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Senior General visits JSC Radio Plant in Omsk, arrives in Moscow



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes JSC Radio Plant museum in Russia yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

A MYANMAR military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who is currently visiting Russia left Irkutsk by air on 22 April afternoon and reached Omsk in the late afternoon. The Senior General and party were welcomed by Russia-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Mr.

Ivan Polyakov and officials at the Omsk airport.

Next, the Senior General and party went to JSC Radio Plant museum where they watched a video on the history of the JSC Radio Plant and the importance of the communications sector and then toured the plant.

Afterwards the Senior General and party went to MKP-Me-

dia International Press Center where the Senior General was interviewed by Information Agency Siberian News, Radio Siberia, Prodvizhenie TV Channel, BRICS TV Channel, Information Agency OMSC HERE news agencies.

Later in the evening, the Senior General and party left Omsk and reached Moscow

Vnukovo-3 Airport and were welcomed by Deputy Defense Minister of the Russian Federation Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin, Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Ko Ko Shein and officials according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

— MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Three killed, 51 missing after lake collapses at Phakant jade mine

THREE people were killed and 51 people were feared dead after a lake collapsed, triggering a mudslide that buried workers and machinery from two mining companies at a jade mining block in Phakant yesterday.

About 20 minutes after midnight yesterday, a five-acre wide and 100-foot deep lake, located in a block owned by Unity Company, collapsed, pouring mud into a jade block, where more than 50 miners from two mining companies were working the night shift. The landslide created a 'mud lake', burying workers and mining equipment.

"We recovered two bodies in the morning and one more body in the evening. Fifty-one miners are still missing. We are also carrying out preventive measures in possible areas where the mine walls can breach," said U Phone Garein, the Deputy Head of the Phakant Township General Administration Department.

According to the authorities, 26 workers and five backhoes from the Golden Nine Dragons Company, and 28 workers, 11 backhoes, 10 tracks, and five mining machines from the Myanmar Thura Company were buried in the mudslide.

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Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 10/2019

MEETING 10/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Commit-

tee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Meeting 10/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministries take steps to bring about sustainable development of Bagan

A coordination meeting on envelopment of sustainable economic benefit over entire Bagan cultural heritage zone and preventing effect on the historical heritage was held at Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 April.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, deputy ministers of Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Office of the Union Government and Ministry of Religious Affairs

and Culture and departmental officials.

At the meeting, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko said discussion and decision on whether Bagan cultural heritage zone would be included in the World Heritage list will be made at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 30 June to 10 July 2019. Meeting attending departmental officials need to discuss and suggest on envelopment of sustainable economic benefit over entire Bagan zone and preventing effect on the historical heritage, according to the framework submitted to UNESCO, matters beneficial to



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko addresses the coordination meeting on envelopment of sustainable economic benefit over entire Bagan region in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

businesses and local small scale businesses. Next, officials from Ministry of the Home Affairs, Mandalay Region government, Ministry of Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Plan-

ning and Finance, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Union Attorney General Office and Nyaung U District General Administration

Department discussed envelopment of sustainable economic benefit over entire Bagan and preventing effect on the historical heritage zone. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

ICC approves personal interview with foreigners for PR

A PERSONAL interview with foreigners whose applications for permanent residency were reviewed and approved by Implementation Central Committee (ICC) for Permanent Residency (PR) was held in Ministry

of Labour, Immigration and Population meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The event was attended by Chairman of ICC for PR Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein

Swe, ICC for PR members and officials.

Prior to the personal interview Chairman of ICC for PR Union Minister U Thein Swe met with officials conducting the personal interview and explained

about the types and granting of permanent residencies and urged all to suggest on whether to permit or not the people who were being interviewed.

Next, an official explained about the personal interview

process and ICC for PR Chairman and members conducted personal interviews.

Since the work process of allowing permanent residency was started in 29 January 2015 to date, a total of 480 out 598 applicants for permanent residency were being granted permission for permanent residency and relevant documents and cards were issued.

In the day's interview 27 persons whose applications for permanent residency was reviewed and approved by ICC for Permanent Residency were interviewed and when approved, submissions will be made to relevant upper levels and relevant documents and cards will be issued it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister U Thein Swe attends the Implementation Central Committee (ICC) for Permanent Residency meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**





I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

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



That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for “collective strength” to overcome our country’s challenges.

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

Coord meeting on establishing firm market, exporting quality rice held in Nay Pyi Taw

A coordination meeting on establishing a firm international market and to export quality rice was held at Ministry of Commerce meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In addressing the meeting Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint spoke of 83 companies exporting 1.2 million tons of rice worth US\$ 381 million in fiscal year 2017-2018 and 70 companies exporting 850,000 tons of rice worth \$ 288 million in fiscal year 2018-2019 by sea.

As for export from the border 155 companies exported 1.7 million tons of rice worth \$ 595 million in fiscal year 2017-2018 and 103 companies exported 1.07 million tons of rice worth \$ 359 million said the Union Minister.

Although rice was produced in Africa, consumption exceeds productions and the excess requirements were imported from countries in the Asia region. Myanmar was among the countries exporting rice to countries in Africa.

The highest exporter of rice in the world were India, Thailand, US, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Italy, China, Uruguay, Cambodia and Myanmar while the highest importer of rice in the world were China, Benin, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bangladesh, US, United Arab Emirates, England, South Africa and Iraq.

Myanmar was a country highly dependent on agriculture production and had been facing challenges and competitions in the developing global economic system. Myanmar agriculture sector was facing numerous challenges and competitions and farmers and merchants need to strive toward seeking and establishing new and firm markets for the benefit of the country.



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint delivers the speech at the coordination meeting on establishing a firm international market and to export quality rice in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rice trade sector in Myanmar was wide in scope with numerous difficulties, constraints and challenges and all of these needs to be overcome.

Rice destroyed in Cote d'Ivoire was bought under FOB system by Olam International Co., Ltd. of Singapore from three Myanmar companies to be sold to Guinea in Africa. The vessel loaded 22,000 tons of rice from Myanmar and left Yangon Port on October 2018 and reached Guinea at end December 2018. After 4,000 tons of rice was discharged, problem arises as the rice bags were said to be underweight.

Due to this problem, no country in Africa accepted the rice. The rice was rejected because rice bags supposed to weigh 50 kg only weigh 45 kg. This problem arises due to the weaknesses of the local rice purchasing and exporting company, Inspection Agency and buyers. Systematic management of the whole process is required to insure that this does not happen again. Therefore organizations, departments, rice exporting companies and inspection agencies

attending the meeting were requested to provide suggestions and advices.

As everyone was striving competitively toward gaining a market, relevant departments, associations, merchants, business persons and inspection agencies' cooperation and participation was urged for Myanmar to export quality rice and establish a firm market, said the Union Minister.

Next, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo said Myanmar had increased rice export up to 3.6 million tons last year.

The highest amount was exported to China and the second highest amount was exported to Africa and there weren't any major problems. All need to participate and find a solution in order for this problem at Cote d'Ivoire from affecting the image of Myanmar rice, to have a sustainable rice export system, have correct weigh, have quality milling of rice, having appropriate system and entities in place, said the Deputy Minister.

Afterwards, on behalf of the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) Myanmar Rice Federation Vice Chairman U Aung Than Oo explained about concerns and worries on Myanmar rice from local and international consumers due to the incident in Cote d'Ivoire, status of explaining to the consumers about the matter via the media, status of exporting rice by sea, status of reviewing the entire process of milling and exporting rice, systematic works conducted to ensure weigh and works conducted on affecting the image of Myanmar rice.

Meeting attendees then discussed about rice export by sea, inspection at loading onto ships, transport and storage of rice and Union Minister coordinated on the discussions and conclude the meeting after delivering a closing speech.

The meeting was attended by representatives from UMFCCI, Myanmar Rice Federation, rice exporting companies and inspection agencies, experts on rice, invited guest and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Rice exports fell by 1.2 mln tons in Apr-Mar: MRF

THE volume of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports from 1 April, 2018 to 29 March, 2019 is estimated to have crossed 2.38 million metrics tons, worth US\$778.76 million, according to an announcement of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

The volume of exports has shown a decline of 1.2 million tons compared with the year-ago period, when 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth \$1.13 billion, were exported, according to the MRF.

In the past twelve months, Myanmar has shipped over 1.9 million metric tons of rice, worth \$648.7 million, to 52 countries. Meanwhile, it has exported over 451,000 metric tons of broken rice to 27 countries to earn \$130 million.

Unlike previously, maritime trade this year is relatively high compared to border trade when it comes to rice exports, accounting for 52.4 per cent of the total export. Exports of rice through the border checkpoints has fetched an estimated \$376.9 million, while income from maritime trade has reached \$401.7 million.

The drop in trade through the border channel has been attributed to China's tight confiscation of some agro products, including rice, since the second week of October, 2018. The capacity of trade through the maritime channel is limited owing to shipping problems, port logistics, and financial constraints, coupled with currency fluctuations.

