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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker visits Hteemae Wakhee Village, Lay Kay Kaw Myothit



The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meeting with people of Hteemae Wakhee Village. PHOTO: MIN HTET

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than, who is in Myawady District, Kayin State, visited Hteemae Wakhee Village, Lay Kay Kaw Myothit yesterday and met with local residents.

The Speaker gave a speech where he said he is using the time during the parliamentary recess to go around the country

to listen to the people and help them with their difficulties.

He said the Hluttaw presides over legislation but also has the duty to check and balance the judiciary and executive pillars. He said only then will the democratic federal Union the people wish for be realized. He urged the people to openly tell him their challenges, suggestions and regional development.

Next, the residents of Hteemae Wakhee Village discussed issues concerning their education, healthcare, agriculture and difficulty in accessing drinking water. Departmental officials responded to the residents' discussions.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then said it is important to know the need to swiftly resolve an issue. He said the

suggestions will be recorded and followed through.

Next, the Speaker handed over books and journals for the village library to library officials and cordially greeted the residents. Afterwards, the Speaker visited the Laykapaw waterfall recreation center and agricultural garden in Laykekaw Myothit.—Maung Sein Lwin (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Russian aviation plant

THE Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently visiting Russia at the invitation of the Defence Minister of the Russian Federation, Army General Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shouigu, went to the Ulan-Ude Aviation Plant on the evening of 20 April.

After observing the production of helicopters at the plant, the Senior General and his entourage flew over Ulan-Ude on a Mi 171 manufactured at the plant and enjoyed the view, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Afterwards, the military delegation from Myanmar visited training halls at the plant.

The delegation, led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, also attended a working dinner hosted by the Chief Minister of Burya Tiya, Mr. Aleksey Sam-buevich.

Burya Tiya, a republic in the Russian Federation, has plants which produce airplanes and helicopters.

About 30 per cent of its 980,000 population follows Buddhism.

The delegation left Ulan-Ude by high-speed train for Irkutsk yesterday morning and enjoyed the scenery around Lake Baikal.

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Eternal Peace Pagoda's religious objects stopped over in Dawei for public obeisance

RELIGIOUS objects to be fixed atop the Nay Pyi Taw's Eternal Peace Pagoda and Buddha images to be housed at the pagoda, were conveyed from Mawlamyine to Dawei yesterday for public obeisance.

The religious objects were stopped over at the Lawka Marazein Pagoda in Dawei and Sayadaw Ashin Sandadhika delivered a sermon on peace yesterday.

Among the congregation were Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myint Maung, Taninthayi Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Aye, Deputy Speaker, members of the Taninthayi Region Cabinet, departmental officials and religious associations.

The Buddha Images



Sayadaw Ashin Sandadhika delivers a sermon on peace in Dawei yesterday **PHOTO: MNA**

carved from marble stones and golden religious objects will be stopped over in Hpa-an on 22 April, Thaton on 23 April, Bago on 24 April, Patheingyi on 25

April, Hinthada on 26, Pyaw on 27 April, Magway on 28 April, Bagan on 29 April, Monywa from 30 April to 1st May, Mandalay from 2nd to 6th May,

Kyaukse on 7 May, Thadaw (Wundwin) on 8th May, Taunggyi on 9th May, Loikaw on 10th May, Tounghoo on 11 May and Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 18 May

for public obeisance.

Sayadaw Ashin Sandadhika will deliver a sermon on peace at every town.—Han Lin Naing ■

Yangon remembers 5th anniversary since passing of Hanthawaddy U Win Tin



A ceremony in remembrance of renowned journalist Hanthawaddy U Win Tin is being celebrated at the Royal Garden Restaurant in Bahan Township yesterday **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

A ceremony in remembrance of renowned journalist Hanthawaddy U Win Tin, who passed

away on 21 April five years ago, was held at the Royal Garden Restaurant in Bahan Township,

Yangon, yesterday.

In addition to being a member of the panel of chairmen in

the National League for Democracy and a writer, U Win Tin was hailed as a leading politician. Attendees at the ceremony first saluted Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs and then observed eight seconds of silence for the late journalist and the monks, students and civilians who lost their lives in the 8888 Uprising and other democratic movements.

An official from The Hanthawaddy U Win Tin Foundation then read a short biography of U Win Tin and a message.

Next, NLD Central Executive Committee member Dr. Myo Nyunt, Patron of The Hanthawaddy U Win Tin Foundation U Maung Maung Khin and several attendees first delivered speeches honouring the late journalist, after which they recited poems.

This was followed by officials reading messages from other political parties and or-

ganizations sent to the ceremony.

The ceremony was organized by the late journalist's foundation and attended by Hluttaw representatives, members of civil society organisations, people from the literature circle, NLD members, political colleagues of U Win Tin, invited guests, and admirers of U Win Tin. Attendees of the ceremony visited U Win Tin's tomb at Yay Way cemetery in the afternoon.

In the morning, charity food was given out at Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha 16 in Thathana Yeiktha Street, Bahan Township.

The late journalist's family and disciples also opened U Win Tin House in conjunction with his 5th remembrance ceremony at No. 448, Hai Sin Du Wah Street, No. 11, Dagon Myothit (East) Township yesterday. —

Zaw Gyi ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Remembrance ceremony held for Hanthawaddy U Win Tin in Mandalay

A ceremony in remembrance of outspoken journalist Hanthawaddy U Win Tin's death 5 years ago was held at Taung Lay Lone monastery near U Bein Bridge, Amarapura Township, Mandalay, yesterday.

Sayar Maung Thit Lwin (Ludu) spoke at the ceremony: "U Win Tin never worked for

self-gain. He knew what was going on in the country since he was a journalist.

He knew who were right and who were wrong. He always tried to unite everyone in this endeavour. He had the courage to uncover the truth. Which is why he cannot be forgotten."

Writers, poets and journalists from Mandalay attended the ceremony and paid a minute of silence for the late journalist.—Min Htet Aung (Mahn Sub-printing house) ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



People observe one-minute silence for late journalist Hanthawaddy U Win Tin in Amarapura Township, Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MAHN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**



Our country is still in poverty with necessities in every sector; which is why we need to carry on our struggle and work hard in all sectors. In the international arena, we are facing pressure, criticisms and misunderstandings. The challenges and difficulties our country and our people are facing today are many. Although every issue cannot be solved easily, we will have to make utmost efforts to solve these issues according to each priority sector.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)



Not only in Rakhine State which has received the attention of the world, but in the entire country let us strive collectively for security of mind and body.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Russian aviation plant

FROM PAGE-1

Lake Baikal is the largest freshwater lake by volume in the world, containing 22-23 per cent of the world's fresh surface water.

The lake is located between Burya Tiya and Irkutsk.

With 23,615.39 km³ of fresh water, and with a maximum depth of 1,642 m, Baikal is the

world's deepest and largest lake.

In the winter, the lake surface is covered in ice. On average, the ice reaches a thickness of about 3 metres, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his entourage pose for documentary photo before flying over Ulan-Ude on a Mi 171. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu inspects food safety, feed stuff production in Lashio



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu visits a private feed stuff factory in Naungpaw Village-tract in Lashio. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu held talks with officials of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Lashio on 20 April over safety of food, import substitute products production, boosting export, value added products, prevention of trans-border diseases and cooperation with related ministries.

The meeting was attended by the state/district/township level officials of the Livestock and Veterinary Department in Lashio District.

Afterwards, Head of Shan State Livestock Breeding and

Veterinary Department Dr. Khin Aung and director Dr. Hla Hla Mon reported on operations of the department and the laboratory.

Following the meeting, the Union Minister inspected the laboratory of the department.

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu visited a private feed stuff factory and a grain dryer in Lwelam Village in Naungpaw Village-tract, Lashio Township.

During the trip, the Union Minister met with local ethnic people and businessmen and stressed the need to cooperate in producing feedstuff sufficiently in the region.—MNA

100 per cent of students pass finals in Nay Pyi Taw

THE results of the exams for academic year 2018-2019 were put up relevant schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council area yesterday, which were crowded with students and caretakers coming to see the results.

In Dekkhinathiri Township, all 9,385 registered students at the 8th grade passed the exam and all 8,457 registered students of Ottarathiri Township at the 8th grade passed the exam as well, according to the district education office.

Ma Sabel Phyu, a 9th grader from Pobbathiri Tsp B.E.H.S. 3, said she is happy to have passed her exams. She said she studied hard to pass the exams without taking extra tuition classes. She said she will need to try harder at the 10th grade next year and has decided to become a police-woman after she graduates.

Daw San Myint, a student's parent, said she came to see her daughter's results and didn't tell her she came. She said she is overjoyed her daughter passed

the 9th grade and even more so for not relying on tuition. She said she never pressured her daughter and let her study at her own pace. Her daughter aims to become a doctor in the future.

