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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Statues of six heroes unveiled to mark 74th Armed Forces Day

STATUES of six soldiers who won the Aung San Thuriya medal, Myanmar's highest award for gallantry and bravery in the face of the enemy, were inaugurated yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to mark the 74th Armed Forces Day.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, unveiled the statues, which are being displayed for the public at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the statues were erected to honor six heroes in the Tatmadaw history who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for independence and to protect Myanmar's independence.

> "The statues have been placed at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes so that future generations can remember the heroes forever" ...



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and retired Tatmadaw senior officers visit the statues of six heroes displayed at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes yesterday. The statues were inaugurated to mark the 74th Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

"The statues have been placed at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes so that future generations can remember the heroes forever, and to cultivate the national spirit and the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice for the country and the people," said the Senior General.

He urged for the sustainable development of human resources with national spirit so they can make the supreme sacrifice for the future State, in accordance with the four oaths of the Tatmadaw. Retired senior military officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force unveiled the six statues in the presence of the Senior General and attendees.

Afterwards, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and retired senior officers laid wreaths at the Monument of the Memorial to Fallen Heroes and saluted those who sacrificed their lives for the country and the people.

The statues have been carved from marble. Each statue is two feet high and has been placed on top of a four-feet high stand, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

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Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Japan Vice Minister of Justice

PYITHU HLUTTAW Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received Japan Vice Minister of Justice Mr. Hiroyuki Tsuji and party at Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Office, Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting increasing the existing Japan-Myanmar cooperation and friendship; Japan's support toward investment in economic, education and peace processes in Myanmar; cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries, legislation and judiciary matters were cordially discussed and views exchanged.

The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Win, committee secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw Office.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein holds talks with Japan's Vice Minister of Justice Mr Hiroyuki Tsuji at Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

9th coord meeting held to produce Bogyoke Aung San biopic in Yangon



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko attends the coordination meeting to produce biography film of Bogyoke Aung San held at the National Theatre in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A NINTH coordination meeting of the work committee to produce biography film of Bogyoke Aung San was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, Dagon Township yesterday.

The coordination meeting was attended by departmental officials from work committee and sub-committees, artistes, technicians and invited guests.

At the meeting, Chairman of Bogyoke Aung San's Biopic Development Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko said the work of producing a biography film of Bogyoke Aung San had went through many twists and turns just as the actual work for independence conducted by Bogyoke Aung San himself. It was thanks to the collective efforts of the officials from the committee and sub-committees, artistes and technicians in successfully navigating those twists and turns that today's situation was reached.

Now the making of the biography movie had reached a certain stage due to the support of the relevant ministries and the collective works of the experienced artistes.

Any attempt toward reaching a destination starts with the first step. It was the understanding that the officials from the committee and sub-committees, people providing supports for this biopic had taken more than the first step or first few steps by now, said the Union Minister.

Next Biopic Development Committee secretary U Tun Ohn explained about status of works conducted and future works followed by work committee joint secretary 2 U Lu Min explaining about works conducted to shoot the movie.

Afterwards meeting attendees join in the general discussion. The meeting came to a close after Chairman of Bogyoke Aung San's Biopic Development Committee Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko delivered a closing speech. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Attorney-General receives Japanese Vice Minister of Justice

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Japan's Vice Minister of Justice Mr Hiroyuki Tsuji and party at the office of Union Attorney-General, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they cordially discussed matters on legal sector and works on human resources development project that is being jontly conducted by UAG's office and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), training classes for law officers with the aim of enhancing their performances, cooperation programme for establishing a strong legal framework, works conducted by UAG office on the use of Myanmar Law Information System to spread knowledge of legal affairs, and promoting further cooperation between legal affairs organizations from the two countries. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Japan's Vice Minister of Justice Mr Hiroyuki Tsuji in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives UNSG's Special Envoy



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine SchranerBurgener in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S OFFICE**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and openly discussed the efforts of the Tatmadaw for gaining peace in the country, attack by AA group on border outposts in Rakhine State, drug trafficking situation in Rakhine State, necessary constructive cooperation from Bangladesh and requirement to clarify the real situation of Rakhine issue to the international community, helping displaced people at the IDP camps in Kachin State, investigation into the allegations regarding incidents in Rakhine State in 2017 and establishment of a military court according to military law regarding criticisms and allegations made by the international community and efforts to uncover the truth with firm evidence, monthly press conferences held by the Tatmadaw as part of efforts for informing the true situation to the people, according the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

Opening ceremony of Social Security-May May clinic held in Nay Pyi Taw

AN opening ceremony of Social Security-May May clinic was held at Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The clinic was a joint venture between Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and May May Hospital with an aim to increase the provision of outpatient health care service.

At the ceremony Union Minister U Thein Swe said Myanmar aim to establish an equal and fair society that reinforces social protection through drawing up a social protection strategic plan and implementing it by cooperating with relevant ministries.

Social Security Board is the only organisation in Myanmar that was providing health care insurance system to the workers with the cash input from employers and employees according to 2012 Social Security Law. It was drawing up and implementing work programs that enable the workers to obtain more health care services which in turn support the economic development of the people.

Social Security-May May clinic was opened as a pilot project to provide health care service to health insured workers working in Nay Pyi Taw said the Union Minister.

Next Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung said Nay Pyi Taw Council had 824 works sites with 28,050 workers who had social security health insurance and health care service was provided through 3 Social Security Board clinics. In order to provide better health care service, Social Security Board had signed an agreement with May May Hospital to provide outpatient health care service and this move was warmly welcomed said the Nay Pyi taw Council Chairman.

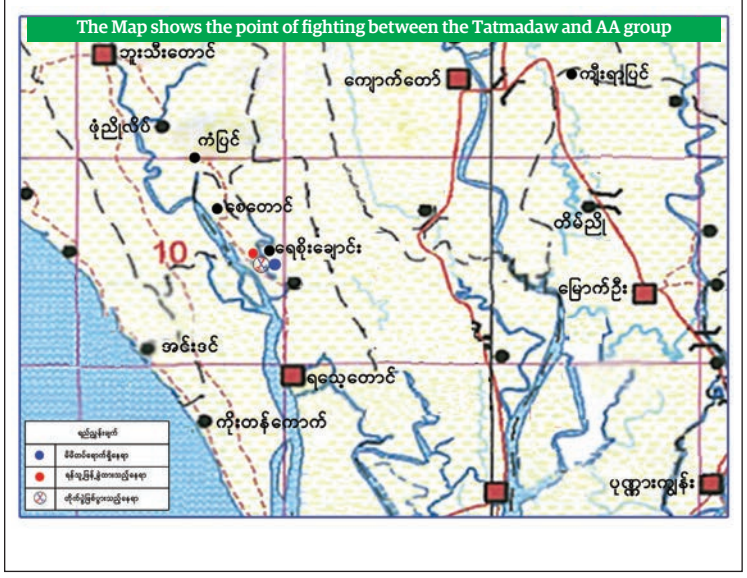
Afterwards Dr. Kyaw Khaing from May May Hospital explained about the reason for opening the clinic and words of thanks were given by U Than Htut on behalf of employers and Daw Win Thida on behalf of the employees. This was followed by presenting of commemorative gifts to Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and Social Securit Board Director General and taking of commemorative group photo.

The second part of the opening ceremony of Social Security-May May clinic in Thabyaygon Ward was then held at May May Hospital where the Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Pyithu Hluttaw representative, person in charge of May May Hospital, representatives of employers and employees cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the clinic and inspected the clinic.

In order to provide wide ranging and effective health care services for entitled workers Social Security Board was signing agreement with private hospitals, clinics and health care service companies to provide outpatient health care service under Provider Purchaser Split, Capitation payment system, per visit payment and fee for service under a pilot practice it is learnt. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

AA group attacks Tatmadaw columns in Yathedaung, Maungtaw



TATMADAW columns conducting security operations near Yaysoe Chaung Village in Yathedaung Township, and Kyiyapyin Village in Kyauktaw Township were attacked by AA group with small and heavy arms on 25 and 26 March.

The fighting caused some casualties among the security forces and the troops also found some bodies of AA personnel, and seized 3 arms and related materials.

On the morning of 25 March a Tatmadaw column reaches the eastern bank of Nga San Baw creek southwest of Yaysoe Chaung Village where about 10 AA personnel positioned inside the mangrove forest on the opposite bank opened fire. After ten minutes of clash, the AA group withdrawn toward the west and the Tatmadaw column continued the security operation.

Yesterday morning a Tatmadaw column conducting road security work near Kyiyapyin Village Kyauktaw Township came under attack twice by about 150 AA personnel with small and heavy arms. The attacks resulted in some casualties among Tatmadaw personnel and some remains of AA personnel, 3 assorted arms and related materials were captured by the Tatmadaw.

The Tatmadaw column was continuing security operations in the nearby area. AA group was attacking towns, wards, villages and mining roads and were also attacking the Tatmadaw columns containing them. Tatmadaw columns were increasing the road security and region stability works, according to news released by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

48th Independence and National Day of Bangladesh commemorated in Yangon

A CEREMONY to commemorate 48th Independence and National Day of Bangladesh was held at Sedona Hotel, Yangon yesterday evening. The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint and wife Daw Khin Htay.

