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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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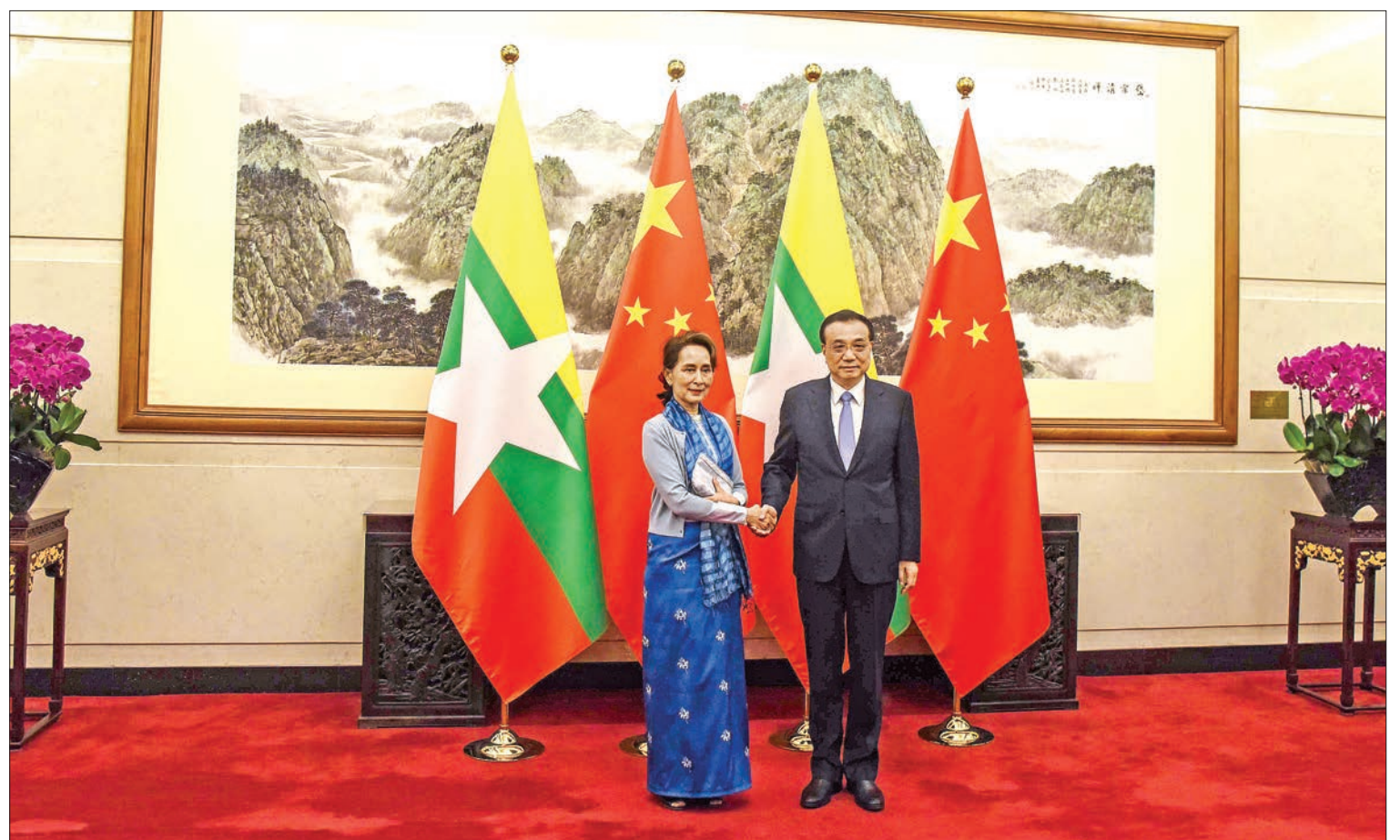
Friday, 26 April 2019

## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with PRC Premier Mr. Li Keqiang in Beijing

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, to attend the Second Belt and Road Forum addressed the opening ceremony of People to People Connectivity Thematic Forum held at the China National Convention Center yesterday morning.

In her address the State Counsellor said friendship based on mutual trust and understanding was important for cooperation. Without mutual trust and understanding our cooperation would not be effective. International forums and conferences gave an opportunity on achieving common stands to create a better world. There were various ways to approach a problem and a problem can be resolved in a positive way through friendship. There were challenges in working for our progresses without losing the main norms that bring forth friendship and happiness.

Without mutual trust and understanding it would be difficult to establish a global village where all lived harmoniously. Myanmar was a developing country and she would like to thank friends who had stood with us. Although challenges were being faced, it was believed that Myanmar could move forward with the help of those who provided trust and understanding and those who believed in mutual respect. Overcoming challenges depend on the people's firm



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Chinese Premier Mr. Li Keqiang at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

determination and efforts too. Despite the challenges, Myanmar would continue on the path of peace and development, said the State Counsellor.

Next the State Counsellor met with PRC Premier Mr. Li Keqiang at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

At the meeting matters relating to increasing the bilateral "paukphaw" relations for the benefit of the people, cooperating under the belt and road cooperation framework for

development of road communications and transportation basic infrastructure in Myanmar, continuing the import quota into China of 100,000 tons of Myanmar rice, discussing and negotiating toward increasing purchase of Myanmar agriculture and animal products in the future, achieving peace and stability along the border of the two countries, eradicating illegal border trade to increase bilateral trade volume, and coordinating between officials on

preventing human trafficking and increasing cooperation in all sectors on the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2020 were discussed cordially and openly and views exchanged.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Sett Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and officials.

Afterwards State Coun-

sellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the signing ceremony of Myanmar-China memorandum of understandings (MOUs) and agreements held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Sett Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and officials.

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## Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 12/2019



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

MEETING 12/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, Joint 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)

## Eye on developing bamboo industry, entrepreneurs tour China

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs' Association has organized its second study tour to China, which will focus on policy-making, research, inclusive growth, and green industrialization in the sector.

The tour, which began on 24 April and ends on 29 April, is aimed at developing Myanmar's bamboo industry.

The visit has been organized with the support of the Business Innovation Facility (BIF), a programme funded by the UK's Department for International Development, under an arrangement with the Global Environmental Institute, an independent non-profit organization based in Beijing.

Officials from the Forest Department, the Bago Regional parliament, the Myanmar Network for Bamboo and Rattan (MYANBAR), and BIF are accompanying the members of the association on the tour. They will be visiting Beijing and Hang Zhou in China.

The tour will focus on observing the Chinese bamboo

sector, with regards to policy and strategic planning, research and development, and industry growth.

The study tour will include meetings with the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) and International Center for Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR). The delegates will also have an opportunity to explore green bamboo industrialization (zero waste and carbon neutral production) in China.

Learning about the inclusive growth in the sector in China may help support bamboo-based poverty reduction and green development in Myanmar, according to the association.

