stimulant tablets in Malin Village, Mansi Township. Two men were arrested with 145 stimulant tablets in 500-acre ward, Loilin Town, Kayah State. A man was arrested with 160 stimulant tablets in Ohchuri Village, Dimawhso Township, Kayah State. A man was arrested with 72 stimulant tablets in ward-5, Hpa-an Town, Kayin State and upon action on a tip-off, 726 g of marijuana and one motorbike from the defendant's house. A man was arrested with 4082.5 g of speciosa and one motorbike at the Aung San Street and the Kyarponnyeik intersection, Kyarkan Ward, Thanbyuzayat Town, Mon State. Two men were arrested with 155610 stimulant tablets and a boat in the Naf River, Maugntaw, Rakhine State. Acting on tip-off, police arrested with a seizure of 1950 stimulant tablets and 800 g of marijuarna in Myo Oo Village. A woman was arrested with 40 g of crushed ecstasy powder in Gonenar Village. Two men were arrested with 192 stimulant tablets at the Indin checkpoint, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 130 stimulant tablets in Thabyegone Ward, Buthidaung Town, Rakhine State. A total of 800 g of marijuana were seized from the boat at the village port, Pauktaw Township. Four men were arrested with 4400 stimulant tablets and two motorbikes in Kaung-hmu-sin Village, Taunggyi Township, Shan State. A woman was seized with 1902 stimulant tablets, 51 g of heroin, 650 g of opium in Ward-1, Karli Town, Kunhing Township. A man was arrested with 790 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Laikha-Mainaung Expressway, Laikah Town. Two men were arrested with 650000 g of ICE and one motorbike on Maikai-Hsipaw Expressway, Maikai Township. Upon acting on a tip-off, 40 liters of opium tincture, 60000 g of thick opium tincture in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region. Two men were seized with 1440 liters of Acetic Anhydride, 2000000 g of Caffeine and one Alphard vehicle in Pansone Village, Theinni Township. Upon acting on a tip-off, there was a seizure of 2700 liters of Acetic Anhydride, 400000 g of caffeine and two cars on the two Alphard vehicle on Pansone-Sonkai Road. Two men were arrested with 300 liters of Acetic Acid, 220000 g of Brown Charcoal and one vehicle near the bridge of Sellu Village. A man was seized with 6070 stimulant tablets in Swansaw Ward, Muse Town. There was a seizure of 9600 liters of Methyl Ethyl Ketone, two vehicles from two ownerless vehicles in Nanton Village. Three men and one woman were seized with 3728 stimulant tablets and one vehicle at milepost 80/40, Muse-Mandalay Road. A man was arrested with 550 g of heroin at the Seinnansoe bus terminal, North Ward, Momeik Town. Upon acting on a tip-off, a man was arrested with 660 g of heroin in Moehauk Village. A man was seized with 120170 stimulant tablets and one motorbike near Haehaw Village, Laukkai Township. A man was seized with 1000 g of opium and one motorbike near Narhilone Village, Tarlay Town. Two men were arrested with 4112 stimulant tablets and 70 g of opium in Hona Village, Tachilek Township. A woman was seized with 1140 stimulant tablets in Hoyan (2) Village. Two men were arrested with 224 stimulant tablets in Nyaungtabin, Nansipon region, Hkanti Township, Sagaing Region. A man was arrested with 1061 stimulant tablets and one motorbike at the milepost between 3/7 and 3/8 near Thabyechaung Village, Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region. Two men were seized with 3257 stimulant tablets in Zahar Village. Two men were arrested with one stimulant tablet, 3640 g of speciosa powder in Tatpyin Ward, Myeik Town, Taninthayi Region. A man was arrested with 730 stimulant tablets in Maetaw Village, Kyunsu Township. A man was seized with 965250 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle at the four-mile checkpoint, Toungoo Town, Bago Region. A man was arrested with 1000 stimulant tablets in Theikpan Street, between 55x56 Street, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region. Three men were arrested with 868000 stimulant tablets at the 16-mile gate, Patheingyi Township. Two men were arrested with 2170 stimulant tablets and 10 g of heroin on the vehicle gong to Muse-Nay Pyi Taw Raod. Two men were seized with 150000 stimulant tablets, 972 g of heroin at the milepost 27/7, Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Raod. A man was arrested with 1900 stimulant tablets in Toetan Village, Myitta Township. A man was arrested with 941 stimulant tablets in Tibawga Ward, Taukkyan, Mingalardon Township, Yangon Region. A man was seized with 1600 stimulant tablets in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region. Two men were seized with 215 stimulant tablets in Chaungwa Ward, Einme Town, Ayeyawady Region.

There have been four seizures of ammunition. A man was arrested with 4082.5 g of speciosa, 2612.8 g of speciosa powder, a point-22 firearm in Kalaipada Village, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State. A man was arrested with 240 stimulant tablets, 11.2 g of heroin, one percussion lock firearm in Mankan Village, Kutkai Township, Shan State. Three men were arrested with 135 stimulant tablets, one pistol, three nine-mm cartridges, one bullet casket and one motorbike in Taungson Village, Kengtung Township. Two men were arrested with 12 stimulant tablets, 1.5 g of heroin and one gun in Ngapyaeinn Village, Indaw Township, Sagaing Region.

There have been four four seizures involving foreigners. An illegal Chinese man and a Myanmar woman were seized with 1730 stimulant tablets, 80 g of heroin and one motorbike in Ward-1, Momouk Town, Kachin State. An illegal Indian man was seized with 2 g of heroin in Tamu Town, Sagaing Region. Two British men and one Nepalese man going to China, were seized with 11200 g of ICE at the departure lounge of the terminal one of the Yangon International Airport, Yangon Region. A Chinese man was arrested with a seizure of 3900 g of Katamine at the departure longue of the Terminal one, Yangon International Airport, Yangon Region.