At the 5th grade final exams in Nay Pyi Taw, all registered students of Zabuthiri, Ottarathiri, Zeyathiri, Pobbathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Tatkon, Pyinmana, and Lewé townships passed. —Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Parents and relatives of students check exam results in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: HTAN PHONE**

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Declining jaggery price hits Ngathayauk toddy-palm climbers

TODDY palm climbing has become less lucrative due to the decline in the price of palm jaggery, said U Aung Soe, a toddy tapper from Tamakha village in Ngathayauk Township, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region.

According to growers, the price of jaggery has declined from K1,500 per viss (3.6 pounds) in March to K1,000 in April.

U Hla Myint, another tapper, said toddy palm climbers have been busy with their work since the start of the toddy palm-climbing season. All family members are involved in jaggery production, he said.

"A climber has to climb 30 toddy palms 60 times a day. It is very hot as the temperature is soaring. We can collect a good quantity of toddy palm juice due to swarming on spadix and high temperatures," said U Aung Soe.

Jaggery production based on toddy palm is seen on a man-



A toddy tapper collects sap from palm trees to make jaggery in Ngathayauk Township. **PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)**

ageable scale in the central arid zone of the country. Among other regions, the NyaungU and

Kyaukpadaung townships produce roughly 1,000 tons of jaggery annually, of which 60 per

cent is consumed locally.—Ko Htain (Ngathayauk) ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Rural water supply projects across Magway 75% complete

THE water supply projects being implemented by the Rural Development Department across Magway Region are now 75 per cent complete, and work is progressing steadily at the 123 individual sites in the targeted villages, according to the department.

Magway Region is situated in the country's central dry zone, and faces shortage of wa-

ter every summer. To help the region gain access to adequate drinking water, the region's Rural Development Department is implementing 123 water supply projects in prioritized villages for the 2018-2019 Financial Year.

U Myo Aung, the head of the department, said: "The total cost of the projects is approximately K2.36 billion. The water supply projects include construction of

74 deep tube wells, three shallow tube wells, two hand-dug wells, and six earthen lakes, plus five water pumping projects, and 33 other water projects. Initiated in December 2018, a total of 36 water supply projects are completely finished, while the remaining projects are now 75 per cent complete."

Also, the department is continuing to provide water facilities

in cooperation with its development partners, including local and foreign non-governmental organizations and individual well-wishers, he added.

U Myo Aung urged residents to inform the nearest Rural Development Department of any water shortage they face immediately.—Than Lwin ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Drugs busted in Myitkyina, Nawngkhio, Pekhon Tsps

DRUG Enforcement Division 2 of Myitkyina searched the house of two people identified as Min Zaw and Ma Ah Kaing in Tiyezun Village, Myitkyina Township, at 10am on 20 April and confiscated 51g of heroin and 1,463 psychotropic tablets.

At 4pm on the same day, Drug Enforcement Division 24 of Lashio stopped and searched a passenger vehicle at the 80/4 milepost on the Muse-Mandalay highway in Nawngkhio Township.

They confiscated 30,000 psychotropic tablets, K50,000 and a handphone from a woman identified as Ma Ah Mein (a) Ma Yan Ah Mein onboard the vehicle.

Similarly, at 2pm on the same day, Drug Enforcement Division 26 of Pinlaung searched the house of a man identified as Khun Tin Lwin

in Konesone Village, Pekhon Township, and confiscated 390 psychotropic tablets.

They also confiscated 4,000 psychotropic tablets from a woman identified as Ma Nan Aung in Pukhe village, Konesone village-tract.

Authorities have opened cases against the perpetrators in line with the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Police Information Department ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Photo shows Ma Ah Mein (a) Ma Yan Ah Mein, together with confiscated psychotropic tablets. **PHOTO: POLICE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

Fire guts 17 homes in Magway, no casualties

A fire destroyed 17 homes in Kytsonpwe Village, Magway Township, Magway Region, on Sunday morning, according to the township's Fire Services Department. The department said there were no casualties in the fire.

The fire started around 10.45 a.m. at a home located in the north of the village. The blaze spread quickly to neighboring homes, destroying 17 houses.

With the support of residents, firefighters brought the blaze under control by 11.25 a.m. An investigation is being conducted by the township police to determine the cause of the fire.—Township IPRD ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Post-Thingyan sales of beans, pulses grow in Mandalay market

The Mandalay pulses market is abuzz with buyers and sellers in the post-Thingyan period, said traders.

“The market used to cool off after the Thingyan Festival in the previous years. The opening market price is now higher than in the pre-Thingyan period. Moreover, the market is alive with traders and buyers,” said U Soe Win Myint of Soe Win Myint depot, Mandalay.

“Prior to the Thingyan Festival, pigeon peas fetched K85,000 per three-basket bag, while green grams were priced at K122,000 per bag, and peanuts at K2,700 per viss. The price has increased to K91,000 for pigeon

peas, K125,000 for green grams, and K2,850 for peanuts,” he said.

“Meanwhile, the prices of mung bean, butter bean, sesame seeds, corn, chickpeas, and other pulses have remained at the same level as before the Thingyan Festival. At present, there are no pulses varieties whose price is lower than that registered in the pre-Thingyan period,” he added. “Earlier, rain in the month of April would destroy some crops in central Myanmar. This year, there were no showers during the Thingyan Festival. Therefore, this year is likely to see normal yield,” he said. —Aung Phyo Kyaw

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Farmers harvesting at a green gram plantation in Kani Township, Sagaing Region.

PHOTO: KO KYAW (THONEGWA)

Myanmar-Indonesia trade increases marginally in Feb

THE bilateral trade between Myanmar and Indonesia in February stood at US\$86.5 million, a slight increase in value by \$0.9 million, or 1.02 per cent, from last February, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In February, 2019, Myanmar's exports to Indonesia, a member of ASEAN, were registered at \$14.09 million and imports stood at \$72.4 million. During the same month last year, the total bilateral trade was \$85.63 million, with exports worth nearly \$14.18 million and imports amounting to \$71.5 million.

Myanmar's imports always outperform exports in bilateral trade with Indonesia. Compared with last February, there was a slight decrease in the value of exports, but imports increased slightly this year.

Myanmar imports medicine, paper, palm oil, steel, tobacco, rubber, and other products from Indonesia, and exports agro and marine products to the Southeast Asian country.

The Ministry's annual statistical report indicates that Myanmar-Indonesia trade in the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September) was \$520 million, an increase of \$62 million from the corresponding period in the previous year.

Myanmar-Indonesia trade reached a peak of over \$1 billion in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. The bilateral trade was pegged at \$827 million in the 2016-2017FY, \$741 million in the 2015-2016FY, \$636 million in the 2014-2015FY, over \$490 million in the 2013-2014FY, \$226 million in the 2012-2013FY, and \$472 million in the 2011-2012FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Myanmar received investments of \$9.86 million from Indonesia in the 2017-2018 FY, and \$0.95 million in the 2018 mini-budget period. There have been no new investments from Indonesia as on February in the current financial year.—Khine Khant

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Manufacturing sector attracts over 100 foreign enterprises in first half of current FY

The manufacturing sector absorbed foreign direct investment of US\$601.3 million through 107 projects in the first half (October, 2018-March, 2019) of the current fiscal year, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

In the past six months, Myanmar attracted FDI of \$1.86 billion, including expansion of capital. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the investment committees of the states and regions allowed 139 enterprises to invest in the country.

The agricultural sector attracted four foreign enterprises, with a capital of \$14 million. Seven foreign investment projects pulled \$33.9 million into the livestock and fisheries sector. Two projects brought in \$93.28 million into the power sector. Meanwhile, the transport and communications sector attracted two foreign projects with a capital of \$680.56 million.

The real estate sector received an investment of \$54 million from one project. The hotels and tourism sector attained FDI of \$56.3 million from three foreign projects. The industrial estate sector also attracted one

project, worth \$48,345 million. More than \$275 million of FDI was pumped into other services.

The MIC is targeting FDI of \$5.8 billion in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to the DICA.

Singapore-listed companies mostly invested in the country, followed by China and the UK.

Myanmar attracted FDI of \$1.76 billion in the mini-budget period (from April to September 2018), \$5.7 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$6.6 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$9.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Singapore invests \$1 bln in Myanmar in Oct-Mar

With 16 Singapore-listed enterprises bringing in a capital of US\$1 billion in the first half (Oct-March) of the current financial year, Singapore has topped the list of countries with the highest foreign direct investment in Myanmar, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Singapore is followed by China, which has invested an

estimated capital of \$255.74 million through 69 projects.

During the last mini-budget period from April to September, Singapore pulled in the largest FDI of 724.4 million into Myanmar.