At present, Myanmar exports furniture made of bamboo, rattan, and wood to markets in the US, the Republic of Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and EU countries. Exports of bamboo, rattan, and wood furniture bring in over US\$20 million per year, according to the Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs' Association.

"The income from bamboo, rattan, and wood exports has reached \$20 million. But,

earnings should have increased more. In the last 30 to 40 years, Myanmar has been exporting teak logs and raw materials due to lack of infrastructure. There are over 700 rattan and bamboo companies in Viet Nam. However, Myanmar has 30 to 40 value-added rattan and bamboo enterprises. We need to make efforts to increase the number of value-added producers and help their businesses grow," said U Kyaw Thu, the chair of the association.

The Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs' Association and Wood-based Furniture Association will be holding the Myanmar International Furniture Expo twice a year from 2019, to boost Myanmar's furniture industry, speed up value-added production, create jobs, alleviate poverty, improve import-substitution businesses, and encourage value-added producers. There are also plans to conduct international furniture expos which focus beyond the domestic market, and upgrade technology by linking up with international producers. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Notification 58/2019  
6<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME  
25 April, 2019

### Permission to register as a political party

THE Union Betterment Party (UBP) headquartered at No (A-3), Yarza Thingaha Street, Pubbathiri Township, Ottara District in Nay Pyi Taw, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 25 April 2019.

The registration number of the Union Betterment Party (UBP) is 112.

Sd/-  
(Hla Thein)  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

## Project worth \$500 mln to be signed for Htantabin Industrial Zone



Yangon Region's Minister for Planning and Finance U Myint Thuang delivers the opening speech at the press conference on Yangon Investment Forum 2019. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

A CONSORTIUM of Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Myanmar companies will sign a US\$500-million investment project at the Yangon Investment Forum 2019 on 10 May.

The project is part of the 1,000-acre industrial zone in Htantabin Township.

The Htantabin Industrial Zone will be implemented in two steps, and is expected to create about 150,000 jobs, said Yangon Region's Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs, Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, at a press conference about the Yangon Investment Forum at the Co-operative Business Centre in Yangon.

"We are holding discussions with other investors who are interested in doing business in other industrial zones," said the minister.

About 70 per cent of the investment in the country is con-

centrated in the Yangon Region, of which, Myanmar nationals account for 25 per cent.

Forty-nine domestic investors and 163 foreign investors have entered the region so far in the 2018-2019 Financial Year. China tops the list of foreign investors, followed by Hong Kong and the Republic of Korea.

"We are expecting to see more investments in the 2018-2019FY than in previous years. Investments have mostly flown into small and medium enterprises in this fiscal year," said U Myo Khaing Oo, the director of Yangon Region's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

There are 29 industrial zones in Yangon. The Thilawa Special Economic Zone is also located in the region.—Min Thit ■

(Translated by TTN)

“ Today at this time, we are witnessing the transformation of an era and a system in accordance with democratic principles. This is just the beginning of the democratic transition. To make this transition process smooth and successful, it is very important for our peoples, government employees and civil servants to change their dogmatic mindset and habits. Those government institutions which are lagging behind in the transformation process will need to be put under tight management controls. The country's weak judiciary system would need to be strengthened. More efforts need to be exerted to stamp out corruption. More efforts need to be exerted to prevent human rights violations. More efforts need to be exerted to crack down illegal drug trade. We need to manage public funds properly so that there is no wastage. Measures need to be taken to return confiscated farmland to farmers and to give compensation to farmers for losses they have suffered in accordance with the law. We also need to improve the socio-economic life of farmers, improve the lives of workers and ensure that students gain access to higher education.

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

“ We face various kinds of internal and external challenges while we endeavor for political, economic and social development of our country. As we are aware of the importance of our international responsibility, we have adopted a path consistent with the needs and situation of our country respecting at the same time the views and opinions of the international community.

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

## State Counsellor attends Thematic Forums of 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing

### FROM PAGE-1

In the presence of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Premier Mr. Li Keqiang, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Sett Aung and PRC National Development and Reform Commission Vice Minister Mr. Zhang Yong signed an MOU between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Planning and Finance and PRC National Development and Reform Commission on China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Cooperation Plan (2019-2030), Deputy Minister U Sett Aung and PRC Ministry of Commerce Vice Minister Mr. Yu Jianhua signed an MOU between Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and PRC



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses Thematic Forums of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, China. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Commerce on the Formulation of the Five-Year Development Program for Economic and Trade Cooperation and Myanmar Ambassador

to China U Thit Lin Ohn and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang signed an agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between

the Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

After the signing ceremony the State Counsellor and party visited the Forbidden City where State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Ambassador U Thit Lin Ohn, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and personnel from Myanmar-China embassies took a commemorative group

photo. Later the State Counsellor signed in the Forbidden City Guest Book.

Later in the evening the State Counsellor and party attended a dinner hosted by Mr. Song Tao, head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) at Central Committee of the CPC International Department. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her entourage visit the Forbidden City in Beijing, China. **PHOTO: MNA**

Without mutual trust and understanding it would be difficult to establish a global village where all lived harmoniously.

# Senior General visits MIG-29 Service Support Center

ON his goodwill tour to Russia, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party paid homage to the presiding monk of the Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara Monastery Dr. Ashin Issariya in Moscow on Wednesday.

Then, the necessary measures for Dhammayone (prayer hall) construction in the monastery compound, building extensions to the monastery and arrangement for replica of the Shwezigon Pagoda to be constructed at the World Culture Museum Park had been requested.

The Senior General and Tatmadaw officers also donated offertories and cash, and then inspected the preparation for constructing extensions to the monasteries. The party then

posed for documentary photos in front of the monastery, greeted the families of Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air Force), asking their needs and also presented them cash awards.

The Senior General and party then visited the MIG-29 Service Support Center, and made a tour of the factory. Afterwards, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the dinner reception hosted by Russian Minister of Defence, Army General Sergey Kuzhugotovich Shoygu, to the representatives of the 8<sup>th</sup> Moscow Conference on International Security in Moscow, Russia, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with officials from MIG-29 Service Support Center in Moscow yesterday.  
**PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

## AA attacks military HQ in MraukU Township's Baungdote village

AA GROUP attacked a regional military headquarters in Baungdote Village of MraukU Township in the evening on 24 April, according to a news release from the military. One AA member was reportedly killed in the attack.

Using small and heavy arms, the group launched the first attack from within the village, and two others from the Yangon-Sittway Road near the military installation.