There have been 275 cases being opened between 3-3-2019 and 16-3-2019. A total of 362 people, including 333 men and 29 women, were seized with 3254.7986 g of heroin, 661203.85 g of ICE, 2345432 stimulant tablets, 40 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 2915.07 g of marijuana, 2099 g of opium, 171 g of block opium, 1.2 g of low-quality opium,8442 g of speciosa, 6782.11 g of speciosa powder, 3900 g of Katamine, 600000 g of Caffeine, 9600 liters of Methyl Ethyl Ketone, 4140 g of Acetic Anhydride, 300 liters of Acetic Acid, 220000 g of Brown Charcoal, 6000 g of chemical liquid, 40 liters of opium tincture, four firearms, 4 different kinds of guns, three nine-mm bullets and one bullet casket.

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

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

Measures being taken for Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary to be on the list of ASEAN Heritage

ALL THE necessary measures are being taken for Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary in Sagaing Region to be on the list of ASEAN heritage, said U Than Soe, the Director of Sagaing Region Forest Department at the Protected Area Management Supporting team workshop which was held on 19 March at the Glorious Hotel in Monywa.

"The forests and the mountains have become slightly damaged.

The natural habitats are usually set up in the areas where there is scarcity of endangered species. In fact, the rare species are the heritage of a country.

Many endangered species especially the Asian tigers are living in the Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary. We won't let these areas disappear.

Therefore, we have taken all the necessary measures for this habitat to be on the list of the ASEAN Heritage. For sustainable development, we need to seek the opinion as to how to conserve these habitats and the rare species," said U Than Soe.

Many endangered species are living in the sanctuaries in Sagaing Region. The most common endangered species are: tigers, leopards, elephants, gaur (Asiatic bison), bears, monkeys and birds.

When we conserve the natural sanctuaries, we conserve not only the rare species but also the natural habitats, he added.— Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Correction

Please read "Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw" in the news story "Tatmadaw conducts Combined Fleet Exercise –Sea Shield 2019" on page-6 of March 19 issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.— Ed

20 MARCH 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Pay heed to the will of the people

WE are marching towards our goal of setting up a democratic Union with a firm federal system. It has been seen that while some people support the transition, some do not understand it, while some are not interested in it.

Whether people show an interest in politics or not, political affairs have a direct impact on their lives. How? Politics concerns the affairs of a country and its people. It is not just the domain of political parties, or limited to winning elections.

> People themselves are far from perfect. When people themselves are imperfect, what they create also cannot be entirely perfect. A renowned person once said a democratic system is not good, but other systems were worse.

Nowadays, the term 'democracy' implies a government elected by the majority of the people. In other words, it is a representative form of government. A representative democratic system gives importance to the will of the people. However, it is not perfect. People themselves are far from perfect. When people themselves are imperfect, what they create also cannot be entirely perfect. A renowned person once said a democratic system is not good, but other systems were worse.

A system that represents the people has to place emphasis on the will of the people. This needs to be noted, and importance needs to be given to the people's will.

The members of the government and the public servants are also people. But they have been entrusted with the power to run the government machinery. It is for them to decide whether to use their power for the benefit of the country and the people, or their own selfish ends.

It would be a grave mistake if people in the government and the administrative machinery use their powers for personal gain.

Our country is now transitioning into a democracy. On the path to democracy, we will encounter both good and evil. There are many ways to root out evils such as corruption. The Anti-Corruption Department will investigate complaints, and preventive measures will be undertaken across the country to combat corruption. Corruption hampers national development and prosperity, and hurts national dignity. Corruption and malpractice also hurt the dignity of those involved in these practices.

As we move towards a democratic system, the authorities have a great opportunity to bring about great benefits for the country politically. Only through the correct use of this opportunity can there be development for all and the self.

Therefore, members of the government and public servants must not lose sight of the will of the people.

■■■

Tabaung, The Beauty Queen Month of Myanmar Lunar Calendar

By Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

TABAUNG Corresponding to March is the Beauty Queen Month of the twelve months in Myanmar Lunar Calendar. The twelve months are dividedly equally into three seasons, namely Summer [Geinman] Tabaung, Tagu, Kasone and Nayon [March, April, May and June respectively]. Raining Season or Monsoon [Wasan] Waso, Wakhaung, Tawthalin and Thidinkyut [July, August, September and October respectively] Winter [Heiman] Tazaungmon, Nattaw, Pyatho, Tabodwe [November, December, January and February respectively].

Tabaung is a transition month from winter to summer. So it bears a dual characteristics of cold season and warm season. In daytime Tabaung is warm but at night it is cold. Hence Myanmar saying goes, "နေပူလို့၊ ညချမ်း၊ တပေါင်းလ၊ လသရမ်း"

Day time Tabaung is warm
Night time it's cold
So unruly it runs.

Tabaung is the spring time in Myanmar. The entire comes out of its hiding in winter. As the old life passes away, the new life comes at the heel. Withered fallen leaves are blown away by breeze and wind. Tender yellow green leave buds peep out on the branches with flower buds or fruit buds. Especially colourful blooms of let pan [cotton tree] Pauk, Ngu, Padauk, Sein ban and Sein ban pyar [Jacaranda] paint the environment with red, scarlet, pink, orange, gold yellow, light blue colours, emitting faint fragrance. Under the bright blue sky in the warm sunshine, their beauties are beyond description of writer, poet or composer.

Yet Tabaung the Beauty Queen Month was, has been and is being depicted in Myanmar Visual arts [ပန်းဆယ်မျိုး]

1. The Art of Black smith,
2. The Art of Gold Smith
3. The Art of Bronze Smith
4. The Art of Plaster
5. The Art of Mason
6. The Art of Caver
7. The Art of Sculptor
8. The Art of Tunner
9. The Art of painter and
10. The Art of Lacquer-wear making.

People participate in the sand pagoda festival held annually. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

In performing arts, Tabaung is composed in music, sung in song, performed in dance and enacted in plays and dramas. In Myanmar literature Tabaung enjoys pride of place and priority in prose poem and drama of all Myanmar historic periods till today. The word Tabaung itself carries its literal and figurative meanings. Ta means "yearning" "reminiscence" "recapturing sweet memories" "feeling missing one's loved ones, because of the pleasant and picturesque natural environment that Tabaung brings to us.

> It was in the month of Tabaung that saint monk Ashin Kaludayi composed 64 stanzas of Pali poem to invite Lord Gotama Buddha to return to his royal father King Sudhodanna's Kingdom Kapilavathu.