The ceremony begins with the playing of the national anthems of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Next, Union Minister U Than Myint and wife, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Brunei Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colone (R) Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir, Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury and wife cut the Independence and National Day commemorative cake, took commemorative group photo and then hosted a dinner.

The ceremony was also attended by Yangon Command commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone and wife, ambassadors and Charge d'affaires of foreign embassies in Yangon, UN representatives and invited guests. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Brunei and Bangladesh Ambassador slice the cake at the 48th Independence Day celebration. **PHOTO: MNA**

Discussion held on draft National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye poses for the documentary photo together with attendees at the discussion on draft National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A DISCUSSION on draft National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy was held at Mingala Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the event Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said the ministry was striving toward developing fully qualified human resources, individual existence and development from birth to old-age for all. Work processes were implemented to obtain these full rights of individual existence and development. National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy was being drafted by prioritizing youth so that a good inheritance for the future could be left behind. It'll depend on the youth to establish a good program for the future in implementing changes by learning from mistakes made in the past. It is the duties and responsibilities of youth to lead the future generation with new thoughts and visions. As there were differing requirements for youth depending on states and regions, work processes were to be drawn up with the requirements of the region and youth in mind. Discussions were invited to expose priority matters from the 16 sectors in the youth policy.

In walking down the path of democracy and establishing a democratic federal Union the aim was to achieve equality of all youths including ethnic national youths. For a democracy system to take root youth are to perform the ongoing responsibilities and strive toward leaving behind good results for the new generation, said the Union Minister.

Next, comments and suggestions of departmental organisations on draft strategic plan were discussed by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, states/regions social ministers, Department of Social Welfare officials, youth representatives and departmental representatives. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Norwegian Minister of International Development arrives in Yangon

NORWEGIAN Minister of International Development Mr Dag-Inge Ulstein and party arrived in Yangon yesterday morning.

The delegation led by Norwegian minister and party were welcomed by Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Kay Thi Soe, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Tone Tinnes and officials at the Yangon International Airport.

In the afternoon, Norwegian Minister and party visited Telenor Myanmar Office, and met officials from Telenor Myanmar and Norwegian businessmen at the Sule Square Tower, Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon. —MNA

(Translation by TTN)



Norwegian Minister of International Development Mr Dag-Inge Ulstein is welcomed by officials at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister of Czech Republic arrives in Yangon

CZECH REPUBLIC'S Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic and Operational Section Mr Tomas Kryl and party arrived in Yangon yesterday.

Deputy Minister and party were welcomed by Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Kay Thi Soe, Ambassador of Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr Jaroslav Dolecek and officials at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA

(Translation by TTN)



Czech Republic's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic and Operational Section Mr Tomas Kryl is welcomed by officials at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commemorative Event held to mark the 3rd Anniversary of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation

A COMMEMORATIVE Event and Photo & Painting Exhibition to mark the 3rd Anniversary of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) was held at 5 pm at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw. Present on the occasion were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries from the Ministries concerned, invited Member of Parliaments and Ambassadors / Heads of Mission and diplomats from Mekong-Lancang Cooperation member countries; China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

Then Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and the Ambassadors of MLC member states cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Photo & Painting Exhibition and made a tour of the Exhibition depicting the activities of the MLC.



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin looks at photos displayed at the commemorative Event and Photo & Painting Exhibition to mark the 3rd Anniversary of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the commemorative event, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin delivered a key note address in which he briefly explained about the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation which was perceived at the ASEAN- China Summit held in Nay Pyi Taw in 2014 and officially founded at the First Mekong-Lancang Leaders' Meeting held on 23 March 2016 in Sanya, China. The commemorative event to mark the 3rd anniversary of MLC is organized this year to promote public awareness about Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. China has contributed to the special funds for MLC cooperation under the three pillars namely; Political and Security, Economic and Sustainable development, Social, Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges and provided funds for projects to be implemented by member states under the five priority areas; Connectivity, Production Capacity Cooperation, Cross-Border Economic Cooperation, Water Resources and Agriculture and Poverty Reduction.

The Union Minister also advised that the interested line ministries may propose development projects to utilize the special funds under the MLC.

Then Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang also delivered a speech giving a brief account of the activities of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

Then the Video Clip on the 3rd Anniversary of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was presented and the invited guests were served dinner and entertained by cultural performance from MLC member states presented by the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay). —MNA ■



Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein observes books while he inspects the preparations for the Children's Literary and book sale festival at Bago University yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Bago Region Chief Minister inspects preparations for Children's Literary Festival (Bago)

YESTERDAY afternoon Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein accompanied by officials inspected the preparations made for children's literary and book sale festival at Bago University.

Chief Minister U Win Thein inspected the ancient stone inscriptions, books published in 2018 and an exhibit prepared by National Archives Department displayed in the convocation hall.

The Chief Minister then inspected the displays arranged in the University library and the entertainment arrangements in the university football field and commented and remarked where necessary. — Wai Shan

(Translated by Zaw Min)

7th COFTAM held in Nay Pyi Taw

7th Conference of the Committee for Coordination of Financial Sector Technical Assistance to Myanmar (COFTAM) was held at Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The conference was co-chaired by the Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Thein and International Monetary Fund Monetary and Capital Markets Department Division Chief Mr. Simon Gray.

The conference conducted detailed discussions on financial sector development that'll support economic development of Myanmar and current challenges and technical support on work programs to resolve the challenges.

Similarly in the preliminary discussion held on 25 March eight work committees met separately and reviewed technical support and courses, designate priorities for future works, designate cooperation area to fulfill basic fundamentals, arranging programs for projects to be fulfilled by development partner organisations and reviewed project items.

The preliminary discussions made on 25 March were discussed and approved in the conference held yesterday. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Committee for Coordination of Financial Sector Technical Assistance to Myanmar (COFTAM) holds its 7th conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 12/2019
5th Waning of Tabaung, 1380 ME
(25 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 23 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 Tun Yi, who lives in Kuoseik Village, Bamauk Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17-3-2019, police searched the house of Tun Yi, aged 48, son of U Chan Gyi, and seized Nyi Nyi (a) Nyi Lay (a) San Mya Aung, aged 33, son of U Tin Myint, together with heroin, stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa (Mansigyi), MaYa (Pa) 5/2019 under Section 16 (a)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Kyaw Than (a) Nga Aye, who lives Kan Gyi Village, Kalay Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17-3-2019, police searched the house of Kyaw Than (a) Nga Aye, aged 47, son of U Aung Kyaing, and seized Daw Pyone Tin (a) Mya Aye, aged 41, daughter of U Bo Lan, Tin Maung Win, aged 45, son of U Bo Lan, and Myo Sint, aged 44, son of U Bo Lan, together with heroin. A case has been opened four of them with MaMaSa (Kalay), MaYa(Pa) 46/2019 under Section 16(c)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Min Swe, who lives in Nan Pan Village, Phaungpyin Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22-3-2019, police searched the house of Min Swe, aged 31,son of U Ohn Maung, and seized him together with opium. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 42/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Kyaw Maung, who lives Ywar Thit Gone Village, Kyunhla Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23-3-2019, police searched the house of Kyaw Maung, aged 58, son of U Ba Khin, together with heroin. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Kyunhla) MaYa (Pa) 2/2019 under Section 16 (c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Pho Chan and Phar Lu, who live in Ayeyeik Nyein Ward, Kawthoung Town, Taninthayi Region, using and distributing illegal drugs.	On 20-3-2019, police searched the house of Pho Chan (a) Nyein Chan Aung, aged 19, son of U Thaung Myint, and seized with stimulant tablets bearing WY tablets. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa (Pa) 30/2019 under Section 16 (c)/20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Phar Lu (a) Aung Myo Oo, aged 38, son of U Tin Oo, and seized with Kyaw Naing, aged 30, son of U Myo Myint, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters, speciosa powder and marijuana. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Kawthoung) MaYa (Pa) 31/2019 under section 19(a) 20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Zaw Min Htay (a) Pwa Gyi, who lives in Ayemyakyilin Ward, Kyaukse Town, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17-3-2019, police searched the house of Zaw Min Htay (a) Pwa Gyi, aged 42, son of U Pan, and seized with stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Kyaukse) MaYa(Pa) 10/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of distributing and selling illegal drugs in Minte Ekin Ward, Aungmyethazan Tsp, Mandalay Region.	So far a case has been opened files as of last weeks, one man has been arresting, together with heroin. On 20-3-2019, police searched the motorbike riding Pyae Hlyan Phyo (a) Bae Nat, aged 27, son of U Thet Cho Oo, and seized him with heroin. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Aungmyethazan) MaYa(Pa) 12/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched Htin Kyaw Lwin (a) Ah Chauk Ma, aged 27, son of U Ye Lwin, and seized him with heroin. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Aungmyethazan) MaYa(Pa) 13/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Ah Pit (a) Parint, who lives in Thankalaung Village, Kyaikmaraw Tsp, Mon State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17-3-2019, police searched the house of Ah Pit (a) Parint (a) Chan Mon, aged 54, son of U Ass, and seized him together with his wife Ma Ah Chein, aged 50, daughter of U Greece, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and ICE. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Kyaikmaraw) MaYa(Pa) 7/2019 under Section 19(a)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of Ko Tin Tun, who lives at No. 127, Ward 12, Hnitkayin Village, and Thargyi, who lives at No. 58, Ward 7, Ye Town, Mon State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17-3-2019, police searched the house of Tin Tun (a) Tin Phone, aged 36, son of U San Lin, and seized him with speciosa and stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Lamine) MaYa(Pa) 8/2019 under Section 16 (c)/ 20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Thar Gyi (a) Soe Tin, aged 40, son of U Maung Thein, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY/R. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Lamine) MaYa(Pa) 9/2019 under Section 19 (a)/ 20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Aye Win and wife Marlar, who live in Thumarlar 9th Street, Ward 2, North Okkalapa Tsp, Yangon Region.	On 17-3-2019, Police searched the house of Aye Win, aged 41, son of U Win Myint, and seized Kyaw Min Han, aged 37, son of U Thein Han, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(North Okkapapa) MaYa(Pa) 26/2019 under Section 19 (a)/ 21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of Aung Ko Ko, who lives in Moelone Village, Mabein Tsp, Shan State (North), distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 21-3-2019, Police searched the house of Aung Ko Ko, aged 42, son of U Tin Shwe, and seized him together with heroin. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Mabein) MaYa(Pa) 23/2019 under Section 16 (c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of Ma Aye Aye Khaing, who lives in Minyekyawswa Street, Ward 4, Kyaunggyisu Ward, Taunggyi Town, Shan State (South), distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23-3-2019, police searched the house of Ma Aye Aye Khaing, aged 35, daughter of U Khin Win, and seized her with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened her with MaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa(Pa)10/2019 under Section 19 (a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	Information received of Ma Thet, who lives in Ward 5, Bogale Town, Ayeyawady Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22-3-2019, police searched the bicycle riding Myat Thein Tun, aged 27, son of U Myint Lwin, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Ma Thet (a) Khin Myo Thet, and seized her with stimulant tablets bearing WY tablets. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Bogale) MaYa(Pa) 3/2019 under Section 19 (a)/20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 577 cases have been opened files as of 23-3-2019. A total of 912 people, including 765 men and 147 women had been arrested with seizures of 5853.69 g of heroin, 73.67 g of ICE, 38704.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18830.28 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of speciosa tincture, 227792 stimulant tablets, 6424.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liter of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium block, 60 g of poppy seeds, 23.45 g of crushed stimulant powder, 0.001 g of crushed Ecstsy powder, 16 firearms, 257 cartridges and one grenade.

Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking have been stepped up and the ministry will report on furthered exposed cases.

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

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 from Hnget Pyaw Taw Ward, Phakant Town, Kachin State, was arrested with a seizure of 3830 stimulant tablets and 55 g of low-quality opium. A woman from Kyauk Gyi Myaung Village, Loikaw Tsp, Kayah State, was seized with 295 stimulant tablets. Two men on Chitkyeeyay Road, Ward 4, Myawady Town, Kayin State, were sized with 99 stimulant tablets. A man on the motorbike was searched and seized with 229 g of speciosa and one motorbike on Yazadarit Road, Aungmyitthar Ward, Ye Town, Mon State. A man was arrested with 39000 stimulant tablets and one boat along the Naf River, Rakhine State. Two women were arrested with 26130 stimulant tablets on Maungtaw-Taung Pyo Letwe road, Rakhine State. Acting on a tip-off, a man was arrested with 1745250 stimulant tablets, one motorcar at the Inn Din check-point, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 123 stimulant tablets on the bus driving from Angu Maw-Maungtaw in Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 0.1 g of marijuana at the Kandawgyi, Sittway Tsp, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 115 g of opium blocks, one motorbike on Loikaw-Pinlong road, near Nantine Village, Kalaw Tsp, Shan State. A man was arrested with 6500 g of opium in Laikha Town. A man was arrested with 10170 stimulant tablets, 96 g of heroin in Kaungtat Village, Lashio Tsp. A man was arrested with 560 stimulant tablets and 38 g of heroin in Muse Tsp. Two men and one woman were arrested with 2960 stimulant tablets and 8.1 g of heroin in Swansaw Ward in Shan State. A man was arrested with 14600 stimulant tablets and 484 g of heroin at the Oriental check-point, Nawnghkio Town. A man was arrested with 3980 stimulant tablets and one motorbike at the crossroad of Karpuchaing Village, Laukkai Tsp. A man was arrested with 106000 stimulant tablets, 20 g of heroin, 816.5 g of opium in Sinkyaing Village, Kutkai Tsp. Two men from, Natluhteikpan Ward, Monywa Town, Sagaing Region, were arrested with 1297 stimulant tablets, 20 g of opium and 5 g of low-quality opium. Two men were arrested with 920 stimulant tablets in Katha Tsp, Sagaing Region. A man was arrested with 14 stimulant tablets, 240.5 g of heroin on Shwebo-Myitkyina road in Indaw Tsp. Two men were arrested with 650 stimulant tablets, 20.1 g of heroin Haechein Village, Bamauk Tsp. A man was arrested with 0.01 g of heroin and 20 liters of liquid heroin in Myanandar Ward. A man was arrested with 4000 stimulant tablets in in Kangyi Ward, Tanithayi Region. A man was arrested with 9 stimulant tablets and 270 g of speciosa powder in Kyanthechaung Village. A man was arrested with 576 stimulant tablets on Yangon-Mandalay Highway, Daik U Tsp, Bago Region. Two men were arrested with 150 g of marijuana and one motorbike on Salay-Molar road. A total of 1750 g of ICE was found from the parcel at DHL counter in Mahaaungmye Tsp, Mandalay Region. Action on tip-off, two men and one woman were arrested. A man was arrested with 480000 stimulant tablets, 2420 g of heroin and one motor vehicle at the 16-mile check-point, Patheingyi Tsp. Two men were arrested 800 stimulant tablets, 33 g of heroin on the Express Car driving from Muse to Mandalay. A man was arrested with 733 stimulant tablets in Tabeikkyin Tsp. A man was arrested with 1434 stimulant tablets in Thayaraye Ward, Kyaukpadaung Tsp. A woman was arrested 2200 stimulant tabletsin Kyeetatsone Village, Thazi Tsp. A man and a woman were arrested with 2390 stimulant tablets, 4.5 g of ICE, 70 g of marijuana and one motor vehicle Tamway Gyi Kha Ward, Tamway Tsp, Yangon Region. A total of 1130 g of ICE were seized in the parcel sending to foreign countries in Ward 8, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 10 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Kantkawmying Ward, Myaungmya Tsp. A woman was arrested with 382 stimulant tablets in Ward 8.

There have been two seizures of ammunition. A man was seized with 18002 g of opium, one air gun in Yanbo Village, Momeik Tsp, Shan State. A woman was arrested with 500 stimulant tablets and two percussion lock firearm in Kyipauk Village, Singu Tsp, Mandalay Region.

There has been one seizure involving a foreigner. Acting on a tip-off, a Taiwan national who stayed in 12 Ward, Yankin Tsp, Yangon Region, was arrested with the involvement of carrying 3900 g of Katamine at the Terminal one of the Yangon International Airport, Yangon.

There have been 226 cases being opened between 17-3-2019 and 23-3-2019. A total of 313 people, including 283 men and 30 women, were seized with 3590.302 g of heroin, 20 liters of liquid heroin, 2919.05 g of ICE, 2461128 stimulant tablets, 311.9 g of marijuana, 25503.5 g of opium, 115 g of opium block, 60 g of low-quality opium, 229 g of speciosa, 285 g of specopsa powder and three firearms.

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

Yazagyo dam drying up as supply from Nerinjara River falls

THE Yazagyo Dam in Kalay, Sagaing Region, is drying up as the volume of water fed into it by the Nerinjara River has decreased this summer.

The volume of water fed into the dam by the river has decreased from over 60,000 cubic feet per second in the rainy season to 70 cubic feet this summer.

"The Nerinjara River is not feeding as much water into the dam as it did in the past. The river originates in Chin Hill. But, it is not feeding the dam as much water as it should due to deforestation," said Ko Win from the Nature Lovers Organization, Kalay.