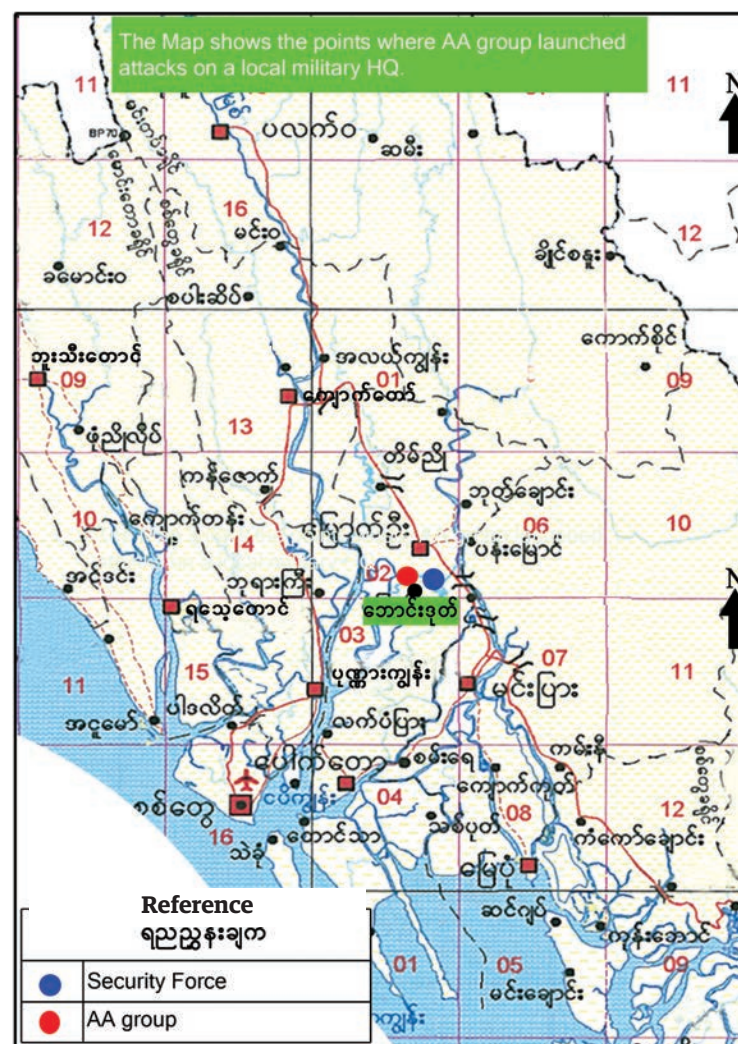
The AA group attacked the HQ and the security gate from inside the Baungdote Village around 7:30 p.m., and the security forces returned fire.

The firing seized around 7:40 p.m. Around 8:15 p.m., the group attacked the installation using heavy arms from the Yangon-Sittway Road, and again fired small arms around 9 p.m.

Yesterday morning, officials from the HQ inspected the area from where the attacks were launched and found the body of one AA member. Tatmadaw columns are continuing security operations in the region.

AA members have attacked the military HQ thrice from the village.

On 18 April, officials had met with villagers at the monastery in the village and had asked them not to support ter-



rorism and inform the security forces if AA members came near the village.

Members of the AA are taking cover in towns, wards, and villages to approach and attack military installations, so that if the military engages with them, they can create

misunderstandings between the people and the Tatmadaw, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services —MNA

(Translated by  
Zaw Min)

## Myanmar's bilateral trade with Germany exceeds \$300 mln in Oct-Feb

TRADE value between Myanmar and Germany between 1 October, 2018 and end-Feb 2019 of current fiscal year reached US\$304 million, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's export to Germany in first five months of the current FY surpassed its import, with \$228.9 million worth of export and \$75 million valued import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Germany is the biggest trade partner in European Union, followed by the UK and France.

Beyond regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU members.

The main export items are rice, pulses, tea leaf, coffee, garments on Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisheries. Meanwhile, machinery, data-processing equipment, electrical and optical goods, chemical products, motor vehicles and parts and pharmaceutical products, cosmetic, food and beverages and consumer goods are imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar reinstated EU's Generalized Scheme of Preference starting from 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Myanmar can enjoy GSP for export of fisheries, rice, pulses, agro products, bamboo and rattan finished products, forestry products, apparels and finished industrial goods. Nevertheless, EU, as protectionism trade policy, imposed three-year tariff on indica rice (long-grain rice) imported from Myanmar and Cambodia starting from 18 January.

Trade value with Germany was registered at \$373 million in the past mini-budget period (April-September 2018), \$584 million in 2017-2018 FY, \$342 million in 2016-2017 FY, \$153 million in FY 2015-16, \$147 million in 2014-2015 FY, \$123 million in 2013-2014 FY, \$187 million in 2012-2013 FY and \$137 million in FY 2011-2012.

EU member countries put investments in petroleum and natural gas enterprises, manufacturing, transportation, hotels and tourism and livestock businesses.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Arrival of foreign visitors to Myanmar

| Sr. | Subject                                                  | 2018<br>(Up to<br>March) | 2019<br>(Up to March) | Increase /<br>Decrease | Per-<br>centage |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1   | Arrival by air                                           | 377,297                  | 466,461               | 89,164                 | +24%            |
| 2   | Arrival by cruise<br>ship                                | 4,761                    | 4,047                 | -714                   | -15%            |
| 3   | Arrival at border<br>gate and travel into<br>the country | 15,417                   | 37,625                | 22,208                 | +144%           |
|     | Arrival by visa                                          | 397,475                  | 508,133               | 110,658                | +28%            |
| 4   | Visit border only                                        | 530,978                  | 628,482               | 97,504                 | +18%            |
|     | Total                                                    | 928,453                  | 1,136,615             | 208,162                | +22%            |