— Htet Myat
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Three killed, 51 missing after lake collapses at Phakant jade mine



Rescue workers search for the bodies of miners killed in a landslide in Phakant, Kachin State. **PHOTO: WIN NAING (KACHIN LAND)**

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As the accident happened at night, there were no migrant miners among the victims, said officials.

"Finding bodies is proving difficult. About 60 volunteers from our philanthropic association are participating in the search for

bodies," said U Khin Maung, chairman, Thingaha Philanthropic Association, Seikmu Village. Officials from the Phakant Township Police and administration department are supervising the rescue operations there. — Win Naing (Kachin Land)

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

First ever Myanmar Animal Quarantine Station opens in Kutkai, Shan State north

LIVESTOCK Breeding and Veterinary Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation opened an Animal Quarantine Station, an essential requirement in export of animals and animal products, in Kutkai, Shan State (north) on the morning of 22 April. This was the first station of such kind to be opened in Myanmar.

At first Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu and officials unveiled the signboard of the station by pressing a button and cut a ceremonial ribbon to open it. In a speech delivered at the event Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu said the government allowed official export of livestock in 2017 to benefit the livestock breeding farmers. While permission and arrangements were made for official exports of livestock based on supply and demand on one side, there were requirements to inspect and quarantine livestock

according to international norms when livestock was traded across countries. The Union Minister explained in detail about the reasons for opening the Animal Quarantine Station.

Next officials from Bliss Myanmar International Co., Ltd. transferred documents on Animal Quarantine Station to Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Director General Dr. Ye Tun Win. After providing additional explanations to matters raised by the public attending the event, the Union Minister and party inspected the Animal Quarantine Station. The Animal Quarantine Station in Kutkai, Shan State (North) was constructed under the department's capital expenditure from fiscal year 2018-2019 Mini Budget. In the coming fiscal year another Animal Quarantine Station will be constructed in Kawkaireik, Kayin State, it is learnt. — MNA



MNS Sinbyushin participates in PLA Navy IFR, China-ASEAN Joint Maritime Exercise



MNS Sinbyushin entered Qingdao, China, to participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) as part of 70th anniversary PLA (Navy). **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Myanmar Navy Ship (MNS) Sinbyushin led by Commodore Zwe Win Myint left Yangon on 11 April and arrived at Qingdao, People's Republic of China on 22 April to participate in the People's Liberation Army-PLA Navy 70th anniversary International Fleet Review (IFR) and China-ASEAN Joint Maritime Exercise.

MNS Sinbyushin sailed more than 3,800 nautical miles of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Viet Nam and China's territorial waters passing

through Andaman Sea, Strait of Malacca, South China Sea, Taiwan Strait, East China Sea and Yellow Sea. During the long journey its crew conducted practical exercises. While MNS Sinbyushin was in Qingdao, it participated in the PLA Navy 70th anniversary IFR held yesterday. From 24 to 26 April, the ship crew will conduct mutual visits to other naval vessels participating in the event, hold friendly sports competition, conduct study tour of Qingdao and participate in China-ASE-

AN Joint Maritime Exercise with naval vessels from PLA Navy and ASEAN countries.

The Joint Maritime Exercise will include sailing in formation, exercises, boarding and searching a ship, search and rescue exercises, mutual landing of helicopters on ships, communication exercises and exercise on transport and evacuation of casualties, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

IED, parts for mine found near site of ARSA attack

A Tatmadaw column conducting proper security operation at the area where a police vehicle was attacked with landmines and small arms by the ARSA in Maungtau Township on 22 April found an improvised explosive device (IED) and bullet casings near the site of the ambush.

The IED and 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm bullet casings were found on a hilltop, about 50 meters from the attack site. The security forces also found a 3-foot-long iron pipe filled with steel balls and gunpowder attached to about 50 yards of wire, along with three old car batteries.

On another hill, about 100 meters northeast of the attack site, some rice packets, empty drinking water bottles, a sweater, an iron pick, and bullet casings were found.

A case has been registered against the ARSA at the Kyeinchuang Police Station, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



The police vehicle is seen after it is attacked by ARSA in Maungtau Township on 22 April.

PHOTO: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S OFFICE

Good sales of watermelons after Thingyan, say traders

WATERMELONS and muskmelons are selling well after the Thingyan Festival, according to the Myanmar Watermelon and Muskmelon Exporters and Producers Association.

At present, there is a large supply of watermelons in Muse, Shan State. On 23 April, a truck carrying 15 tons of watermelons was fetching 25,000 to 50,000 Yuan, depending on the quality of the fruit, according to Khwar Nyo Trading Co. Ltd.

"This year, the prices of watermelons and muskmelons have remained on the higher side, even after Thingyan. The fruits fetched a good price at the time of harvest and at the end of the fruit season," said traders from Muse.

"Market exploration and maintaining market share is necessary. Growers and merchants can reap more benefits in groups, rather than individ-

ually. The related department is providing technical assistance and supplying seeds to boost production, reduce input costs, and produce high-quality fruits," Daw Tin Soe Soe Hlaing, the Assistant Director of the Trade Department of the Ministry of Commerce, had said at a workshop for promoting exports of watermelons and muskmelons. The workshop was held at the fruit depot meeting hall of the Muse trade zone on 15 December, 2018.

China accounts for 95 per cent of Myanmar's fruit exports. Watermelons top the list of fruits exported to China, followed by mangoes and muskmelons. Mangosteen, rambutan, lychee, watermelon, and muskmelon grown in Myanmar have been certified by China's food safety inspection mechanism, the General Administration of Quality

Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ), for legitimate export.

Myanmar's watermelon exports crossed 170,000 tons in the last mini-budget period (from April to September, 2018), and were estimated at over 560,000 tons in the 2015-2016 FY, and 500,000 tons in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the country's muskmelon exports were pegged at over 40,000 tons in the last mini-budget period, over 100,000 tons in the 2015-2016 FY, and over 110,000 tons in the 2014-2015 FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Watermelons and muskmelons are primarily grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Shan State. Myanmar's watermelons and muskmelons have grabbed a large share of the Chinese market. — Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

High crude oil price drives up domestic fuel prices

THE spike in crude oil price in the global market has pushed up domestic fuel prices in the post-Thingyan period, according to oil dealers.

Oil prices have reached their highest level in four months tracking global cues, in spite of the Kyat gaining against the US dollar in the currency market. On 22 April, Octane 92 was priced at K860 per litre, Octane 95 at K935, diesel at K995, and premium diesel at K1,005 in the domestic market. On 1 January, the prices stood at K695 for Octane 92, K760 for Octane 95, K870 for diesel, and K875 for premium diesel, according to local dealers.

Oil prices surged last Monday after the US announced the termination of sanctions waivers for Iranian oil imports.

Yesterday, the price of Brent crude oil increased to \$74.67 per barrel in the global market.

In June last year, domestic oil prices rose on account of an increase in global crude oil price coupled with the weakening of the Kyat against the dollar. On 10 October, 2018, oil prices stood at K1,065 for Octane 92, K1,115 for Octane 95, K1,085 for diesel, and K1,105 for premium diesel.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while 10 per cent is locally produced.

Myanmar imports 200,000 tons of gasoline and 400,000 tons of diesel every month, primarily through Singapore. There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
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Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 20 April 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken
1	Information received of Htay Maung, who lives in Myay Hmone Village, Kanbalu Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11-4-2019, police searched the house of Htay Maung, aged 44, son of U Hman, and caught him together with Ma Myint Thi (a) Ma Thi (a) San Ni Ma, aged 40, daughter of U Tin Maung, in possession of heroin and stimulant tablets. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa (Malae), Ma Ya (Pa) 1/2019 under Section 19(a)/20 (a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Ko Soe, who lives in Taungbon Village, Ye Tsp, Mon State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7-4-2019, police searched the house of KoSoe (a) Thein Soe, aged 45, son of U Tin Pe, and seized him with stimulant tablets. A case has been opened him with Na Ma Sa(Lamai), MaYa(Pa) 10/2019 under Section 19(a)/20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Soe Win, who lives in Taungbon Village, Ye Tsp, Mon State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12-4-2019, police searched the house of Soe Win, aged 40, son of U Kon Hlay and Sein Lwin, aged 27, son of U Thein Han, seized them with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa(Lamine) MaYa(Pa) 11/2019 under Section 16(c)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Daw Nay Thway Win, who lives at No. (2/6) Ward, Aungmingalar Street, Hlinethaya Tsp, Yangon Region.	On 7-4-2019, police searched the house of Daw Nay Thway Win, aged 44, daughter of U Kyi Win, and seized her together with her son Hein Htet Zin, aged 19, son of U Aung Ngwe, and Yan Naung Tun, aged 17, son of U Tin Tun Aung, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Hline-thaya) Ma Ya (Pa) 110/2019 under Section 16 (c)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Sithu, who lives in Yadanapon 7 th St, Thakayta Tsp, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19-4-2019, police searched the house of Sithu (a) Sithu Zaw, aged 26, son of U Tin Win, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. It was also learnt that he bought these WY stimulant tablets from Shine Lin Oo, aged 35, son of U Win Naing. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa (Thakayta) MaYa (Pa) 21/2019 under Section 19 (a) / 21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of SaiAikNyunt and Sai Aung Chan Tha, who live in Nyaungkoepin Village, HsipawTsp, Shan State (North), using and distributing narcotic drugs.	On 7-4-2019, police searched the house of Sai Aung Chan Tha, aged 28, son of U Zaw Naing, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters and heroin. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Hsipaw) MaYa(Pa) 13/2019 under Section 19 (a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Sai Aik Nyunt, aged 45, son of U Aik Aung, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Hsipaw) MaYa(Pa) 14/2019 under Section 19 (a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of selling and distributing illegal drugs on the hill-ock of Tract 10, Ward 4, Kutkai Town, Shan State (North).	So far, 46 cases have been opened files as of last weeks, a total of 51 persons, including 47 men and 4 women, had been arresting, together with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 16-4-2019, police searched the motorbike driven by Aik Yi, aged 30, son of U Aik Ohn, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 36/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 601 cases have been opened files as of 20-4-2019. A total of 947 people, including 793 men and 154 women had been arrested with seizures of 5872.42 g of heroin, 73.67 g of ICE, 38704.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18879.27 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of opium tincture, 230,912 stimulant tablets, 6424.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 23.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 16 firearms, different kinds of 257 bullets and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.