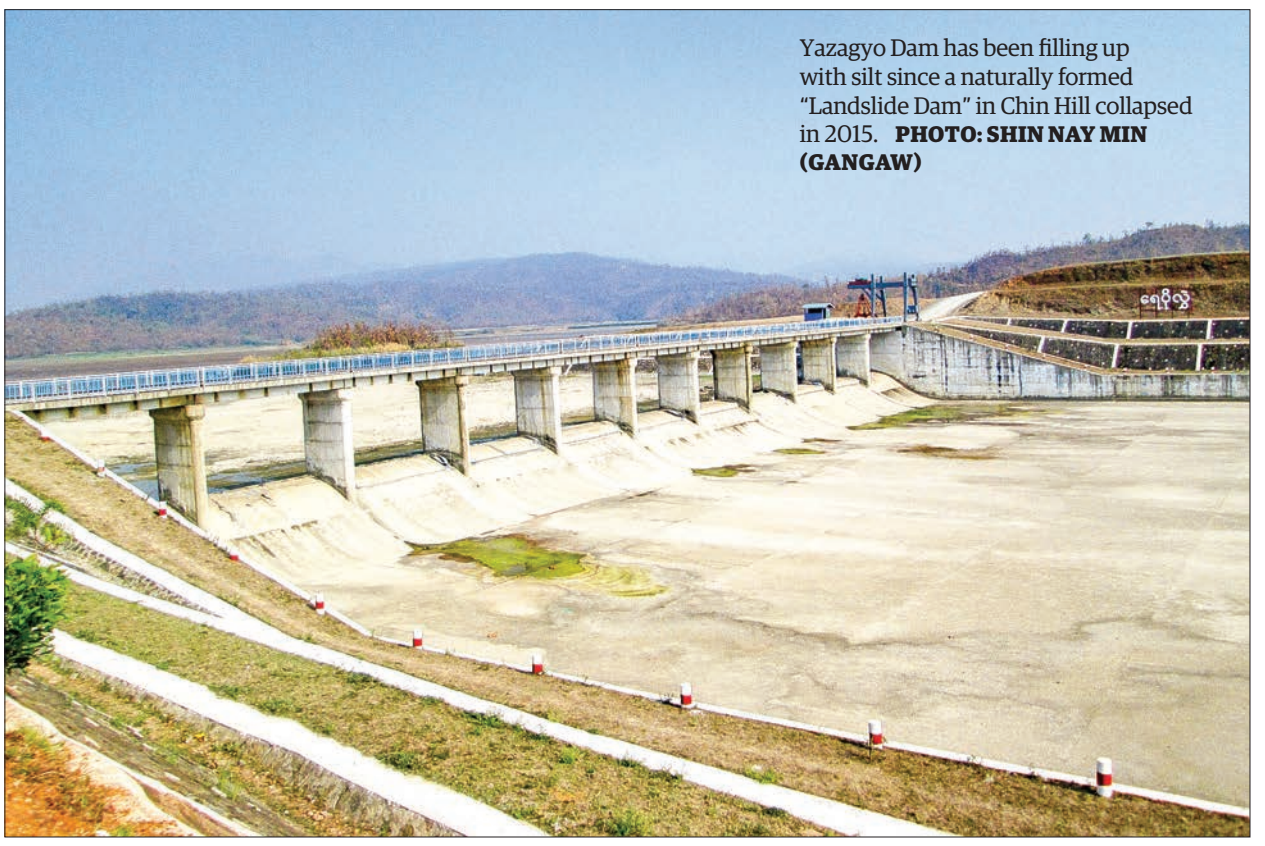
"The two turbines at the dam can generate electricity in the rainy season," said U Myo Tun, an engineer at the dam.

"Now, we are removing silt and wood blocking the watercourse towards the turbines," he said.

The Yazagyo Dam has been filling up with silt and logs ever since a naturally formed landslide dam in Chin Hill collapsed in 2015.

To save the dam, officials are working with international experts to dredge the silt and remove the logs from the dam.—Shin Nay Min (Gangaw)

(Translated by TTN)



Yazagyo Dam has been filling up with silt since a naturally formed "Landslide Dam" in Chin Hill collapsed in 2015. **PHOTO: SHIN NAY MIN (GANGAW)**

Public participation key for turning Yangon into a clean and pleasant city

CITIZENS can now cast votes in advance for the Yangon City Development Committee elections, scheduled for 31 March.

Candidates for the YCDC are campaigning everywhere, putting up posters, and holding talks to explain how important the municipal election is.

The YCDC elections will be held in six constituencies. Eligible voters will elect members of the YCDC, who can work in the interests of their respective townships.

Although such an election was held in 2014, the upcoming election is being considered the first ever election held extensively in Yangon under the incumbent government.

> For our city to be clean and pleasant, all residents need to change their mindset and make a commitment towards the goal of making Yangon the most pleasant city in the region.

It has been seen that the people in Yangon are not following the YCDC election as much as the general election. The reason: people don't understand how the election can help fulfill their needs, considering the current situation in Yangon City, and the capability of the candidates to change the city.

Yet, in spite of this, the people of Yangon have high hopes for the candidates for making their city clean and pleasant.

The residents of Yangon are getting increasingly concerned over the rising population in the city and its consequences. With the number of cars increasing day by day, the city's streets, which are choked with traffic and pollution, are also becoming a cause for worry.

Whether or not the people's dream of a clean and pleasant city comes true depends on the cooperation of the people in implementing the YCDC's projects and plans and the strength of the YCDC members' desire to fulfill their wishes.

We can overcome the current obstacles with collective strength and help from YCDC members, and realize the goal of a clean and pleasant city.

Today, practical steps need to be taken to solve the problems of population, water supply, sewage, public transport, car parking, and garbage in Yangon.

In spite of the challenges ahead, with good policy, governance, and systematic management everything is possible.

To turn Yangon into a grand city, we must not just rely on the YCDC. Public participation in the election is important for the good of the city.

For our city to be clean and pleasant, all residents need to change their mindset and make a commitment towards the goal of making Yangon the most pleasant city in the region.

■■■

Hailing Anniversary of Myanmar Tatmadaw Day

Marcopolo's high impression of Myanmar Tatmadaw of Bagan Period

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt.



The military parade is seen at the 73rd Anniversary of Armed Forces Day in 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE writer wishes to hail and honour Myanmar Tatmadaw Day by a series of articles on high impressions of foreign visitors to Myanmar in the successive periods of Myanmar history. The present article is on Marcopolo's high impression of Myanmar Tatmadaw of Bagan Period.

Marcopolo was an Italian adventer-traveller hailed from Venice. With his father and uncle he travelled from Venice to China by sea and land. He was only a young lad. When they reached the Country of Chinese Emperor Kublai Khan of Mongolian dynasty at Beijing they were well received by His Imperial Majesty. Because of their bravery, fighting skill and loyalty, the Chinese Emperor gave them warm welcome and positions. Young Marcopolo was adopted by the Emperor who sent him on many important missions. In 1277 when he waged war on Bagan in the reign of King Narathihapate [1255- 87 A.D] Marcopolo accompanied Tartar equestrian armies and Maha Yanan Buddhist monks. At that battle which took place at Ngasaung Gyan near Bhamo, young Marcopolo eye-witnessed Myanmar Tatmadaw and undaunted morale and spirit. After the demise of his fostered Emperor Kublai Khan, he and his father and uncle returned home with many rich awards bestowed upon them by the Great Khan.

Young Marcopolo was imprisoned as a result of his involvement in local wars between the then city states. In the prison at Genoa, he dictated the account of his life and adventures while serving the Great Khan to an inmate in the prison. Later that account was translated into many languages. "The adventures of Marcopolo" became a literary and historical masterpiece of world renown. The present articles is the summary of Marcopolo's high estime of Myanmar Tatmadaw of Bagan Period.

"The Battle of Ngasaung Gyan"

It happened that in the year 1277 the Great Khan sent an army into the countries of Vochang [Yun-Chang] and Karazan, for their protection and defense against any attack that foreigners might attempt to make. When the King of Mien who was powerful in the number of his subjects, in extent of territory, and in wealth, heard that an army of Tartars had arrived at Vochang, he took the decision of advancing immediately to attack it in order that by its destruction the Great Khan should be prevented from "again attempting to station a force upon the borders of his dominions". "For this purpose, he assembled a very large army, including a multitude of elephants [an animal in which country abounds], upon whose backs were placed battlements or castles of wood, capable of containing twelve or sixteen [men] in each. With these and a numerous army of horse and foot, he took the road to Vochang, where the grand Khan's army lay and encamping at no distance from it, intended to give his troops a few days of rest".

"As soon as the approach of the King of Mien, with so great a force was known to Nestardin who commanded the troops of grand Khan, although a brave and able officer he felt much alarmed, not having under his orders more than twelve thousand men [veterans indeed and valiant soldiers] where as the enemy had sixty thousands, besides the elephants armed as has been described. He did not however betray any sign of apprehension, but descending into the plain of Vochang, took a positions in which his flank was covered by thick wood of large trees. Wither, in case of a furious charge by the elephants, his troops could retire. From there, in security, they could annoy the enemy with their arrows".

"Upon the King of Mien's learning that the Tartars had descended into the plain he immediately put his army in motions took up his ground at the distance of about a mile from the enemy and made a disposition of his force, placing the elephants in the front, and the cavalry, and infantry in their rear, but leaving between them a considerable intervals. "Then giving orders for sounding a prodigy us" he advanced boldly with "his army towards that of the Tartars which remained firm, making no movement but suffering them to approach to the entrenchments. They then rushed out with great spirt and utmost eagerness to engage the enemy but it was soon found that the Tartars' houres, unused to the sight of such huge animals, with their castles, were terrified and wheeling about, endeavored to fly nor could their riders restrain them, whilst the King of Mien, with the whole of his forces was every moment gaining ground.

"As soon as the prudent commander perceived this unexpected disorder, he instantly ordered his men to dismount and their horses to be taken into the woods where they were fastened to the trees. When dismounted, the men without loss of time, advanced on following the line of elephants and commenced a discharge of arrows whilst, on the other side, those who were stationed in the castles on the elephants and the rest of the King's army shot valleys in return great activity.