It was in the month of Tabaung that saint monk Ashin Kaludayi composed 64 stanzas of Pali poem to invite Lord Gotama Buddha to return to his royal father King Sudhodanna's Kingdom Kapilavathu. In the poem he described the natural beauties of Himdayan Forests-landscapes, sky scapes and waterscapes were painted in poetic language inducing Lord Gotama Buddha to return to his father's kingdom by land journey through the forests of the Hymalan mountain Ranges.

His famous 64 Pali poems became the model in Myanmar literature. To cite but one outstanding example is the Tawla poem of monk Shin Ottamakyaw of Inwa Period of Myanmar Literature. In addition to the skillful composition of verses choice of words, simile, metaphors, alliteration, etc. of literary features were unsurpassing. Many writers of British Colonial Period of Myanmar, both native and foreign rendered it into English. Dr. Ba Han, an eminent writer translator of Pre-war days, rendered into English all stanzas of Shin Ottamakyaw's Tawla [Journey Through the Glades]. The month Tabaung was in his Twelve Seasons poems by Hpo Thudaw U Min as follows.

တပေါင်းလဖွဲ့

မန်းရွှေဖြိုကြိုင် လျှောက်လို့
ဝိတောက်ကယ်တဲ့သင်းချို
ဥတရာ၊ အရဂုက်က
တိမ်ဘုံမှာ ရောင်ခြည်လင်းလို့
လမင်းတော်တာနှင့်
တူမကွာ၊ ထိန်ဝါလဲ့
ထွန်တဲ့ခါကို
ဘောင်းသဲငယ်ဖို
ရည်မှတ်စရဖို
လေညှင်းငယ်လာ
စုံပေါမာမြိုင်ထဲက
ဝမ်းဘဲ၊ ရွှေဇင်ရော်တို့
ဖေါ်ခေါ်သံ၊ မောင်မယ်ကျူးတယ်
မြူးပျော်ကြလို့။

Major C.M Enrique [pen name Theopieilus] Recruiting Officer 70th Kachin Rifles, Burma, appreciated Hpo Thudaw U Min's verses on 12 Seasons so much so that he made. The following admiring remark in one of his books "A Burmese Wonder land".

"....of the Nature poems the best known is "An ode to the seasons" [Yathe Bwe] by Hpo Thudaw U Min, a court poet. He described the seasons with considerable charm. The following is his English rendering of Tabaung.

This is the time
When shimmering high
Orion glitters in the sky
And Shinning with the moon at night
Mingles with hers his yellow Light.
The sweet scent of Tharaphe
And the faint smell of the Padauk tree
Upon a gentle soughing breeze
About the sandbank of the stream
The white arms of a river gleam
I hear the clamorous return
Of wild ducks and silver terns.
The next admirer of Tabaung was another Englishman B.D.Dennis Grant Brown
He translated one of Myawady Mingyi U Sa's pat pyos on the beauty of Tabaung.

မြမြမောင်းမောင်း

မြမြမောင်းမောင်း
တိမ်ခြင်္ဂေနှင့်ပေါင်း
ဝေစီစီ လေပြေလေညင်း
လုံနိုင်အောင်သာ
လောင်းပြန်တော့သာ
ပြောင်းရိုက်ကယ်ဆော်ကာသာ
အုံးရွှေ အုံးရွှေ သဥ္ဇာ
ယွန်းမော်ကြာရံလယ်
ညီးညီးငယ်၊ သေများသေချင်ဘွယ်
ဖုံးကြွယ်ကြွယ် ဖန်တဲ့အား၊
ဝေယန်လယ်၊ စံပါယ်မြနယ်လေ
ရတယ်ဇေ၊ နေမွမှု
ပူသူများပူရော့မယ်
မေရက်ကယ်နေနိုင်တယ်
သဇင်၊ စကား၊ ချယား၊ စံပယ်
စံဖီရွှေသွယ် ပျံကြွယ်ဝတ်မုံမွှေး
လေပြေသွေးသွေး၊
စုံပြိုင်ယံကျေးက၊ ပန်သာခွေ
ဆောင်ပွန်းယံဘွေ လေဝန်းရစ်ခါခွေ
ရွက်ဝါကြွေ၊ နေမှုးမှုး
ဝိန်ရာသီ၊ ခါဖိုလတပေါင်း
မြလွှာမှောင် ဆောင်ခိုမြူး
ရွှေဖီးဖေါ်ရော့မယ်
မေရက်ကယ်နေနိုင်တယ်
ညီးငယ်ဖွေပိမ်းနယ်
ပုပ်ပန်းရွှေဝင်လယ်
ဘိုကြာနယ်ကွာဝေး
မြင်းလာမပါဘဲဆွေး။

Emerald and Red Brown

1. Emerald and Red Brown clouds
   Blue, brown and gold
   Below the clouds, silver mist
   Gathering richly beautiful scene
   Soft and gentle breeze blow
   But I can scarce be comforted
   The breezes bring along the mist
   And changes and slow.
2. Chevron and lotus carving,
   Grandeur all around
   Yet sad and drooping like
   A fading flower,
   I feel I well could wish to die
3. Honoured and noble
   Yet so unfeeling
   That in royal luxury
   Aloof, unheeding as an Emerald,
   He can stay, so heartless
   He can be
   Tis left for me to grieve, and
   Bitter grief is mine
   That he can utterly forget
4. Orchids and champaks,
   Star flowers, and Jasmines
   Golden tendrilled Samphi
   Sweet fragrance spreading
   On the gentle by wafting breeze
   And all about the edges of
   The woods
   All kinds of lovely flowers
5. In among ornamental buildings
   Little whirl winds twirl
   And run around
   Yellow leaves are falling
   Summer is at hand
   Pisces risen, bring in Tabaung
   Now is the beautiful month
   A thin dark emerald veil
   Of mist plays on the hills
   Now the golden samphi will
   All be full of buds
   But no, unmoved he still forgets
6. Bowed down and sad
   I drop and fade
   Sunk in grief as boundless as sea
   Oh! Like a water lily far from water pining
   Tall my heart is breaking
   Never coming,
   This he does not see.

