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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Military parade to mark 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day held in Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects troops in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 74th Anniversary Armed Forces Day military parade. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win attended the 2019 74th Anniversary Armed Forces Day military parade held on the Nay Pyi Taw parade ground yesterday morning and took the salute of the parading forces and delivered a speech on behalf of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Maha Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing.

Yesterday morning at 5 a.m. Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) personnel, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office's women Parade Company, Tatmadaw Navy Seals, women special force members, Myanmar Police Force Parade Company gathered at the Thittat Parade Ground and marched to the parade ground.

When the Anawrahta Column, the Kyansittha Column, the Bayintnaung Column, the Aungzeya Column, the Hsinbyushin Column, the Bandoola Column and the Myawady Column led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Zaw Hein marched to the parade ground, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, wife of Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Than Than Nwe and wives of the Tatmadaw high-ranking officials greeted the marching troops and presented them with flower garlands.

Along the route of the march towards the parade ground, servicemen and families of the stations welcomed and garlanded the Tatmadaw servicemen and members of the Myanmar Police Force of the columns.

A total of 12,438 troops from the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force marched in while singing marching songs and took up positions on the parade ground.

The parade was attended by Chairperson of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Mya Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Maung Maung Kyaw and Tatmadaw senior officers, Independence Mawgun Award winners, retired Tatmadaw senior officers, chairmen of Hluttaw Committees, Deputy Ministers, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives, representatives of ethnic armed organizations that had signed the NCA, People's Militia and Frontier Force commanding group, military attaches, officials from Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade, Myanmar Red Cross, War Veterans organization, chairmen of the political parties, family members of the Aung San Thuriya medal-winners, Tatmadaw men and recipients of the 2018 Tatmadaw honorary titles and honorary medals, artistes, winners of military song, poem, short and long story composing/writing competition, officials from the Myanmar Press Council, manuscript selection boards, officials from the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, students from university for development of national races, University Training Corps personnel, administrators and trainers of naval and air youth programmes, students from the Seik Phu Taung Youth Development Centre and invited guests.

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Military parade to mark 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day held in Nay Pyi Taw

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After the parade columns took up their respective positions on the parade ground Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win entered the parade ground, took up his position at the dais and received the salute of the Tatamadaw and Myanmar Police Force personnel on the parade ground.

The Deputy Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief then inspected the Anawrahta Column, the Kyansittha Column, the Bayintnaung Column, the Aungzeya Column, the Hsinbyushin Column, the Bandoola Column and the Myawady Column on the parade ground after which the State Flage was saluted while the national anthem was played by the military band.

Fallen Tatmadaw members were also saluted and the Tatamadaw and Myanmar Police Force personnel assembled on the parade ground took the four oaths.

On behalf of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win delivered the speech at the Parade of the 74th Armed Forces Day.

Our Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the country, its people, national interests and sovereignty. Hence, the Standard Army which can engage in conventional warfare is being established by means of Defence Capability Building and Defence Modernisation.



Military troops marching in parade ground to mark 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Whilst building up a Standard Army, we not only seek to enhance three critical aspects: military equipment, human resources and competence but also need to closely observe the military doctrines and forms of war, state-of-the-art-weaponary and military technology development. National Defence cannot be taken action at one sitting. Furthermore, we can win the battle if there is a well-preparation according to the principle of war. As a matter of fact, we have to synchronise well-preparation, training and exercises, administration and logistics. In moderrn warfare, military tactical skills, air superiority and supremacy of electronic technology, modern military ordnance and effectiveness of precision-guided munitions play a vital role. With the technoloty leapfrogging, we will have to do a great deal, properly and efficiently on military tactics and ordnance. I would like to say that Tatmadaw put an emphasis on promoting education for all military personnel and human resources development because they need to be educated well. I would like you to have a sustainable learning, to build self-control and to acquire knowledge and wisdom as the saying goes, "Library attain Sagacity."



Myanmar navy seals decend from a helicopter at the ceremony to mark the 74th Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Peace and tranquility of a country is crucial for its development. In doing so, the sectors related to country's development and social well-being of ethnic people and its advancement will be successful. There are still internal conflicts religious affairs as a consequence of divide-and-rule policy by Colonialists. As a result of armed conflicts lasting over 70 years, the momentum of our country's development lagged behind the regional countries. Regarding internal peace as one of our country's priortised mechanisms; it is being undertaken based on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) route to solve ideological difference and illusion among ethnic people within legal framework of multiparty democracy system. In building up the Union based on democratic and federal system, it has to carry out the constructive dialogue with Union Peace Conference through NCA toward the agreement of Union Accord by drawing time frame in progress, to gain the fruitful result of the development, the peace and tranquility, leaving no stone unturned for people.

Whilst the peace process is in progress is in progress, the Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) are not to put propositions about confusable issues in prior and to add irrelevance of peace process. EAOs need to negotiate in accordance with the framework of NCA and to step toward the democracy process in the right direction.

Our Tatmadaw announced that all military movements have been ceased from 21st December, 2018 to 30th April , 2019 in Northern, North-East, Eastern, Eastern Central and Triangle Region Command to make a constructive discussion about peace process peacefully and freely. During the cessation of military operations, the channel is open for EAOs to negotiate peace-points including ceasefire in the operational area concerned. During ceasefire, I would like to reiterate that EAOs are to make discussion for peace as soon as possible, either with the National Reconciliation Peace Centre or with the Tatmadaw Negotiation Team by avoiding any activities which can harm the peace process.

As the present peace track is leading toward "Eternal Peace", not for momentary, all EAOs are necessary to participate in the process with genuine affection. Instead of having a loose-tongue backwards, but taking advantage of the lessons covered, it will affect the country's development by working together with all nationals. I would like to say that our Tatmadaw will make efforts to achieve the peace process in 2020 and to bring the eternal peace which people long for to the hands of the people. Based on the experience of 2010 and 2015 elections, the unfair ones could be seen in some areas of EAOs. Thus, I would like to urge EASs to do necessaries in politics after signing NCA in order to conduct a free and fair election and not to encounter fraudulent activities.

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Dinner reception honors 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

A dinner reception commemorating the 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day was held on the lawn of the Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe attended the reception in place of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Firstly, fireworks were set off from the military parade ground and Bayinnaung Guesthouse to commemorate the event.

Next, the Vice Senior General and wife together with Union Ministers, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and their wives cordially greeted the invited guests.

Artists from the commemorative film '110 Hours' and the Myawaddy Music Band, under the Public Relations and the Psychological Warfare, the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), performed songs for the dinner guests.

After the dinner reception, guests were entertained with Myanmar and international music, songs, dances, and magic shows in the Thabin Saung Hall by Myawady Anyeint, soldiers from Mobile Relations Unit, and Myanmar martial arts members, according to information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win greets the senior military officers and guests at the dinner reception in commemoration of the 74th Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 March 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

Artists, composers for 74th Armed Forces Day commemorations honoured

A CEREMONY was held to honour the cast of the film '110 Hours' and other individuals for commemorative works for the 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, in Bayinnaung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, General Mya Tun Oo, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air), delivered the opening speech. After that, Lt-Gen San Oo, Chairman of the Committee for Psychological Affairs and Public Relations, conferred the honorary award to the director, co-director, and cast of the film, and Lt-Gen Maung Maung Aye, Chairman of the Leading Committee for holding the Armed Forces Day Holding Leading, also conferred honorary awards on the cast of the film.

Next, Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Chairman of the Armed Forces Day Holding Management Committee, awarded honorary certificates to winners of the 74th Armed Forces Day military cadence, song composition category, and short poem compositions for non-professionals and freelance.

Maj-Gen Htun Htun Nyi, Chairman of the Manuscript Competition Committee, then conferred honorary awards on winners in the long poem composition category for non-professionals and freelance, short novel composition, and long novel composition. General Mya Tun Oo then treated the guests with tea, according to information released from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence of Services. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Mya Tun Oo delivers the opening speech at the commemorative ceremony to honour the cast of the film '110 Hours' and other individuals for commemorative works for the 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. **PHOTO: MNA**



Maj-Gen Myint Maw presents honorary certificates to first winner of the 74th Armed Forces Day military cadence. **PHOTO: MNA**



Maj-Gen Htun Htun Nyi presents honorary certificates to first winner of the long poem composition category for non-professionals. **PHOTO: MNA**

Military parade to mark 74th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day held in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-2



A women company marching in the ceremony to mark the 74th Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Photo: MNA

The violent attacks of the ARSA terrorist group in Northern Rakhine State encroached on national sovereignty in 2016 and 2017. Thus, local people were in trouble and the region was in instability. Our Tatmadaw carried out the Counter-terrorism and Stability Operations to make the region tranquil and save the people. The Border Guard Police has been carrying out law enforcement, not to resume violence in the villages where regional stability has been recovered.