> In his eye witness account of the battle of Nga Saung Gyan, Marcopolo highly estimated the strength and the spirit of Myanmar Tatmadaw of Bagan ...

But their arrows did not have the same effect as those of the Tartars whose bows were drawn by stronger arms". "So continuous were the discharges of the latter all their weapons being directed against the elephants, that these were no longer governable but without, guidance or control, ran about in all directions, until at length, they rushed into a part of the wood not occupied by the Tartars".

From the closeness of the branches of large trees they broke with loud crasher, the battlements of castles that were upon their backs causing the destruction of those who sat upon them. Upon seeing the rout of the elephants the Tartars acquired fresh courage and with perfect order and regularity, they mounted their horses, and joined their severed divisions. When bloody and dreadful combat was renewed". "On the part of the King of Mien's troops, there was no want of courage and he himself was amongst the ranks of his troops asking them to stand firm and not to be alarmed by the accident that had befallen the elephants but the Tartars by their great skill in archery were too powerful and did then much more injury from their not being provided with such arm our as was worn by the Tartars. The arrows, having been expounded on both sides, the men grasped their swords and maces and violently encountered one another. So great was the charges of arms and such shootings and shrieks that the noise seemed to reach the sky".

"The King of Mien, acting as became a valiant chief was present wherever the greatest danger appeared, encouraging his soldiers and be cheesing them to maintain their ground with courage". "The losses in this battle which lasted from the morning till noon, were severely felt on both sides, but the Tartars were the flying victorious. In his eye witness account of the battle of Nga Saung Gyan, Marcopolo highly estimated the strength and the spirit of Myanmar Tatmadaw of Bagan and undaunted courage of the King of Mien against the in vacating hordes of greand Khan's equestrian Tartar archers".

Marcopolo remarked that Myanmar elephants, horses and foot soldiers were armoured, they would have withstood the arrows of the Tartars and would have reaped the victory at Nga Saung Gyan.

■■■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 12/2019

6th Waning of Tabaung, 1380 ME
(26 March 2019)

Appointment of Region Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as Taninthayi Region Ministers of the Ministries shown against each of their names.

(1) Daw Yi Yi Cho	Ministry of Planning and Finance
(2) U Hla Htwe	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(3) U Aung Thuya	Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Objectives for the 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day of 2019

1. **Give priority to implementing the Three Main Causes being national policy, protecting the constitution and protecting the lives and property of the people.**
2. **Strive continuously for stability, peace, unity, and socio-economic development, which are the historic needs of the State, as the firm position of the Tatmadaw.**
3. **In working for establishing a Union based on a democratic federal system, the Tatmadaw to work with firm resolve for achieving eternal peace which is an essential requirement, according to the Six Principles of Peace which is based on the Three Main Causes.**
4. **To build a highly skilled and powerful Tatmadaw capable of effectively protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the State.**



Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued on Tuesday 26 March 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 27 March 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Chin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions and partly cloudy 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 to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon states.

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Third Kadu ethnic cultural festival held in Bamauk Township



Kadu ethnic people participating in the third Kadu ethnic festival on 25 March in Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LINN**

THE third Kadu ethnic festival kicked off at 9 a.m. on 25 March at Settaw Village, Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region.

The festival aims to promote Kadu culture, language, customs, and unity, and showcase their cultural heritage to rekindle the Kadu people's interest in their own culture, said Sayadaw U Kiddisara.

The Kachin, Kanan, Red Shan and Kadu ethnic people from the Bamauk, Pinlebu, Indaw, Mogaung, and Myitkyina townships are participating in the festival.

The first Kadu ethnic cultural festival was held in Pinlebu Township in 2017, and the second festival was organized in Indaw township. The three-day festival is held from 25 to 27 March every year.

"The Kadu people have lived with poor levels of education for centuries. But now, the socio-economic conditions of the Kadu people is improving. We need more assistance to promote education, health, and deal with other regional concerns. We hope that the government will focus on our regional development, and can give the necessary attention and care to our concerns," said Ma Sandar Win, a Kudu woman from Khopyin Village, Bamauk Township.

"By celebrating this festival, the Kadu people can maintain their culture and cultivate a strong belief in their ethic. And, the festival will encourage our Kadu people to preserve our cultural heritage. The main concern is that we don't have our own literature, so we are working on it now. The beliefs, customs, and arts of the society play a main role for ethnic people," said Ma Sandar Win.

"In 2020, a census will be undertaken. People from Indaw Township have more difficulty than others in obtaining national registration cards. We hope all our Kadu people will participate in the activity," said the Sayadaw, who is a member of the Kadu Ethnic Festival Implementation Committee.

Most Kadu nationals follow Buddhism. There are 98 Kadu villages in Myanmar, of which 38 are in Bamauk, 16 in Pinlebu, 34 in Indaw, 5 in Katha, and 5 in Mogaung. The population of Kadu people in Myanmar is estimated to be 1,80,000, according to the Kadu people.

The Kadu people mostly depend on farming for a living, and they are also involved in salt production on a manageable scale, and gold and lacquerware business in Pinlebu and Bamauk. — Maung Chit Linn

(Translated by La Wonn)

World Health Ambassador mission provides free treatment at Myeik hospital



A child undergoing a medical checkup in Myeik General Hospital in Taninthayi on 25 March. **PHOTO: KHINE HTOO**

A team from World Health Ambassador-USA provided free treatment to patients with cardiac, gynecology, skin, teeth, and oral problems and those requiring general surgery between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. from 25 to 26 March at the Myeik General Hospital, Taninthayi Region.

The team of specialists led by WHA founder, Dr. Thien Do, a cardiologist, provided free treatment to 355 of the 603 registered patients, including 131 cardiac patients, 82 patients with skin problems, 40 patients requiring surgery, and 82 requiring dental care on 25 March. The team included specialists and health staff from the Myeik General Hospital.

"Myanmar people have little knowledge when it comes to health. So, people should go for medical check-ups every year or every two years. This can minimize the health risk and cost," said Dr. Huy Phan, an obstetrician and gynecologist with WHA.

"This was WHA's second visit to Myanmar. In 2014, they provided free services in upper Myanmar, including Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. This time, they covered Mawlamyine, Dawei, and Myeik regions. They gave free services at the Dawei General Hospital, and conducted medical inspections in villages," said Daw Win Myat Thu, a member of WHA.

"This was WHA's first time in Myeik and Dawei. They often volunteer in Thailand, France, and Japan. They have also handed over patients to doctors with the Myeik General Hospital for further treatment," said Dr. Yu Yu Wai, the head of the Myeik General Hospital. Patients who had registered for cardiac, gynecology, and skin problems and surgery received treatment on 25 and 26 March, and dental treatment was provided only on 25 March, according to the Myeik General Hospital. —Khine Htoo

(Translated by La Wonn)

ANRPC workshop on natural rubber industry held in Dawei



Pressed and rolled latex is smoked and hung up to dry as part of the rubber production process.
PHOTO: HTUT HTUT (YE)

ASSOCIATION of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) workshop was held yesterday in Dawei with the aim of developing the natural rubber industry. The workshop focused on supply-demand and modelling of natural rubber.

In his opening speech at the workshop, Taninthayi Regional Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation U Myint San said rubber plays a pivotal role in manufacturing as it is an important raw industrial material. It can also help earn foreign currency, he said.

"Through this workshop, the stakeholders in the rubber supply chain and experts can exchange ideas concerning the supply, demand, and modelling of natural rubber," he said.

He then urged participants to discuss the economic perspectives and rubber market conditions with experts.

Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Bich, the Secretary-General of the ANRPC, gave the greeting speech, while Dr. Ye Tint Tun, the Director-General of the Agriculture Department, explained the objectives behind the workshop and gave a presentation covering the Myanmar rubber industry with videos. As part of the workshop, experts from Cambodia and China and their local counterparts will hold seminars till 28 March. The Dawei traditional folk dance troupe performed at the workshop yesterday, and the ANRPC Secretary-General gave presents to members of the troupe.—Dawei District IPRD

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Ayeyawady Region endorses 5 investment projects; to create over 300 jobs

THE Ayeyawady Region Investment Committee has endorsed five projects with a capital of US$1.27 million during a recent meeting. The projects are expected to create over 370 jobs for local residents.

The enterprises endorsed by the Investment Committee will develop a bus terminal; construct, develop, sell, and lease affordable resort housing; manufacture and market value-added rice; start a rice nursery and cultivation service using rice transplanters; and manufacture home textiles on a cut-make-pack basis.

The Ayeyawady Region Investment Committee has endorsed 28 businesses so far. The businesses are engaged in manufacturing of garments on a cut-make-pack basis; development, sale, and lease of shopping malls, residential buildings, cinemas and shophouses; production and distribution of rice husk pallet; operating a Green Land hotel and resort; cultivation and distribution of banana via contract farming; production and export of soft-shell crab; operating a transport service for sight-seeing; development of housing projects; electricity generation from rice husk; and, manufacturing and export of coir pith blocks.