Comparison of visitor arrival by nationality

| No. | Nationality           | 2018<br>(Up to<br>March) | 2019<br>(Up to<br>March) | difference | Percentage |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1   | <u>North America</u>  | 24,763                   | 24,766                   | 3          | 0%         |
| 2   | America               | 20,710                   | 21,000                   | 290        | 1%         |
|     | Canada                | 4,053                    | 3,766                    | -287       | -7%        |
|     | <u>Other Americas</u> | 3,916                    | 3,388                    | -528       | -13%       |
|     | <u>West Europe</u>    | 67,911                   | 64,831                   | -3,080     | -5%        |
| 1   | France                | 18,170                   | 17,494                   | -676       | -4%        |
| 2   | U.K                   | 13,561                   | 11,531                   | -2,030     | -15%       |
| 3   | Germany               | 11,575                   | 10,989                   | -586       | -5%        |
| 4   | Italy                 | 5,585                    | 6,863                    | 1,278      | 23%        |
| 5   | Switzerland           | 3,800                    | 3,331                    | -469       | -12%       |
| 6   | Netherlands           | 3,009                    | 3,018                    | 9          | 0%         |
| 7   | Belgium               | 2,024                    | 1,863                    | -161       | -8%        |
| 8   | Austria               | 1,314                    | 1,537                    | 223        | 17%        |
| 9   | Spain                 | 2,459                    | 2,513                    | 54         | 2%         |
| 10  | Others                | 6,414                    | 5,692                    | -722       | -11%       |
|     | <u>East Europe</u>    | 7,036                    | 6,812                    | -224       | -3%        |
| 1   | Russia                | 2,132                    | 1,901                    | -231       | -11%       |
| 2   | Others                | 4,904                    | 4,911                    | 7          | 0%         |
|     | <u>Africa</u>         | 1051                     | 1160                     | 109        | 10%        |
|     | <u>Middle East</u>    | 1,804                    | 1,989                    | 185        | 10%        |
|     | <u>Asia</u>           | 281,176                  | 396,362                  | 115,186    | 41%        |
| 1   | China                 | 68,976                   | 159,153                  | 90,177     | 131%       |
| 2   | Thailand              | 86,367                   | 77,132                   | -9,235     | -11%       |
| 3   | Korea                 | 19,854                   | 37,648                   | 17,794     | 90%        |
| 4   | Japan                 | 28,329                   | 34,308                   | 5,979      | 21%        |
| 5   | Singapore             | 14,666                   | 14,341                   | -325       | -2%        |
| 6   | Viet Nam              | 14,328                   | 13,476                   | -852       | -6%        |
| 7   | India                 | 10,841                   | 12,086                   | 1,245      | 11%        |
| 8   | Malaysia              | 13,819                   | 11,618                   | -2,201     | -16%       |
| 9   | Taiwan                | 10,139                   | 10,949                   | 810        | 8%         |
| 10  | Hong Kong             | 57                       | 9,227                    | 9,170      |            |
| 11  | Macau                 | 2                        | 752                      | 750        |            |
| 13  | Philippine            | 4,476                    | 4,501                    | 25         | 1%         |
| 13  | Others                | 9,322                    | 11,171                   | 1,849      | 20%        |
|     | <u>Oceania</u>        | 9,818                    | 8,825                    | -993       | -10%       |
| 1   | Australia             | 8,622                    | 7,692                    | -930       | -11%       |
| 2   | New Zealand           | 1,163                    | 1,086                    | -77        | -7%        |
| 3   | Others                | 33                       | 47                       | 14         | 42%        |
|     | Total                 | 397,475                  | 508,133                  | 110,658    | 28%        |

Union Minister signs condolence for victims of terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka

UNION MINISTER for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun writes a condolence book opened at the resident of the Sri Lankan Ambassador in Yangon yesterday for victims of terrorist attacks on some five-star hotels and Catholic Churches in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 21 April.

The condolence book will be opened at the resident of the Sri Lankan Ambassador from 10 am



Union Minister U Thaung Tun writes in the book of condolence for victims of the April 21 terrorist attacks in Colombo. **PHOTO: MNA**

to 12 noon and 2 pm to 4 pm (Translated by Kyaw from 23 to 26 April. — MNA Zin Lin)

Myanmar foreign exports increases by over \$600 mln from October to March

BETWEEN October and March of the 2018-2019 financial year, Myanmar’s exports registered at US\$8.227 billion and imports stood at \$8.966 billion. This period, Myanmar traded with foreign countries worth \$17.193 billion. During the same period last FY, the total trade was \$17.204 billion, with exports worth \$7.615 billion and imports worth \$9.589 billion.

Compared with last FY, Myanmar’s exports exceeded \$612 million and decreased in import worth \$623 million. Myanmar’s total trade slightly decreased \$11 million this FY compared with last FY.

Comparison table for export group items of this FY and last FY:

| US\$ Million |                           |                                              |                                 |            |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Sr.          | Subject                   | from Oct to Mar 2018-<br>2019 FY (temporary) | From Oct to Mar<br>2017-2018 FY | Difference |
| 1.           | Agriculture products      | 1708.479                                     | 1589.462                        | 119.017    |
| 2.           | Animals products          | 275.390                                      | 53.166                          | 222.224    |
| 3.           | Marine products           | 432.584                                      | 408.923                         | 23.661     |
| 4.           | Mineral products          | 548.758                                      | 1118.097                        | -569.339   |
| 5.           | Forest products           | 90.772                                       | 99.986                          | -9.214     |
| 6.           | Manufacture prod-<br>ucts | 4615.051                                     | 3605.825                        | 1009.226   |
| 7.           | Other                     | 555.790                                      | 739.063                         | -183.273   |
| Total        |                           | 8226.824                                     | 7614.522                        | 612.302    |

Comparison table for import group items of this FY and last FY:

| US\$ million |                          |                                              |                                  |            |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Sr.          | Subject                  | from Oct to Mar 2018-<br>2019 FY (temporary) | From Oct to Mar 2017-<br>2018 FY | Difference |
| 1.           | Investment prod-<br>ucts | 2900.997                                     | 3257.383                         | -356.306   |
| 2.           | Raw material             | 3320.480                                     | 3582.444                         | -261.964   |
| 3.           | Article of use           | 1649.531                                     | 1815.701                         | -166.170   |
| 4.           | CMP                      | 1094.810                                     | 933.889                          | 160.921    |
| Total        |                          | 8965.818                                     | 9589.337                         | -623.519   |

—MNA

Low pressure persists over Bay of Bengal

ACCORDING to observations taken at 3:30 p.m. yesterday, the low pressure area over the Equatorial Indian Ocean and the adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal is still persisting. It may intensify into a depression over the next 24 hours, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The skies have been cloudy over the South Bay, and a little cloudy to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and else-

where in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTER-NOON OF 26 April:**

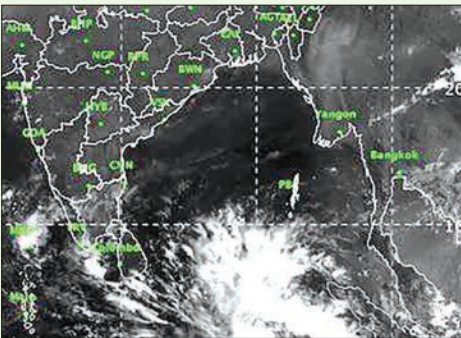
Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, and Kachin and Shan states. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. The skies will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

**STATE OF THE SEA:**

The sea will be slight to moderate, and wave height will reach about 3-5 feet, off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR 27 AND 28 April:**

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayin, and Mon states.—GNLM



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Visitors throng to Bagan despite scorching heat

MYANMAR has received more tourists in the high season this year compared to last year, and a large number of travelers are visiting Bagan every day, in spite of the soaring temperatures.

"Tourist entries in Bagan have increase compared with the year-ago period. Bagan, Yangon, Mandalay, Inle Lake, and Ngwesaung beach are among Myanmar's famous tourist spots. After Myanmar began granting visa exemptions and visas-on-arrival, tourism has boomed. If Myanmar can develop more tourist sites than the neighboring countries, it will get more tourists," said U Sai Soe Han, deputy chairman, Chinese Tourist Guides Association.