In the first half of the current FY, FDI of \$1.86 billion, including expansion of capital, flowed into the country, and 139 businesses from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia,

the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Singapore, the Netherlands, the UK, Viet Nam, and China (Taipei) entered Myanmar.

Additionally, Singapore topped the list of countries with the largest FDI inflows in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, followed by Japan and Thailand. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Trump lawyer attacks Mueller report as 'calumny, lies and distortion'

WASHINGTON (United States) — Donald Trump's top lawyer on Sunday attacked "calumny, lies and distortions" in the Mueller investigation report while slamming a prominent Republican who said it showed pervasive dishonesty among the president and his top aides.

Rudy Giuliani mounted a combative defense of the president in Sunday talk show appearances that took aim at Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigators, the evidence they amassed and the witnesses they cited.

The former New York mayor heaped special scorn on Senator Mitt Romney, a former Republican presidential candidate who said Friday he was "sickened" by the report's findings and "appalled" that Trump's election campaign "welcomed help from Russia."

"What a hypocrite. What a hypocrite. Any candidate in the whole world in America would take information," Giuliani said of Romney on CNN's "State of



US President Donald Trump's lawyer attacks the Mueller report while the president spends Easter at Mar-a-Lago; he is seen here arriving at the Bethesda-by-the-Sea church for Easter services. **PHOTO: AFP**

the Union."

He was referring to Democratic emails that were hacked by Russian operatives and disseminated by WikiLeaks in 2016 to hurt Trump presidential rival Hillary Clinton.

"Who says it's even illegal?" Giuliani added. "Does the information turn out to be false, by the way? The information that was

gleaned and disseminated, every newspaper printed it."

Trump publicly encouraged Russia and WikiLeaks while top campaign officials, including his son and son-in-law, met in Trump Tower with a Russian promising dirt on Clinton.

"There is nothing wrong with taking information from the Russians. It depends on where it

came from," Giuliani said, adding that as a lawyer he would have advised against it.

"This didn't become an international scandal because of immorality. It became an international scandal because the president was accused of violating the law falsely," he said.

His comments echoed Trump, who mocked Romney on Twitter Sunday, after lashing out Friday at the "bullshit" Mueller report. The president was in Palm Beach, Florida where he attended Easter services.

Democrats mull impeachment

The special counsel's 22-month-long investigation concluded that Trump and his team did not collude with the Russian effort to sway the elections in his favor.

But it detailed 10 episodes of potential obstruction by Trump, including his firing of FBI director James Comey and demands that Mueller himself be removed.

The special counsel de-

clined to bring charges, however, and Attorney General Bill Barr, a Trump appointee, said that cleared the president.

Democrats, who have a majority in the House of Representatives, now are considering whether to move to impeach the president, an effort likely to fail because Republicans control the Senate.

"We will have to decide, do we nonetheless go through an impeachment — because to do otherwise would signal that somehow this president's conduct is okay, that future presidents can engage in this kind of corruption without consequence — or do we decide that we are better off doing oversight ... rather than a formal impeachment?" Representative Adam Schiff, chair of the House Intelligence Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday."

"That's going to be a very consequential decision" and one that would be made "over the next couple weeks," he said. — AFP ■

Inflation nightmare returns to haunt Zimbabwe

HARARE (Zimbabwe) — The price of bread almost doubled for Zimbabweans last week, as the inflation nightmare that marked the rule of long-time authoritarian leader Robert Mugabe returns to haunt his successor Emmerson Mnangagwa.

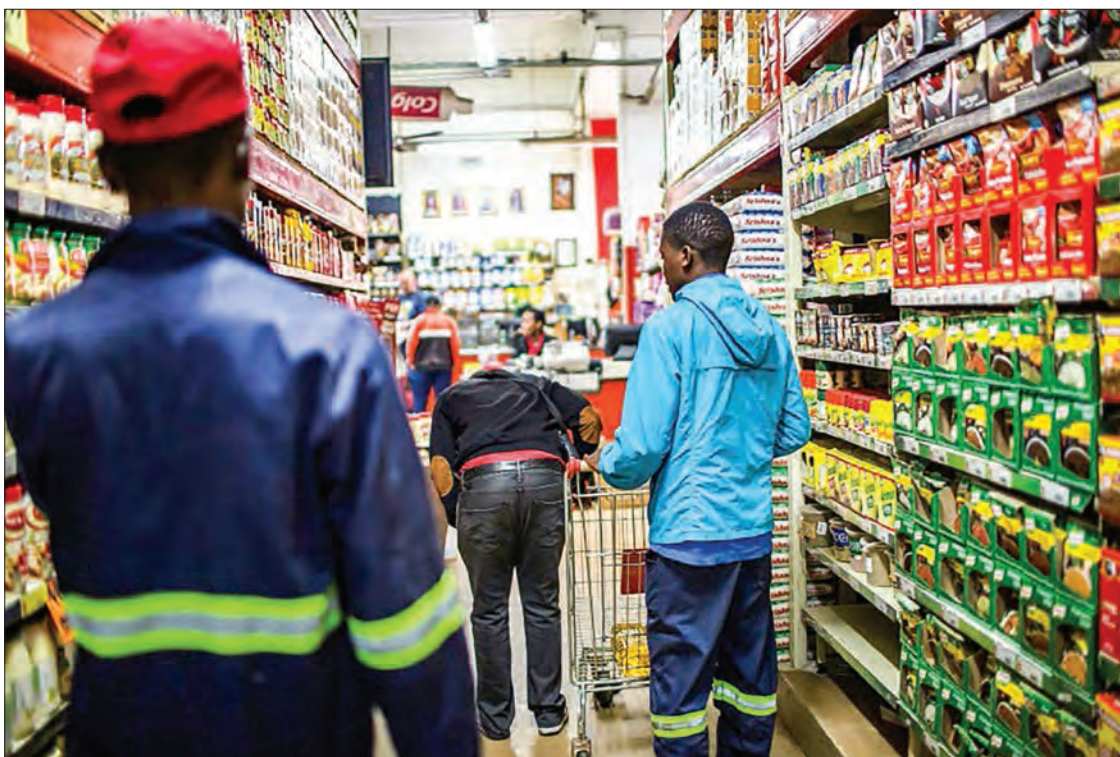
There have been warnings of the mental and physical toll the rampant price increases will have on Zimbabweans after the cost of a loaf of bread rose from \$1.80 to \$3.50, and a tub of butter shot up to \$17 from \$8.50.

Mnangagwa pledged to revive his country's moribund economy when Mugabe was toppled in 2017 after 37 years in power.

But after the central bank unveiled a new monetary policy in February, introducing a new local currency, prices of goods and services have skyrocketed at rates unseen in a decade.

The disparity between the official and parallel market exchange rates has been rapidly widening, triggering price hikes of up to 300 percent.

The chief of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, Japhet Moyo, recalls meeting a man who saw the price of medicine for his chronic illness rise so much in two months that it now costs



Rampant price increases will have a mental and physical toll on Zimbabweans, experts have warned. **PHOTO: AFP**

almost his entire salary.

In February, the man bought a month's supply of the drugs for \$95. This month he forked out \$300. His monthly salary is \$320.

"I asked him how he managed to meet the rest of his monthly expenses and he broke down weeping," Moyo told AFP.

Moyo is angry at the government for "putting on a brave face and giving the impression that

the economy is on a rebound but on the ground things are going in the opposite direction".

'Back to 2008'

The crisis has brought back memories of a decade ago when hyperinflation peaked at a grotesque 500 billion percent, wiping out the Zimbabwean dollar.

"We are back to 2008," said Tonderai Chitsvari, a resident in

the Kuwadzana township of the capital Harare. "It's a miracle how people are surviving".

A shortage of raw materials has caused huge difficulties for the country's manufacturing sector. "Last year, we spent US\$2.3 billion importing things like fruits and vegetables, soya beans, wheat... toothpaste and pharmaceuticals," said Harare economist Gift Mugano. —AFP ■

In shadow of burned Notre-Dame, Paris Catholics pray for Easter renewal

PARIS (France) — French Catholics on Sunday celebrated Easter mass in Paris in the shadow of the badly burned Notre-Dame Cathedral, praying that the landmark monument — and along with it the entire Catholic Church — can be renewed.

The fire at Notre-Dame six days earlier destroyed the cathedral's spire and two-thirds of its roof. The damaged building is now to be closed for years to visits and worship.

Deprived of access to Notre-Dame, regular worshippers instead lined up patiently to celebrate Easter Sunday mass a short walk away, on the Right Bank of the Seine at Saint-Eustache church.

Throughout, the service was pervaded by the spirit and hope of a fresh start, infused by the Easter celebrations commemorating the resurrection of Christ according to the Bible. — AFP ■

Haftar forces press offensive on Libyan capital

TRIPOLI (Libya)—Forces backing Libya's unity government battled to push back an offensive by strongman Khalifa Haftar on Sunday as his troops approached the gates of Tripoli after air raids overnight. Haftar's self-proclaimed Libyan National Army, galvanised by victories in its eastern stronghold and in the country's desert south, announced an offensive early this month to seize the capital from the UN-recognised administration of Fayeze al-Sarraj.