To ease the verification of investment projects, the region and state investment committees have been given the authority, under the Myanmar Investment Law, to grant permissions to local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or $5 million. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar primarily drawing investment from ASEAN, East Asian countries: MIC

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR is attracting foreign direct investment mainly from ASEAN and East Asian countries, said U Aung Naing Oo, Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission.

"We are inviting investment from ASEAN's external partner East Asian countries — Japan, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, and China (Taipei). Myanmar is targeting FDI from East Asian countries, including India," said U Aung Naing Oo.

The manufacturing sector absorbs the largest share of investments in Myanmar, with FDI mostly flowing into cut-make-pack garment businesses, food processing businesses, electronic enterprises, and footwear businesses, according to the MIC.

"In addition, luggage manufacturing businesses are likely to pull investment into the country. Those businesses can benefit from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) of the US," said U Aung Naing Oo.

Singapore currently tops the list of countries investing in Myanmar, followed by China and then Thailand. Hong Kong is Myanmar's fourth largest investor.

The MIC is holding investment forums in the regions and states to spur investments. Between 1 October, 2018 and 15 March, 2019 in the current fiscal year, 129 foreign enterprises with an estimated capital of over $1.94 billion were permitted to invest in the country. In the corresponding period of the previous FY, only 80 investment projects were approved by Myanmar.

The MIC is targeting to attract $5.8 billion in FDI in the 2018-2019 financial year.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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- City Mart (Sule Square)
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- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
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Dollar trades in lower 110 yen in Tokyo amid higher stocks

TOKYO — The US dollar stalled mostly at just above the 110 yen line Tuesday in Tokyo, ahead of the release of key economic data in the United States, while Japanese stocks recovered from heavy losses the previous day.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 110.19-20 yen compared with 109.92-110.02 yen in New York and 110.05-06 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Monday. It moved between 109.98 yen and 110.24 yen during the day, changing hands most frequently at 110.09 yen. The euro was quoted at $1.1312-1313 and 124.65-69 yen against $1.1308-1318 and 124.38-48 yen in New York and $1.1307-1309 and 124.44-48 yen in Tokyo late Monday afternoon.

The dollar was supported in early trading hours in Tokyo by the benchmark Nikkei stock average's rebound from its sharpest fall since late December, as well as rises in US long-term interest rates.

But demand for the dollar was short-lived as fears for a global economic slowdown persisted amid uncertainty over US-China trade negotiations and Britain's planned departure from the European Union, dealers said.

Takuya Kanda, senior researcher at the Gaitame.com Research Institute, said expectations that the US Federal Reserve may cut interest rates later this year are putting downward pressure on the dollar.

"Solid economic data is seen to be the only factor that may stop US long-term interest rates from falling further, so the center of attention for a near-term trading cue is now on US consumer confidence and housing-related data to be released later in the day," Kanda said.—Kyodo News ■

European Parliament approves controversial EU copyright reform

STRASBOURG — The European Parliament on Tuesday approved a controversial EU copyright overhaul that hands more power to news publishers and record companies against internet giants like Google and Facebook.

Despite an intense debate in parliament and furious lobbying ahead of the vote, MEPs meeting in Strasbourg ended up passing the draft law with 348 votes in favour, 274 against, and 36 abstentions.



Proposals to delete the so-called Article 13 were not put to a vote. **PHOTO: AFP**

European lawmakers were sharply divided on the copyright issue, with both sides subjected to some of the most intense lobbying the EU has ever seen from tech giants, media firms, content creators and online freedom activists.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V JIN SUI

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V JIN SUI VOY. NO. (1461) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 CA SHIPPING PTE, LTD
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ORNELLA VOY. NO. (912W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ORNELLA VOY. NO. (912W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NEFELI VOY. NO. (911S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NEFELI VOY. NO. (911S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (094N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (094N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (027 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (027 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 INTER ASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (118 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (118 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1906 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1906 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

2018 spike in energy demand spells climate trouble: IEA

PARIS — A 2.3 per cent jump in global energy demand last year outstripped the expansion of renewables and helped drive record-high greenhouse gas emissions, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Tuesday.

Fossil fuels satisfied nearly 70 percent of that growth for the second year running, with natural gas accounting for 45 per cent of the rise in energy consumption, according to the Agency's Global Energy & CO_2 Status Report.

Double-digit growth in solar and wind power generation — 31 per cent for solar — was still not fast enough to meet soaring electricity demand that also pushed up the use of coal, the most carbon-intensive of fuels. "We have seen an extraordinary increase in global energy demand in 2018, growing at its fastest pace this decade," said IEA Executive Director FatihBirol. "But despite major growth in renewables, global emissions are still rising, demonstrating once again that more urgent action is needed on all fronts" to tackle climate change, he added. Energy-related global CO_2 emissions rose 1.7 per cent to a record 33 billion tonnes last year compared to 2017, which likewise saw unprecedented levels of carbon pollution. CO_2 emissions in 2018 from coal used to generate power surpassed 10 billion tonnes for the first time, Birol said. That energy mostly came from coal-fired plants a dozen years old on average — not even a quarter of their typical lifespan. This raises the question of whether their continued use — much less the construction of new ones — is compatible with the 2015 Paris climate treaty, which calls for capping global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and at 1.5˚C if possible.

'Fuel' of the future

"Whilst not impossible, if we do not address the emissions of coal power plants in Asia, to comply with our climate goals will be extremely challenging," Birol told AFP. The planet is currently on track to heat up by about 4˚C. Global coal consumption in 2018 rose only in Asia, especially China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia, the report found.

Another discouraging trend given efforts to tame global warming was a slowdown last year in energy efficiency gains to 1.3 per cent, only half the average improvement rate for the 2014-2017 period.—AFP ■

Evacuation order for Fukushima plant town to be lifted on 10 April

FUKUSHIMA — A mandatory evacuation order for residents of a Japanese town that hosts the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will be lifted for the first time in eight years, though partially, on 10 April, government officials said Tuesday.



Geiger counter attached to a fence near the Daiichi power plant measures radiation in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

The town of Okuma, which had all of its roughly 10,000 residents evacuate after the deadly 2011 earthquake and tsunami that triggered one of the world's worst nuclear disasters, agreed to the date proposed by the government. "We have determined the radiation level in the environment has fallen sufficiently as a result of decontamination work," said Yoshihiko Isozaki, the head of the government's nuclear emergency response headquarters.

"We took into account the town's wish to lift the order as soon as possible," Isozaki said at a press conference following a meeting with Okuma Mayor Toshitsuna Watanabe at a temporary town office in Aizuwakamatsu, Fukushima Prefecture.—Kyodo News

Request for Quotations

Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (Water Resource) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received grants from French Development Agency (AFD) towards the Rehabilitation of Myinkun and Kanni Pump Irrigation Projects. SOFRECO/ Myanmar International Consultant Company (MMIC) is the Project Technical Operator (PTO) for the project, and it intends to apply the portion of the proceeds of the grant towards the eligible payments under the contracts for which this request for quotations is issued. SOFRECO /MMIC now invites eligible authorized distributors / resellers of the offered goods;
to express the interest in supplying the following items.

Item No.	Reference No.	Description	Quantity	Unit
1		Laptops	20	Numbers
2		External Hard Drive	20	Numbers

Eligible suppliers having interest having interest will receive a Request for Quotations by E-mail, and sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline **(Monday, 8 April 2019 at 2:00 PM Myanmar Time)** after which no quotations will be accepted.

Suppliers will be selected following the Procurement Method of French Development Agency (Revised 2017). Please submit sealed Quotations to;

U Dinesh Malla
Team Leader, Project Technical Operator
SOFRECO Office
IWUMD Regional Office
Taung Dwin Gyi Road, Magway
Office No. 0632028784, Mobile No. 09790672827
Email : dinesh_malla@hotmail.com

Please indicate your Email address as only electronic copies of RFQ will be sent.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Education
Invitation for Bids

Date:	**27March2019**
Loan/Grant No. and Title:	**MYA 3472 – Equipping Youth for Employment**
Contract No. and Title:	**MYA3472/EYE/NCB/Goods/CBMSC/Equip/ 01-03**
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	**13 May2019**

1. The **Government of Myanmar** has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of **Equipping Youth for Employment Project (EYE) 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 Ministry of Education (represented by the Department of Education Research, Planning & Training)("the Purchaser") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for **the Supply of CBMSC Workshop Training Equipment and Tools for the following Courses at 7 GTHS/4 ITC Locations**.
   - **Lot1 - Motorcycle Repair and Maintenance Training Equipment & Tools**
   - **Lot 2- Small Farm Machinery Repair and Maintenance Training Equipment & Tools**

   Bidders may submit bids for any of the Lots or for all the Lots, Bid Evaluation will be carried out separately for each Lot and contract will be awarded separately for each Lot.
3. National competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's NCB procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:

   EYE Project Management Unit (PMU)
   Department of Education Research, Planning & Training,
   Ministry of Education, Bldg No 13,
   Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
   Telephone: +95 67407261/67407273
   Fax: +95 67407406
   E-mail address: projectmanager.EYEPMU@gmail.com
   With copy to: procurement.EYEPMU@gmail.com
5. To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should
   - write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for MYA3472/EYE/NCB/Goods/CBMSC/Equip/01-03
   - pay a nonrefundable Bidding Document Fee of MMK 10,000 either by cash payment or through bank transfer to:

     Bank A/C No: MD-012898
     Bank Name: Myanmar Economic Bank
     Bank Address: Thiri Kyaw Swa Street, Near Bank Zone, Zabu Thiri Township, NayPyiTaw
     Account Name: Department of Education Research, Planning & Training, Ministry of Education
6. Deliver your bid to the address above
   - on or before the deadline: **13 May 2019 (13.00 Hours MST)**
   - together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document

   Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids will be rejected. Electronic Bid submission is not permitted.
7. The Ministry of Education will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Aerospace, maritime exhibition kicks off in Malaysia's Langkawi

LANGKAWI — The 15th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) kicked off on Tuesday, with defense companies from around the globe vying for a bigger share in the Asian defense industry.