The Beauty Queen month "Tabaung" is the background of all Myanmar love ditties of the past, present and our current time.

■■■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 10/2019

14th Waxing of Tabaung, 1380 ME
19th March, 2019

Resignation of Taninthayi Region Ministers approved

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 264 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 52 (b) of Region or State Government Law, the following Taninthayi Region Ministers have been permitted to resign of their own volition from the positions.

(1) U Phyo Win Tun, Taninthayi Region Minister for Planning and Finance

(2) U Kyi Hlaing, Taninthayi Region Minister for Electricity and Energy

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued on Tuesday 19 March 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24)hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, scattered in Taninthayi Ragion, Northern Shan and Chin states and isolated in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions. Weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (2°C) above March normal temperatures in Magway and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Southern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah states and about March normal temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (43°C) in Chauk, (41°C) each in Aunglan and Bawlakhe, (40°C) each in Nay Pyi Taw(Zayarthiri), Pyinmana, Magway, Taungdwingyi, An, Pyay and Tounggoo.The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Katha and Kalewa (0.39)inch each, Mogaung (0.28)inch, Hkamti (0.20)inch, Putao, Machanbaw and Mingin (0.16)inch each and Myitkyina, Bhamo, Ramthlo, Pinlaebu and Kanbalu (0.12)inch each.

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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.

Villagers flock to Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda Festival on bullock carts in Minbu

ACCORDING to custom, villagers from Minhlakyin Village of Minbu Township arrived for the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda Festival in a fleet of bullock carts on Sunday.

"It has been a tradition passed from generation to generation. Last year, 29 carts from our village left for the pagoda festival. This year, villagers have left on board 48 carts. The villagers reach the pagoda prior to the full moon of Tabaung every year, and make offerings to the statues and images of the Buddha," said U Maung Win, the administrator of Minhlakyin Village.

A row of Bullock carts driving along the road leading to the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda in Minbu. **PHOTO: AUNG MYO MYAT**

The sight of bullock carts travelling in a row attract photographers from other regions and states. Photographers usually come to the pagoda festival to capture the cultural traditions on display. "Photographers from different places come to film the bullock carts on their way to the Mann Shwe Settaw pagoda. This shows the photographers admire the traditions and customs. This, in turn, encourages villagers to preserve traditions from generation to generation. Donors and photographers also make contributions to villagers," said Ko Zaw Zaw Aung, a local photographer. Minhlakyin Village is 12 miles away from the Shwe Settaw Pagoda. The Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda festival is held every year between February and mid-April (till the Myanmar New Year Day). This year, the festival is packed with pilgrims from across the country. An elephant camp has also been opened for helping pilgrims reach the pagoda.—Aung Myo Myat ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Five wildlife sanctuaries to set up in Sagaing Region

FIVE wildlife sanctuaries are being set up in Sagaing Region, said U Than Soe, the Director of Sagaing Region Forest Department.

"Currently, Sagaing Region has already had five wildlife sanctuaries. Now, authorities are taking measures to establish five more natural habitats. In fact, some of them have already been set up whereas some are in the process of establishment. The new five wildlife sanctuaries are the Zalone mountain area, Mahar Myaing wildlife sanctuary, the Bat Cave area, the Shinemakar area and the Maha Bodhi Ta Htuang area. Of course, we will set up more and more wildlife sanctuaries. Up to now, there will be a total of 10 natural habitats in Sagaing Region," said U Than Soe.

The existing wildlife sanctuaries are: Hukaung Valley wildlife sanctuary, Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary, Alaungdaw Kathapa wildlife sanctuary, Sagaing Min Wun Mountain and Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary.

"Reserved forests and the protected areas are the existing natural habitats. We do our utmost to conserve the forests in the most effective manner. It means that there will be no more timber extraction when the forests become the natural habitats. The trees are not felled anymore; even the state owned Myanma Timber Enterprise has suspended all sorts of extraction of timber. Authorities has restricted all the the entrepreneurs from timber extraction," he added.

All forests be they reserved or not reserved areas or the protected areas are being transformed into the natural habitats.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Canon Photo Marathon Myanmar 2019 to be held on 30 March

THE Canon Photo Marathon Myanmar 2019 will be held at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium 1 on 30 March. The Myanmar Golden Rock International Co. Ltd is the main organizer of the competition, which has two themes this year. Prizes will be awarded to three winners under each theme. The winners will each get a Canon EOS 77D (18-135) camera with lens. The prize for the second place is a Canon EOS 1500D (18-55) camera with lens, and the third prize is a Canon EOS 3000D (18-55) camera with lens.

In addition, the contest will also feature a Grand Prize. The winner of the Grand Prize will get an all-expenses paid trip to the Canon Photo Marathon Asia Championship 2020 in Japan, and an EOS R (24-105) camera with lens worth K 5 million. There will also be lucky draws for other participants. The contest is open to photography enthusiasts. Participants can enter the contest with any brand of camera.

Canon cameras displayed at the press conference. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

"The slogan for the Canon Photo Marathon is 'Shoot, Compete, and Win the same day'. The competition will be held under two themes. It will be an exciting event for enthusiastic photographers as the theme will be released at the event, and they will have to come up with ideas and get a chance to immerse themselves in photography using their own ideas and concepts," said U Thiha Zaw, the General Manager of Myanmar Golden Rock International Co. Ltd.

Those interested in participating in the competition can register at the Canon Showroom, Aung San Stadium, by 5 p.m., 25 March, or email canonphotomarathonmyanmar@gmail.com.

Online registration can be done via the event's Facebook page (Canon Photo Marathon). Completed registration forms have to be forwarded to canonphotomarathonmyanmar@gmail.com. The deadline for online registration is 12 p.m., 25 March.—Thiri ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Ninth day of Myanma Gems Emporium continues in Nay Pyi Taw

Merchants check the quality of jade at the 56th Myanma Gems Emporium at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: HTAIN NAN NAW

PHOTO: HTAIN NAN NAW

ON the ninth day of 2019 56th Gems Emporium, 924 jade lots were reported to have sold at Euro 137.134 million. A total of 1200 jade lots were put up for sale through an open tender system on the ninth day of the emporium out of which 924 lots were sold.