On 4th January, this year, four border guard police outposts which carried out regional stability and security to protect from the danger of ARSA terrorist group were disproportionally attacked by AA insurgents. Attacking on police outposts, are responsible for safeguarding the lives and property of people is like impairing the administrative mechanism. As the sovereignty of the country has been threatened, Tatmadaw will vanquish them. Due to external destructive elements, there was instability in Northern Rakhine. Whilst the ongoing process of tranquility there, local people and there interests can only be endangered by AA insurgents' act of violence. So, I would like to assert that Tatmadaw is going to eliminate any armed insurgents for peace, tranquality and law enforcement of the Union.

Our Tatmadaw has always been carrying out Three Man Duties: "Defend the Nation, Undergo Training and Exercise, and Forwarding the Interests of People". To such conduct, Tatmadaw need to be efficient in Three Capabilities: Military Capability, Administrative Capability and organizational Capability. Only when there Three Main Capabilities are earned, there can be fulfilling orders and assigned duties. Besides, the complement of "Three Military Awareness", namely to Train Forever, to have Conscience Forever and to be in Combat-Readiness Forever, is also necessary for defence capabilities.

Training, is the fundamental task to be efficient in military capabilities. Individuals and units training are also required to be conducted through the military training policies. You soldier must conduct your daily routine properly and that means not only building the Tatmadaw with training but also abiding by the rule and regulations of our Tatmadaw.

Moreover, it could raise the qualification of the units through sustainable training. If the administrative capabilities fall down, the military and organizing ones will decrease.

Military discipline in administrative capabilities is a major one for soldiers to follow. The discipline is under the control of law. Whichever political system has been practiced, everyone needs to practice in the line with the promulgated rules and regulations. Besides, there must be responsibility and accountability. We soldiers born from the people have to abide by not only Civil Law but also Military Law prescribed by the Union.

As our Tatmadaw is an official institution within legal framework, any activity will be practiced in accordance with law, by law, rules and regulations. If the deeds do not comply with the law, action will be taken. As the action of each soldier has impact on the entire institution, I would like you to follw discipline and be efficient individually.

> During ceasefire, I would like to reiterate that EAOs are to make discussion for peace as soon as possible, either with the National Reconciliation Peace Centre or with the Tatmadaw Negotiation Team by avoiding any activities which can harm the peace process.

We, all military personnel must have discipline, obedience, mutual respect and the spirit of a good soldier and live together in unity. Unit organization will be consolidated if you strictly follow the standing orders, dos and don'ts and principles included in the Sixty Codes of Conducts. Similarly, public organizational measures will be conducted in accordance with the Codes of Conduct, fulfilling the requirements of the people and forwarding their interests constantly. In addition, I would like to urge that you are to act together by completing the aforementioned factors so that our Tatmadaw could be entrusted institution for the country and the people.

At the beginning of Post-Independence, Tatmadaw proved our mettle in the accomplishment of National Politics, National Defence and Security, State Building and Development, Internal Peace and National Reconciliation through time. At this juncture, we have been catering for the substantial contribution to achieve the values of Democracy. Whilst the Union based on democracy and federalism is being built, we will proceed with carrying out the National Polity like leaving no stone unturned respectively in future.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate you to keep on achieving the objectives of the 74th Armed forces Day as follow;

- To safeguard the national policy; Three Main National Causes and the Constitution, and the lives and property of people
- To promote peace and stability of the State, solidarity and socio-economic development as historically need of the State in terms of keeping abreast of Tatmadaw's Stance.
- To carry out the eternal peace essential to build the Union based on the Democratic and Federal System which is adopted by Six Peace Principles pivoted on Three Main National Causes by Tatmadaw.
- To build capable Tatmadaw that enables to protect the territorial integrity of the State and safeguard the Sovereignty.

After the speech of the Deputy Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, the military parade marched post the Deputy Commander-in-Chief. As the troops were marching, the two military helicopters carrying the State Flag and the Tatmadaw Flag flew over the parade ground, followed by military aircrafts flying over the parade ground.

Then Tatmadaw Navy Seals and women special force members rappelled off hovering helicopters above the marching formations and joined up with the marching troops to march out of the parade ground.

After the troops marched out, Deputy Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief greeted the guests attending the parade and left the parade ground and the 74th Anniversary Armed Forces Day military parade concluded.
— MNA

Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) pay respects to retired top brass, senior officers

THE families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) paid respects to retired top brass of the Tatmadaw who attended the 74th Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony held at the Zeyar Thiri Beikman, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win expressed delight for paying respect to the veteran Tatmadaw leaders. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, Union ministers and their wives, senior military officers and their wives and attendees paid respects to the retired top brass.

On behalf of the retired top brass, Lt-Gen Tun Kyi (Retd), Lt-Gen Kyaw Ba (Retd) and General Thein Sein (Retd) expressed delight and gave advices.

Afterwards, Deputy Commander-in-Chief and senior military officers presented gifts to the retired top brass of the Tatmadaw.

Similarly, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife visited Bayintnaung Yeiktha and greeted retired military officers who attended the 74th Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw.

Afterwards, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win met with 21 who were awarded with Mawgunwin Title (First Class, Second Class and Third Class) and their families, families of the heroes who were awarded with Aung San Thuriya titles at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha, on behalf of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and presented gifts and cash assistance to them, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)



Vice-Senior General Soe Win greeting retired military officers at the 74th Armed Forces Day at the Zeyar Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi inspect preparation for Children's Literary Festival in Bago



Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi inspect arrangements in the preparation for the Children's Literary Festival in Bago. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi inspected the arrangements in preparation for the Children's Literary Festival and book exhibits at Bago University campus yesterday.

The Union Ministers, accompanied by Bago Regional Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs and officials, observed the ancient stone inscriptions displayed on the façade of Bago University's Convocation Hall, books published in 2018 on display, and national archives and records displayed by the National Archives Department.

The Union Ministers then observed the documentary photographs of Saya Min Thu Wun and displays of his poems for children, reading rooms for children, technological showrooms, and booth displays belonged to the departments and organizations. — Wai Hlyal

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

74th Anti-Fascist Day celebrated in NLD HQ

A CEREMONY to mark the 74th anniversary of Anti-Fascist Day was held at the headquarters of the National League for Democracy in Bahan Township.

During the ceremony, the State Flag was saluted, followed by an observance of eight seconds of silence as a memory to the fallen Bogyoke Aung San and Arzarni (martyr) leaders, monks, students and others who fell in the various democracy uprisings.

Speaking at the event, U Nyan Win, Central Executive Committee Secretariat member of the National League for Democracy, said the celebration was held in commemoration of the 74th Anti-Fascist Day and which was accomplished through the successful cooperation between Bogyoke Aung San - who was the architect of independence, national leader and father of the Tatmadaw, political parties, ethnic races and the Tatmadaw.

"At the same time, we could bring about national freedom in a short period of time due to the perseverance, steadfastness and courage of the people. It has been 74 years since we have celebrated Anti-Fascist Day, and we should strive for keeping the spirit of national reconciliation through thick and thin while making an attempt to keep the Panglong Spirit alive," said U Nyan Win.

Thus, we could take pride of in the role of Tatmadaw for the fighting against the imperialists and fascism, and urged all of you to take part in bringing about the success of 21st Century Panlong Conference led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the movements of the 2008 Constitution amendments through collective strength of the people.

Next, member of NLD central executive committee U Myo Nyunt read out a seven-point Declaration of 74th Anti-Fascist Day, and recorded the messages delivered by the political comrades as well as organizations. He said that the ceremony to mark the 74th anniversary of Anti-Fascist Day was celebrated in an effort to fight against oppression, in cooperation with the people and ethnic races from all walks of life, and which could remind us of the importance of cooperation among us. That was something significant, he said.