But his forces have faced fierce resistance from armed groups backing the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), including powerful factions from the western city of Misrata. The bloodshed has derailed efforts to bring peace to a country where jihadists and people smugglers have exploited the chaos unleashed by the NATO-backed overthrow of dictator Moamer Kadafi in 2011. At least 227 people have been killed since Haftar's forces launched their offensive, the World Health Organization said Sunday, adding that a further 1,128 have been wounded.

Clashes intensified on Saturday when forces loyal to the GNA



Fighters loyal to Libya's Government of National Accord have launched a counter-attack to defend Tripoli. **PHOTO: AFP**

announced a counter-attack.

"We have launched a new phase of attack. Orders were given early this morning to advance and gain ground," said Mustafa al-Mejji, a spokesman for GNA forces. Sustained rocket and shell-fire could be heard in several districts of Tripoli on Saturday, after several days of less intense fighting and stalemate on the ground. Explosions were heard

from the city centre overnight, and some witnesses reported air strikes. Pope Francis, delivering his traditional Easter message, called for an end to "conflict and bloodshed" that was killing "defenceless people" in Libya.

"I urge the parties involved to choose dialogue over force and to avoid reopening wounds left by a decade of conflicts and political instability," he said. Tripoli air

traffic was suspended overnight to Sunday for "security reasons", the city's only operating airport said Sunday. At least two flights were re-routed from Mitiga airport to Misrata, more than 200 kilometres (125 miles) to the east, the airport's authorities said on their Facebook page. They said flights had resumed early in the morning to Mitiga, east of the capital. — AFP ■

Afghan women go online to set #myredline for peace

KABUL (Afghanistan)—Kobra Samim, who rides for Afghanistan's national cycling team, wrote on Facebook that women's participation in sport is her "red line" as the US tries to forge a peace deal with the Taliban. Former politician Farkhunda Zahra Naderi tweeted that the protection of female leadership roles should be non-negotiable. And activist Samira Hamidi is demanding that women be included in the peace talks.

Across Afghanistan, women have taken to social media to join a campaign dubbed #MyRedLine that aims to pressure the government, the Taliban and the United States into ensuring women's hard-won advancements are not tossed aside in a rush for a peace accord. "If the Taliban come back, we won't have the right to education, sports, and we will even be banned from coming out of houses," Samim, 23, told AFP as she adjusted the saddle on her mountain bike before setting off along a run-down Kabul street.

"We want peace, but also we want to continue our sports and cycling," Farahnaz Forotan, a journalist and activist who started the #MyRedLine campaign with support from UN Women Afghanistan, said her own red line was "my pen and my freedom of expression".

"If peace doesn't bring social justice to all victims of war in every corner of the country, then it won't be a stable peace," Forotan told AFP. She said the #MyRedLine hashtag had been shared or retweeted thousands of times since the social media campaign was launched last month, with even President Ashraf Ghani tweeting that women's rights were the government's "red line" in the peace process. The campaign is also being shared on Facebook, in English, Pashto and Dari.

'More vulnerable than anyone'

Before being toppled by the US invasion of 2001, the Taliban governed Afghanistan for nearly five years with a strict interpretation of sharia law. Women were confined to their homes, forced to wear burqas and forbidden from going to school. Some were publicly stoned to death on flimsy allegations of adultery. — AFP ■

Sudan protest leaders to unveil civilian ruling body

KHARTOUM (Sudan)—Sudanese protest leaders were preparing Sunday to unveil a civilian council that they want to take power from military rulers, who have resisted calls to step down despite mass demonstrations.

Thousands of protesters gathered outside the army headquarters in central Khartoum ahead of the announcement, an AFP correspondent reported, a day after the two sides pledged to hold more talks.

On Friday the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which was at the forefront of the protest campaign that toppled longtime president Omar al-Bashir this month, said it would announce the civilian council at 1700 GMT. It has invited foreign diplomats and journalists to attend the event at the rally site. "We are waiting for the announcement today," Romaysaa Omar, one of the protesters at the sit-in area, told AFP. "All Sudanese people are in favour of the council to be announced by the SPA."

Whistling and waving Sudanese flags, dozens of demonstra-

tors were sitting on a bridge at the site, rhythmically banging stones against metal. "We will stay at the site until all our demands are met," said Al-Baraa Yousef, another demonstrator.

On Saturday, protest leaders and the military rulers held talks about a power handover and agreed to continue discussions.

"We clarified our main demand, which is the transfer of power to civilian authorities," Siddiq Yousef, a senior member of the Alliance for Freedom and Change, the umbrella group leading the protest movement, told state television after Saturday's talks. "We agreed to continue negotiations to reach a solution that satisfies both the sides, so that the transfer of power will happen in a peaceful way."

'Want a timetable'

On Saturday Ahmed al-Rabia, a senior member of SPA, said it was possible that the unveiling of the council could be delayed. "If (the military council) are willing to negotiate, then there is a chance that tomorrow's announcement



Sudanese protesters have vowed to camp outside the army headquarters until military rule ends. **PHOTO: AFP**

could be postponed," he said.

But on Sunday he confirmed that it would go ahead as planned.

"There will be a press conference today at the said time at the protest site," he told AFP, without offering details. Since Bashir was ousted on April 11 by the army in response to months of mass street protests, the military rulers have resisted calls to transfer power to a civilian body. "What we want from them is a timetable to hand over power, so things don't drag on," said Rabia. He said mounting pressure from

the street and from the international community was expected to make the military council cede power in "two to three weeks".

"We are done with the easy part. We want to remove the entire regime," said Rabia.

Protest leaders say the civilian council would form a transitional government to rule Sudan for a four-year term, followed by elections.

"All we hope for is to be ruled by civilians and get rid of the military rule," said protester Ehsan Abdallah. — AFP ■

Yangon University, our historical heritage

NO ONE would disagree that Yangon University has played a key role in our colonial history, the independence era, the period of democratic uprising, and our modern history.

Most of the great thinkers, inspiring leaders, and political figures of Myanmar have passed through the halls of Yangon University since its establishment in 1920. So much so, that people began to revere the institution and likened its role to that of a nurturing mother.

The university's alumni include national leader U Aung San, Myanmar's first post-independence Prime Minister U Nu, and other historical leaders such as Ko Hla Pe (Bo Lin Kyar), Thakin Thein Pe, Authoritarian Hla Shwe, Thakin Ba Hein, Bo Aung Kyaw, U Ba Swe, and U Kyaw Nyein.

People recognized as the 'faces of Myanmar' such as Sayargyi U Pe Maung Tin, Sayargyi U Khin Zaw (Kay), Sayar Zaw Gyi, Sayar Min Thu Wun, and Sayar U Myo Min also made the university their home. Other notable alumni of the varsity include U Tin Htut, Dr. Htin Aung, modern historian Dr. Than Tun, Theikpan Maung Wa, Maung Htin, Ludu Daw Amar, Moe Moe Inya, and countless literary figures.

The infrastructure and campus of Yangon University is also a historical and cultural heritage. Who can forget its iconic Convocation Hall, the main Adipati Road, or the library? Not to mention the on-campus residences, such as the Bago Hall, Thiri Hall, Marlar Hall, Inya Hall, Amara Hall, Mandalay Hall, and Dagon Hall, which have housed many of the country's national figures and people of note.

The Ta Ka Ta, or the Yangon University Students' Union, also took shape in this historic institution, and went on to lead nationwide protests such as the anti-colonial movement, the revolt against authoritarians, strikes in 1974, '75, '76 for U Thant, and the 8888 uprising.

The university is filled with numerous milestones and memories, and the fact that it still stands in all its grandeur indicates its contribution to our nation's integrity, and its place as a significant cultural heritage.

The campus is filled with lush trees that provide ample shade and greenery. Students and teachers will always remember the beautiful fruit-bearing plants and ancient trees that dot the grounds of the university.

Having seen Myanmar's first student rebellion against the unfair university law, Yangon University will be celebrating its centenary next year.

We must preserve our history to establish a strong future. As we welcome the upcoming hundredth anniversary of this prestigious establishment, we would like to urge everyone to consider what needs to be preserved and what must be given higher priority for sustainability.

MOLIP: Enforcing labor laws, implementing in area of immigration, collecting data of population in line with the National Policy

"We have standards assessment centers under the National Skill Standards Authority to certify individual workers' ability and expertise. In accord with the assessment program to date, 3622 level-1 skilled workers and 472 level-2 skilled workers were granted certifications."