A total of 4524 jade lots were reported to have sold at Euro 410.671 million till yesterday.

At the gems emporium, a total of 973 jade lots, from jade lot no. 6001 to 6973, will be put on sale on 20 March at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

A total of 4561 gem merchants, 2912 foreign gem merchants and 1649 local gem merchants, were registered to attend the gems emporium. — Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by TTN)

CMP garment exports fetch nearly $2 bln in Oct-Mar

EXPORTS of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system reached nearly US$2 billion in the period from 1 October to 1 March in the current fiscal year, an increase of $880 million from the same period in the 2017-2018FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in CMP garments and textiles, which contribute to the country's GDP to some extent.

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors driving up exports. The CMP garment industry has emerged as a promising one, with preferential trade from Western countries. The majority of Myanmar's garment factories operate under the CMP system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into the free-on-board (FoB) system, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

The export value of CMP garments was only $850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it has tripled over the last two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about $2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and $2.2 billion in the last mini-budget period (from April to September, 2018), according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US. With demand from foreign trade partners growing, imports of CMP raw materials are rising year by year. There are more than 400 garment factories in Myanmar. Myanmar's cheap labor attracts investments from foreign manufacturers to the country. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Annual inflation rate registers a rise in Feb, climbs to 7%

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), reached 7.07 per cent in February, up from 6.94 per cent in January, according to a report released recently by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

For the period between March, 2018 and February, 2019, the average inflation rate in March indicated the lowest level of 4.03 per cent, while the rate in February is the highest recorded this year.

In the last 12 months, the year-on-year inflation rate was the highest in October at 8.85 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate in February was registered at 6.69 per cent, while core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, was 6.33 per cent.

In February, Mandalay City recorded the highest inflation rate at 10.72 per cent, followed by Magway Region at 10.64 per cent, and Rakhine State at 10.05 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 11.89 per cent in Magway Region and a minimum rate of 1.4 per cent in Kachin State.

Last month, there was a remarkable increase in CPI in the food group, non-food group, household goods and maintenance group, transportation group, other commodities group, clothing, health, education services, recreation and culture, except telecommunications, tobacco and beverages group, and housing group.

In February, the Kyat strengthened against the US dollar compared with January. But, transportation costs also rose due to soaring fuel oil prices, thereby hiking up commodity prices.

Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a 2006 survey. The base year was later changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November, 2012. To reduce the inflation rate, the concerned authorities have been making efforts on the basis of policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, in keeping with the second five-year National Development plan. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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PutaO Children's Literary Festival turns second day

Visitors observe books displayed at the second day of the Children's Literary Festival in PutaO. **PHOTO: MNA**

Students look at stone inscription displayed at the Children's Literary Festival in PutaO yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

GAMES including team building, scrabble and jigsaw at the Children's Literary Festival at Phonkanrazi Hall and the Basic Education High School in PutaO were crowded with school children of all ages and the people.

The youngsters from basic education schools in PutaO District entertained the visitors with traditional ethnic dances on the second day of the festival yesterday.

Meanwhile, the school children also took part in the futsal and jumping sports games.

The pupils of all ages have explored the capacity for reading, poem recitation, storytelling, extempore talks, painting, jigsaw, scrabble and other games.

The packed week of activities and learning has seen school children visiting traditional ethnic culture booths of Rawan, Lisu, Jingphaw, Tai khamti Shan ethnic people, the booths on anti-narcotic drugs, trafficking in person and traffic rules enforcement staged by Myanmar Police Force, vocational training booths staged by the Ministry of Education, the booth on rural area development staged by Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the booth on consumer affairs staged by Ministry of Commerce and clinics of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The visitors also enjoyed the charity food of Kachin ethnic traditional rice packs and refreshment at the festival.

The winners of the games were honoured with prizes yesterday by the authorities.

Visiting authors Saw Nadi (Myitkyina) and Akyi Ko Ko (Katha) gave talks on children literature.

Authors also took part in the literary roundtable talks at the festival and discussed literature with the attendees.

— Lin Han Zay

(Translated by TTN)

Children reading story books at the second day of the Children's Literary Festival in PutaO. **PHOTO: MNA**

Booth on ethnic literature and traditional culture at the Children's Literary Festival in PutaO was crowded with visitors yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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2	POWER UP 20 TB	GIBBERELLIC ACID 20% TB	P 2018-4325	Provisional
3	ROCKET 25 WDG	THIAMETHOXAM 25% WDG	P 2018-4316	Provisional
4	SUPER BOOM 40 SP	GIBBERELLIC ACID 40% SP	P 2018-4324	Provisional
5	AMAZING 250 SC	AZOXYSTROBIN 250 G/L SC	P 2018-4389	Provisional

No.865/A,Thiri Zayar Road, 7th Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Students observe story books displayed at the second day of the Children's Literary Festival in PutaO. **PHOTO: MNA**

Life boats donated to Disaster Management Department

Myanmar Blue Sky Rescue Development Council from the People's Republic of China donated three rubber life boats and ten safety kits to the Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The donation ceremony was held on Tuesday morning in the Disaster Management Department meeting hall near Thamine Junction, Yangon. The ceremony was attended by Dr. Ko Ko Naing, the Director-General of the Disaster Management Department, Mr. Yang Shouzhen, the Political Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, U Sein Win Aung, the chairman of Myanmar-China Friendship Association, Mr. Yang Yupu, the person in charge of China Blue Sky Recure Team Division and Mr. Liu Wei, the representative from Myanmar Blue Sky Rescure Development Council.

"Mostly the elders, the children and the females are the victims of the natural disasters. The life boats are needed to rescue them in particular. Now, we are going to use these life boats to save them," said Dr. Ko Ko Naing.

Myanmar Blue Sky Rescue Development Council first reached Myanmar in 2014 when they rescued the Myanmar students from an avalanche of an ice mountain. In 2015, the council conducted flood relief measures in cooperation with the Social Welfare Department. Now, they are conducting the life saving training courses.