The ceremony was attended by NLD's patron U Tin Oo, NLD central executive committee members, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing-Myint, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Hluttaw representatives, diplomats, NLD members and invited guests.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



The NLD celebrates 74th Anti-Fascist Day at the party's headquarters in Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister of Czech Republic visits landmarks in Yangon



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, of Czech Republic, Mr. Tomas Kryl, tours the Secretariat Building in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

MR. Tomas Kryl, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic and Operational Section of the Czech Republic, and his delegation visited U Thant's House Museum in Kamayut Township yesterday afternoon. They were shown around by Program Coordinator Daw Khin Htet Htet Lwin.

From there they visited the Secretariat on Theinbyu Road and were given a tour by Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, Secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee, and officials from Yangon Heritage Trust and Anawmar Group.

The delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening where they signed the guestbook, offered offertories, handed over cash donation to the pagoda's board of trustees, and then walked around observing the Shwedagon. —MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Yangon Children's Hospital observes Purple Day

THE Yangon Children's Hospital observed Purple Day, the international epilepsy day, on 26 March at its newly expanded ward, and doctors, nurses, representatives from the Myanmar Epilepsy Initiative, and children with epilepsy and their families attended the event.

"Epilepsy treatment has improved. Medications can help control epileptic seizures. It is a non-communicable disease, and most people with epilepsy can lead normal lives. Psychological distress must not accompany epilepsy as it can affect treatment," said Dr. Su Su Htway, head, Yangon Children's Hospital.

Purple Day is a global grassroots event which aims to increase awareness on epilepsy, and dispel common myths and fears about the neurological disorder.

It was initiated by a 9-year-old named Cassidy Megan, who was motivated by her own struggle with epilepsy. She aims to raise awareness on epilepsy through the Purple Day.

The Myanmar Epilepsy Initiative project began in 2013, with support from the World Health Organization. The project covered 20 townships in seven regions and states by 2018-end.

As part of the initiative, doctors, health staff, and voluntary staff participated in educative courses about epilepsy. Free medicines were also provided under the project.

According to Myanmar Epilepsy Initiative, 1.4 out of every 1,000 people are suffering from epilepsy.

The disease is a disorder of the central nervous system, or a neurological disorder, in which brain activity becomes abnormal, causing seizures, or periods of unusual behavior, sensations, and sometimes, loss of awareness.—Myint Maung Soe *(Translated by Ei Mon)*

Norwegian Minister of International Development observes Sittway



Norwegian Minister for International Development, Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein, meets with locals in Thae Chaung Village, Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

MR. Dag-Inge Ulstein, Norwegian Minister of International Development, travelled together with the Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar and observed wards, hospitals, villages, and IDP camps in Sittway Township yesterday.

The delegation first visited Aung Mingalar Ward where they met with the local residents and visited the schools and clinics there.

They then went to Sittway General Hospital and were taken around to see the patients receiving medical care by Medical Superintendent Dr. Moe Myint Win and other officials.

Next, the delegation visited Thae Chaung IDP camp and met with the camp officials and the internally displaced persons.

From there they went to Thae Chaung Village and met with ethnic Rakhine, Maramagyi and Islamic residents there. The delegation left for Yangon by flight in the evening.—Myo Thu Tun *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



Tourists enjoy a trishaws ride in Dala Yesterday. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

Daily life of local people, pagodas attract tourists to Dala

ABOUT 45 tourists visited Dala yesterday to observe the daily life of locals and historic pagodas in the township. Dala is located on the banks of the Yangon River, across from Yangon.

Tourists from England, Australia, Germany, and China crossed the Yangon River to visit Dala yesterday morning.

Tourists are attracted to the markets, small enterprises, and souvenir shops in Dala. They also like to observe the day-to-day life of fishermen, farmlands, and monastic schools in the area.

Meanwhile, two luxury cruise liners, carrying over 800 tourists and over 700 crew members, arrived in Yangon on 25 March.

The MV Seven Seas Navigator, which has 477 tourists and 430 crew members on board, arrived at the Myanmar Integrated Port Limited (MIPL) in Yangon yesterday, under an arrangement with Destinations Asia Company.

The second liner, the MV Silver Shadow, carrying 329 passengers and 294 crew members, arrived at the MITT port in Yangon yesterday, under an arrangement with Myanmar Voyages International Tourism.

Passengers from the cruise liners are scheduled to visit Yangon from 25 to 28 March.—GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

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28 MARCH 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Helping developing countries reach the next level

COUNTRIES in Asia need private investments for SMEs to help them compete with international businesses and implement sustainable development that will lift the nations from the morass of the global recession, according to an Asian Development Bank report.

Small and medium enterprises are the driving forces boosting the economy of developing countries. With this in mind, the Myanmar government is trying to promote micro, small and medium enterprises, or MSMEs. But, we will have to work with other countries in the region to penetrate the global market.

SMEs make up 96 per cent of registered companies in all 20 developing countries in Asia, including Myanmar. Such enterprises employ 62 per cent of the nations' combined workforce. Regional governments need to help SMEs form networks and improve their potential for competing within their market. It is equally important that governments enable easy access to capital for SMEs.

> Myanmar's leaders have constantly invited developed countries and other developing countries to partner with us in developing our MSME sector, trade, and increasing investment for cooperation.

The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was recently held in Bueno Aires, Argentina, and was attended by representatives from Myanmar. The conference is a revival of the original Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, adopted 40 years ago in 1978.

It has not been that long since Myanmar managed to revive its national economy and move up the ranks from an underdeveloped country to achieve a developing country status. And now, developing countries are increasing cooperation with one another while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Myanmar has not only vowed to go through with the 2030 Agenda, we have also developed our own Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030 and are implementing it at the national level. The plan aims to establish a democratic federal Union that promises national peace, harmony, and prosperity to all citizens.

Myanmar's leaders have constantly invited developed countries and other developing countries to partner with us in developing our MSME sector, trade, and increasing investment for cooperation. We can see visible results from their attempts to promote existing markets, cooperation, investments, and other collaborations with friends.

The world and its many organizations have been increasing their cooperation with developing countries as of late, and they need to continue this support along with exempting tax on their products.

■■■

Let the name of Taungthaman Bridge be not at a loss

By Hsu Ngnet

WHEN discussed about the ancient cities of Myanmar history, Amarapura township has become an indispensable part of the history. One additional point concerning with the history of the town, the 3967-ft long wooden bridge, built in 1213 ME, should be taken seriously. In order to set up blockades on Amarapura Nay Pyi Taw, the bridge was built across the Taungthaman Lake, making a successive inscription as " Taungthaman Lake". But the genuine name " Taunthaman Bridge" has almost disappeared after the builder Maung Pain changed to that of U Pain. We will have to look at the history of Konbaung Dynasty if things are to be discussed about Taungthaman Bridge.

Yadna Theinkha, Zeyapura, Awapura to Amarapura

Konbaung Dynasty began with King Alaungpaya commonly known as U Aung Zeya. The capital was Yadana Theinkha, the present-day town is the Shwebo township. The king ascended the throne in 1752; his son Naungdawgyi succeeded to the new throne in Zeyapura in 1760; now it is Sagaing township. Then the son of King Alaungpaya ,Hsinbyushin ascended the new throne in Awapura in 1763. The son of King Hsinbyushin, King Sintku became a king in Awapura Kingdom followed by King Fongkar, son King Naungdawgyi and King Badon or Bodawpaya, son of King Alaungpaya in a successive order. King Bodawpaya ascended the throne in Awapura in 1782 (1243 ME) and in 1783(1244) about 6 miles away from Awapura Innwa Kingdom, the King established the Amarapura Kingdom in Htipaungkar region.

Michael Sign and Old Innwa City

King Bodawpaya abandoned his kingship in 1783 and established a new Amarapura Kingdom; English diplomat Col. Michael Sign recorded the conditions of Old Innwa City after years in 1796 as follows:

City walls became obsolescent and collapsed; bushes were covered atop the walls as well as at the bottom. Wooden houses were removed to Amarapura; but plots of houses and buildings and streets were left behind. We were shown around by a guide for the places of palaces ,the Hluttaw and many-tiered roofs. Once flourished Palace, there were many bamboo forests, banana belts and thorny bushes instead.