In his address at the launch of the event, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said 390 companies from the defense and commercial industry from 31 countries and regions are participating in the five-day event.

"Modern security threats require Malaysia and other countries to continue to upgrade and modernize their strategic assets," he said.

Mahathir said LIMA would help Malaysia move closer toward its goal of becoming the leading aerospace hub among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as the industry is expected to expand rapidly in the next few years.

"We plan to make Malaysia the leading aerospace nation in Southeast Asia and an integral part of the global market," he said.

First launched in 1991 by Mahathir during his first term, the biennial program has grown into a major arms and technology showcase, drawing hundreds of companies from dozens of countries.

The highlights for this year are two aerobatic teams from Indonesia and Russia and they will showcase their skill at aerial maneuvers as part of the event, a staple part of the event.

Additionally, some 50 fighter jets and other aircraft from the participating countries will perform aerial displays at the Langkawi International Airport.

Also present are 43 warships and maritime assets including 16 vessels from several participating nations.

Major defense companies present this year include Rafale International of France and Boeing from the United States. — Xinhua ■



A Turkish aerospace company's ANKA unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is on display during a media preview of the 15th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) in Langkawi, Malaysia, March 25, 2019. The 15th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) will see the participation of hundreds of companies from dozens of countries, Malaysian Defense Minister MohamadSabu said on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

World first technology could lead to more efficient satellite launches: expert

SYDNEY — The world-first technology set to be developed in Australia could lead to more efficient satellite launches, a combustion engine expert from the University of Sydney's School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering said on Monday.

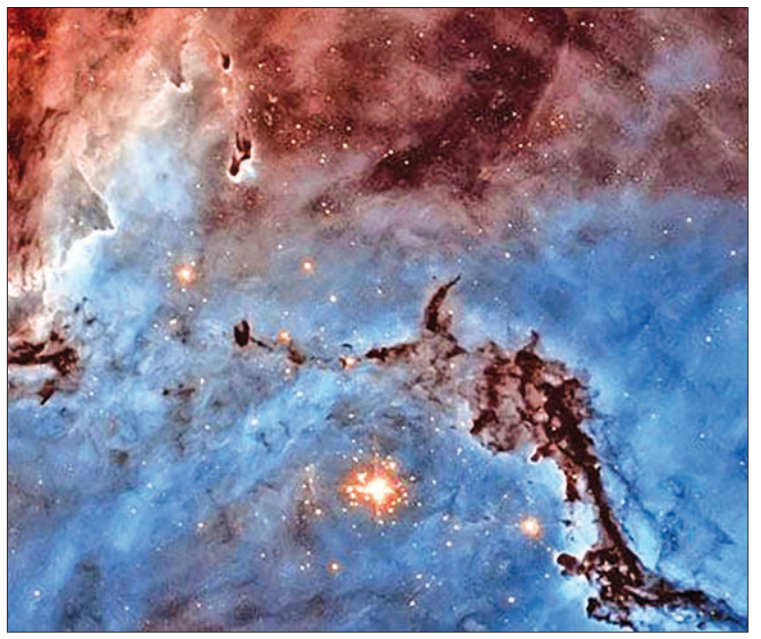
Part of a global industry research project led by Australian defense technology company DefendTex, the project includes researchers from Germany's Bundeswehr University in Munich, the University of South Australia, RMIT, the Defence Science and Technology Group and Innosync Pty. "Since the project kicked off we have worked with our collaborators to develop new computational methods to investigate supersonic combustion, which is a process known as detonation," Associate Professor at the University of Sydney Matthew Cleary explained.

"Our preliminary findings from simulations of a model rotating detonation engine have led to some interesting findings about the stability of detonations in an annular channel, in particular with regard to the importance of designing the combustor geometry such that the detonation is stable and rocket thrust can be sustained continuously.

"This information is being fed to our collaborators who are now starting work on ground testing an engine."

Different from conventional rockets which carry both oxygen and fuel onboard, a detonation engine is able to "collect" oxygen during its take-off and ascent.

"What's exciting about rotating detonation engines is the potential to operate them in a so-called 'air breathing' mode," Clearly said.— Xinhua ■



Observing outer space through Hubble Space Telescope. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Hubble Space Telescope captures formation of giant storm on Neptune

WASHINGTON — The Hubble Space Telescope has for the first time captured how a giant storm on Neptune took shape, giving scientists insights to the inner workings of the poorly-understood ice giant planets.

The study published on Monday in the journal Geophysical Research Letters showed that one of Neptune's Great Dark Spots or giant storms originated much deeper in the planet's atmosphere than previously thought.

The American planetary scientists were analyzing Hubble images of a smaller dark spot that appeared in 2015 when they discovered small, bright white clouds in the region where the 2018 Great Dark Spot would later appear.

The high-altitude clouds are made up of methane ice crystals, showing bright white color. Scientists reckoned that the methane clouds accompanied the dark storms by hovering above them just like lenticular clouds capping tall mountains on Earth.

Computer models of Neptune's atmosphere showed that the deeper the storm, the brighter its companion clouds.

In another study published on Monday in the Astronomical Journal, the scientists said new storms would crop up on Neptune every four to six years and each may last up to six years, but two-year lifespans are more likely.

"We have never directly measured winds within Neptune's dark vortices, but we estimate the wind speeds are in the ballpark of 100 meters per second, quite similar to wind speeds within Jupiter's Great Red Spot," said Michael Wong, a planetary scientist at the University of California, Berkeley.

They also found that the Neptunian winds slowly drifted across latitudes. That is unlike Great Red Spot on the Jupiter which kept almost still in latitude for at least 350 years.

The new findings have implications for studying exoplanets of similar size and composition.

"If you study the exoplanets and you want to understand how they work, you really need to understand our planets first," said Amy Simon, a planetary scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre. A total of six storm systems have been spotted since scientists first set their sights on Neptune. NASA's spacecraft Voyager 2 identified two storms in 1989. Since Hubble launched in 1990, it has viewed four more of these storms. — Xinhua ■

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India opposition urges delay to Modi biopic as election looms

NEW DELHI — India's main opposition Congress party has petitioned election officials to delay the release of a flattering new biopic about Prime Minister NarendraModi until after upcoming elections.

Critics have said the film, due for release on April 5, is blatant propaganda and an attempt to woo voters before they start going to the polls six days later in India's almost six-week election.

Congress, which hopes to unseat Modi in the vote, said on Monday that putting out the movie, "PM NarendraModi", would break election laws and that it should not hit cinemas until after voting ends on May 19.

"This is no artistic venture. It is a political venture and that is what we have told the Election Commission and should not be allowed," senior Congress figure and former minister KapilSibal told reporters.

The movie relates the Hindu right-wing leader's journey from his childhood days selling tea at a railway station to becoming chief minister of his home state Gujarat and leading his BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) to a thumping victory against Congress in 2014 elections. Under Indian election rules now in effect, the publication of any content deemed as campaign material — including advertisements, films and even social media -- requires the election commission's prior approval.



The makers released a two-minute trailer last week of the film saying it is "based on true story", with Bollywood actor VivekOberoi playing Modi through various stages of his life. **PHOTO: AFP**

Another election silence law bans all campaign material, even if approved by the commission, 48 hours from the opening of polls.

The commission said they have asked the makers of the Modi film to respond to the Congress's claims.

Its Bollywood producers would have to show that the film is an artistic rather than a political work. The movie has been embroiled in another controversy within the Bollywood industry, with two top lyricists publicly denying penning songs for the soundtrack after their names were mentioned in the film poster.

The makers released a two-minute trailer last week of the film saying it is "based on true story", with Bollywood actor VivekOberoi playing Modi through various stages of his life.

The trailer depicts Modi as a child selling tea and his transformation to a young stick-wielding member of Hindu supremacist organisationRashtriyaSwayamsevakSangh.

It also covers his days as a Hindu "sage" in the Himalayas, and later as a nationalistic politician issuing warnings to India's arch-rival Pakistan.

The trailer also shows Modi lamenting over the deadly riots that erupted in Gujarat when he was chief minister in 2002.

Critics and victims' families have accused Modi of doing little or nothing to stop days of rioting that left more than 1,000 people dead, a majority of them Muslims.— AFP ■

Japan deploys missile units on southwest islands amid China's rise

TOKYO — Japan deployed ground force units including missile squads Tuesday in two southwestern islands between the East China Sea and the western Pacific where Chinese naval vessels are actively sailing.