Chinese tourists usually visit Myanmar between October and March. With tourists from visa-free countries entering Myanmar in the summer



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

season, the hill regions and the Bagan cultural zone are packed with visitors.

Tourists mostly enter Myanmar on chartered flights in April and May. Travel agencies offer Mandalay-Bagan, Nay Pyi Taw, and Yangon-Bagan-Ngwe-Saung tour plans in Mandalay

and Yangon.

The government is trying to earn foreign income by boosting Myanmar's tourism sector. The regional governments are planning to use Myanmar handicrafts, culture, and food to draw tourists. Travelers can also enjoy scenic views of mountains and

observe the ethic culture, costumes, food, and lifestyle.

Bagan is currently seeing a large number of tourist arrivals, even in the hot summer season, and more visitors are expected to arrive in May. — Than Htike

(Translated by La Wonn)

## Norms being drawn up to set star rating system for hotels

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is drawing up the norms to set a star rating system for the hotels across the country, said an official from the Ministry.

Initially, the ministry is observing the hotels in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, Mandalay, Inle, Ngapali and Kawthoung.

A coordination meeting was held on 19 April at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw with an aim to promote the standards and the quality of the services provided by the hotels in Myanmar. A hotel star rating team was formed with

the representatives from Myanmar Hotels Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Tourism Federation, Foreign Investment Hotels Association and Myanmar Market Promotion Association.

The experts from the Hotel Star Rating Team observed the hotels in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, Mandalay, Inle, Ngapali and Kawthoung in the initial phase. The one to three star system is designed to "improve and maintain effectiveness of the service at the hotels" targeting mostly foreign visitors. As the number of tourists visit-

ing Myanmar is increasing, we need to offer better hotel facilities and services to the guests.

The government is also keen to encourage both foreign and local investments in the hotel and tourism sector as it can create job opportunities without significant environmental damage. Singapore currently tops foreign investment in Myanmar's hotel sector, followed by Thailand and Japan.

In 2018-2019 FY, a total of 630,177 tourists visited Myanmar via visa with 501,821 tourists visa and 128,356 tourists, via business visa.

The tourist arrival increased by 158,983 this fiscal, a 33.74 per cent increase compared to the same period of last year.

In 2018-2019 FY, the number of tourist arrival hit 73,652 in October, 98,980 in November, 102,012 in December, 111,814 in January, 124,094 in February and 119,625 in March.

Around 380 hotels and motels have been permitted to operate in Yangon, according to ministry data.— Tin Maung Myint ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Project focuses on protecting the river terns along Chindwin River

THE Myanmar Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been conducting a survey and project along the Chindwin River to protect the river terns, an endangered species which is known to lay eggs on the sandbanks of the river.

River tern surveys and conservation projects have been conducted since 2017 in Myanmar. The survey this year has found an increase in the river tern population, in spite of late breeding compared with the previous year, according to WCS (Myanmar).

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental

Conservation, the Forest Department, WCS (Myanmar), and local communities are jointly conducting the river tern survey and conservation project to bring the river tern back from the brink of extinction. The WCS (Myanmar) survey team is currently recording the population of river terns, whose numbers have been declining gradually.

Besides, the WCS survey team is raising awareness among local residents, encouraging them to farm domestic animals systematically and protect endangered species.— Nyi Tu ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



River terns, one of the endangered species, seen on beach along Chindwin River. **PHOTO: NYI TU**

## Maritime trade sees sharp fall in import, rise in export

MYANMAR'S maritime trade for the period from 1 October, 2018 to 5 April, 2019 in the current fiscal year amounted to US\$12.65 billion, a decrease of \$205 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the October-April period, maritime exports were valued at \$4.8 billion, while imports were registered at \$7.8 billion. Sea trade saw a sharp fall of \$536 million in import and a rise of \$331.5 million in export.

The country's total exter-

nal trade topped \$17.73 billion, an increase of \$92.9 million from the previous FY.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports contributed in sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port.—Mon

Mon ■ (Translated by Ei Myat

## Rice stockpiled in Muse to be given priority in barter trade with China: MRF

STOCKS of rice that are currently stuck at Muse on account of the recent trade suspension with China will be given priority when a new system of barter exchange is launched between Myanmar and China, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

The Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and the provincial government of Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21 April in Nay Pyi Taw to promote bilateral trade.

"A barter trade system will soon be applied in border trade. More than 40,000 tons of rice is currently stuck at the Muse border. This can create adversities for small and medium entrepreneurs who mainly rely on the Mandalay-Muse trade. To resolve this issue, we need to

discuss it with the authorities of Yunnan Province. If we can conduct fair trade, it will be beneficial to Yunnan Province. Therefore, our two governments have agreed to conduct trade through the barter system," said U Ye Min Aung, Chairman, MRF.

"Under the MoU, Myanmar will export agricultural products and livestock, including rice, corn, fish, prawn, and cows to Yunnan, while China will export agricultural machinery and construction materials to Myanmar. The fair trade will be highly beneficial to both countries," he said.

In a barter system, participants directly exchange goods and/or services for other goods and/or services, without any monetary transaction.

"If the MoU is negotiated successfully, agricultural produce, including rice, as well as

livestock from Myanmar can be exported to China on a much larger scale through the Muse border trade zone. We will start the barter system in May. We will give priority to rice currently stockpiled in Muse," said U Ye Min Aung.

Under the barter system, we will negotiate with the officials of Yunnan Province to fix the price, calculate the volume, and select the export items, he said.

"Both countries will make a list of export and import goods. Afterwards, they will meet again in May to discuss matters concerning bilateral trade," he added. The rice market at the Muse border trade zone between China and Myanmar was suspended after China seized illegally traded commodities at the end of February.—Aye Yamone ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

# Trade Mark Ads

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## MIC clears proposals of 22 foreign investors, 12 domestic enterprises

THE Myanmar Investment Commission, at a recent meeting, approved investments of US\$53.27 million from 22 foreign enterprises, and endorsed 12 domestic investment projects with estimated capitals of K87.5 billion including \$24 million.

The foreign enterprises will invest in Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady regions, and Kayin State. Prior to being approved by the MIC, their proposals were endorsed by the Investment Committees of the respective regions and state. A majority of the investments will flow into the manufacturing sector.

Two of the foreign projects are engaged in the hotel and other service sectors and are expected to create 10,168 jobs for local residents.

Meanwhile, 12 domestic enterprises will invest in Yangon, Bago, Sagaing, and Ayeyawady regions, and Kayah State. Their proposals have been endorsed by the MIC and the Investment Committees of the respective regions and state. The domestic projects will be executed in the manufacturing, agriculture,

real estate, and other service sectors, creating over 1,380 jobs.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 5 April, 2019, 147 foreign enterprises obtained permits and endorsements to invest in Myanmar, pulling in a capital of \$1.38 billion.