Out of over 600 rescue teams from China, the China Blue Sky Rescure Team is one of the famous teams. There are about 20,000 relief experts and over 300,000 volunteers in China.— Myint Maung Soe
(Translated by Hay Mar)

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3	Metal mean	Mancozeb 64% + Metalaxyl 8%w/w WP	Full	F2016-710

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2	Zathron 100 SL	Imidacl oprid 10% SL	Full	F2016-1100
3	Zathron 00 SL	Imidacl oprid 20% w/v SL	Full	F2016-1101
4	Punisx 10% EC	Cypementhin 10% w/v	Full	F2014-324
5	Zalam 69 EW	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 6.9% EW	Provisional	2016-3188
6	Zathron 70 WP	Imidacl oprid 70% WP	Provisional	2015-2270
7	Greenstar SC	Azoxystrobin 25% w/v SC	Provisional	2016-3191
8	Fight 505 BC	Chlorpyrifos 50% + Cypermethrin 5% EC	Provisional	2014-1870

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

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UN patent data shows Asia innovation surge

GENEVA (Switzerland) — More than half of all international patent applications filed last year came from Asia, a further sign of innovation shifting "from west to east," the United Nations said Tuesday.

In the latest annual breakdown of patent filings released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United States remained the leading individual country for applications in 2018.

But on a regional basis, Asia's surge continued.

"Asia is now the majority filer of international patent applications via WIPO, which is an important milestone for that economically dynamic region and underscores the historical geographical shift of innovative activity from west to east," the agency's director general Francis Gurry said in a statement.

WIPO's complex system of registering international patents involves multiple categories.

In the main category -- the Patent Cooperation Treaty -- the US led the way with 56,142 applications, followed China (53,345) and Japan (49,702).

Germany and South Korea came in a distant fourth and fifth, with fewer than 20,000 applications each.

India registered the largest innovation jump of any country last year. Patent applications jumped more than 27 percent — from 1,583 in 2017 up to 2,013.

Chinese telecommunications behemoth Huawei also set new record for the number of patent applications filed a single corporation in one year with 5,405.—AFP ■

New data from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) documented a massive recent surge in AI-based innovations, indicating that such technologies have taken a giant step out of the theoretical realm. **PHOTO: AFP**

Germany launches its auction Tuesday for the construction of an ultra-fast 5G mobile network. **PHOTO : AFP**

Germany launches 5G auction amid row with US over Huawei

BERLIN (Germany) — Germany launched its auction Tuesday for the construction of an ultra-fast 5G mobile network as a transatlantic dispute rages over security concerns surrounding giant Chinese telecoms equipment maker Huawei.

The United States has warned it could scale back the sharing of sensitive information with Berlin if it does not exclude hardware made by Huawei from the infrastructure, arguing that Chinese equipment could help Beijing spy on Western companies and governments.

On Tuesday, Angela Merkel ruled out blocking Huawei from Germany's 5G network, but said stringent telecommunications laws will be drafted.

"So far, lots of countries have used Huawei technology," said Germany's chancellor at a conference in Berlin. "That's why the federal government has not taken the approach of simply ruling out any contractor or stakeholder, but we have set standards for those bidding for 5G technology.

"We will also write these standards legally into our telecommunications laws... We will give everyone a chance, but shouldn't be naive, instead we see that there are very different laws in China."

'5G' — 'fifth generation' — is the latest, high-speed generation of cellular mobile communications and Berlin will require winning bidders to offer the service to at least 98 percent of German households and along motorways and rail lines.—AFP ■

UK supermarkets pledge price cuts amid merger doubts

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British supermarket giant Sainsbury's and Walmart-owned Asda on Tuesday vowed to slash prices to overcome regulatory concerns and secure a blockbuster merger.

The Competition and Markets Authority watchdog last month warned that the planned merger raised "extensive competition concerns" and could spark higher prices and less choice.

The warning, contained in early findings of the CMA's in-depth probe, has sparked heavy criticism from the two supermarket firms, particularly over the level of competition in the sector. "Sainsbury's and Asda strongly disagree with the CMA's provisional findings," the pair said in a statement on Tuesday, adding that the regulator's initial verdict contained "significant" economic and legal errors.

"The two businesses are proposing to merge so that they can lower prices for customers in an increasingly competitive market, while improving quality and service." They vowed "to deliver £1.0 billion of lower prices annually by the third year post-completion", in a move that they said would lower consumer prices by ten percent on everyday items. The price-slashing investment will be funded by an estimated £1.6 billion in cost savings.

Sainsbury's and Asda, the nation's second and third biggest supermarket chains respectively, unveiled merger plans in April 2018 to create a retail king that would leapfrog UK number one Tesco. Long-established UK retailers are battling sliding consumer sentiment and Brexit uncertainty alongside a broader economic slowdown. They also face fierce competition from online US titan Amazon — as well as German-owned discounters Aldi and Lidl.—AFP ■

UK unemployment rate hits 44-year low: official data

LONDON (United Kingdom) -- The British unemployment rate has struck a 44-year low, official data showed Tuesday, despite a broader economic slowdown as Brexit looms.

The jobless rate — or proportion of the workforce that is unemployed — hit 3.9 percent in the three months to the end of January, the lowest level since 1975, the Office for National Statistics said.

That followed 4.0 percent in the three months to December, the ONS added in a statement, while expectations had been for no change.

The total number of unemployed people slid by 35,000 to 1.34 million in the year to January, which was 112,000 lower than a year ago.

Economists said the labour market update painted a bright picture, despite a slowing economy with Britain scheduled to leave the European Union next week. "A much stronger labour market report than expected — and particularly impressive given recent slower UK economic activity, heightened Brexit uncertainties and a weaker global economy," said EY economist Howard Archer.

"The latest strong jobs data is somewhat surprising as some surveys had indicated that a growing number of employers are now adopting a 'wait-and-see' approach on employment given the current heightened uncertainties."

The ONS added that wage growth continued to outpace inflation. Average earnings including bonuses increased by 3.4 percent in the year to January from a year earlier.