The construction of the bridge was started in 1849 and finished in 1851.

> Collected from a rubbish heap abandoned from old palaces of Sagaing and Innwa kingdoms; licenses were applied to break and carry them for building the bridge.

King Bagyidaw and Innwa

Again in 1819, King Bagyidaw ascended to the throne, restoring from a zero position to a renewed kingdom. Innwa kingdom was grand and prosperous and so were the Thingyan Water Festivals . Karaweik barge, in which Kings and Queens poured on one another, was 30ft high and gilted. The barges belonging to Princes , Princesses and King's counselors were also gilted. Awapura, popularly known as the Golden Land of Innwa, was a truly heaven on earth. Abandoned in 1837, King Thayawaddy established a throne in Amarapura. After his 9-year tenure as the King in 1846, King Bagan succeeded to the throne with Innwa Nay Pyi Taw as being abandoned again.



Locals and foreign tourists visiting the bridge.

King Bagan and Amarapura

At the time of succeeding to the throne by King Bagan, the British annexed the lower part of Myanmar in Thayet Region, but King Bagan was not interested in the affairs of the country even though they were in danger. These affairs were put in the hands of princes and king's counselors and he was enjoying himself with cockfighting sport. He enjoyed watching a cockfighting and fighting among the buffaloes, goats and sheep.

It is usual that an unintelligent King was always attended to by obsequious servants. The King was always accompanied by a servant by the name of Bi-Sad who had also a reliable person by the name of Maung Pain. The community around Maung Pain was made ready for cock-fighting and bird-fighting for King Bagan by breeding them in a compound.

Bridge Scheme

King Bagan over-indulged in gambling and amusement; but at the same time, he had a kind heart of making generous donations without the slightest hesitation. It was difficult for the villagers from the 12 Taungthaman region during the rains to come to the Golden City of Amarapura because of the flooded Lake. At this point, Maung Pain submitted a proposal to the King of building a bridge across the Lake. King Bagan readily accepted the proposal because it



was meant for the poor villagers of 12 Taungthaman Regions. For the building of the bridge, no financial assistance was necessary from the Kingdom's Royal Treasury. So it went smoothly with a hitch.

Permission of breaking and taking away

The requirements of planks were collected from a rubbish heap abandoned from old palaces of Sagaing and Innwa kingdoms; licenses were applied to break and carry them for building the bridge. King Bagan also thought that royal old planks were not only used by the royal relatives but also not suitable for religious buildings. Maung Pain was allowed to old planks for building the bridge. Therefore Maung Pain was allowed to use teak planks and posts from Sagaing and Innwa old palaces in order to build a bridge across the Taungthaman Lake. Afterall, these planks were old enough because they were used in building palaces in 1211 ME.

Making a faint murmur from the Lake leads to the completion of the bridge

Town clerk Maung Pain was allowed to use the planks given by the King and with the help from the people to get the building of the bridge finished within a period of two years.. That is why there is a saying: Making a faint murmur from the Lake leads to the completion of the bridge in the year in 1213 (1851). During that year, the city mayor and town clerk and their colleagues plundered a palace of its treasure illegally. They tortured and killed the people. They were executed by royal orders, according to the Konbaung history.

Invaluable name of Taungthaman Bridge

A 3967ft-long wooden bridge with 482 compartments and 1086 posts in the water was built 168 years ago. Now it has been put in the World Heritage List. But it is sad that the name of Taungthaman Bridge has disappeared. The name of Taungthaman Bridge is an original one by itself.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)

■■■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 27th March, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 28th March, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin, Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and isolated in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady regions, Shan, Chin and Kayah states. Degree of certainty is (80%).Weather will be 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: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th March, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th March, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th March, 2019: Partly cloudy.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Myanmar traditional bullock cart, bullock race kicks off in Pwintphyu Township

A MYANMAR traditional bullock cart and bullock race kicked off at 10 a.m. on 27 March in the football field in Kyaungtaw Village, Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region. The race is part of the 2,587th Budda Pujaniya Tabaung Festival at the Sandakuu Nant Thar Kyaung Taw Yar Pagoda.

"The bullock cart and bullock race is being held as part of the Buddha Pujaniya Tabaung festival, which is traditionally held every year. The traditional race was not held for about 30 years. So, the present race was organized with the support of the Magway Region government and officials from township departments. The bullock cart and bullock race will be held from 27 March to 4 April. There will be two categories in the competition — bullock cart race and bullock race. Winners will be awarded K50,000 and gifts. Additionally, a horse riding competition, which has seen a decline for years, will be held from 1 to 3 April. The first prize for the race will be K5,00,000, the second prize K3,00,000, and the third prize K2,00,000. All horse-racing lovers and equestrian athletes can join the competition, and accommodation will be arranged for them. Officials have inspected the competition courses, horse stables, and areas for spectators. The secretary and members of the Myanmar Equestrian Federation, doctors, and referees will be present at the race," said an official with the horse racing competition implementation committee.



Traditional bullock cart race start on 27 March in the Kyaungtaw Village, Pwintbyu, Magway Region. **PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNGU)**

In the past, the Buddha Pujaniya Tabaung festival at the historic Sandakuu Nant Thar Kyaung Taw Yar pagoda was held with bullock and horse racing games in Kyaungtaw Village, and most bullock and horse owners usually participated in the festival.—Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Staff from embassies, UN to participate in Mandalay Thingyan Walking Water Splash Festival

OFFICIALS and staff from foreign embassies and the United Nations (U.N.) are planning to participate in the upcoming 2019 Mandalay Thingyan Walking Water Splash Festival, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).

"Last year, the Mandalay Walking Water Splash Festival attracted many tourists. Local tour agencies have invited tourists to join the festivities this year. Embassies in Myanmar are planning to take part in the water festival," said U Kyaw San Myint, a member of the MCDC.

"We have invited families from foreign embassies to celebrate the upcoming Mandalay Walking Water Splash Festival, and they have expressed their willingness to join in. We will host and serve them well," he added. Like last year, the 2019 Mandalay Walking Water Splash Festival will be celebrated in the southern parts of the Mandalay Moat.

The festival will also include the eastern parts of the moat this year.

The entertainment stage will be placed on the 26th street and between the 75th and 76th street in Mandalay.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Thailand sends 60 illegal migrants back to Myanmar

OFFICIALS from the Ranong Immigration Department, Thailand, handed over 60 migrant workers, found without proper documentation, to Myanmar on 26 March.

The migrant workers — 53 men and 7 women — entered Thailand illegally for work, according to the Ranong Immigration Department.

The Thailand government handed over the workers to Myanmar after imposing some penalties and taking action against the workers under Thai laws.

The workers' visas had expired and they did not have the proper documents to live and work in Thailand.

Officials from the General Administration Department, Labour, Immigration and Population Ministry, Anti-Trafficking Police, Labour Department, and Disaster Management Department received the workers and provided necessary help. Officials from the related departments then sent the 60 workers to their hometowns.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by La Wonn)



Myanmar migrant workers arrive at the border gate in Kawthoung as they returned from Thailand. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

MYSAP ties up with Malaysian company for crab hatchery trial

By Aye Yamone

THE Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme will operate a crab hatchery on a trial basis in April in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region, with the help of a Malaysian crab farming company. Through the trial, MYSAP hopes to distribute crab larvae and share technology with breeders.

"At present, only wild-caught crabs are harvested in Myanmar. Wild crabs may become rare in the long term and so, we have initiated a crab hatchery and nursery business," said Mr. Soh Chee Weng, assistant general manager, TEXCHEM Group of Companies.

"We have prepared for everything. The hatching operation will begin next month. In May, we will distribute larvae of crabs. We have not decided the price of crab larvae for now, as we still haven't estimated the overall cost of production. Sure, the larvae will be priced at a rate affordable to the breeders. Around 100,000 crab larvae are likely to be produced," said Mr. Soh Chee Weng.