4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information. During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. Acting on tip-off, police caught two men with a seizure of 1463 stimulant tablets and 51.2 g of heroin in Tianzop Village, Myitkyina Tsp, Kachin State. A man was seized with 1830 stimulant tablets in Shwekulay Village, Shwegu Tsp. A woman, who lives in Sikhamgyi Village, Mansi Tsp, was arrested with 580 stimulant tablets. A man was arrested with 100 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle in Dimawhso Tsp, Kayah State. A man was arrested with 124 stimulant tablets in Ward 2, Myawady Town, Kayin State. A man was seized with 376 stimulant tablets at Banyarnwe crossroad, Ward 3. A man was arrested with 363 stimulant tablets in Ward 3. A man was arrested with 48 stimulant tablets, 15.1 g of heroin and 16.33 g of opium in Sharhtawzan (a) Kyaukchap Village, Tonzang Tsp, Chin State. A man was seized with 1059 g of specopsa in Kayinthaung Village, Thanbyuzayat Tsp, Mon State. A man was arrested with 359 stimulant tablets in Tumyaung Village, Ye Tsp. A man was arrested with 3,200 g of specopsa in Kybyawa Village, Khawza Tsp. A man was arrested with 398 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Theingone Ward, Thaton Tsp, Mon State. An ownerless 58500 stimulant tablets were seized in the bushes of Mingalargyi Village. Two men were arrested with 39 stimulant tablets in Maungni Village. Two women were seized with 832 stimulant tablets in Lanmadaw (north) ward, Sittway Town, Rakhine State. A man was seized with 26 stimulant tablets in Shwepyar Ward. A man was seized with 582 stimulant tablets, and an ownerless 380 stimulant tablets and 1 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder in Pyidawtha Ward. Three men were arrested with 14 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Taungyat Ward, MraukU Town, Rakhine State. Two men were caught with 27 stimulant tablets and one motorbike near Kinseik bus terminal, Minbya Tsp, Rakhine State. Two women were seized with 2,000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Taunggyi-Zalaetwar Raod, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State. Two men were seized with 989 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Bogyoke Raod, Kanshay Ward. A man was seized with 98 stimulant tablets in Ward 12. A man was seized with 498 stimulant tablets in Ward 7, Ayethayar Town.

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

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A man was seized with 2700 g of opium on the bus going to Loilin-Taunggyi road. A man was seized with 5 stimulant tablets, 0.5 g of opium blocks and 25 g of low-quality opium in Myo Oo Kwetthit Ward. Three men were seized with 9,600 stimulant tablets in PinphitVillage, Yaksawk Tsp. Police seized 3500 g of opium and two motorbikes on Pyinhthone-Yeykhauk road. A man was seized with 1,660 stimulant tablets in Kawpu Village. A man was seized with 390 stimulant tablets in Konesone Village, Pekon Tsp. One men and one woman were arrested with 4,000 stimulant tablets in Puchel Village. A man was arrested with 16,454 stimulant tablets in Ward 3, Laikha Town. A man and a woman were arrested with 66,000 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle at Oriental Toll Gate, Hsenwi Town. A man was arrested with 3200 liters of Hydrochloric Acid and 7200 liters of Ethyl Ether in Pan Kham Village, Muse Tsp. Three men were arrested with 3 pans used for making drugs and two motor vehicles near Fine Chaung Village. A man and a woman were seized with 11800 stimulant tablets, 0.08 liters of Sulphuric Acid, 0.06 liters of Hydrochloric Acid, 0.11 liters of Acetic Anhydride, 0.05 liters of Acetic Acid, 0.015 liters of Acetone, 0.01 liters of 1-Phenyl-2-Propannone, 20 g of Ephedrine, one Hilux Pickup vehicle and one Mini Van vehicle in Maygagiri Ward, AungmyethazanTsp, Mandalay Region. A woman was arrested with 730 stimulant tablets and 3.5 g of heroin in MantNaung Village, Nankham Tsp. Two men and one woman were seized with 1000 stimulant tablets and 4889 g of opium in Kyankyarkyne Village, Kutkai Tsp. A man was arrested with 125 stimulant tablets, 140 g of heroin and one motorbike in Nawnghkio Town. A woman was seized with 30000 stimulant tablets on the express car driving to Mandalay from Kutkai Tsp. A man was seized with 1225 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Padan Village, Momeik Town. Two men were arrested with 1100 stimulant tablets in Mankhun Ward, Hopan Town. Two men were arrested with 200 g of opium and one motorbike in Tonkwan Village, KengtungTsp. A man was seized with 186 g of opium and one motorbike in Nantlook (Arkhar), Tachilek Tsp. Police seized an ownerless 108000 stimulant tablets and 7000 g of heroin in the forest near Sanpu Village. Three men were arrested with 4230 stimulant tablets and 0.5 g of heroin in Yonegyi Ward, Monywa Town, Sagaing Region. Two men were arrested with 60 g of heroin and one motorbike in Pinmalook Village, Katha Tsp. A man was arrested with 19500 g of opium blocks and one motor vehicle at the NabarChec-point, Indaw Tsp. A man was arrested with 60000 stimulant tablets 6600 g of heroin and one vehicle on Mandalay-Myitkyina road. Police seized 2449 g of opium in the farm near Laepadone Village, Bamauk Tsp. A man was arrested with 1633 g of opium in Zedioo Village, Pinlebu Tsp. A man was arrested with 2730 stimulant tablets and 460 g of heroin in Ngawchal Village. A woman and a woman were arrested with 28 Buprenorphine Tablets and 2 g of Buprenorphine powder in MawlaikKalay Village, Kalay Tsp. A man was arrested with 1200 stimulant tablets and 73 g of heroin in Htawma Village, Phaungpyin Tsp. A man was seized with 2740 g of low-quality opium at three-mile inspection gate, Khamti Town. A man was arrested with 1220 g of speciosa powder in Innlaymyine Ward 2, Myeik Town, Taninthayi Region. A man was arrested with 5000 g of speciosa powder and 3260 g of marijuana in Kywelhteingone Village, Taninthayi Region. A woman was arrested with 1310 g of speciosa at Mawtaung inspection gate. A man was arrested with 15610 g of speciosa powder and one motorbike at the crossroad of Zawei Village. Three men were arrested with 70 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Nawin Ward, Pyay Town, Bago Region. Three men and one woman were arrested with 6610 stimulant tablets in Ward 14, Pakokku Town, Magway Region. A man was arrested with 5.68 g of heroin in Sinpintharyar Ward 2, Htilin Town. A woman was arrested with 800 stimulant tablets at the 16-mile inspection gate, Patheingyi Town, Mandalay Region.