Union Minister U Thein Swe

Interview: Khin Yandana

MINISTRY of Labour, Immigration and Population (MOLIP) is responsible for development of the nation by tripartite cooperation of Government, employer and employee in conformity with the labor laws and implementing in the area of immigration, registration and collecting data of population in line with the National Policy systematically.

The news team met with the Union Minister U Thein Swe for media cover on the Ministry's progress in the 3rd year.

Q: Can you tell us about some of your achievements during your third year in office?

A: Rights and welfare of workers concern the whole nation. From 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019, there were 9054 posts open in the government offices with 216,391 jobs in the private sector.

There are a total of 269 agencies that help employ people from Myanmar abroad legally. Last year, Myanmar sent up to 228,162 workers abroad. We also helped establish 251 new worker unions, 10 job fairs in 3 regions and states and helped fill 2210 posts.

Q: What are some initiatives to protect Myanmar workers employed abroad?

A: The Ministry is issuing Certificate of Identity to workers currently in Thailand with



Union Minister U Thein Swe. PHOTO: MAY OO MOE

no proper documentation. There were 9 centers and two mobile teams that issued these certificates with 66,412 certificates issued from 11 March 2018 to 30 June 2018 and a total 263,135 OWIC cards issued from 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019.

For workers who hold the TR-38 card, the Myanmar embassy is now allowing Myanmar passport holders to renew their passports with proper documentation. Myanmar has also signed respective MoUs with the Republic of Korea and Japan to allow workers from Myanmar to have access to employment and training centers there.

Q: What are some policies to protect migrant worker safety?

A: Safety of workers is very important. We are trying to train our Labor Exchange officers, General Administration Officers

(GAD) and Ward and village administrators to be able to provide accurate and relevant information on safe migration to potential migrants and their families. Hopefully, this will help them make more informed choices and avoid human traffickers and other illicit agencies.

Q: What are some programs by the ministry to train skilled workers?

A: We have standards assessment centers under the National Skill Standards Authority to certify individual workers' ability and expertise. In accord with the assessment program to date, 3622 level-1 skilled workers and 472 level-2 skilled workers were granted certifications.

Q: Can you explain more about the national minimum wage initiative and documenting the workforce?

A: Currently, the minimum wage is 600 kyats per hour and 4800 kyats per day. The law doesn't apply to family owned businesses and small businesses under 10 employees. For factories, the minimum wages for workers have been enforced since 2013. We started our data collection for people who were employed in 2015 and will continue to survey in 2019. The survey goes bi-annually and collects up till 14040 households every 6 months.

Q: What about the laws and regulations?



Union Minister U Thein Swe explains the diplomats and officials from UN agencies about the efforts of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

A: There are 14 laws concerning labor laws. We are planning to draft for foreign workers labor bill in Myanmar along with bills on safety and regulations in workplaces. The laws are being discussed in the ministry after getting suggestions from the Office of the Attorney General. The Workplace Safety and Health Bill was ratified by the Second Pyithu Hluttaw 11th regular meeting.

Q: Can you elaborate on the Social Security system in Myanmar?

A: Within the 3rd year of the current administration, there were over 1,239,229 people who were reimbursed medical costs from 32,119 offices. Over 391 million Kyats covered medical costs for 8359 cases and 10,709 million Kyats more paid for 221,859 cases as damages. The ministry is trying to reform our IT system to make things more streamlined and efficient in addition to the medical reform to create a provider-purchaser split system for healthcare. There is also a 2018-2023 project roadmap to eradicate child labor and we are currently drawing up a step-by-step plan to achieve the objectives in the roadmap. There is currently a draft regarding child labor in over

20 industries and 108 sub categories and is expected to come out in early 2019. The National Committee for Eradication of Child Labor is headed by our Vice President.

Q: How about dispute resolution between workers and employers?

A: During our 3rd year in administration, 332 million Kyats and 16,047 USD were awarded to 1219 employees from 68 disputes that were judged by the Council. From the township dispute resolution offices, there were 1173 settlements out of 1275 disputes and 102 transferred to the state level. A total of 1400 million Kyats and 300 USD were awarded to 3756 employees.

Q: There is relaxation on visa restrictions. Can you tell us more about it?

A: There are 12 types of visas for foreigners entering Myanmar. The ministry added two additional types of visa for family and guests of diplomats and added two more countries (Ukraine, Russia) to 53 countries eligible for Visa on Arrival. The VOA is available in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw international airports for different types of visa. Since the implementation of visa on arrival,

Myanmar has received over US\$19 million from 398,213 world travelers. E-visas are available for tourists from 100 countries and 55 countries for business visas from 3 international airports and Myanmar-Thai and Myanmar-India international checkpoints. Express e-tourist visas are available as well within 24 hours. Myanmar has received over US\$ 42 million from over 1.1 million visitors.

There are visa-free agreements with ASEAN countries and 23 other countries for diplomat passports. For normal passports, Myanmar citizens can travel to

ASEAN countries visa free except for Malaysia. Starting October 2018, Myanmar passport holders can visit up Hong Kong and Macau visa-free.

MAPPS (Myanmar Advanced Passenger Processing System) was installed in Yangon International Airport that lets us see Black Listed passengers starting March 2018. Repatriation efforts are also in order with 68 applications for Myanmar citizens approved out of 117 applicants who are reapplying for citizenship after losing it. Foreigner Registration Cards are also being issued with 480 approved out of 590 applicants. We are trying to update our Border Control System (BCS) into international standards at the airports and border gates.

Q: How about reception efforts for people who had to flee due to conflict?

A: There are reception centers for people who are coming back to Myanmar by land or sea. UNDP, UNHCR and our own Ministry is working together as promised in the MoU signed 6th June 2018. The Technical Working Groups have been founded to check whether people coming back have lived in Rakhine or not and are reporting back to the State Counselor's Office.

We are also issuing NV cards. NV card means the Identity Cards for National Verification for a person who is to undergo for scrutiny assessment for citizenship.

There were 67699 NV cards

issued so the people will be able to have an identification card that proves they are Myanmar citizens. For example, from the 89 IDP camps in Kachin, we helped 29351 people apply for new NRC cards due to lost/damage to the cards. The people in Rakhine IDP camps were also given a type of identification.

With the help of NeID system, we were able to collect and account for 2,374,787 people. The ministry is also trying to collect bio data and biometric data starting with the prisons and people in custody of the police from different states and regions.

Regarding the 1 million migrant workers from Myanmar that are currently in Thailand, we were able to scrutinize and confirm for 35780 people out of 39509 applicants. There are committees being formed and consultants hired for an e-government to go online so the ministry will be able to utilize e-ID.

Q: What about the National Census?

A: We publish population data on our website and Facebook. There are forward projections on population here in Myanmar up till 2031. The Ministry also distributes the Micro Data Set on request and maintains the Master Sample Frame from 2014 census. To capture a more accurate population snapshot in 2023, we are planning to have a national census in November.

Translated by Myat Thu



The Immigration Department of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is providing 24-hour service at the airports.

Ministry of Industry: Working in line with the State economic policy with emphasis on research and innovation for quality production

By Thura Zaw
PHOTO: AYE THAN

THE Ministry of Industry was reorganized on 1 April 2015 by adopting with 4 state policies on industrial sector development; with 2 missions; with 6 work programs in the functioning of the Ministry; two departments, and four industrial establishments.

Development of Industrial Sector

The Ministry undertakes a wide ranging responsibilities in the operation such as that of drafting industrial policies in line



Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho.



Antivenom (Freeze-Dried).



Tramadol Capsule.



Bandage and Gauze

with the State economy; that of drafting industrial strategic development and industrial zone; the policy on economic development of SMEs; that of all the implementation in accordance with law and by laws; that of the policy in saving power and energy along with guidelines (or) drafting framework of law; that of providing training courses in producing industrial workers as human resources development.

Other tasks are also undertaken such as that of enforcing in line with the hazardous chemical related laws; that of drafting laws with regards to motor vehicle

production development in line with the motor vehicle policy; that of working in connection with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan.

During the third year of incumbent government, the Ministry of Industry is working in line with the State economic policy with emphasis on research and innovation for quality production; it also included that of expansion of production as required in the market; that of sales promotion; that of the transformation into (PPP); that of the development in SMEs; that of the systematic

training of skillful workers; that of opening mobile vocational training schools in states and regions; that of the formation of the mechanical inspection teams for the agricultural machinery and vehicles for the safety and satisfaction of the people; that of environmental conservation and the production of renewable energy.

Research and innovation

The Ministry of Industry is also working major tasks such as that of quality control and distribution of essential drugs in the country; that of the good storage practice (GSP); that of functioning Automated Warehouse Good Manufacturing Process (GMP).

Expansion of production

Pharmaceutical Industry (Insein) is producing snake bite anti-venom that could be stored in villages with no electricity for 5 years duration through freeze dried form with the technology from Australia. It has resulted with the saving of lives in the rural areas.