"Four species of crabs are currently found in Myanmar. Of them, two wild-caught crab species will be bred experimentally, and the Scylla paramamosain species will be primarily farmed. The crab hatchery can increase the current annual production by 10 times. After passing the larvae stage, the crabs will become marketable in two months, once they weigh 100 grams," according to officials.

"There is no larvae production in Myanmar. Breeders farm naturally-caught crab larvae. However, natural production of crab larvae cannot fulfil requirements. The Malaysian company has research experience in Viet Nam. Breeders will get know-how on crab production and nursery," said U Soe Tun, a consultant with MYSAP (Saltwater Fishery).

MYSAP 2017-2021 is being jointly implemented by the Fisheries Department and the German International Cooperation (GIZ), with 22.25 million euros funded by the European Union and GIZ.

The Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP) supports the sustainable expansion of the aquaculture sector to help realize its potential for food security, nutrition, and livelihoods.

The new project aims to contribute to the crab farming industry as more than 100 million crabs are being caught from their habitats in the wild, and excessive capture is leading to the deterioration of the wild crab population.

"Farming lakes can benefit from the emergence of a hatchery. The number of breeders will increase once crab larvae are supplied through natural capture and the hatchery. This can help crab farming businesses," said U Win Naing, the chair of the Labutta District Crab Entrepreneurs Association.

Earlier, the Department of Fisheries did not allow transport and trade of crabs weighing below 100 grams. Now, the ban has been relaxed to a certain extent, and trade has been permitted for some sizes of crabs. This has been done to increase the country's revenues and create jobs for locals through the emergence of crab farming companies.

"The TEXCHEM company is trying to operate a hatchery with MYSAP's assistance, and this is not for wild-caught harvesting. If this business reaps successful results, it can minimize harvesting of wild crabs and increase the crab population. This production technology is not in our hands yet. Once we receive it, we will support local breeders. As the business can help earn foreign currency, our department is working on it," said U Thet Oo, who is currently serving with the Myaungmya and Labutta districts' Fisheries Departments.


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Over the long term, harvesting of wild crabs can harm aquaculture. Therefore, the Fisheries Department planned to prohibit capturing of crabs for three months. After negotiations with businesspersons and breeders from Pathein town and experts, the department decided to limit capturing of crabs in March.

Although there are around 400 acres of crab farms in Labutta District, one foreign corporate, local companies, and local breeders are currently utilizing only 280 acres.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MRF decides to keep basic price of paddy at K500,000 per 100 baskets

By Nyein Nyein


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE Myanmar Rice Federation declared on Tuesday that it will purchase paddy at the existing basic rate, which was set last year.

The MRF had fixed the basic price of paddy (low-quality variety) at K500,000 per 100 baskets (one basket is equivalent to 46 pounds) on 8 March, 2018.

Before the basic price was announced for this year, the MRF had urged merchants, millers, agents, private companies, and MRF members to buy paddy at the existing basic rate, if the paddy met the prescribed criteria: 14-per cent moisture content and a fixed percentage of impurities such as sand, weed, and small stones, the federation stated in a recent press release.

In addition, to increase the demand for paddy and promote exports, MRF members and merchants will buy paddy at the floor rate fixed by the MRF, if the market price falls below the basic price, the MRF stated in a press release. The MRF also said it had invited sellers to contact the federation. "The existing basic rate is effective until the MRF gives further notice," said U Aung Than Oo, vice president, MRF.

"At present, the paddy price is ranging from K520,000-560,000 per 100 baskets. All stakeholders in the supply chain need to make an effort to ensure the price does not plunge below K500,000," he added.

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

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

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myawady gate sees highest import of individual traders in past five and half months

INDIVIDUAL traders carried out import only worth K14.3 billion at Myawady gate between 1 October, 2018 and 15 March, 2019, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Border trade with the use of Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) totaled K28.67 billion during the past five and half months. Exports were valued at only K4.3 billion, while imports reached more than K24.3 billion.

The values of trade carried out by individual card holders were registered at over K2.4 billion at Tamu checkpoints, over K19.25 million at Muse, K14.3 billion at Myawady, K60 million at Tachilek, K4.8 million at Lwejel, K1.07 billion at Kanpiketee, K2.3 billion at Kawthoung, K188 million at Reed, K7.8 billion at Mawtaung and K352 million at Kengtung, according to official statistics from the Commerce Ministry.

The trade values with ITC were reported at over K737 million from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, over K6.6 billion in FY 2013-2014, over K9.3 billion in FY 2014-2015, over K6.4 billion in FY 2015-2016 and over K18.9 billion in FY 2016-2017, over K45.9 billion in FY 2017-2018 and K22.5 billion in past mini-budget period.

The Trade Department has so far issued 1,632 cards, with 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in FY 2013-2014, 317 cards in FY 2014-2015, 146 cards in FY 2015-2016, 248 cards in FY 2016-2017, 168 cards in FY 2017-2018 and 92 cards in past mini-budget period and 108 cards between 1 October, 2018 and 15 March 2019. The Trade Department issued trade cards in a bid to boost border trade. A businessman can trade K3 million worth of goods per day using ITC, and then, the Trade Department granted trade values of up to K15 million per day, which is a five-day-trade-value. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Tokyo cherry trees in full bloom earlier than usual amid warm weather

TOKYO — Cherry trees came into full bloom in central Tokyo on Wednesday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, earlier than other cities in the country this spring amid recent warm weather.

The agency confirmed that more than 80 percent of the flowers sampled of Somei Yoshino cherry trees at Yasukuni Shrine have bloomed, seven days earlier than normal but three days later than last year.

At Rikugien, a traditional Japanese garden in Tokyo's Bunkyo Ward, a giant weeping cherry tree was attracting many visitors.

Also Wednesday, cherry trees in Osaka came into bloom, a day earlier than usual but seven days later than 2018, a local meteorological observatory said, adding it expects them to be in full bloom in a week or so.

The season's first blooming of Somei Yoshino trees in Japan was confirmed in the southwestern prefecture of Nagasaki on 20 March.—Kyodo News ■



More than 80 per cent of the flowers sampled of Somei Yoshino cherry trees at Yasukuni Shrine have bloomed, seven days earlier than normal but three days later than last year. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Can China keep its climate promises?

PARIS — China can easily meet its Paris climate pledge to peak its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, but sourcing 20 per cent of its energy needs from renewables and nuclear power by that date may be considerably harder, researchers said Tuesday.

Tripling the share of non-fossil fuels will require a major overhaul of China's recalcitrant power sector and the full deployment of a fledgling emissions trading system, they said in the journal Nature Communications.



Hebei Province, one of the most polluted regions in the country, will plant 1.12 million hectares of forests in four years to ease its heavy air pollution. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

There is a lot at stake.

If the world's top carbon polluter fails to achieve these and other voluntary targets, the 2015 treaty's cornerstone goal of capping global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) may remain out of reach. On current trajectories, the planet is set to warm twice that much by century's end.

China has also pledged to expand carbon-absorbing forests by 4,500 square kilometres before 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

"China is on track to achieve its climate commitments," lead author Kelly Sims, director of The Fletcher School's Climate Policy Lab at Tufts University, told AFP.

"It is not pulling back from implementing the Paris Agreement even though US President Donald Trump signalled his intention to do so."

Over the last decade, China has positioned itself as a global leader on climate action, enacting a raft of policies to slow the growth of its carbon footprint and, eventually, make it shrink.

Global warming, however, has not always been the main — or even the primary — target.

"The vast majority of China's policies have co-benefits for energy security, economic reform and reduced ground-level pollution," Sims told AFP. More than a million — up to 2.8 million, according to a recent study — premature deaths in China each year are attributed to foul air. Room for more ambition The only major climate policy exclusively aimed at reducing CO_2 levels is China's emissions trading scheme (ETS).

Introduced in 2017, it is set to cover more than 1,700 power companies and some three billion tonnes in greenhouse gas emissions. China's total emissions in 2018 topped 10 billion tonnes of CO_2, well over a quarter of the world total.

Driving up the price of carbon within the ETS and boosting the share of renewables in China's electricity grid will both depend on revamping the country's power sector, the study said.

"The main challenge is completing power sector reform," said Sims. "There is political resistance from owners of existing coal plants, and from the provinces with major coal production and coal use."