Two men were seized with 2000 stimulant tablets and 4.1 g of heroin at the Shwegyin inspection gate. A man was arrested with 4900 stimulant tablets in Yadana Street, ZeeoakKwetthit. Three men were arrested with 1790 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle at the Payagyi intersection, Htonebo Village, PyinOoLwin Tsp. A man and a woman were seized with 2495 stimulant tablets in Latpan Village, Kyaukse Tsp. A woman was arrested with 365 stimulant tablets in Zay Ward, MingaladonTsp, Yangon Region. A woman was arrested with 725 stimulant tablets, 15 g of ICE and 77 g of heroin in Layhtaukkan Ward, ThingyangyunTsp, Yangon Region. Two men were arrested with 15 stimulant tablets at the corner of Pyidaungsu and Siepin Streets, Dagon Myothit (South), Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 40 stimulant tablets in Theingi 2nd street, Ward 24. Police seized 1400 stimulant tablets at the defendant's house in Ward 22. Three men and two women were arrested with 238 stimulant tablets and 474.44 g of marijuana in Ward 94, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Tsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 6 Ecstasy tablets on Pyay Road, HlineTsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 5 ecstasy tablets on Banyadala Road, Ayoegone Ward, TamwayTsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 4802 stimulant tablets, 1155 g of ICE and one motor vehicle in ward 2, Tamine junction, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 43.09 g of marijuana and one motorbike in ward 3, Pathein Town, Ayeyawady Region. A man was arrested with 5 stimulant tablets, 0.2 g of opium blocks, one percussion lock firearm, 7 lead balls and 2 tins of gun powder in Manpin Village, Mogaung Tsp, Kachin State. A man was arrested with 4.1 g of heroin, one pistol, one short percussion lock firearm, one air gun, 7 9-mm cartridges, 55 air gun lead cartridges and one Pajero vehicle in Myitsone Village, Momeik Town, Shan State. A man was arrested with 96 stimulant tablets, one pistol, 13 9-mm cartridges and one motorbike in Tachilek. There have been three arrests involving foreigners. A Chinese was arrested with 2 stimulant tablets, 0.1g of heroin and one motorbike near Wainkham Village, MomaukTsp, Kachin State. An Indian was arrested with 0.3 g of heroin at Myanmar-India Friendship border gate, FalanTsp, Chin State. A woman was arrested with 0.6 g of heroin, Ward 2, Reek Town, Chin State. A Thailand man was arrested with 193 stimulant tablets in Tarlot Ward, Tachilek Town. There has been one shooting. A man was arrested with 440 g of heroin and one motorbike while defending on Momeik-Manton road.

There have been 408 cases being opened between 7-4-2019 and 20-4-2019. A total of 545 people, including 484 men and 61 women, were seized with 15942.211 g of heroin, 1193.3 g of ICE, 11 Ecstasy tablets, 433947 stimulant tablets, 1 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 4734.533 g of marijuana, 15932.23 g of opium, 19672.70 g of opium blocks, 2766.3 g of low-quality opium, 21979.5 g of specopsa powder, 5683.31 g of specopsa, 28 Buprenorphine Tablets, 2 g of Buprenorphine powder, 3200.06 g of Hydrochloric Acid, 7200 liters of Ethyl Ether, 0.08 liters of Sulphuric Acid, 0.11 liters of Acetic Anhydride, 0.05 liters of Acetic Acid, 0.015 liters of Acetone, 0.01 liters of 1-Phenyl-2-Propannone, 20 g of Ephedrine, 5 different kinds of firearms, 75 cartridges, 7 lead balls and two tins of gun powder.

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

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

21 killed in road mishaps in Kyaukse District in 3 months

ROAD accidents claimed the lives of 17 men and 4 women in Kyaukse District of Mandalay Region between 1 January and 31 March, according to the Kyaukse Traffic Police Force.

In January, 13 people, including 10 men and 3 women, were killed, while 33 people - 23 men and 10 women - were injured in 26 accidents. Action was initiated against 36 men and three women, according to the police.

Twenty accidents were recorded in February, in which, 7 people, 6 men and 1 woman, died, while 19

people - 17 men and 2 women - were injured. Action was initiated against 24 men and three women, said police.

A total of 13 accidents were reported in March, which left one man dead, and 16 men and three women injured. Action was taken against 16 women in the cases, said police.

Most fatalities were the result of motorcyclists and pillion riders not wearing helmets, said police who are now conducting helmet checks in the district. — Ko Min (Indaw)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Drinking water frequently can prevent heatstroke

WITH record high temperatures seen in some areas over the last few days, the Ministry of Health has issued an advisory for people, urging them to drink water frequently and take measures against heatstroke.

At the same time, the Fisheries Department has released an 'extreme heat' warning for fish farmers, urging them to be on the alert to prevent any losses arising from the soaring temperatures.

The high temperature, which has persisted for weeks, poses a risk to aged people and children in the country.

We are in the middle of the hottest period of the year. Heat waves are common in Myanmar during the months of March, April, and May, in the daytime as well as at night.

With mercury levels rising to a record 41.5 degrees centigrade, the highest in 12 years, on 22 April in Patheingyi, there is a need to take precautions against heat waves.

Extreme heat can lead to heatstroke and exhaustion, which can result in increased mortality rates. It can also exacerbate existing health conditions. Heat stress occurs when the body absorbs more heat than is tolerable.

In southern Asia, mortality is likely to rise with the temperature. Researchers have established a direct link between global warming and deaths from killer heat waves. A slight increase of 0.5°C in mean summer temperatures in India, or another comparable tropical developing nation, could result in a 146-per cent rise in the death toll. Heat in the summer months can be fatal. In 2016, the world experienced its hottest year since the 1880s, when modern records began to be kept. 2016 also marked the third consecutive year of record-high temperatures. Less than four months into 2017, parts of Myanmar, India, and Australia were already in the throes of heat waves.

It is estimated that between 15,000 and 19,000 people died during the 2003 heat wave in France, while according to the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), around 600 Americans have died every year from exposure to extreme heat between 1999 and 2010.

Therefore, it is important that people pay attention to the daily weather forecasts released by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. They must also be alerted about adverse weather conditions.

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture: Striving for long-lasting of Sasana, supporting for other religions, preserving cultural heritage

"As part of efforts for unity of all interfaith in Myanmar, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture formed the Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group (Myanmar) with representatives from different religions in Myanmar. There are 130 township-level committees under the group. The interfaith group carried out 32 activities for unity and friendship of the interfaith in Myanmar in three years."

By Naing Lin Kyi,
PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG

MINISTRY of Religious Affairs and Culture has stepped up efforts for reforms in the third one-year term by laying down eight policies, 13 objectives and 32 tasks.

Measures taken for Religious Affairs

In Myanmar, the population of Buddhists 45,185,449, the population of Christians 317,2479, Hindu 252,763, Muslims 114,7495, spirit worshippers 408,045, others 82,825 and 30,844 follow no religions.

According to the census on Buddhist monks in 2018, there are 291,806 monks, 234,567 novices and 67,521 nuns are staying in monasteries and nunneries for annual rain retreat in 2018.

State-level ceremonies for donating Kathina robes and Waso robes are held at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw in July and November every year.

Besides, religious titles are conferred on outstanding Buddhist monks, nuns and lay persons at home and abroad on 4th January on the Independence Day every year.

For 2019, the titles were conferred on 254 monks, 14 nuns and 93 lay persons on 20 March 2019.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is building a pagoda namely the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Dakhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw and religious objects will be fixed atop the pagoda this year to complete the pagoda. The Eternal Peace Pagoda will be built on the 1.3 acres of land and it will be 54 ft high when completed.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar delegation led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko attended the New Year's Eve Recitation and Vipassana Meditation Ceremony held in Bangkok from 28th December, 2018 to 2nd January 2019.

Buddhists from twelve coun-

tries attended a New Year prayer ceremony held at Sanam Luang in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2 December, 2018, to 2nd January, 2019.

During the visit, the Myanmar religious delegation presented the replicas of the relics, tooth relics and three strings of hairs of the Buddha to the Wat Sa Kat Monastery.

Renovation of gold plates on the Shwedagon Pagoda

The ministry launched the project to renew the gold plates on the Shwedagon Pagoda and opened the machinery for making gold plates at the pagoda on 13 December, 2018.

The pagoda will be covered in scaffolding during the six-month project and about 3,000 gold plates will be screwed on it.

For 2018-2019 Shwedagon Pagoda gold plate renovation works, a central committee, work committee and ten sub-committees were formed and assigned different duties and responsibilities. The gold surface of the pagoda is refurbished every four years to counteract weather damage.

Besides, the ministry arranged to construct new shelters and rest rooms for pilgrims and establish a modern garbage cleaning system and upgrade the roads.

Efforts for Unity of all faiths

As part of efforts for unity of all interfaith in Myanmar, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture formed the Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group (Myanmar) with representatives from different religions in Myanmar. There are 130 township-level committees under the group. The interfaith group carried out 32 activities for unity and friendship of the interfaith in Myanmar in three years.

Besides, the ministry is working together with religious organizations. At the invitation of the Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, the delegation of the Religions for Peace led by Bishop Gunnar visited Myanmar from 22 to 28 May last year.



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and officials carry replicas of relics of the Buddha at the Wat Sa Kat Monastery in Bangkok.

During the visit, the delegation accompanied by the officials of the ministry and Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, went to Sit-tway (Maung-taw) from 26 to 28 May, 2018.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and officials of the ministry visited the Rakhine from 29 to 30 September last year and handed over K1.33 billion equivalent to US\$100,000 donated by His Holiness Pope Francis through Cardinal Charles Maung Bo.

The Religions for Peace also conducted activities for peaceful coexistence and friendship of interfaith people in Meiktila, Patheingyi, Mawlamyint and Myitkyi in June, July and August, 2018.

The forum of all interfaith was held in Yangon in the third year term of the incumbent government.

UN Human Rights Council's UPR Review

The ministry formed the national level committee to review the human rights situation in Myanmar under the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council.

At the first meeting the committee, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was tasked

to implement the friendship of all interfaith and freedom of expression, which is suggestion No. 10 of the 166 suggestions of the UN Human Rights Council.

Missionary activities

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture conducted the 11th robes offering ceremony in Buddha Gaya in India, donating robes and cash to 888 Members of the Sangha from Myanmar on 18 November 2018.