Overall, foreign direct investments of \$2 billion have flowed into the country so far, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments of over \$121 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

During the same period, 88 domestic enterprises invested K676.78 billion including \$240.56 million in the country.

Total domestic investments have exceeded including K889.96 billion, including expansion of capital. The Myanmar Investment Law allows the regions and states Investment Committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million, with the aim to simplify the verification of investment projects.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Yields low, but chickpea good deal after Thingyan, say traders



Sales of chickpeas have been good in the Yangon market after Thingyan. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

THE market for chickpeas is thriving in the post-Thingyan period, in spite of low yields this year, said U Aye Kyaing, chair of the Monywa Depot. "In the period after the Thingyan festival, sales of chickpeas have been good. The supply is low this year due to low yields. The drop in yield is due to weather conditions. Also, some growers turned to watermelons, muskmelons, and other crops," he said. Chickpeas are currently priced at K27,000-27,700 per

basket. Most merchants usually store the peas in the periods before and after the Thingyan festival. "Low yields have hiked up the price by K1,000-1,500 per basket," said U Aye Kyaing. About 5,000 bags of chickpeas were supplied to the Monywa depot after Thingyan, and they were delivered to markets in Mandalay and Yangon regions and Rakhine State.

"The spike in price is due to low yields and high demand from merchants, coupled with ex-

port demand. This is the harvest season for chickpeas. The cultivation season will start around October. Chickpeas stocks will run out if the export demand is high. The price might fall by K500-1,000 per basket when demand cools," said U Aye Kyaing.

"At present, growers will not face losses if they decide to store the peas. The market condition is quite good," he added.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Correct participation from conservationists can help protect our biodiversity

WITH several species of rare and endangered birds and animals making it their home, Myanmar has a rich biodiversity. To conserve and protect it, we need to adopt good strategies that take climate change and people into account.

Ten per cent of the world's bird species are found in Myanmar. Rare birds such as the Baer's pochard and the Spoon-billed Sandpiper can also be spotted here. Only 150 to 700 Baer's pochards are left in the world, and the global population of Spoon-billed Sandpipers is estimated at 2,500.

Of the seven existing species of sea turtles, five are found in Myanmar, which is also home to 10 per cent of freshwater turtles and tortoises (land-dwelling species).

Other animal species under the threat of extinction, such as the tiger, elephant, leopard, gaur, mountain goat, deer, sharp, and whale, can also be found in Myanmar. The country also has more than 18,000 plant species, including those endemic to the country.

New species are frequently being discovered in Myanmar, and more plant species can be identified if further research is conducted.

Therefore, Myanmar requires a good plan to conserve biodiversity and protect conservation areas.

The 30-year National Forestry Master Plan (2001-2002 to 2030-2031) has set a target of designating 10 per cent of the country's total area as forest reserve. So far, Myanmar has established 44 nature conservation areas, which make up 5.85 per cent of the country's total area.

Myanmar also drew up a five-year management plan for the ASEAN heritage parks — the Alaungdaw Kathapha and Natmataung national parks, and the Intawgyi and Meinmahla Kyun wildlife sanctuaries — in 2018. The plans are being implemented with

financial assistance from the Union Government and aid from the Small Grant Program, which is jointly being implemented by the Forest Department and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

Management plans for the remaining wildlife parks such as Chatthin, Shwesettaw, Poppa, and Moeyungyi are being drafted. The plans must take the impact of climate change, being observed today, into consideration.

The threat of climate change highlights the need to embrace ecosystem-based strategies that will enable people to be resilient and allow species to survive.

With good management and planning, we can protect our biodiversity and build a strong buffer to the likely effects of climate change.

Saving our natural resources and biodiversity requires filling knowledge gaps and correctly anticipating the responses of the environment and the people in a changing world.

# Office of Union Attorney General: Working hard to upgrade the legal framework, upholding rule of law for all

"The UAGO launched the Strategic Plan 2015-19 entitled "Moving Forward to the Rule of Law" in 2015 and we are now in the final year of the plan. There are arrangements to review and discuss its advantages and disadvantages for another 5 year plan."

U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney General



Union Attorney General,  
U Tun Tun Oo.



Deputy Attorney General  
U Win Myint.

By Thi Thi Min  
Photos: Mai Kha

THE main objective of the Union Attorney General's Office (UAGO) is to uphold rule of law and respect for the rights of all citizens. We met up with attorneys including the Attorney General himself to discuss about the progress of the Office of the Attorney's General in the course of previous year.

### Union Attorney General, U Tun Tun Oo

**Q: What are some highlights of the UAG office in their 3rd year in office of incumbent government?**

**A:** Through the past year,

the UAGO has reviewed and discussed over 181 draft laws from the ministries as well as 257 rules, regulations and notifications. The office also gave consultation on 688 international projects, 1097 on local and foreign investments and other 527 on law-related matters. The UAGO launched the Strategic Plan 2015-19 entitled "Moving Forward to the Rule of Law" in 2015 and we are now in the final year of the plan. There are arrangements to review and discuss its advantages and disadvantages for another 5 year plan. The Plan will continue to push the office to draft and vet laws that serve the Myanmar people and uphold the existing ones such as prosecution under fair trials and accountability of

the office.

In regards to the public's accessibility for the laws, the public laws, notification, rules and procedures as well as public cases in the court are now available on our public website. With the widespread use of phones to access the internet, we had over 200,000 readers within a year with 46% from Yangon.

### U Win Myint, Deputy Attorney General



Department of Legal Advice  
Director General  
Dr. Thida Oo.

### ney General

**Q: Can you tell us a bit about the rules and procedures for citizens when they face difficulties in getting a fair judgment?**

**A:** A committee has been formed February 2017 by the Union Government to discuss and

implement strategies for upholding rule of law and conducting fair trials. The AG is the chairman with other members from various Ministries including the Minister and Deputy Minister of Ministry of Home Affairs, representative from Myanmar Police Force, professors from Yangon University's Department of Law, Parliament representatives and social organizations. There are



Department of Prosecution Director  
General Daw Khin Cho Ohn.

17 members total.

There are also sub-groups of the committee on a state and region level with the respective Regional/State Ministers and Parliament Chairman on the board. The public can take their cases within the regional/state level which will work with the concerning groups/departments to resolve the cases. Throughout the 2 years of the committee being formed, there are over 552 cases reported. There was also a general meeting held March 2018 where the State Counsellor gave a speech regarding rule of law. There are plans to consolidate the discussions and ideas from the general meeting to pass the Strategic Plan 2019-23 "Justice for Everyone".