To assess China's chances of meeting its carbon-cutting promises, Sims and colleagues canvassed 18 experts, and modelled the implementation of 14 climate policies. China has come in for sharp criticism from watchdog groups for not setting more ambition carbon-cutting targets.

The Carbon Action Tracker, which evaluates the CO_2 reduction efforts in relation to capacity, has labelled Beijing's "highly insufficient."

"Discouragingly, a rise in coal consumption drove Chinese CO_2 emissions to a new high in 2017, which will likely be exceeded again in 2018," it noted.

But the experts said that Beijing still has plenty of time to put its emissions curve on a downward track before 2030.

"There is certainly room to be more ambitious in its peaking target," Sims added.

China is also under pressure to bring down — and account for — emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane, a byproduct of both natural gas and livestock production. "But China cannot stop climate change alone," Sims said. "All of the major industrialised countries will need to reduce their emissions, and rapidly developing countries will need to implement alternative growth strategies with the help of wealthier countries." —AFP ■

Indonesia foils illegal Facebook sale of komodo dragons

JAKARTA — Indonesian authorities said Wednesday they had seized five komodo dragons and dozens of other animals being sold on Facebook, as the country battles to clamp down on the illegal wildlife trade.

The vast Southeast Asian archipelago nation's dense tropical rainforests boast some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world and it has for years been a key source and transit point for animal trafficking.

Five smugglers, identified only by their initials, were arrested in Semarang and Surabaya on Java island for allegedly trafficking the komodos — the world's biggest lizard — along with bearcats, cockatoos and cassowary birds.

"The suspect VS sold the komodos online through Facebook," East Java police spokesman FransBarungMangera said in a statement.

The dragons, which can only be found in their natural habitat on a cluster of islands in eastern Indonesia, were sold for between 15 and 20 million rupiah ($1,000-$1,400), Mangera said.

In a separate case, three other people were arrested in East Java over the alleged online sale of otters, leopard cats and pangolin, Mangera said.

If convicted, the smugglers could face up to five years in prison and a 100-million-rupiah fine.

The haul of komodo dragons comes just a day after authorities seized more than 5,000 endangered pig-nosed turtles from smugglers in Indonesia's easternmost province Papua.

The pig-nosed turtle — which has a distinctive snout-like nose and webbed feet — is only found in Australia and New Guinea, an island shared between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, and is protected under Indonesian conservation laws.—AFP ■



Komodo dragon in the coastal area of Rincaisland, part of the protected area of Komodo National Park. **PHOTO: AFP**

Aluminum tariffs cost U.S. beverage industry 250 mln USD last year: study

WASHINGTON —The U.S. beverage industry paid about 250 million U.S. dollars in Section 232 tariffs for aluminum cansheet between March and December last year, and the industry is "overpaying," according to a recent study.

The Beer Institute, a national trade association representing the U.S. brewing industry, said Monday that brewers are overpaying for cansheet since the 232 tariffs on aluminum took effect a year ago, citing a study done by Harbor Aluminum, a research firm that specializes in the aluminum industry.The U.S. Treasury Department collected only around 50 million dollars out of the 250 million dollars, while the rest went to American rolling mills and smelters, according to the study. U.S. cansheet contains 70 percent domestic aluminum scrap -- recycled metal remaining in the country, which is exempted from Section 232 tariffs, the Beer Institute said. However, the U.S. beverage industry paid a tariff for all of the aluminum cansheet as if it consisted entirely of imported primary aluminum, which means rolling mills and smelters are overcharging end users via tariff-paid price. —AFP ■

Russia rules China-backed Baikal bottling plant 'illegal'

MOSCOW—A Russian court on Wednesday ruled that a widely-condemned China-backed project to bottle water from Lake Baikal illegally received the go-ahead from authorities. The plant currently under construction to bottle the waters of the world's largest lake has proved highly controversial, exacerbated by popular fears of a Chinese "land-grab" in Siberia.A judge at a district court in the Siberian city of Irkutsk ruled that the official permit for the plant's construction was "illegal", TASS state news agency reported from the courtroom.Judge Natalya Isakova said that the permission was issued on the basis of a positive environmental impact report, which she also ruled was "illegal."

The ruling came after a petition against the plant on Change.org gathered more than a million signatures. The water "will be shipped to China," the petition said, warning that the facility would block local access to the lake and "inflict irreparable damage" to the UNESCO World Heritage Site.The Russian company behind the project, AkvaSib, will appeal the court ruling, its chief engineer Vladislav Gerkovenko told TASS, insisting: "we are building the plant legally."The plant's financial backing comes from a company called "Baikal Lake" based in China's Daqing. The plant was initially welcomed by the Irkutsk authorities in 2017, when they gave the $21-million project priority status. The court case came after prosecutors contested the positive conclusions of an environmental impact report issued in 2016 by Russia's state environmental watchdog.—AFP ■



Lake Baikal is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (123 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (123 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-03-2019 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13/2019)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-193(18-19)	Spares for BJ Cementing Unit (55)Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-194(18-19)	Spares for Drilling String (1)Lot	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-195(18-19)	Spares For Well Head(1)Lot	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-196(18-19)	Spares For BOP Stack (3)Groups	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-197(18-19)	Spares For SL-315 Swivels(1)Lot	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-198(18-19)	SAE VG-40 Engine Oil (480)Drums	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-199(18-19)	ISO VG 100 Gas Compressor Oil(130)Drums	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricty and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from **28 March 2019**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 29 April 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – 29-4-2019, 14:00 pm

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

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Education
Invitation for Bids

Date:	**28 March2019**
Loan/Grant No. and Title:	**MYA 3472 – Equipping Youth for Employment**
Contract No. and Title:	**MYA3472/EYE/NCB/Goods/CBMSC/ Equip/01-02**
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	**14 May 2019**

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 6 GTHS/4 ITC Locations**.

   - **Lot1 –Arc Welding-MIG-MAG WeldingTraining Equipment & Tools**

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/01-02
   - 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, ZabuThiri 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: 14 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.

US to speed up astronaut return to Moon: target 2024



NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine talks to employees about the agency's progress toward sending astronauts to the Moon and on to Mars at the Kennedy Space Center. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON—Donald Trump's administration announced Tuesday it was speeding up plans to send US astronauts back to the Moon, from 2028 to 2024, calling for a "spark of urgency" to prevail over delays that have plagued NASA's lunar return plans.

"It is the stated policy of this administration and the United States of America to return American astronauts to the Moon, within the next five years," Vice President Mike Pence vowed in a speech in Huntsville, Alabama, the "Rocket City" where American launchers have been built since the 1960s. "Let me be clear, the first woman and the next man on the Moon will both be American astronauts launched by American rockets from American soil," he said, echoing previous declarations by NASA chief Jim Bridenstine that a woman could be the next human to set foot on the Moon.The first manned Moon flight since the last Apollo mission in 1972 had been scheduled for 2028.

But the program has encountered frustrating delays in the development of a new heavy rocket for the Moon missions, the Space Launch System (SLS), whose first uncrewed flight was recently pushed back beyond 2020.

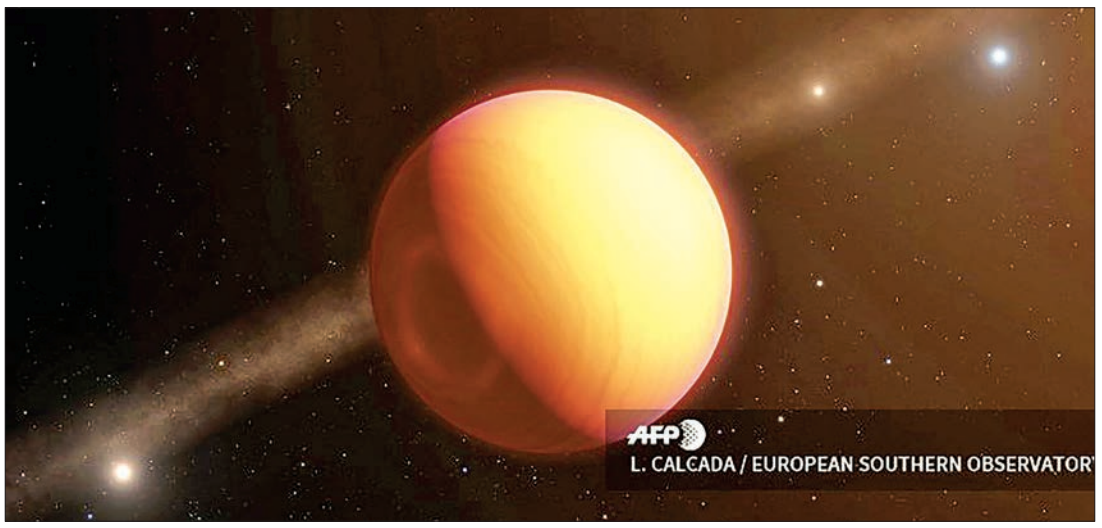
Within months of taking office, President Trump made clear his desire to reinvigorate the American space agency, which had been somewhat adrift since the 2011 end of its shuttle program.In 2017, Trump set a goal of returning to the Moon as a first step before moving on to human exploration of Mars. NASA then adopted a schedule of launching a manned mission to the Moon in 2028. "That's just not good enough. We're better than that. It took us eight years to get to the moon, the first time, 50 years ago, when we had never done it before," said Pence, who heads the White House's National Space Council. "It shouldn't take us 11 years to get back."