Besides, the ministry sent two Buddhist monks and one official of the ministry to supervise the Golden Monastery in Lumbini in Nepal. The ministry sent workers to Nepal to paint the Lawka Mani Sula Pagoda at the Golden Monastery in Lumbini.

Honourary degrees were conferred on Members of the Sangha at home and abroad at 24th Taxila Graduation Ceremony in Mandalay by the ministry.

At the same time, diploma and bachelor degree on Buddha Dhamma were conferred on 78 students, Master degree on Buddha Dhamma on 12 students and Ph.D degree on Buddha Dhamma on nine students by the Master International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University last year.

Monastic Education System

The ministry is promoting the monastic education system by providing assistance to 7,872 teachers at 1,527 monastic education schools giving lectures to 309,938 students.

Efforts for Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone World to be included in the World Heritage List

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture submitted the proposal to include the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone and Mrauk U Cultural Heritage Zone to be included in the World Heritage List in 2018.

Thanks to the efforts of the ministry, the King Bayintnaung Bell inscriptions document the donations made for Buddhist religious merit and are inscribed in three languages of Mon, Bamar and Pali was designated as the Memory of the World in September, 2017.

Anandachandra Stone Inscription

During the eighth general meeting of the Memory of the World (MoW) Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) held in Gwangju, South Korea, from 29 May to 1 June, Anandachandra

Stone Inscription was entered in the register of MOWCAP.

The cultural heritage of Mrauk U would be submitted to the UNESCO in 2020 to be entered in the world heritage list.

Archaeological excavation

Archaeological Research and National Museum Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has carried out excavation to survey historic records as Myanmar went through the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the Pyu Age.

Scholars and researchers could have shed light on ancient Myanmar historical legends and tales.

Antiques Collection

The ministry has been collecting antiques offering cash prizes to the people.

About 3,615 kinds of antiques have been collected from 96 people at the cost of over K233 million. So far, 1471 kinds of antique have been collected by the ministry and displayed the tangible and intangible cultural heritage at the museums.

Relaxation of rules and regulations on cultural heritage zone

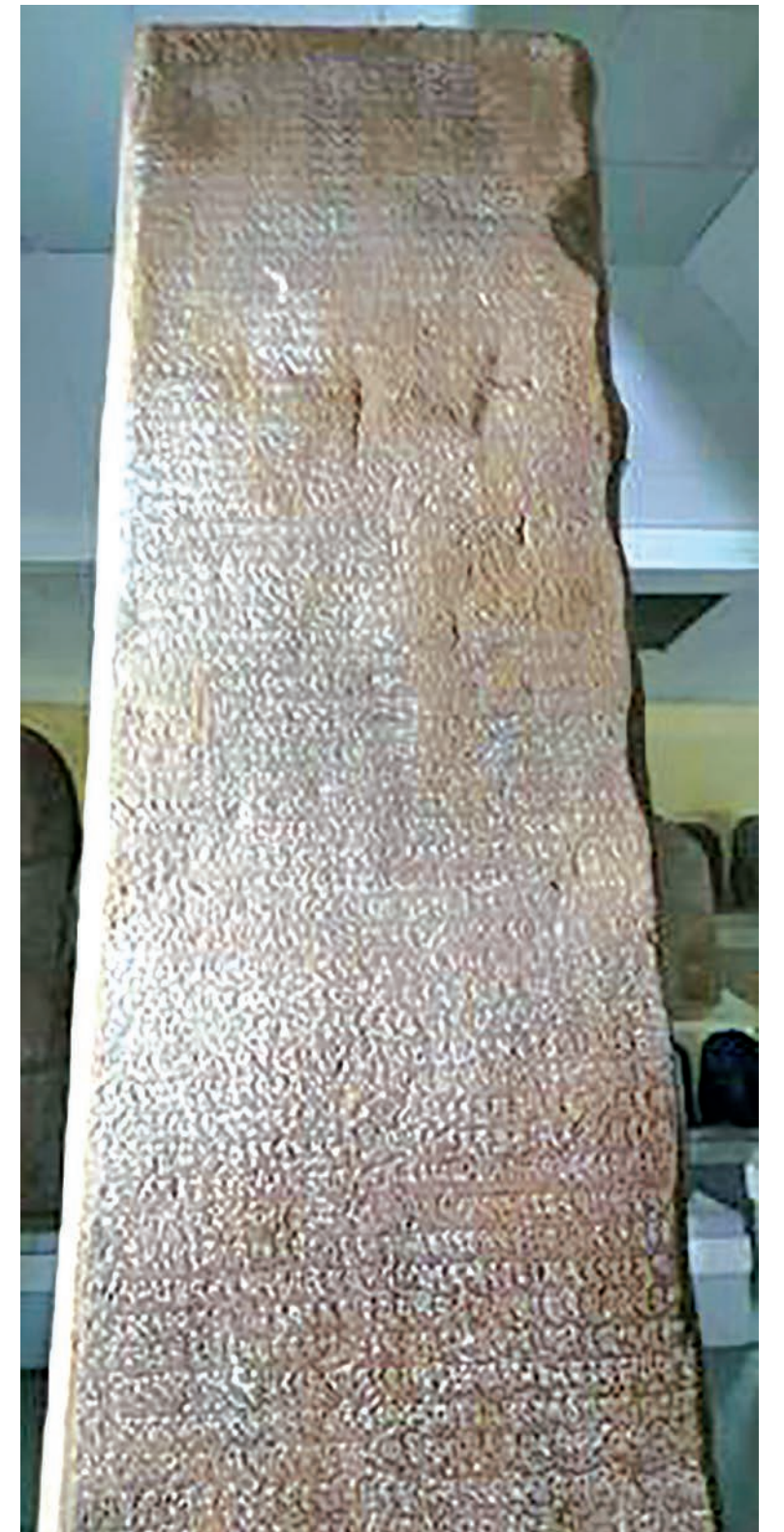
The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passed the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions Law on 28 February. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture wrote the new law as the previous law passed in 1998 no longer suited the current requirements.

The new law guarantees conservation and preservation of Myanmar's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Besides, the law would help ensure the local people living the zones to participate in preservation of cultural heritage of the country.

History, Research and National Library Department has collected the findings from the research and survey across the country and published books and papers on history.

Meanwhile, post-graduate diploma courses in library man-



Anandachandra Stone Inscription. PHOTO: MNA

agement are being conducted at the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon by the ministry in cooperation with the National University of arts and culture in Yangon and Mandalay.

At the same time, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has relaxed the rules and regulations and allowing to embassies to use the National Theatre in Yangon and Mandalay under the cultural exchange programmes.

There are many Myanmar national cultural heritages all over Myanmar and lost cultural heritages were required to be recovered, researched, maintained and protected. It was clearly enacted in the Constitution that it was the duty and responsibility of all Myanmar nationals to preserve and maintain Myanmar cultural heritages.

The reforms of the Yangon Region Government: Enhancing for remarkable development, improving quality of life for our people

"The government is trying to re-draft laws for businesses in Myanmar so that it will attract foreign investors. The Foreign Investment Law is one of those."

U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region



Yangon Region Chief Minister
U Phyo Min Thein.

By Win Win Maw

THE Yangon Regional Government is putting up their best efforts to improve the nation's economy through Yangon's development. Global New Light of Myanmar met with the Regional Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein to discuss the regional accomplishments in the 3rd year of the current administration.

Q: What are challenges facing the Yangon Regional Government ?

A: There are challenges to every new administration. We are facing quite a lot of floods here in Yangon from the

overflow of trenches and ditches. This was our first priority and we have managed to clear out quite a few of the waterway blockage. Another problem is trash in alleyways. We are aiming for trash-free public places. Right now, we are clearing up the mountains of trash that has accumulated over the past decade. The problem can't be solved just by clearing the existing trash – we have to change our attitudes towards throwing away trash irresponsibly in non-designated areas.

Q: What about improvements in public transportation?

A: Because Yangon is densely populated city, ease of transportation is important. We are trying to plan our city for better traffic flow since when the cities were first built (and planned yet again) by the previous governments, they didn't have Smart Cities in mind. This creates problems especially traffic jams since the infrastructures (roads, bridges) couldn't handle the extra load. Hopefully,

by urban planning, we can overcome this.

Water Buses are also an option. However, it can only be operated on the Yangon River. Safety is currently our main concern as there are a lot of old bridges on some potential routes of the Water Buses. This is why we are not able to operate on the Nga Moe Yeik side just yet. Regarding rail transportation, quite a number of railway stations were upgraded as well as connected to several roads.

Q: Can you explain to us about water management for Yangon Area?

A: Access to clean and safe water is important for our residents. The main concern is distribution which Yangon City Development Committee in charge of. We are currently using ground-water to supply the city as well as the water pumped from the streams and rivers. The reliant on ground-water is risky as if we are not careful, seawater can get into the ground water sources or we simply run out of ground water. So the



The ceremony to fix diamond orb atop the Kyaik-de-att Pagoda held in Botahtaung.

administration is trying to keep up with the changes on that.