### Dr. Thida Oo, Director General, the Legal Advice Department

**Q: Can you explain to us about the scope of work of your department within the UAGO?**

**A:** The Department was formed as per the Attorney Gen-

eral of the Union Law Section 12(42) to assist the UAGO in reviewing ASEAN laws, Memorandum of Understands and other General Law advice. We also consult on international treaties, conventions to assess whether or not in the deals, Myanmar will be given a financial burden and/or whether Myanmar will need to be creating new laws to abide by the international conventions/



Daw Nu Nu Yin, Permanent  
Secretary, UAGO Office.

treaties.

Our department also helps review on MOUs signed on a Union level such as oil/gas exploration, foreign investments, mineral exploration, real estate buying/renting in Myanmar from foreign companies, selling/transferring ownership in companies where government stakes are involved and reviewing company shareholders agreement to see whether or not the terms and



Law officials attending a workshop on cyber crime.



Director-General Daw Khin Cho Ohn at the 4th Sub-Regional Meeting between Cambodia-Indonesia-Myanmar-Thailand Law Enforcement Cooperation in Fighting Trafficking in Persons in Fishing Industry.

ownership abide by the laws of Myanmar. In addition, we also consult the Regional/State administration laws and/or business deals that are forwarded to us from respective regional/state advocate's offices. This is to ensure that the deals that have been signed are in the best economic interest of Myanmar and does not impede on the laws, rules and right of sovereignty of Myanmar.

**Q: Any special accomplishments in the 3rd year in incumbent administration?**

**A:** For special accomplishments, we have been active in publishing books regarding advice on upholding and practicing rule of law. There were also rule of law workshops held in collaboration with the UAGO and the Denmark Embassy such

as International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR). We were also able to publish a Guideline on Scrutinizing Joint Venture Agreement and Land Lease Agreement. Research committees have also been formed as well for further publications in the multiple research journals.

### Daw Khin Cho Ohn, Director General, Prosecution Department

**Q: Can you tell us about the rules and procedures for prosecution?**

**A:** The Department of Prosecution represents the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in criminal cases in the Supreme Court. If the Republic is involved in the case, we are involved. The department also reviews various laws that comes up from the respective parliaments on whether or not they are fit for consideration. With the help of USAID, there are plans to digitalize our system and dockets. There are also workshops and collaborative training with other departments such as the Border Police, Myanmar Police Force, the Anti-trafficking Police Force and other law officers. Cooperation Guidelines have been written and distributed throughout so the teams are most efficient in working together and prosecuting criminals. The Fair Trial

Standards document was also published on Feb 20, 2018 for various levels of law officers to be familiar with fair trials and right judgment and procedures during cases.

### Daw Nu Nu Yin, Permanent Secretary, UAGO Office

**Q: What are some of the duties as Permanent Secretary of the UAGO?**

**A:** The main responsibility as Permanent Secretary is to make sure operations run smoothly. Quite a lot of resources are needed for the department as it is involved everywhere from drafting laws, being involved in cases where the Republic is prosecuting and reviewing laws and procedures of the ones drafted/passed. In order to upgrade our resources as the laws change, we have held up to 86 workshops and training modules for capability building as well as built 17 more courts and 7 staff housing.

Currently, we are focusing on making the laws of Myanmar accessible for everybody so that they are aware of their rights. The Myanmar Law and Information System is very helpful as the public can access up to 8800 different documents regarding laws, rules and procedures in Myanmar. There is also a Facebook page with constant news updates as well.

Translated by Myat Thu



The Union Attorney-General addresses the 6th meeting of the Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Coordinating Body.

# Kayah State: Striving with developmental opportunities

Kayah State has the potential for extensive development in the hotels and tourism sector because of the beautiful and green forests, spectacular mountain views, gorgeous rivers, and abundant waterfalls.

U L Phaung Sho, Chief Minister of Kayah State



U L Phaung Sho  
Chief Minister of Kayah State

BY SHIN MIN  
PHOTO: AYE THAN

**K**AYAH State, also known as Kandayawady and the land of silver mountain, is home to the Kayah, Kayan (Padaung), Yinbaw, Geko, Lahta (Zayein), Kayaw, Geba, Yantale, and the Kawayawmonu (Manu-manaw) ethnic races who share the land with the Bamar, Kayin, Shan, PaO and Intha ethnic races.

Kayah State has springs, waterfalls, natural caves, and picturesque scenery. It also has the Sinpyu Mountain, Hoya, Biya Region's viewpoints from high altitude that offers a view of the mist and clouds enveloping the mountain edges. The lush forests surrounding the land is also a heritage bestowed by nature.

Kayah State has a total area of 4,529.563 square miles and measures 102 miles from north to south and 70 miles from east to west. The 2014 Census shows 286,627 people make up the state's population. There are two districts, seven townships and three cities in Kayah State.

In the three years of Kayah State government's administration, they have managed to upgrade the Loikaw-Meisei road,

the lifeblood of the state, to a concrete road that reaches to the border with Thailand. This has resulted in the villages along the road to develop as well.

The development of transportation has contributed to the rise of local residents' socioeconomic livelihoods, and this is why the state government prioritizes the transportation sector.

During the three years the Kayah State Government has held office, they have managed to completely upgrade 551 miles and 4.4 furlong of roads in the state. The bridges have also been upgraded to steel reinforced concrete bridges. To accomplish this, the State Government has spent K9,559.658 million from the Union fund and K39,004.216 million from the state fund.

## Rural development

The Kayah State government strives for uniform urban and rural development. They have used K5,943.4 million for 167 road projects, 24 bridges, 181 water supply projects, 250 buildings, 19 toilets, 54 fencing projects and one other project in 462 villages.

The Kayah State government also opened 31 types of vocational training courses and trained 5,992 students. They also provided a total of K3,116.23 million in Mya Sein Yaung funds for agriculturalists and buyers of 6,731 households in 3 wards of 122 villages in the state.

## Electrification

In line with the road upgrades, the state government also carries out upgrades for electrification. Out of the 517 villages in Kayah State, the state government used the budget



Balu Chaung Hydropower Station No. 2



Kayah State officials welcome Myanmar citizens returning from Thailand.

from October to September of the 2018-2019 financial year to provide electricity to 392 villages.

Currently, 51,788 households out of 57,274 households in the state are now receiving electricity as of January 2019, meaning 90.42 per cent of them are electrified.

Five electric substations were constructed during the state government's tenure resulting in 14 villages receiving electricity in 2016, 11 in 2017, 11 in 2018 and 13 in 2019.

The improvements made to transportation and electrification have also developed the hotels and tourism sector. The capital of Loikaw now has 23 hotels, motels and inns with a combined 495 rooms. From 2016 to February 2019, 25,549 foreign tourists and 123,661 domestic tourists have visited Kayah State. The tourism sector has generated US\$231,127 million and K3,278.5 million with

the number of tourists rising every year.

Motorboats along the winding Balu Creek have been arranged for foreign and domestic tourists visiting Kayah State. The state government has also collaborated with businesses to offer canoeing and kayaking experiences at the confluence of the Htoo Creek and Pun Creek for the adventurous tourists.