'Paralysis by analysis'

In his speech, Pence criticized the "bureaucratic inertia" and "paralysis by analysis" that he said had resulted in the SLS delays, and called for a "new mindset" at the space agency.Included in that criticism, though unnamed, was Boeing, who is building the SLS rocket that was scheduled to launch for its first flight in 2020, until NASA recently announced it would not be ready in time. "Urgency must be our watchword," said Pence. "Failure to achieve our goal to return an American astronaut to the Moon in the next five years is not an option."He said the US was engaged in a present-day "space race" under Trump, this time against China, just as the country was in the 1960s under President John F. Kennedy against the Soviet Union. Pence threatened to use commercial launch systems or to look to other partners if NASA is not ready in time."To be clear, we're not committed to anyone's contract. If our current contractors can't meet this objective, then we will find ones that will," Pence said. — AFP ■

IN Picture

SPACE-GRAVITY-EXOPLANET-HR8799E



A handout photo released on March 27, 2019 by the European Southern Observatory shows an artist impression of the observed exoplanet, which goes by the name HR8799e. The GRAVITY instrument on ESO's Very Large Telescope Interferometer (VLTI) has made the first direct observation of an exoplanet using optical interferometry. This method revealed a complex exoplanetary atmosphere with clouds of iron and silicates swirling in a planet-wide storm. The technique presents unique possibilities for characterising many of the exoplanets known today. **PHOTO: AFP**

McDonalds to equip Drive Thru menus with AI

CHICAGO—McDonald's has made an agreement to acquire an AI-powered platform that will enable it to develop Drive Thru menus that are almost as smart as your smartphone.Early this week, McDonald's and AI-powered "Personalization Anywhere" platform Dynamic Yield announced their agreement to make and implement smart Drive Thru menus that customize themselves based on the time of the day, the weather, the current restaurant traffic, and trending menu items as well as individual customers' selections.

Intelligent menu

These intelligent menu boards have already been tested at various US restaurants last year and, after generating successful results, the AI-powered menus will be officially rolling out this year, first in the US and then later to international markets.Suggestions will be made based on data collected from years of serving over 68 million customers every day. Thanks to this information, McDonald's CEO Steve Easterbrook claims that "Our ability to learn of [customer] behaviors and play that back through this technology is unbeatable." The technology will be integrated to all digital customer touchpoints, like self-order Kiosks and the McDonald's mobile app, in addition to the Drive Thru menus beginning this year. Expect to see a slew of coffee options when ordering in the morning or an assortment McFlurry offers in the dead of summer. — AFP ■

Probiotic bacteria evolve inside mice's gastrointestinal tracts: study

CHICAGO—Probiotics can evolve once inside the body and have the potential to become less effective and sometimes even harmful, according to a study by Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, U.S. state of Missouri.The findings are published Tuesday in Cell Host and Microbe.

To study how the probiotic responds to different microbial communities, the researchers used mice that harbored four kinds of gut microbiomes, including no pre-existing bacteria, a limited set of bacteria, a normal microbiome and a normal microbiome after antibiotic treatment.The researchers gave the mice the probiotic, and then varied the food the mice ate, giving them either mouse chow, high-fiber pellets that mimic the natural mouse diet; high-fat, high-sugar, low-fiber pellets meant to model typical Western eating habits; and Western pellets plus fiber. After five weeks, the researchers obtained the bacteria from the mice's guts and analyzed the microbes' DNA.

"In a healthy, high-diversity background we didn't capture a lot of adaptation, maybe because this is the background that Nissle is used to," said first research author Aura Ferreiro, a graduate student at the university. Nissle is a large granular body found in neurons.—XINHUA ■

Thai political parties form anti-junta coalition

BANGKOK — Several anti-junta parties formed a coalition in Thailand on Wednesday, vowing to thwart a military-backed party in a bid to end years of junta rule following the country's first vote since a 2014 coup.

Thai politics are deadlocked after Sunday's vote, with two main rival parties claiming the right to govern amid allegations of ballot irregularities and the full official results yet to be released.

Seven anti-junta parties, led by the Pheu Thai Party, said they would join forces, claiming to win enough parliamentary seats to form a government and sideline military-backed allies led by the PhalangPracharat Party.



Seven anti-junta parties in Thailand formed a coalition vowing to thwart military rule after the country's first vote since 2014. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We want to stop the regime from hanging onto power," Pheu Thai's prime ministerial candidate SudaratKeyuraphan said at a press conference Wednesday announcing the coalition.

The bloc of seven — which includes the youth-focused Future Forward Party that did surprisingly well in the elections — claimed it would take 255 out of the 500 lower house seats that are up for grabs.

"It is a complete process of setting up a government," said Future Forward's telegenic billionaire leader ThanathornJuangroongruangkit.

Pheu Thai has won every election since 2001 and is affiliated with self-exiled former premier ThaksinShinawatra.

Thaksin's sister Yingluck was herself ousted in the 2014 putsch, and is also living in self-exile.

The newly-formed coalition said it wanted to usher in an era of pro-democracy politics following Sunday's vote.

"We will cooperate with parties that are at this press conference today no matter what obstacles ahead... we are ready to stop the regime from holding on to power," Thanathorn told reporters. The military-backed PhalangPracharat, led by junta chief and prime ministerial candidate Prayut Chan-O-Cha, won the popular vote with 7.6 million ballots in its favour — 400,000 more votes than Pheu Thai.

PhalangPracharat has also said it expects to secure more than half of all seats in the lower house. The balance of power is stacked in favour of the junta due to a charter it drafted creating 250 military-appointed upper house seats. That means non-military parties like Pheu Thai need an avalanche of votes in order to vote in a prime minister.

The Election Commission has unexpectedly delayed releasing official results, and questions are now swirling over election irregularities, with an election monitor saying the tabulation was "deeply flawed".

Nearly two million invalidated ballots, weak polling oversight and bungling by election authorities may have wildly skewed initial numbers.— AFP ■

Back to the drawing board: MPS sketch out brexit future

LONDON — In an unprecedented development and in defiance of the government's wishes, British MPs will on Wednesday pick up pen and paper to state their preferences on possible alternatives to Theresa May's Brexit plan.

Here is how the "indicative votes" procedure will work, as MPs aim to find a way through the political deadlock nearly three years after Britain voted to quit the European Union.

WHAT HAPPENS ON WEDNESDAY?

MPs voted on Monday night to clear the timetable in the House of Commons from 2:00pm (1400) on Wednesday, to allow a debate on a number of different Brexit scenarios.

These options will be chosen by Speaker John Bercow on Wednesday from proposals put forward by MPs, likely covering various future trading arrangements with the EU and the issue of a new public vote.

At 7pm (1900 GMT), MPs will collect a paper ballot setting out the various ideas, and be asked to mark "Aye" or "Noe" — for "Yes" or "No" in antiquated English — alongside each one. They can agree to as many options as they want.

Normally, MPs vote in person on one motion at a time, but organisers were concerned the order of such votes might influence the outcome.