Q: What about the rule of law and general improvement within the cities?

A: For rule of law, it is not the job of the Myanmar Police Force alone. With

a little help from technology, improvements are being made so not all the responsibility falls on the police. For example, there are traffic control centers which allows the police to monitor CCTVs from their common center. There are efforts to upgrade Yangon to become a Smart City. For example, in Dagon Lay Township, we are trying to lay out new concrete roads as much as the budget allows. There are also plans to build more roads and bridges if our new budget gets approved. The main objectives of these initiatives are to preserve our history in older buildings, keeping Yangon green while trying to elevate Yangon as an economic hub. For instance, the secretariat is currently under renovation. With the help of the Yangon City Heritage Trust, there has been around 28 buildings that got preserved and are branded a historical building that can't be demolished or modified without approval.

SEE PAGE-11



Bird's eye view of the construction of Hledan flyover in Yangon.



Photo shows the under-construction flyover at Myaynigone in Yangon.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Korean Senior Economic Adviser Mr. Kim Hyun Chul open the ceremony to launch construction of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge in Dala, Yangon Region yesterday. **PHOTO: BO BO/MNA**

FROM PAGE-10

With the improvements and preservation of infrastructure, there is also another element of keeping Yangon's environment green. Yangon parks are thriving and we hope they will maintain the same way. The government is trying to also plant more trees not only in Yangon but the whole country so that future generations can reap the benefits. If you can't balance nature and development right, these improvements will not ben-

efit not only the current generation but every after.

- Q: What about investments on a Regional level that is help catapulting Yangon to become an economic hub?
- A: The government is trying to re-draft laws for businesses in Myanmar so that it will attract foreign investors. The Foreign Investment Law is one of those. Every year, we have two specific meetings for foreign investors in Myanmar. The incoming investments help development not only the localities but also en-

We are aiming for trash-free public places. Right now, we are clearing up the mountains of trash that has accumulated over the past decade.



Photo shows a bridge which is under construction in Yangon.



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials open the stake driving ceremony of No.3 Thanlyin Bridge (Bago river-crossing bridge) in Yangon.

tire industrial zones. There are 29 industrial zones and special economic zones in Myanmar. Quite a handful is foreign investments that employs up to thousands of employees and help build their capacities. Plans to create more vocational training schools are in order. This will build the skillsets of the worker and hopefully, allow them to get them better jobs which will give them a better salary and benefits. People want food on the

table. Shelter is also another necessity. According to a report by Asian Development Bank, there will need to be 100,000 apartments that need to be built annually to keep up with the growing population. If we can't keep up, we will be facing a problem with squatters that will undermine the rule of law. The national government is giving support to the regional government as well as well the relevant ministries such as the Ministry

of Construction.

- Q: Any other comments?
- A: Our main aim is to go forwards. It is not guaranteed that we will reach our goals within the 3-year's mark. However, it is important to get forward compared to the previous year. We will continue to strive for providing the best we can for the development and a comfortable quality of life for our people.

Translated by Myat Thu

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Myanmar soon to open centres for treating dog bites

WITH the number of dog-bite cases registering an increase in Yangon Region, the Ministry of Health and Sports will soon open centres for treating dog bites. The centres will be opened in Yangon initially, and thereafter, in Mandalay and other states and regions.

A meeting to discuss measures for opening dog bite treatment centres was conducted on Monday at Office No. 4 of the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

At the meeting, Dr. Tun Tin, the director of the central epidemiology unit, said that the number of dog-bite cases has increased slightly in Myanmar. According to official statistics, the number of people bitten by dogs crossed 190,000 in 2018.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is purchasing anti-rabies vaccines and rabies immunoglobulin annually. It spent K5.4 billion on the vaccines in 2018-2019FY.

The number of people dying of rabies has declined significantly thanks to the provision of the anti-rabies vaccines, said Dr. Tun Tin.

The government is looking at opening dog bite treatment



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attends the meeting to open centres for treating dog bites in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

centres so the vaccines can be administered in an efficient manner, he added. The first meeting for opening the centres was held in February. In March, officials visited similar centres in Sri Lanka and inspected hospitals in Myanmar.

Myanmar will employ the intradermal method recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to administer the vaccines, instead of the intramuscular vaccination method. The Ministry of Health has decided to seek advice from the WHO on the matter.

"In order to open the dog bite treatment centres, we are preparing suitable places, staff,

medicines, and medical apparatuses, and refrigerators to store vaccines," said Dr. Tun Tin. There are plans to conduct training for staff and form specialized teams for rabies control, he said.

The Union Minister has said the government will open the dog bite treatment centres in Yangon initially. Later, such centres will be opened in Mandalay as well as in other states and regions. After the centres are ready, the government will announce their opening via television, radio, and newspapers so patients can reach out to the centres.

The anti-rabies prevention guide book, which was distributed by the Ministry of Health and

Sports, will be revised in accordance with the 2018 WHO technical report series and the WHO expert consultation on rabies, the Union Minister said. The Union Minister will also provide assistance for opening the treatment centres as soon as possible. Monday's meeting was attended by the Ministry of Health and Sports Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Permanent Secretary Dr. Thar Tun Kyaw, Public Health and Medical Services Department Director-General Dr. Soe Oo, the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Deputy Directors-General, Directors, Deputy Directors, and other officials.— GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Illegal lumber seized from vehicle in Myawady

A combined team comprising those from police force and the forest department seized illegal lumber from a six-wheel vehicle in Myawady Township, Kayin State on 22 April.

According to the investigation, the combined team inspected the suspected forest area between Za Yet Phyu Gone Village and Wahat Shan Village, Myawady Township. During

their search, the authorities found lumber a total of 6.9852 tons from the six-wheel vehicle, driven by U San Nyein Aung with conductor Maung Khine Gyi on board.

The police has taken legal action against them under section 41-A of the Forest Law.—Min Thu/ Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-an)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Illegal lumber seized being seen in Myawady, Kayin State.

PHOTO: MIN THU

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture: ...

FROM PAGE-9

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has conducted preservation, protection and maintenance of cultural heritages to protect the country's ancient artifacts and buildings.

Scientific research and mappings were conducted to protect ancient artifacts and buildings from natural disasters. Laws were enacted to protect and preserve ancient artifacts and buildings and a new law on protection and preservation of cultural heritage regions was drawn up and enacted on 28 February 2019. The law was drawn up not only to protect and preserve cultural heritage regions but also to create livelihood opportunities for people in the region.

The country had thousands of tangible cultural heritages as well as many Intangible Cultural Heritages (ICHs). The ministry has made efforts for exposing and preserving ICHs by providing technical support to groups formed in regions and states to

systematically collect all ICHs in the respective state and region.

Results of the Reforms

Sometimes, there was a collision of conservation of cultural heritage and regional development tasks. However, the ministry could carry out reforms without damaging the cultural heritage while following the directives of the Head of the State.

The Ministry is turning the country's cultural heritage to attractions for foreign cultural experts, scholars and tourists as the sources for smokeless businesses. The ministry is conducting works on research and maintenance of Myanmar cultural heritages according to guidelines set by the National Cultural Central Committee; to prevent national cultural heritages from being tarnished through unruly acts and urged continued cooperation to implement suggestions made at the meeting and fulfill requirements.

Translated by TTN

Cash contributed to construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda, Dhamma Thala building in Nay Pyi Taw

A CEREMONY to donate cash for the construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda and Dhamma Thala two storey building in Nay Pyi Taw and for missionary working in border and hilly regions was held Yangon branch of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon yesterday.

At the ceremony, U Zaw Moe Khine and Dr Saw Nay Nwe and family from AA Medical Product Ltd. and Pacific AA Foundation donated K200 million for the construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda, K40 million for missionary working in border and hilly regions and K10 million for construction of Dhamma Thala two storey build-



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko accepts cash donation for the construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda and Dhamma Thala two storey building in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

ing; U Win Pe, wife Daw Shwe Chaw, daughters Ma Nila, Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Ma Nan War and family donated K100 million for the construction of the pagoda, K10 million for Dhamma

Thala building; U Thein Win Zaw, wife Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Daw Tin Latt Min, son Maung Win Paing Kyaw, daughter Ma Theint Win Htet from Shwe Byinebyu Co Ltd and family donat-

ed K10 million each for the construction of the Eternal Peace Pagoda and Dhamma Thala two storey building and for missionary tasks in border and hilly regions and K2 million to connect electricity in public servants housing of Department of Religious Affairs, Yangon.

The donations were accepted by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myint Oo who in return presented certificates of honours to the donors.

Later, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko expressed words of thanks.

— MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouse and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1st MAY 2019 (World Workers Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (017 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (017 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe and attendees pose for the documentary photo at the capacity building workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

MNREC, foreign experts to review 2nd greenhouse gas inventory report

CAPACITY Building Workshop on National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGHGI) and Sustainable Waste Management was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting is jointly organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and King Mongkut's University of Thailand in preparation for implementing the 2nd Myanmar national-level report on climate change, a project between the ministry and the UN Environment.