That handed another boost to the purchasing power of workers' salaries. —AFP ■

Japan's Olympic Committee President (JOC) Tsunekazu Takeda speaks to the press after a JOC board meeting in Tokyo on March 19, 2019.
PHOTO: AFP

Japan Olympic chief facing corruption probe to step down

TOKYO (Japan) — The head of Japan's Olympic Committee said Tuesday he would step down in June, as French authorities probe his involvement in payments made before Tokyo was awarded the 2020 Summer Games.

"Considering the future of the JOC, I think the most appropriate thing is to leave things to a new leader from the next generation so that they can host the Olympics and carve a new era," Tsunekazu Takeda told a meeting of the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) in Tokyo.

He said his decision had "nothing to do with the investigation". The 71-year-old said he would also be stepping down from the International Olympic Committee. Takeda has come under pressure not to seek an additional term when his current mandate ends in June after it was revealed that French authorities believe they have evidence of corruption in the awarding of the 2020 Games to Tokyo. Current JOC rules require candidates for the top post to be 70 or younger at the time of their candidacy, but there had been rumours the committee was considering a change to allow Takeda to stay on through 2020.

In recent months however, the investigation into Takeda has become an unwelcome distraction for organisers of the Games, with less than 500 days until the opening ceremony.

Takeda said: "I really feel sorry for causing this sensation, but I think I'm responsible for fulfilling my chairmanship until my term ends."

Takeda has denied any involvement in corruption and again protested his innocence on Tuesday. "As I have said, I did not do anything wrong. I will continue to make an effort to prove my innocence," he told journalists.

'a judicial process in France'

In January, it was revealed that Takeda was facing a judicial process in France over two payments totalling 2.8 million Singapore dollars (US$2.1 million at today's exchange rate). He has been placed "mis en examen", a legal step that roughly translates as being charged. It does not automatically trigger a trial but means that prosecutors believe there is strong or corroborated evidence of wrongdoing. Takeda has said he was "never involved in any decision-making process" over the payments and that the money was legitimate reimbursement for "a consultancy contract signed through appropriate approval procedures."

The French investigation, launched in 2016, centres around two payments made to Singapore-based firm "Black Tidings", a firm linked to Papa Massata Diack. Diack is the son of the former head of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), Lamine Diack, and is also embroiled in a bribery scandal. He is suspected of having received several million euros in bribes, either for sponsorship contracts or to favour the Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo Olympic bids.

He has been on Interpol's most-wanted list since 2015, but the Senegalese government has refused to extradite him to France despite pleas from IOC chief Thomas Bach.—AFP ■

China's Xi to visit Europe amid disquiet over Silk Road, Huawei

BEIJING (China) — Chinese President Xi Jinping heads to Europe on Thursday as the continent is divided over his cherished Belt and Road trade infrastructure project and under US pressure to shun telecom giant Huawei.

Xi will start his trip in Italy before heading to Monaco — the first visit by a Chinese president to the posh principality — and cap his five-day journey in France.

His visit comes a week after the European Union released a 10-point plan outlining a shift to more assertive relations with Beijing, warning that China was a "rival" to the bloc as well as its biggest trading partner.

But Xi is expected to secure a non-binding agreement for Italy to join the $1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative.

China has financed maritime, rail and road projects in Asia, Africa and Europe through BRI, but critics warn that it mainly benefits Chinese firms while setting up a "debt trap" in financially vulnerable countries.

Italy's would be the first G7 nation to join the ambitious venture, raising eyebrows among Western allies. EU members Greece and Poland have also embraced the "New Silk Road" but others in the bloc fear it could lead to growing Chinese government influence on the continent.

A White House official, Garrett Marquis, last week tweeted that there was "no need" for Italy to endorse "China's infrastructure vanity project".

French President Emmanuel Macron said EU countries should have a "coordinated approach" to Beijing and urged for cooperation based on the "spirit of equality (and) reciprocity".

But Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who will meet Xi, dismissed the concerns, saying there were no risks.

"For us, collaborating with China on Belt and Road is a choice of a purely economic or commercial nature, perfectly compatible with our position in the Atlantic alliance and in the EU," Conte told Corriere della Sera newspaper.

A draft of the non-binding memorandum of understanding published in Italian media reveals broad undertakings for cooperation in logistics, infrastructure investment, financial and environmental sectors.

Beijing has been eyeing investment in the Italian ports of Trieste and Genoa that offer easy access to Europe's markets, Giuliano Noci, a China expert at Milan Polytechnic business school, told AFP.

He said any deal should ensure that the "ports remain Italian" warning Rome must avoid the model of the Greek port of Piraeus, which was taken over by Chinese shipping giant Cosco in 2016. Xu Tiebing, professor of international relations at Communication University of China, said Italy has maintained a supportive attitude towards Beijing despite "some pressure from the United States".—AFP ■

Dutch police arrest suspect after three shot dead on tram

UTRECHT (Netherlands) — Dutch police on Monday arrested a Turkish-born suspect over a shooting on a tram in Utrecht that left three people dead in what officials said was a possible terror attack.

Police had earlier launched a huge manhunt for Gokmen Tanis, 37, issuing a picture of the suspected gunman and warning the public not to approach him following the attack, in which five other people were wounded.

Mosques and schools were closed across the Netherlands' fourth-largest city following the bloodshed, before heavily armed officers surrounded a building and arrested him.

Dutch authorities said they were still investigating a likely terrorist motive for the shooting but Prime Minister Mark Rutte said they "cannot exclude" other motives, including a family dispute.

"We have just heard that the suspect we are looking for has been arrested," Utrecht police chief Rob van Bree told a dramatic press conference seconds after being handed a piece of paper with news of the arrest.

The city's mayor Jan van Zanen told the same news conference it was a "black day for Utrecht", while prosecution officer Rutger Jeuken said that "it looks like what we are dealing with is a terrorist motive".

'Questions and rumours'

The drama began when gunfire broke out on a tram near the 24 Oktoberplein square, sending people fleeing from the tram and triggering a huge police response. One witness told broadcaster NOS they saw an injured woman running out of the tram with blood on her hands and clothes who then fell to the ground."I brought her into my car and helped her. When the police arrived, she was unconscious," the witness, who was not named, told the broadcaster.