The Ministry of Industry is now producing over 10 per cent of the country's need in drugs with the value of MMK 49 billion. In the past, it produced only 5

per cent.

The need of "saline" in the country is 75 million each year and that the Ministry could produce only 5 million in the past and now it could produce 15 million.

Moreover, the Ministry of Industry is producing the hospital use medical furniture; the steel utensils for operation theaters; and the medical grade hospital use ambulance vehicles.

Motor Vehicle Section

The Ministry has formed "Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance, Myanmar - CAAM" for quality control on ambulance cars. One unit of ambulance simulator has been assembled and transferred to the Ministry of Health and Sports on 12 December 2018.

The Ministry has opened 4 mobile marts of industrial produce and roaming in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and other major cities.

Two units of mobile vocational vehicle are moving across the country and that three more units of mobile vocational vehicle are on the agenda to roll out for more vocational trainings.

The Modulo Brand Electric Buses are to be produced in col-

laboration with Hungary's CSE-PLC Holding Ltd. with European Technology in cooperation with Green Power Myanmar at No 14 Heavy Factory at Thargaya.

Fabric Section

National Export Strategy-NES has already been drawn and under implementation and that a supply chain is necessary, and therefore further long term plan is to be stretched out with the assistance and help of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The production agenda included such as that of the gypsum and the POP bandage in the future.

Renewable Energy

For the renewable energy project, the MoI was signed with EAM of Norway for ground mounted solar farm (28.6 MW) in the industrial zone of (Thaton), and that a pilot project (6 KW) has been started with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The Ministry has engaged in the tasks such as that of the drafting of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Law (Draft) to be completed by 2020; that of drafting Energy Conservation Guideline and Handbook; that of standardizing Electrical Appliances, Minimum Energy Performance Standard, and conducting Energy Manager Training Course; that of Factory Assessment tasks; that of testing Micro Cross Flow Turbine and construction of Solar Farm.



Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho inspects production of intravenous fluid.

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Other inventions and tasks

The tasks of the Ministry of Industry include that of producing pure gold plates for Shwedagon Pagoda; that of variety of steel utensils; that of the distribution of agricultural implements; that of providing after sales services; that of the sales and distribution of BPI medicinal products across the country.

Cooperation

In line with the government policy, the local and foreign investors are invited to invest in private industrial sector development, and 57 factories out of 112 factories are working with private sector.

Working with international organizations

The Ministry of Industry is planning to work with KATRI Company of ROK and also with Tsuyatomo Company of Japan. The JICA is providing techniques on dyeing of colors, method of finishing touches and management plan courses.

Development of SMEs

The Ministry of Industry has the responsibility to oversee SMEs development, and therefore, SMEs development policy was adopted in December 2015 and the law was enacted in April 2015; and the by-law was enacted in October 2016.

Central Committee and Work Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises have been formed with the persons for further development of small and medium enterprises, pivotal for national economy development and promotion of social-economic status of the people.



Human Resources development

The Ministry of Industry conducted and dispatched local and foreign training courses, workshops, seminars, and trainings and five S classes (5S stands for sort, set in order, shine, standardize and sustain) as human resources development.

For the workers at the rural areas, Mobile Vocational Training Unit has been arranged for short term training. Three vehicles on Mobile Vocational Training Truck (Automobile) ; (Electrical) and (Welding) are on the move.

During the third year of incumbent government, the mobile training has been offered for 25 times to 1242 students. The Japanese language course has been offered for one year and 198 students successfully passed the course and that 40 trainees are being sent to Japan.

On 30 January 2019, the No 1 Industrial Training Center (Sinde) has been awarded with



Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho and dignitaries formally open the Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung).

Quality Management System vide ISO 9001:2015 Certificate. The plan to open two training schools in Thaton and Monywa is in the process with the assistance of the Indian government. The No 2 Industrial School (Mandalay) is in the process of upgrading with the assistance

of China.

Work in progress

Total of 776 agricultural use vehicles and 852 normal vehicles have been issued with Certificate of Approval (CoA) in the third year term.

Hazardous Chemical Prevention

Prevention of Hazard from Chemical and Related Substances Law; (2013, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No, 28); (26th August 2013); The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this Law; and subsequently the Prevention of Hazard from Chemical and Related Substances Rules (Myanmar and English Version)) was enacted on 12 January 2016.

Then the central prevention committee; the central supervisory committee; and state and regional committees are being formed.

Licenses are issued to companies that applied.

Socio-Economic Development

With a plan to equip and install a large paddy grain silo with the capacity of 350 tons in Maungtau Township of Rakhine State, No 15 Heavy Industry Factory and No 26 Heavy Industry Factory in Thargaya Industrial Zone have assembled a silo and started the ignition on 19 February 2019, and then 20 bags of paddy were stored with the use of elevator. In the same day, retrieval of paddy from the silo was demonstrated.

Challenges

With the changing world of technological development, the Ministry of Industry needs to catch up with the new techniques in production sectors,

and therefore, relevant capacity building courses should be exposed to them with all possible ways and means.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Industry has determined to work on the tasks such as that of research and development for the sustainable development of industrial sector including human resources development and reducing the environmental negative impact; that of the effective use of land space, the building and premises and the machineries; that of making public private partnership (PPP) with local and foreign business people who could afford technical knowhow and investment.

With these aims and objectives, the Ministry of Industry would step ahead in line with the state policy and guidelines and work with transparency for the interest of the state and the people.

Translated by UMT (Ahlone)



A new model AM3-S Ambulance to be manufactured by Ministry of Industry.

Easter blasts at Sri Lanka hotels and churches kill at least 207



Sri Lankan security personnel walk next to dead bodies on the floor amid blast debris at St. Anthony's Shrine following an explosion in the church in Kochchikade in Colombo on 21 April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)—A series of eight devastating bomb blasts ripped through high-end hotels and churches holding Easter services in Sri Lanka on Sunday, killing at least 207 people, including dozens of foreigners.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe condemned the attacks — the worst act of violence since the end of Sri Lanka's civil war a decade ago — as “cowardly”, as the government imposed an immediate and indefinite curfew across the entire country of 21 million people.

The powerful blasts—six in quick succession and then two more hours later—left hundreds injured and wrought devastation, including at the capital's well-known St Anthony's Shrine, a historic Catholic Church. At least two of the explosions were carried out by suicide bombers, according to police sources and a hotel official.

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekera said the death toll had risen to at least 207, with over 450 people wounded and that three people had been arrested.

Ravinatha Aryasinha, secretary to the foreign ministry, told reporters there were 27 bodies of suspected foreign nationals in the Colombo National Hospital.

A police official said earlier that 35 foreigners were among the dead and hospital sources said British, Dutch and American citizens had been killed, with Britons and Japanese also injured. A Portuguese man and two Chinese citizens were among the dead, news agencies in their countries reported.

'Horrible scenes'

An AFP photographer at the scene at St Anthony's saw bodies lying on the floor, some draped with scarves and clothes.

Much of the church roof was blown out in the explosion, with roof tiles, glass and splintered wood littering the floor along with pools of blood. N. A. Sumanapala was at his shop near the church when the blast happened. “I ran inside to help. The priest came out and he was covered in blood,” he told AFP. “It was a river of blood.” The blasts gutted restaurants at the Shangri-La and Cinnamon Grand hotel, and devastated the St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo, north of the capital.

Gabriel, who declined to give his family name, told AFP his brother was at mass at the church when the explosion ripped through it. “A piece of roof fell on his head, and he was bleeding heavily from his ear,” he said.

“We are all in shock. We don't want the country to go back to that dark past where we had to live in fear of suicide blasts all the time.” Sri Lanka's Minister of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution, Harsha de Silva, said he had been to two of the attacked hotels and was at the scene at St Anthony's, where he described “horrible scenes”. “I saw many body parts strewn all over,” he tweeted, adding that there were “many casualties including foreigners”.

Police chief warning

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the

blasts, but documents seen by AFP show that Sri Lanka's police chief Pujuth Jayasundara issued an intelligence alert to top officers 10 days ago, warning that suicide bombers planned to hit “prominent churches”. “A foreign intelligence agency has reported that the NTJ (National Thowheeth Jama'ath) is planning to carry out suicide attacks targeting prominent churches as well as the Indian high commission in Colombo,” the alert said. The NTJ is a radical Muslim group in Sri Lanka that was linked last year to the vandalism of Buddhist statues.

The government ordered an immediate nationwide curfew “until further notice”, and a “temporary” social media ban “in order to prevent incorrect and wrong information being spread”. The first blast was reported at St Anthony's, followed by a second deadly explosion at St Sebastian's in Negombo.