Speaking at the workshop, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe said Myanmar, which has been a member of the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention-UNFCCC since 1994, would seek advices from the foreign experts for checking the its second report on greenhouse gas emission calculation in this workshop.

The meeting was attended by the director-general of the Envi-

ronmental Conservation Department, the Director-General of the Land Survey Department and representatives of the related ministries, Associate Professor Dr. Sirintornthep Towpraynoon and professors of the King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) and Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (JGSEE).

The workshop will be held till 26th April. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Invitation for Bids

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Central bank of Myanmar

Project: Myanmar Financial Sector Development Project

Contract Title: Procurement of Banknote Processing Machines

Reference No. G 5

1. The Government of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group toward the cost of the **Myanmar Financial Sector Development Project**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Procurement of Banknote Processing Machines, reference no G5**

2. Central Bank of Myanmar now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of **Banknote Processing Machines**

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) revised July 2014 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding documents during office hours e i.e. 09:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through e-mail only.

1. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before June 7, 2019, 13.30 hours, Myanmar time.
2. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below,
7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in amount of 1 (one) percent of the bid price in a Bank Guarantee format.

8. The address referred to above is:

Attention: Mr. San Myint Lwin, Staff Officer, Central Bank of Myanmar

Phone Number: ++95-67-418223, +95-9-454930676

Email Address: sanmyintlwinbmb@gmail.com

Address: Office No. 55, Yaza Thingaha Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw

Country: Myanmar

Abe, Macron to seek closer coordination in addressing global issues

PARIS — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday asked French President Emmanuel Macron for closer bilateral coordination in addressing trade and other global issues before Japan hosts a Group of 20 summit in June.

During a joint press appearance ahead of their talks, Abe also offered Japan's "unwavering support" for reconstructing Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris after last week's fire partially destroyed the World Heritage structure.

The summit comes as Japanese investigators have detained Carlos Ghosn, a former boss of France's Renault SA and its Japanese partner Nissan Motor Co., following his arrest for alleged financial misconduct at Nissan.

The two leaders did not men-

tion the situation surrounding Ghosn or the future of the alliance between the carmakers at the press appearance.

Abe chose France, which holds this year's presidency of the Group of Seven industrialized nations, as the first stop of his six-nation European and North American trip.

He hopes to rally support for a successful G-20 summit in Osaka of the world's advanced and emerging nations as Japan aims to demonstrate joint efforts toward fostering economic growth, tackling marine plastic debris and drawing up rules for the use of big data.

"I hope that the G-20 will send out a strong message that we will be united" to promote free trade and tackle global issues such as climate change.



French President Emmanuel Macron (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 30 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Macron said he will visit Japan to attend the G-20 summit, his first trip to the country after taking office.

The Japanese and French

leaders were expected to discuss cooperation in coping with regional issues such as North Korea's denuclearization.

—Kyodo News ■

Modi casts vote on India's 'Super Tuesday'

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Narendra Modi cast his vote on India's "Super Tuesday" when the biggest number of seats are decided in the country's marathon election.

The nationalist leader compared voting to Hindus cleansing their sins by bathing in the Ganges river after he cast his ballot in his home state of Gujarat.

The 117 seats over 15 states being fought for on Tuesday are the biggest number of any of the seven stages of voting over six weeks.

While Modi's right wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is considered the frontrunner in the vote, it faces a tough challenge from the opposition Congress party of Rahul Gandhi.

Modi met his 98-year-old mother and then waved to supporters from an open top car that took him to vote in Ahmedabad, Gujarat's main city.

The prime minister, who ruled the western state for over a decade before leading his party to national power in 2014, has stressed at rallies the need for the 900 million electorate to turn out.

"By voting, I feel the same sense of purity that one gets by taking bath at the Kumbh festival," he said, referring to the mass bathing by Hindus in the Ganges.

Modi has made national security and fighting terrorism his main campaign theme to blunt opposition attacks on his handling of the economy.

Many see the election as a referendum on his five-year rule — which has seen impressive economic growth but not the jobs that the BJP promised.

Gujarat sends 26 lawmakers to the Indian parliament and the right-wing BJP won all of those seats in 2014.

Modi voted in the constituency where his close associate Amit Shah, the BJP president and key powerbroker, is contesting his maiden election.

Gandhi is standing in Wayanad in Kerala state, taking a risk as south India is considered a stronghold of regional parties.

The opposition party leader says contesting Wayanad is a sign of his commitment to southern India. His opponents say it shows he fears defeat in his traditional seat in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. —AFP ■

WWII Australian freighter sunk by Japanese submarine discovered

SYDNEY — An Australian freighter sunk by a Japanese submarine during World War II was located by Australian re-

searchers after being lost for 77 years, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization said Tuesday. The

100-meter-long SS Iron Crown sank in less than a minute when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine on June 4, 1942, off the southeastern coast of Australia, the research group said in a statement.

Of the 43 crew members on board, 38 lost their lives.

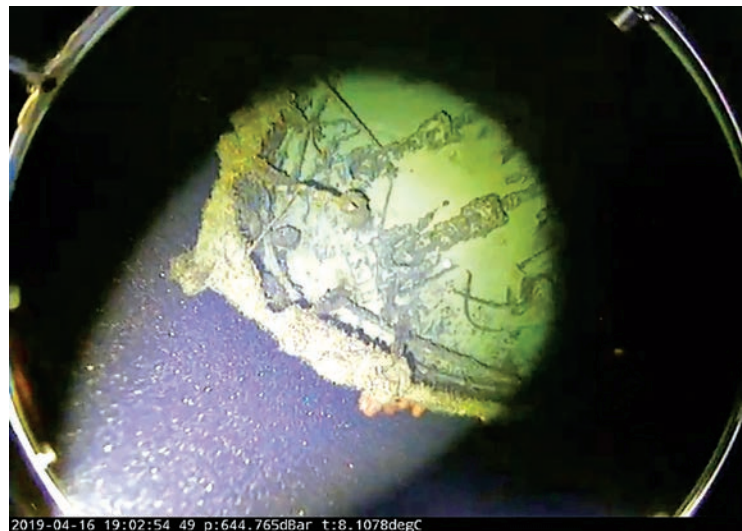
Emily Jateff, chief scientist on board the research vessel "Investigator," which was used to locate the shipwreck, said in a statement that the team is honored to have discovered the wartime relic.

"The fact that so many lives were lost in the sinking of Iron Crown was something that hit home with all scientists, staff and ship crew working on board Investigator," the Australian National Maritime Museum scientist said.

Using sonar equipment and a special drop camera, Jateff's team has concluded that the SS Iron Crown sits "relatively intact" and upright on the seafloor, roughly 100 kilometers off the coast of Victoria.

"We have mapped the site and surrounding seafloor using sonar but have also taken a lot of close up vision of the ship structure using a drop camera," she said, explaining that the data will be used to create a composite image of the site to assist in further research and conservation efforts.

Footage taken by the research team show many features of the ship remain intact including the bow of the ship, with railings, anchor chains and both anchors still in position. —Kyodo News ■



An Australian freighter sunk by a Japanese submarine during World War II was located by Australian researchers after being lost for 77 years, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization said Tuesday. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Second quake strikes as Philippines hunts for survivors

MANILA — Philippine rescuers raced Tuesday to reach some two dozen people still feared buried under a building near Manila that collapsed a day earlier in a deadly earthquake, as a powerful second tremor hit the nation.

The US Geological Survey put the second quake — on the central island of Samar — at 6.4 magnitude, stronger than the one that wrought significant damage

Monday near the capital in the north. The latest quake sent terrified locals fleeing into the streets, with images on social media showing cracked roads, crumbling church walls and shattered glass.

"No one started crying, but of course some panicked because it was really strong," said Rey Estrobo, a supervisor at a hotel in Borongan town, near the epi-

centre.

At the same time, the toll in Monday's quake rose to 16, with most of the fatalities in the worst-hit northern province of Pampanga, national disaster officials said.

More than 100 others were injured by falling rubble on Monday, including in Manila, according to police.

However, initial reports indicated relatively minor destruc-

tion in Samar given the strength of Tuesday's quake, which could be down to differences in ground composition.

"The damage is more pronounced if the houses and buildings are built on a foundation of soft soil," seismologist Myla Advincula told AFP, referring to Pampanga's soft sediment. "It enhances the shaking effect." —AFP ■

ASEAN wants RCEP negotiations concluded by Nov., signed next year

PHUKET — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations no longer expects an Asia-wide free trade deal involving 16 countries to be signed by November, but it still hopes negotiations can be concluded by then, ASEAN officials said Tuesday.

The targets for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, being negotiated among the 10-member ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand, were discussed in two days of talks

among ASEAN economic ministers on the Thai resort island of Phuket, which ended earlier in the day.

Thai Deputy Commerce Minister Chutima Bunyapraphasara told reporters after the talks that the ministers of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam agreed to finalize the protracted RCEP negotiations by the time ASEAN leaders hold their annual summit in November.

But she said the signing of the agreement would likely have to wait until next year due to the political changes in some countries. Indonesia and Thailand recently held elections, India is currently holding one, and voters in Australia and the Philippines are due to go to the polls in May.