A body covered in a white sheet could later be seen lying on the tram tracks.Police then launched a massive manhunt during which the suspected gunman is believed to have carjacked a Renault Clio before being arrested about seven hours later, around three kilometres (two miles) from the attack site.—AFP ■

Flowers have been set up in tribute to victims at the site of a shooting in a tram, at 24 October square in Utrecht, on 19 March, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ryan Giggs determined to win over Wales doubters

Wales manager Ryan Giggs. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Ryan Giggs is determined to win over his doubters and believes that the 2020 European Championship campaign will define his time as Wales manager.

Wales start their Euro 2020 qualifiers at home to Slovakia on Sunday, with the jury still out on Giggs's 14 months in charge since he succeeded Chris Coleman.

Giggs has a record of three wins, one draw and five defeats from his nine games in charge.

But the former Manchester United star has fast-tracked an exciting group of young players into the senior set-up, and the 4-1 demolition of Ireland in the Nations League last September saw Wales produce some scintillating football.

Wales eventually finished second in their Nations League group behind Denmark and Giggs said: "I put myself under pressure last year so whether it's a honeymoon period or not, I'm not too sure. "I put myself under pressure.

That's the only pressure I feel really. "I think I will be judged on the qualifying games, I knew that going into the job. Getting Wales to a major championships, that's how I will be judged." Coleman guided Wales to the semi-finals of Euro 2016, the country's first appearance at a major tournament for 58 years but his six-year stay came to an end after Wales failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. "People do expect (qualification), understandably because of what we achieved at Euro 2016," said Giggs ahead of Wednesday's pre-Slovakia friendly with Trinidad and Tobago in Wrexham. "But it's been once in 60 years, so we don't qualify on a regular basis. That's what my job is now, to qualify or at least compete. We didn't qualify for the World Cup, but we competed.

"In the past we nearly got somewhere and in the next campaign we were nowhere near. We want to be competing or getting close on a consistent basis. If we do that then we will get to more championships than not." Giggs's commitment, or the perceived lack of it, has attracted criticism from some quarters in Wales given his ambassadorial, business and consultancy interests around the world. The 45-year-old is involved with a football academy in Vietnam and is also an ambassador for the Champions League, as well as holding various commercial interests. "My primary job is to get Wales to a European Championship," he said. "I have other commitments, but I take the job of managing Wales very seriously and I'm 100 per cent committed," he added.—AFP ■

Sanchez wants to bring 'joy' to Manchester United fans

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Manchester United forward Alexis Sanchez is determined to succeed at the club and says he still believes in himself despite a disappointing first year at Old Trafford.

The Chile international, who is likely to be sidelined for another month with a knee injury, has endured a frustrating time since his move from Arsenal in January 2018. He has managed just five goals in 41 appearances for the club, with only two in 23 in this current injury-troubled season.

But with the team's fortunes transformed since caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer replaced the sacked Jose Mourinho in December, Sanchez is looking towards a better future.

Manchester United forward Alexis Sanchez has struggled since moving to Old Trafford. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I want to keep showing my love for football. I know what I can do. I have belief in my ability," he told Inside United magazine.

"United are such an important club, not only in England but on a global level, and I would love to help bring a trophy to the supporters."

"Obviously, I want to make the United fans really happy," the 30-year-old added. "I want to score goals. I want to bring them joy. I want to win silverware.

"When we lost last year's FA Cup final to Chelsea, I was not happy. Not happy at all. In fact, I was sad because I just wanted to make our wonderful supporters happy.

I saw the fans who had come to pack out Wembley Stadium. They were all around me — all red. I liked it. Wembley was all red."—AFP ■

Spain midfielder Ruiz ruled out with flu for Euro qualifiers

MADRID (Spain) — Spain midfielder Fabian Ruiz has been hospitalised with flu and will miss the team's Euro 2020 match against Norway on Saturday.

The Napoli player was suffering from a fever and left team-training Monday for treatment for flu symptoms, the Spain squad said in a statement.

"If his condition improves he could leave the hospital sometime Tuesday and return to Napoli" for further treatment and convalescence at home, the statement added. Spain coach Luis Enrique has called Saul Niguez of Atletico Madrid into the squad to replace Ruiz ahead of the Norway game in Valencia and the Malta match on March 26 in Ta' Qali.—AFP ■

Austrian ski star Hirscher still undecided on retirement

VIENNA (Austria) — Austrian ski legend Marcel Hirscher said on Tuesday that he would decide "relatively soon" if he would retire or call it quits after winning a record eighth consecutive overall crystal globe this season.

Hirscher said he felt "very, very tired" at the season's end and wanted to see how quickly he would recover.

"I'm now 10 years in the World Cup circus. I want to see how I feel going into summer and if it's physically and mentally possible to have another such (strong) season."

"I surely notice that I'm 30. I'm not 18 anymore... I want to race for the big globe. For that one really needs 100 percent" of physical and mental stamina, he said in a press conference in Vienna. Austria's slalom sensation finished outside the top 10 in the men's World Cup season finale having already secured the discipline's small globe.

The performance at the end of his strong season reminded him it is not a given to win every race, he said Tuesday.

He said he stood currently at "49-51", but declined to say if he leaned toward retiring or staying on. Hirscher now has two more overall World Cup wins than the second most successful skier in history, another Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell, who won six large globes. The most successful man had been Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, with five. American Lindsey Vonn and Austrian Hermann Maier both won four. Earlier this year, Vonn marked her retirement at age 34, following Norwegian skiing legend and her close friend, Aksel Lund Svindal, 36, who skied his last race in February.

Hirscher has often talked of retirement over the last year, previously saying he wanted to spend more time with his family. His wife gave birth to a son last October. So far, Hirscher has celebrated 67 World Cup victories — falling short of the record of 86 set by Sweden's IngemarStenmark — out of a total of 138 World Cup podiums. He has also won two gold medals at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, eclipsing his previous best, a slalom silver from Sochi four years earlier.

Hirscher, who has also secured seven world championship golds, is feted in Austria as one of the country's favourite sporting sons. He was born in Annaberg with his family spending summer seasons in an alpine hut in the mountains around the city of Salzburg, according to a media interview with his father. He started to ski at the age of two taught by his father, who has been by his side and coached him throughout his career.—AFP ■