Soon after, police confirmed that a third church in the east-coast town of Batticaloa had been hit, along with three high-end hotels in the capital—the Cinnamon Grand, the Shangri-La and the Kingsbury. A manager at the Cinnamon Grand, near the prime minister's official residence in Colombo, said a suicide bomber blew himself up at the hotel's restaurant. “He came up to the top of the queue and set off the blast,” he told AFP. Later in the afternoon, two died in a strike at a hotel in the south of Colombo, while a police source said a suicide bomber killed three officers in the suburb of Orugodawatta in the north of the capital. —AFP ■

Japan PM Abe sends offering to Yasukuni war shrine

TOKYO (Japan)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday sent a ritual offering to the controversial Yasukuni war shrine, seen by Asian neighbours as a symbol of Japan's militarist past. The Tokyo shrine honours 2.5 million war dead but also top World War II criminals and has frequently been a source of sour relations with countries that suffered from Japan's military atrocities. The conservative premier sent a sacred “masakaki” tree at the start of an annual spring festival.

“The prime minister, the speakers of the upper and lower houses, and the welfare minis-

ter” made offerings, said a shrine spokeswoman.

Abe last visited the shrine in December 2013 to mark his first year in power, sparking fury in Beijing and Seoul and earning a diplomatic rebuke from close ally the United States.

He has since stayed away however as the leaders of both China and Japan attempt to maintain their improving but delicate relations. Abe, the host of this year's G20 summit, wants Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Japan for the first time as a national leader. China gave only muted reactions to Abe's past offerings of masakaki. —AFP ■

India suspends Kashmir border trade with Pakistan



The cross-border trade began in 2008 as a way to improve strained relations between New Delhi and Islamabad. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW DELHI (India)—India has suspended trade across its disputed Kashmir border with Pakistan, alleging that weapons and drugs are being smuggled across the route, as tensions simmer between the nuclear-armed neighbours. Kashmir has been on edge since a February suicide attack that killed 40 Indian paramilitaries and brought the two countries to the brink of war with cross-border air strikes.

On Thursday, India's government, which is in the middle of a tough national election, said it had reports that trade on the border was being “misused by Pakistan-based elements for funnelling illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency”. It also said many of those trading across the Line of Control, which divides Kashmir into zones under Indian and Pakistani control, had links to militant organisations. The home ministry said trade would be suspended until a stricter inspection mechanism is in place. The cross-border trade is based on a barter system, with traders exchanging goods including chillies, cumin, mango and dried fruit. It began in 2008 as a way to improve strained relations between New Delhi and Islamabad, who have fought two of their three wars over the disputed region. The Indian Express newspaper said Friday that 35 trucks carrying fruit travelling from the Indian side of the border had been stopped after the government order.

Trade on the border has been suspended before, including in 2015, when India accused a Pakistani driver of drug trafficking.

The latest move comes after India withdrew “Most Favoured Nation Status”—covering trade links—from Pakistan after the February attack, which was claimed by the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed Islamist group. Islamabad has denied any involvement in the attack. India's Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made national security a key plank of his re-election campaign, pointing to the recent flare-up of violence as he battles the centre-left opposition Congress party. —AFP ■

Russian scientists plan two Arctic expeditions before 2020

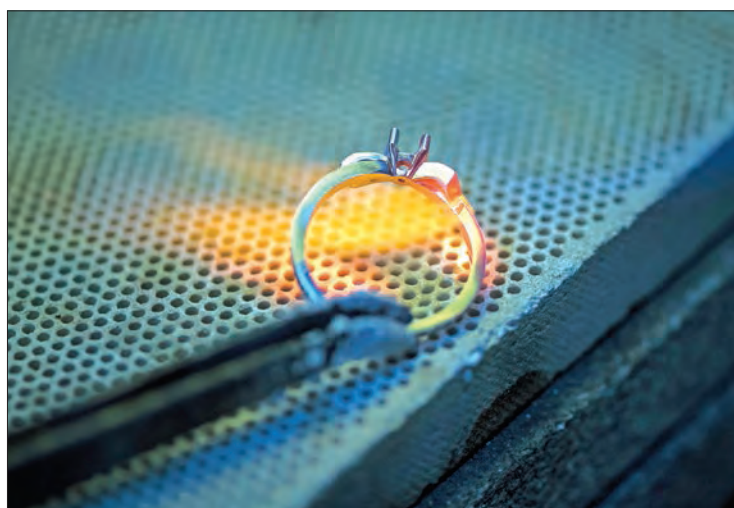
MOSCOW—Russian scientists plan to make two expeditions to the Arctic region aboard the vessels operated by the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) this year. The research will focus on the impact of various processes underway in the Arctic on the climate, RAS President Alexander Sergeev told TASS. According to Sergeev, methane emissions, which are related to climate change and the degradation of permafrost, have been recorded in the Arctic recently. “All that has resulted in a situation where methane’s role in present-day global warming can be substantial,” he said. “A program providing for a series of Arctic expeditions has been approved. For example, two expeditions aboard the Russian Academy of Sciences’ vessels are planned this year from the eastern and western sides to study the Arctic. The paramount issues that we are determined to study are how these processes, which are beginning to develop in the Arctic, affect the climate,” Sergeev said.—Tass ■

The ethical gold rush: Gilded age for guilt-free jewellery

PARIS (France)—Forget how many carats—how ethical is your gold? As high-end consumers demand to know the origin of their treasures, some jewellers are ensuring they use responsibly sourced, eco-friendly or recycled gold. Specialised producers now tack a “fairmined” ecologically friendly label on their output, and the Swiss house Chopard last year became the first big name to commit to “100 percent ethical” creations.

The Geneva-based firm, which makes the Palme d’Or trophy for the Cannes Film Festival, says it now uses only verified suppliers of gold that meet strict standards to minimise negative environmental impacts of mining the precious metal. Among the many certificates and standards claiming to codify “responsible” gold mining, two labels stand out.

They are “fairmined” gold—a label certified by a Colombian NGO—and the more widely known “fairtrade” label launched by Swiss foundation Max Havelaar. Both support artisanal



A jeweller works on a ring in an ethical gold jewellery workshop in Paris on 18 February 2019. PHOTO: AFP

mines that seek to preserve the environment in terms of extraction methods, along with decent working conditions and wages for the miners.

Such production remains limited—just a few hundred kilograms annually. Global gold output by comparison totals around 3,300 tonnes.

Good as recycled gold

Concerned jewellers are keen to ensure they can trace

the source of their entire supply to an ethical production cycle and to firms certified by the not-for-profit Responsible Jewellery Council, which has developed norms for the entire supply chain.

RJC members must adhere to tough standards governing ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices across the precious metals industry.

The French luxury group Kering, which says it has bought

more than 3.5 tonnes of “responsibly produced” gold since 2015 for its Boucheron, Pomellato, Dodo and Gucci brands, has committed to 100 percent use of “ethical” gold by 2020.

“We are trying to maximise the proportion of Fairmined and Fairtrade gold—but their modest production is in great demand so the bulk of our sourcing remains recycled gold, (which is) certified ‘RJC Chain of Custody,’” says Claire Piroddi, sustainability manager for Kering’s jewellery and watches.

Fairmined or Fairtrade gold is “about 10 to 12 percent more expensive. But recycled gold barely generates any additional cost premium,” Piroddi told AFP, since it was already refined for a previous life in the form of jewellery or part of a high-tech product.

Going a step further, using only precious metal from electronic or industrial waste is an original idea developed by Courbet, a brand launched just last spring.—AFP ■

Zambia’s nuclear energy program on course: official

LUSAKA—Zambia’s program of ensuring that it starts using nuclear energy in advancing the country’s economic development is on track, an official said on Friday.

Reuben Katebe, National Coordinator of the Nuclear Energy Program Implementing Organization, said the nuclear energy program was advancing well and that it would be implemented in two phases, with the first being the construction of a Center

for Nuclear Science and Technology while the second phase will involve the construction of a nuclear power plant.

He said in a statement that the construction of the Center for Nuclear Science and Technology will be done within three to six years, adding that the center would have a research reactor for production of medical isotopes used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancers, a gamma irradiator for food

preservation and medical product sterilization.

According to him, the second phase will see the construction of a nuclear power plant which will have the capacity to produce about 2,400 megawatts of electricity, which will provide an opportunity for the country to be energy secure and be able to export electricity to other countries in the region.

Meanwhile, the official, who was among the Zambia delegation that

attended the Atom Expo in Russia, said the forum provided an opportunity for the delegation to make business contacts and raise awareness about Zambia’s nuclear program among nuclear energy players.