When the 16 RCEP nations' leaders met last November, they resolved to reach a final agreement within 2019, after missing a year-end deadline amid disagreements over tariffs

and other politically sensitive issues. The RCEP talks began in 2013 and the initial goal was to wrap them up in 2015. Covering a third of the global economy, it will be one of the world's largest free trade zones.

ASEAN Secretary General Lim Jock Hoi told a press conference that RCEP will help boost economic growth of the region and support the plan of ASEAN to double intra-ASEAN trade in 2025 from 2017's figure of about \$590 billion.—Kyodo News

OBITUARY
(Called To Be With Him
on 22nd April 2019)
Daw Charity Pho Lu (a) Daw Mya Sein
(77 years)

Retd Teacher, St. Mary Diocesan, St. John Convent, Retd SAT (TTC- Kamaryut)

Daughter of (Rev U Pho Lu and Rachel Daw Pu); beloved wife of U Peter Htwe Hlaing; beloved mother of U Kyaw Thura Hlaing and Daw Naw Ohnmar Kyaw, (Kyaw Nanda Hlaing), and U Kyaw Thiha Hlaing and Daw Saw Thandar Aye; beloved grandma of Naw Hpoo Yamone Hlaing and Olivia San Yati Hlaing was called to be with Him on 22-4-2019 (Monday) at 7.15 am. The remains will be cremated at Yayway cemetery on 26-4-2019 (Friday) after the funeral service being held at Saint Michael Church, No. 135, Upper Kyimyindaing Road at 2 p.m.

Bereaved family

China-Europe freight train cargo value surges by 106 per cent

BEIJING — The total cargo value of China-Europe freight trains rose 106 percent year on year to hit 33 billion US dollars in 2018, an official said Monday.

China-Europe freight trains have made 14,691 trips since March 2011 when they started, said Xiao Weiming with the Office of the Leading Group for Promoting the Belt and Road Initiative.

The cross-border rail network has connected

62 Chinese cities with 51 European cities in 15 countries.

China-Europe freight trains have developed since they branded under the "China Railway Express" banner in 2016.

The China-Europe rail service is considered a significant part of the Belt and Road Initiative, and is expected to boost trade between China and Europe, China's largest trading partner.

—Xinhua ■



Ministers in charge of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade framework attend a preparatory meeting in November, 2017 in Manila. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Indonesia looks to higher GDP growth next year as consumption ticks up

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government has set a stagnant or higher economic growth target next year as consumption and investment are looked to stay afloat.

The government assumed the economic growth will hover 5.3-5.6 per cent next year, Indonesian

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati disclosed on Tuesday.

"President expects we can achieve 5.6 per cent," Minister Mulyani said, referring to Indonesian President Joko Widodo. That compares with 5.3 per cent growth's expectation for this year. Consumption

accounted for over a half of the growth is projected to drift higher 5.2 per cent next year from this year's expectation of 5 per cent, said Mulyani.

On investment, Mulyani said, it is projected to accelerate at 5.6 per cent in 2020, nevertheless the president wants invest-

ment growth to move up 7.5 per cent. While export is projected to accelerate 7 per cent and import 6 per cent next year, she said in Bogor town of West Java province. The spending of the development budget would be focused much on efforts to drive up investment and exports, Mulyani

asserted. "The president asked the allocation of development budget to focus on development policies, especially spending for capitals and infrastructure," Mulyani said.

The government assumed inflation to touch between 2-4 per cent and rupiah value against the

greenback 14,000, she was quoted by a local media as saying. That compares with the assumption at this year's state development budget of 15,000, which was determined event at the US Fed. Reserve hawkish policy was nudging emerging economies, triggering capital outflows.—Xinhua ■

Crude oil hits 6-month high after US cracks down on Iran exports

NEW YORK — US crude oil spurted upward on the New York market Monday, with the key futures price hitting a nearly six-month high after Washington said it will end sanctions waivers for importers of Iranian oil on 2 May.

The May delivery of West Texas Intermediate crude finished at \$65.70, up \$1.70 from Thursday, the highest level since 30 October last year. The New York crude oil market was closed Friday for the Good Friday holiday. The United

States announced the end of sanctions waivers for importers of Iranian oil on 2 May as part of its strategy to pressure Tehran to end its nuclear programs and what it has been describing as Iran's "malign behavior."—AFP ■



An oil facility in the Khark Island in Iran. **PHOTO AFP**

2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship: Myanmar announce 23-member squad for final round of qualifiers

MYANMAR Football Federation (MFF) have announced a 23-member national team squad that will participate in the second round of 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers.

Myanmar will host Group A of the final round of qualifiers where they will face off against Australia, Uzbekistan and Nepal for a place in the tournament proper to be held in Thailand from October 27 to November 9.

Myanmar will meet Uzbekistan for the opening match on 26 April; Australia on April 28 and Nepal on April 30 for the final match. A team winning this qualifier will be qualified to compete for the title of AFC U-19 Championship. All matches will be played at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

Group B, to be held in Vietnam, will feature Korea Republic, IR Iran and Lebanon alongside the hosts. Top two teams from each group will join hosts Thailand, defending champions Japan, runners-up DPR Korea and 2017 third-place winners China PR in the main event.

Myanmar 23-member squad

Thet Thet Win will coach the women's team and will be assisted by San San Maw and San Yu Naing.

Goalkeepers: Zu Latt Nandi, Khin Myat Moe, Po Ou

Defenders: Thazin Aung, Moe Ma Ma Soe, Phyu Phyu Win, Kyipya Lin, Ei Ei Kyaw, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Zune Yu Ya Oo, Hnin Mya Thazin, Nant Zu Zu Htet



Midfielders: Lin Myint Mo, May Phu Ko, Aye Aye Htwe, Bawe Lyan Kane, Pont Pont

Paye Maung, Moe Moe Thant, Thidar Win

Forwards: San Thaw

Thaw, Aye Myat Khaing, Myat Noe Khin, Nwe Ni Win.—Aung Htein■

Sterling calls for nine-point racism penalty

LONDON — Raheem Sterling has called for clubs whose fans racially abuse players to be hit with a nine-point penalty, saying current punishments meant the issue was “nowhere near being sorted” by football authorities.

The Manchester City forward has become increasingly outspoken on racism in football, having received abuse on the

pitch while playing for both his club and on England duty.

Recently, he cupped his hands to his ears in response to derogatory chants from Montenegro fans while playing for England last month.

Now Sterling has become one of the signatories to a manifesto published in Tuesday's edition of Britain's The Times

newspaper calling for more black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people in positions of power within football, more severe punishments for racist abuse and greater action by social media organisations, sponsors and traditional media.

“When I was a boy growing up in London, going to school and playing football, I didn't know what racist abuse was because I never suffered any,” Sterling wrote in The Times.

“So it seems crazy that, in 2019, I feel the need to write a piece in a newspaper calling for radical changes to the game that I love.

“But I do because the racism problem in football is so bad, runs so deep and is nowhere near being sorted.”

He added: “You will all have read about the various high-profile racist incidents in recent months: the abuse I received playing for Manchester City away to Chelsea; the booing that the black England players were subjected to in Montenegro; the nastiness that Moise Kean of Juventus endured in Italy and the endless insults thrown at players on social media.

“But that is sadly just the tip of the iceberg. Up and down the game, across the world, black and

Asian players, fans and coaches are subjected to racism. Every day, from park football to the Champions League.

“In my opinion, the people who run the game are doing nowhere near enough to solve the problem. And that's not good enough.”

'Fines do no damage'

Sterling said punishment for racist abuse should start with an automatic nine-point deduction for clubs and three games behind closed doors rather than the current system of fines, which he said were an insufficient deterrent. “It sounds harsh, but which fan will risk racist behaviour if it might relegate their team or ruin their title bid?”

“Small fines do no damage to clubs and countries, but one group of people who do have the money to make them take notice are sponsors. The next time that a club or governing body fails to act appropriately against racism, I would love to see that company pull its money out and make a moral stand.

“I don't know how long it will take for things to change but we have to start now. I don't want the next generation of black players to have to put up with this evil.” — Xinhua ■

Wednesday could be decisive in Spain's La Liga

MADRID — Wednesday promises to be another key day in this season's La Liga, and this season's title could possibly be decided by this evening.

If league leaders Barcelona win away to Alaves on Tuesday night, a victory for Valencia away to second-placed Atletico Madrid would see Barca crowned as this season's champions.

Fifth-placed Valencia will be without top striker Rodrigo Moreno, who was sent off towards the end of last weekend's 2-1 win away to Real Betis, while Atletico are still without Diego Costa, who is suspended until the end of the season following his recent sending off against Barca.

Antoine Griezmann returns after suspension for the home team, who will have to be wary of Valencia's excellent run of form which has seen them lose just one of their last 22 games in all competitions. A win for the visitors would take them up to fourth and into a position which would assure them of a spot in next season's Champions League, ahead of Getafe who are to entertain Real Madrid on Thursday night. — Xinhua ■



More action on racism needed — Manchester City's Raheem Sterling. PHOTO: XINHUA