Half an hour is set aside for the ballots to be cast, with the result announced in the Commons at around 9 pm.

While the votes are being counted, MPs will debate and vote on the deal agreed with the EU last week to delay Brexit to at least 12 April.

The date has already been changed from 29 March in international law but must be changed in UK legislation too.—AFP ■



A video grab from footage broadcast by the UK Parliament's Parliamentary Recording Unit (PRU) shows Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May reacting as Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn informs the MPs that he has tabled a vote of no confidence in the Government in the House of Commons in London on 15 January 2019, after MPs voted to reject the government's Brexit deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

China expels ex-Interpol chief Meng from Communist Party

BEIJING — China has expelled former Interpol chief MengHongwei from the Communist Party and dismissed him from his official positions, the country's graft watchdog announced Wednesday.

Meng, who served as the vice minister of public security, vanished in September last year during a visit to China from France and was later accused of accepting bribes.

"MengHongwei has no party principles... does not report personal matters in accordance with regulations... and refuses to implement the decision of the Party Central Committee," the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a statement. Meng had used state assets to support his family's lavish lifestyle while abusing his position to get his wife employment, the watchdog said.

The case has been handed over to the state prosecutor's office, and his "illegal income" has been confiscated, it added.

Meng, the first Chinese head of Interpol, had risen through the ranks of the country's feared security apparatus.

Shortly after his disappearance last year, Beijing informed the international police organisation that Meng had resigned as president, and that he had been charged with accepting bribes. News of Meng's sacking comes just a day after the country's former head of internet censorship Lu Wei was sentenced to 14 years in prison for bribery. Meng and Lu are part of a growing group of Communist Party cadres caught in President Xi Jinping's anti-graft campaign, which critics say has served as a way to remove the leader's political enemies.

In October, the country's public security bureau linked Meng's detention to a broader initiative to "completely remove the pernicious influence" of Zhou Yongkang, a former security tsar who was sentenced to life in prison in 2015 for bribery, abuse of power and leaking state secrets. Meng was appointed vice security minister by Zhou in 2004.—AFP ■

Myanmar misses chance for AFC U-23 Championship 2020

MYANMAR missed its chance of entering the AFC U-23 Championship 2020, which will be hosted in Thailand, after a massive 7-0 loss to Japan at the group play stage of the qualifiers on Tuesday night.

Myanmar was placed in Group I with Asian powerhouse Japan, Timor Leste, and Macau. Myanmar managed to beat Timor Leste and Macau by half a dozen goals in earlier Group I matches, and would have qualified to the next stage even if the match against Japan had ended in a draw.

However, the huge loss to Japan ended Myanmar's chances of entering the next stage of the championship.

Eleven winning teams from 11 groups have made the qualification directly, while four second-placed teams have also entered the next stage. Thailand, the host team, will be part of the championship.

Myanmar's chances were blurred with Australia, Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia emerging as the four best second-placed teams. They got full points, with just a goal difference with the winning teams in their groups.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Shan United still leading in U-19 national league

TAUNGGYI-based Shan United football club is still leading the table at the Myanmar National League U-19 2019 tourney with no losses, according to a statement released on the Myanmar National League website.

In the Week 8 matches of the league, Shan United has garnered a total of 22 points with seven wins and one draw in the eight matches played.

Southern Myanmar F.C. is in the second place with a difference of just one point with Shan United, with seven wins and one loss in the eight matches played.

Mandalay-based Yadanarbon F.C. is in the third place, with 16 points from five wins, one draw, and two losses in the eight matches played.

Yangon-based Yangon United is in the fourth place with 16 points, but with a goal difference with Yadanarbon.

Pathein-based Ayeyawady United is in the fifth place with 14 points from four wins, two draws, and two losses in the eight matches played.

There are twelve teams competing in the tourney, and Sagaing United is at the bottom of the table with just two points.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Federer to play Madrid Masters on clay return

MADRID (Spain) — Roger Federer will play on clay before this year's French Open after being confirmed on the entry list for the Madrid Masters, which starts on May 3, on Tuesday.

The 37-year-old last played the tournament, where he is a three-time champion, in 2015, when he also made his most recent appearance at Roland Garros. Federer has skipped the clay-court season for the last two years to focus on being ready for the grass courts of Wimbledon, but announced after the Australian Open that he would return to the red dirt in 2019.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion, a three-time winner in Madrid, will line up alongside world number one Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and title-holder Alexander Zverev after tournament organisers announced the field on Tuesday. Federer won his 19th major crown at Wimbledon in 2017, before adding the Australian Open last year, but has not reached a Slam semi-final since. He faces Russian youngster Daniil Medvedev in the Miami Masters last 16 later on Tuesday. The French Open gets underway in Paris on 26 May.—AFP ■

Bautista Agut stuns Djokovic, Barty topples Kvitova in Miami

MIAMI (United States)—Novak Djokovic's pursuit of a record seventh Miami Open ATP title ended in dramatic fashion on Tuesday as Roberto Bautista Agut superbly recovered from a first set destruction to win 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 and book a place in the quarter-finals.And the top seeds kept falling as women's world number two Petra Kvitova slumped to a surprise 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-2 defeat to Australian Ashleigh Barty.

Bautista Agut, 30, may have beaten Djokovic on the way to winning the title in Doha earlier this year but 15-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic started like a train in this last 16 encounter before being amazingly reined back in. After just 25 minutes, Djokovic was 5-0 ahead and on cruise control, Bautista Agut severely struggling to keep the Serbian at bay. A short rain delay late in the second set allowed Bautista Agut to regroup, however.

He returned a completely different player and at the end of an absorbing two hours and 29 minutes, it was the number 22 seed who will now meet defending champion John Isner for a place in the semi-finals. "I played more aggressive," said Bautista Agut who began to noticeably step inside and force Djokovic onto the back foot. "I tried to miss less balls, to really concentrate on the beginning of the point with my serve, with my return." With Roger Federer's match with Daniil Medvedev postponed until Wednesday after a spell of heavy rain forced tournament officials into a reshuffle, all the focus remained on Djokovic's shock exit. The reigning Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open champion left court and headed straight to a press conference to try and explain this most remarkable of turnarounds at Hard Rock Stadium.



Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut hits a return against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas during their men's singles quarter-final match on day nine of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 22 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

"He is a solid player but I shouldn't have lost this match, I had way too many wasted opportunities," said the world number one, who also failed to make the latter stages of Indian Wells this month. "I thought I played well today and during this tournament but two or three sluggish games and that's what happens." Djokovic, who also hinted his vociferous involvement in ATP tennis politics which saw President Chris Kermode ousted this month may have affected his focus, was initially consistent with his serve during the opening set.—AFP ■

Solskjaer boosted by Mourinho's work, claims Van Gaal

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's success at Manchester United is partly due to the work of his predecessor Jose Mourinho, according to former Old Trafford chief Louis Van Gaal. Solskjaer has made a remarkable impact since arriving as United's interim boss in December following Mourinho's sacking.

The Norwegian has won 10 times in 13 Premier League games to put United back in the hunt for a top four finish, while leading them to the Champions League quarter-finals after a stunning victory over Paris Saint Germain. Van Gaal, who spent two seasons at United before being replaced by Mourinho in 2016, insists the Portuguese coach's tactics have laid the foundations for Solskjaer to build on. The 67-year-old Dutchman also suggested United played more exciting football in his time at the helm than they do now.

Van Gaal's claims seem at odds with the more entertaining football played by United since Solskjaer started a reign that looks set to bring him the manager's job on a permanent basis."The way Manchester United are playing now is not the way Ferguson played," Van Gaal told the BBC on Tuesday."It is defensive, counter-attacking football. If you like it, you like it. If you think it is more exciting than my boring attacking, OK. But it is not my truth."Solskjaer has just lost twice and he has to manage that. It is very important that Manchester United qualifies for the Champions League. As it was when I was manager.

"But they can also win the Champions League because they play a defensive system and it is very difficult to beat them, which, whether you like it or not, is the result of Mourinho's work." Van Gaal was sacked at the end of his second season immediately after winning the FA Cup. The former Barcelona boss remains unhappy that Ed Woodward, United's executive vice-chairman, made contact with Mourinho while Van Gaal was still at the club.—AFP ■