He further said the expo, which was organized by the Russian State Nuclear Corporation, helped the Zambia delegation in strengthening relations with global nuclear players.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V AN CHANG

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AN CHANG VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT
SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1118 W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1118 W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (915S/917N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (915S/917N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-04-2019 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 MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (914S-916N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (914S-916N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-04-2019 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

Palin Kanthayar elephant camp sandbank recreation site attracting the attention of holidaymakers earns a fortune

By Ko Htein (Nga Thayauk)

MYANMA Timber Enterprise is conserving elephants in a systematic manner when the Ministry of Forestry is promoting ecotourism together with the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism. The elephant is not only of great cultural and historical significance in Myanmar but is also of major economic importance in the country's timber industry.

Elephant camps are being opened with the aims of cooperating in conversation of elephants, providing job and economic opportunities for nearby people by relying on elephant-based ecotourism, distributing knowledge about elephants, ensuring people to adore and value elephants and becoming recreation center for the travellers from home and abroad. There are a total of 20 elephant camps in Myanmar.

Of them, Palin Kanthayar elephant camp was commissioned into service on 28 March in 2018 with the purpose of implementing elephant-based ecotourism. It is located on the bank of Ayeyawady River, about five miles distant from Nyaung-U on Nyaung-U-Myingyan-Pakokku motor road. There are a total of eight elephants—four are males and another four are females—in the elephant camp. The names of the four male elephants are Zwe Kyaw Lay, Si Tun Maw, Aung Tin Zaw, and Si Tun Bo and those of the four females are Thin Maw, Khin Shu Hmway, Nan Myint Maw and Thwe Shwe Khin.

Elephant ride price for a local people is fixed at Ks 5,000 and a foreigner at Ks 10,000. The elephant ride is five furlongs long and it takes 20 minutes. Animal keepers have to bathe elephants in the mornings and in the evenings. Palin Kanthayar is the top earner with most local and foreign visitors among 20 elephant camps.

There are about 100 arrivals every day and more visitors come in the holidays. Sugarcanes, watermelons and maize are the foods of the elephants. There are also elephant food shops. The visitors must pay Ks 1,000 for one tray of elephant food such as sugarcanes, watermelons and maize.

There were 67,856 local



and foreign arrivals when the opening of Palin Kanthayar elephant camp was due on 28 March in 2019. The Palin Kanthayar elephant camp received Ks 76,689,000 from camp entrance fee collection and Ks 37,867,000 from elephant rides, according to U Myo Min, an assistant manager of the elephant camp.

The time of bathing elephants is the most favourite leisure hours for foreign tourists. Local travellers prefer to view the beauty of Ayeyawady River from the temporary recreation shelters located in the compound of the elephant camp. Feeding elephant food buffet has been on the increase. Some travellers like buying trays loaded with elephant foods.

Palin Kanthayar elephant camp is always teeming with local and international travellers who are making pilgrimage to Bagan ancient cultural zone. Those who are making pilgrimage to Nyaung-U can perform good deeds by feeding foods to



PHOTOS : KO HTEIN (NGA THAYAUK)



elephants in Palin Kanthayar and can feel the cold and refreshing breezes blowing from the surface of Ayeyawady River during the pilgrimage visit.

Moreover, Palin Kanthayar sandbank recreation site near Palin village in Nyaung-U, Mandalay Region is packed with holidaymakers at a time when Ayeyawady River water is falling. It arranges with the hol-

idaymakers about toddy-palm huts, toddy-palm-made arm-chairs and bamboo-made arm-chairs for recreation purpose.

Holidaymakers from Palin Kanthayar elephant camp can take the vehicles owned by Myanma Timber Enterprise to Palin Kanthayar sandbank recreation site. Each passenger costs Ks 500 there and back. Palin Kanthayar sandbank rec-

reation site is located five miles away from Nyaung-U. It can be reached about two furlongs to the bank of Ayeyawady River. It was full of holidaymakers during the days of Thingyan.

Palin Kanthayar elephant camp can create employment for the youths residing nearby villages and has become a thriving center.

Translated by Htut Htut

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00
(Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ

Buffet Restaurant

No -26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon. Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar
14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE
No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Hantharwady beats Zwegapin by 2-0



Players of Hantharwady United and Zwegapin United vie for the ball during their match yesterday at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago. **PHOTO: MNL**

THE Hantharwady United F.C. beat the Zwegapin United F.C. 2-0 yesterday on their home ground, the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago, in their Week 8 match of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019, according to the MNL.

Hantharwady managed the win without striker Sar Kima and earned three marks from the match.

The goals for Hantharwady United was scored by Htet Lin Lin at the 32nd minute, and Hein Htet Aung at the 3rd minute of the first half's injury time.

Two other matches took place the same day — Rakhine United F.C. took on Shan United F.C., while the Magwe F.C. played against Yangon United on their

grounds. The match between Rakhine United and Shan United at the Waitharli Stadium ended in a draw. Meanwhile, Yangon United beat Magwe 3-2 at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

In the first match of Week 8 of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019 on 20 April, the Yadanarbon F.C. beat Chinland F.C. by 2-1 at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The final matches of Week 8 will take place today (22 April). Dagon F.C. will play against Southern Myanmar F.C. at the Thuwunna Stadium, while Sagaing United F.C. will compete against Ayeyawady United F.C. at the Monywa Stadium in Monywa Town at 4 p.m.—Kyaw Zin Tun ■

Azarenka crushes Stosur to send Fed Cup semi to deciding doubles

BRISBANE (Australia)— Victoria Azarenka crushed Samantha Stosur to send the Fed Cup semi-final between Australia and Belarus into a deciding fifth rubber in Brisbane on Sunday.

The two-time Australian Open champion was in a different league to the former US Open winner, who meekly succumbed

loss, Stosur will team up with Barty to face Azarenka and Sabalenka in the crucial decider. "It was about either we stay and fight for another match or go home," said Azarenka. "So I was very focused. Pressure was there but that's good. That's the situations I want to be in." Australia are targeting their first final since 1993, while

der way with both players losing their opening service game. But Azarenka quickly settled while Stosur was broken twice more as the Belarussian raced to 4-1 lead. Stosur was out of touch and fired down seven double faults as Azarenka won the set in just 29 minutes and the second followed a similar pattern.

In Sunday's opener, Barty maintained the red hot form that saw her burst into the top 10 by winning the Miami Open last month by outclassing world number 10 Sabalenka, whose serve let her down. "A really clean match today. I stuck to my game plan well and was able to execute under pressure," said Barty, who is now on a 13-match Fed Cup winning streak. "Certainly nice to return (serve) so well." She got the crucial break in game five of the first set, when Sabalenka fired down four double faults, including on break point.

Her serving wobbles continued with Barty exploiting the weakness and she broke again to pull 5-2 clear before serving out the set on an ace.

A tight second set also went with serve until the fifth game, and in a mirror image of the first Barty again broke when Sabalenka double faulted as the pressure mounted.

She broke again for 5-2, before serving out for the match, again with an ace. —AFP ■



Ashleigh Barty of Australia celebrates her victory over Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during the Fed Cup tennis semi-final between Australia and Belarus at the Pat Rafter Arena in Brisbane on 20 April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

6-1, 6-1 in just 59 minutes. It left the tie finely poised at 2-2 with a doubles match to determine who meets France or Romania in the final. Earlier, ice-cool world number nine Ashleigh Barty, watched on Pat Rafter Arena by Evonne Goolagong, who led Australia to their last Fed Cup title in 1974, produced a commanding performance to beat Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2. Despite her demoralising

Belarus are bidding to reach it for the second time in three attempts, after being beaten by the United States in 2017.

Stosur has often struggled on home soil, although success hasn't been completely elusive. On her last appearance Down Under in January she won the women's doubles title at the Australian Open. Nerves were fluttering as her match got un-

Myanmar, Japan to conduct joint Judo training in Nobeoka City



Photo shows Myanmar Judo delegates at the Yangon International Airport before they leave for Japan on Saturday.

PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN

A Myanmar Judo delegation left for Japan on Saturday night to oversee preparation for joint training between athletes of the two countries, which is aimed at promoting the martial art.

The four-member delegation, led by Myanmar Judo Federation President U Tun Tun, is visiting Japan at the invitation of the Mayor of Nobeoka City, Japan.

During their friendly tour in Nobeoka, the Judo delegation will visit the training hall where a joint training session for eight Myanmar Judo athletes and the Japan Judo team will be conducted in June, under an arrangement by the Myanmar and Japan Olympic Committees.

The delegation will also meet with Mr. Oshima, who will

coach the Myanmar national Judo team in the upcoming SEA Games. The Dan rank 7 Judo master, who has been appointed to train Myanmar athletes for the SEA Games by the Myanmar Olympic Committee, will come to Myanmar in June.

During their trip, the Myanmar Judo delegation will pay courtesy calls to the presidents of Judo institutes in Tokyo.

The MJF President will also receive an honorary Dan belt from the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by the vice chairmen and executives of the Myanmar Judo Federation.—Saw Thein Win ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)