About 550 Ground Self-Defense Force members were stationed on Amami-Oshima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, nearly 400 kilometers south of the southwestern main island of Kyushu. Some of them were assigned to the land-to-air and land-to-ship missile units, the Defense Ministry said.

The other was a 380-member security unit on Miyako Island in Okinawa Prefecture, around 300 km southwest of the main island of the prefecture. The number of its members will increase to 700 to 800 to introduce another missile unit in 2020 or later, the ministry said.

"Japan's defense front line is now the southwestern region, so we'll beef up our capability and deterrence in that area," Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told a press conference, adding that the new units can also "deal with disasters quickly."

The ministry is also preparing to deploy missile and security units with some 500 to 600 GSDF members on Okinawa's Ishigaki Island, about 100 km southwest of Miyako Island.


About 550 Ground Self-Defence Force members were stationed on Amami-Oshima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, nearly 400 kilometers south of the southwestern main island of Kyushu.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The moves come as Japan is aiming to fill what the ministry describes as a defense "vacuum" in the area. Previously, its forces were only stationed on Okinawa's main land and the country's westernmost island of Yonaguni, where a 160-member GSDF garrison was set up in 2016.

Miyako, Ishigaki and Yonaguni islands are near the Tokyo-controlled Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, which Beijing claims, calling them Diaoyu. Chinese ships have repeatedly entered Japanese waters around the islands, keeping tensions high. Also Tuesday, the GSDF increased the number of its Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade by 300 to about 2,400 in a bid to reinforce the ability to defend remote islands in southwestern Japan.

Dubbed the Japanese "Marines," the brigade was launched as the country's first full-fledged amphibious force in March last year, based in Kyushu's Nagasaki Prefecture. Under the latest Medium Term Defense Program that covers a five-year period from 1 April, Japan is planning on strengthening its defense system at the far-flung islands in the southwest.—Kyodo News ■

US envoy for North Korea visits Beijing

BEIJING — The US special envoy for North Korea is visiting Beijing to coordinate policies with China, officials said Tuesday, a month after the failure of a denuclearisation summit.

Stephen Biegun, Washington's North Korea envoy, is here to "continue US-China coordination on policies related to North Korea", a US embassy spokesman told AFP, declining to share more details.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman GengShuang said at a regular briefing that Beijing "has always maintained close communication and coordination with the relevant parties on the general affairs of the Korean Peninsula."

Biegun's visit to the Chinese capital overlaps with the arrival of a high-ranking North Korean, who was greeted by Chinese government officials and Pyongyang's envoy to Beijing on Tuesday, reported South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

Yonhap, citing diplomatic sources, said the visiting official is believed to be Ri Su Yong, vice chairman of the North's ruling Workers' Party, who was making a stopover in Beijing en route to Laos. Geng said he had no information about Ri's reported stopover. It was not clear whether the visits by the US and North Korean officials were related.

Biegun's trip comes after US President Donald Trump abruptly cut short the February 27-28 summit in Vietnam with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un amid fundamental differences between the two sides over dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

The summit, the leaders' second in under a year, broke up without even a joint statement, and each sought to blame the other's intransigence for the deadlock. Both sides pledged to continue talking, but no new meetings have been scheduled.

In mid-March, Biegun said Washington's goal was the complete denuclearisation of North Korea by the end of Trump's first term, and that it would not settle for incremental disarmament.

"We will not lift these sanctions until NK (North Korea) completes the process of denuclearisation," he said. But on Friday Trump abruptly announced the cancellation of new sanctions on North Korea imposed by the US treasury.—AFP ■

Premier League managers can exploit VAR: analyst

LONDON — Canny Premier League managers should be seeking to "manipulate" VAR technology to their advantage when it is introduced next season, according to analyst Rory Campbell.

VAR (the video assistant referee system) was largely deemed a success at last year's World Cup in Russia and is being used in many domestic leagues including Spain, Italy and Germany.

But England-based players have had a slow introduction to VAR, which has been used in the Champions League knockout phase and some FA Cup games this season but will be rolled out in the Premier League in the 2019/20 season. Campbell, who has worked with West Ham in the area of technical analysis, said managers should take the time to find out how the technology will impact the game and how they can stay on top of changes.

"If I were a manager I would be putting in huge resources as to how we are actually going to manipulate VAR -- how we can understand how to use it to our benefit," Campbell said at last week's Betting on Football conference in London.



VAR will be used in the Premier League from the 2019/2020 season. **PHOTO:AFP**

Campbell, owner of consultancy firm C&N Sporting Risk, said managers could learn a lot if they get to sit down with referees before the new season starts.

"The clubs presumably will be at the briefing for referees," said Campbell. "That would be the most important meeting for every EPL (English Premier League) manager to understand — how each individual referee might handle VAR or be told how to handle it. "VAR is bigger than anything they are doing at the moment.

"There is so much they can do to give themselves an edge over their rivals and manipulate a game. It sounds a bad word but there is a rule set and enough flexibility within them to exploit it." Warren Llambias, managing director of RedZone.bet, a bookmaker specialising in American sports such as NFL, baseball and basketball, agrees with Campbell.

However, he concedes even after two decades of video assistance in the NFL, howlers can be made and says it can take teams four weeks at the start of a new season to get used to the tweaking of the system.—AFP ■

Mick Schumacher to test Ferrari F1 car in Bahrain

PARIS—Mick Schumacher, son of seven-time world champion Michael, will make his Formula 1 test debut with Ferrari in Bahrain on April 2, the Italian team announced on Tuesday.

Schumacher will then take the wheel of Alfa Romeo's vehicle the next day.

"I am really looking forward to what I'm sure will be a great experience," said Schumacher.

The 20-year-old will also make his Formula Two debut this weekend in Bahrain after being crowned Formula Three champion last year with Prema, an Italian team allied with the Ferrari Drivers Academy with whom he joined in January.

"I am consciously putting all thoughts of the test to one side, because I am also very much looking forward to competing in my first F2 race," he added.

Michael Schumacher has not been seen in public since suffering head injuries during a accident on 29 December, 2013 while skiing with Mick and his condition is a secret closely guarded by his family. The 50-year-old left a huge legacy at Ferrari, winning five of his seven F1 world championships the Italian team.

His son was selected for testing alongside Briton CallumIlott, who will also test for Alfa Romeo in Spain on 14-15 May.

"Mick and Callum are drivers on the way up," Ferrari team boss MattiaBinotto said.



Mick Schumacher will test drive Ferrari's F1 car after winning the Formula Three championship last year. **HOTO: AFP**

"I believe that driving in an official setting such as the tests in Bahrain and Barcelona can be very useful at this stage of their careers."—AFP ■



England forward Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring the fifth goal against Montenegro in a 5-1 win. **PHOTO**

Sterling calls for stadium ban as racist abuse overshadows five-star England

LONDON — Raheem Sterling believes UEFA should punish alleged racist chanting aimed at England players in Monday's 5-1 win over Montenegro in Podgorica with a stadium closure.

Manchester City's Sterling celebrated the visitors' fifth goal by cupping his ears towards the home fans on a night when another impressive performance to start Euro 2020 qualifying by the Three Lions was overshadowed.

"I just want to show them you need more than that to upset us and stop us," Sterling told Sky Sports.

"It's 2019 now, I keep saying it. It's a shame to see this going on and we can only bring awareness to the situation.

"It's now time for the people in charge to put a real stamp on it because you can fine someone, but what is that going to do?

"You've got to make it a bit harder, punish fans that can't come to games. Do something that's going to make them think twice. If their team can't play with fans, it's going to be difficult."

Sterling also tweeted a photo of his celebration with the message: "Best way to silence the haters (and yeah I mean racists)."

England manager Gareth Southgate said he heard racist chants aimed at Danny Rose and promised to report the issue to UEFA.

"There is no doubt in my mind it happened. We will make sure that is reported to UEFA because it's not acceptable," said Southgate. "We've got to make sure we support our players."

England among Euro favourites

On the field, the World Cup semi-finalists showed why they are among the favourites to be European champions next year.

Southgate's trust in youth was again rewarded as 18-year-old Callum Hudson-Odoi, who is yet to start a Premier League game for Chelsea, shone on his full international debut, while Declan Rice, 20, was also handed his first England start.

"Fabulous performance," said Southgate on Hudson-Odoi. "With young players it is always up to them. You can see the talent, his application has been excellent. He's got to continue that."

England are not used to falling behind these days, but showed a resilience to bounce back after Marko Vesovic turned inside Michael Keane and curled past Jordan Pickford on 17 minutes.

Keane made amends for his earlier error with a commanding header from Ross Barkley's free-kick on the half hour mark to settle England's nerves.

Nine minutes later, Barkley applied the finishing touch after Hudson-Odoi's positive run into the box and shot which his club teammate turned in from close range.

Further goals from Barkley, Harry Kane and Sterling rounded off an excellent start to qualifying for England after a 5-0 thrashing of Czech Republic on Friday. Sterling scored a hat-trick against the Czechs at Wembley, but also played provider here as his cut-back broke perfectly for Barkley to coolly side-foot home. —AFP ■