Community-based tourism has been set up in Pan Pat village and Tanee Lar Le village in Dimawhso Township and will be implemented in Dawtama Gti village of Dimawhso Township and Htayko village of Prusho Township in the near future.

Major attractions of Kayah State include Taungkwel Pagoda, Ngwe Taung Dam, Htee Pwint Lake, Kan Kunat Sint, Kyat Cave, Htee Sel Kha waterfall, and Kwaing Ngan spring water.

The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism has also listed the Htee Parunu natural cave in Prusho Township, Ye Ni Pauk cave in Bawlake Township, Tananlaw cave in Pasawng Township and Loinanpha mountain in Dimawhso Township as tourist destinations.

Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho said Kayah State has the potential for extensive development in the hotels and tourism sector because of the beautiful and green forests, spectacular mountain views, gorgeous rivers, and abundant waterfalls. He said this is why the hotels and tourism sector should without a doubt be given the first priority in development. He added that the state government is working to upgrade the BP 13 border entry with Thailand to an international checkpoint.

SEE PAGE-11



Opening ceremony of Daw Noe Kuu bridge.



Donation for maternity circles, landmine victims, social pensions.



Opening ceremony of Meisei Border Trade camp.



A sunflower field in Kayah State.

## FROM PAGE-10

### Border trade

The Myanmar-Thailand border trade camp in Meisei Township generated US\$ 0.447 million in 2016-2017, US\$ 0.957 million in 2017-2018, and US\$ 1.497 million in 2018-2019, resulting in a total of US\$ 2.901 million generated from border trade over the course of three years. To encourage free trade among local residents and to aid local ethnic businesses who are unable to establish a company conduct trade, the border trade camp has issued 44 individual trade cards (ITC). Additionally, the Meisei border trade camp has generated K102.9 million in 2017-2018 and 116.4 million in 2018-2019 for a total of K266.7 million in border trade in two years.

### Investment

Myanmar and Thailand have signed a sister city agreement to link the Kayah state's capital of Loikaw with Thai province of Mae Hong Son for closer cooperation, said the State Chief Minister. He said this agreement has opened up the stifled Kayah State as 30 per cent of prospective investors entered the economy after holding a forum in the State Hall.

To attract more investors and businesses into Kayah State, the state government and the state investment commission

jointly organized the publication of the report on state investment opportunity in March 2018.

The Kayah State Investment Forum was successfully held in Loikaw's State Hall on 26 March 2018. The state government has managed to increase the number of established companies in the region from 95 to 179 in the three years they have taken up office.

### Agriculture

Farmers in Kayah State mainly cultivate rice, corn, peanuts, sesame, sunflower, green grams, pigeon peas, black grams, sugar cane and bamboo. In 2018-2019, farmers managed to cultivate 188,597 acres of the 189,500 appropriated acres or 99.52 per cent of the estimated numbers.

In 2017-2018, they managed to cultivate 64.42 acres of industrial farmland and 248 acres of vacant, fallow and high grounds. The Kayah State Government opened laboratories for evaluating the quality of crop seeds, land use and crop protection on 23 January 2018.

### Healthcare

Kayah State has the 500-bed Loikaw General Hospital, the 50-bed Bawlake District Hospital, five 25-bed township hospitals, ten 16-bed station hospitals, seven station healthcare departments, twenty-one rural health departments, and 116 sub depart-



Loikaw hosts meeting between Peace Commission and KNPP on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.



Kayah State Investment Forum held in Loikaw.

ments for rural health. The state employs 79 doctors including specialists, 375 nurses and 396 other staff. The state employed 93 new staff over the three-year administration, resulting in 943 total staff providing healthcare in Kayah State.

Over the three years of the incumbent Kayah State government, there has been 70,387 inpatients, 405,361 outpatients, 6,540 minor surgeries and 7,648 major surgeries performed. The Loikaw General Hospital has added 3 new hemodialysis machine and provided blood purification services to patients 3,903 times. The state government has spent K842.107 million in healthcare in its three years in office and K4,068 million for constructing hospitals and other related buildings.

### Education

There are currently 73,772 students taught by 3,840 teachers in 454 basic education schools in Kayah State. The state government has employed 310 additional teachers in its three-year period with students increased by 2,311.

The state government used funds from the Union budget to construct 139 new schools, used normal funds to construct 36 new schools, and maintenance funds to repair 132 schools.

The state government part-

nered with UNICEF to produce textbooks in Burmese and the local ethnic languages for G-1, G-2 and G-3. They managed to teach in Kayah, Kayaw, Kayan, Geba and Shan ethnic languages.

In addition, they opened the Loikaw University, Technological University, Computer University, University of Education, Government Technical Institute, Nursing University, and Border and Ethnic Race University 2.

### Results of reforms

In the current Kayah State government's three years in office, they have issued 8,420 Farmland Permit (Form-7) for 18,082 acres belonging to 6,448 farmers of 85 villages in the state. The state government has returned 183.28 acres of the 341.50 acres of relinquished confiscated farmland to 95 farmers between 2016 to 1 April this year.

The state government has handed out a total of K1,45.21 million as compensation to 8 farmers for their combined 41.866 acres of farmland. From 2016 to February 2019, the state government has issued 2,634 land-grants throughout the entire state.

### Aiding others

Loikaw hosted a peace talk with youths for State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 29 December 2017. It hosted the

meeting between the Peace Commission and the KNPP on 26 and 27 April 2018 to discuss signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. Furthermore, President U Win Myint delivered a speech at the 67<sup>th</sup> Kayah State Day which fell on 15 January 2019.

The state government arranged for the return of people who left for abroad for various reasons and welcomed them at the Myanmar-Thai border. They welcomed 19 people on 7 May 2018 and 59 people on 21 February 2019. A committee for resettlement was also formed to systematically support the returnees on their way back home.

The state government has donated directly or organized donations for various causes in their three-year period. K295.56 million was donated to orphan and youth protection sanctuaries and homes for the aged. K50.9 million was donated for 509 peoples living with disabilities. And K21.8 million was donated for 109 victims of landmines.

The Kayah State government has facilitated the development of the state from a landlocked underdeveloped region to a growing economy and society. The government will continue to work for the good of its citizens.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

# Sudan braces for 'million-strong' protest march

KHARTOUM (Sudan) — Huge crowds are expected to join a "million-strong" protest march Thursday in Sudan to turn up the heat on the ruling military council after three of its members resigned following talks on handing over power.

The rally outside the army headquarters comes after the military rulers and protest leaders agreed to set up a joint committee, to chart the way forward two weeks since the ouster of veteran president Omar al-Bashir.

"We expect huge crowds to come to the protest site, including people from outside of Khartoum," activist Ahmed Najdi told AFP.

Demonstrator Ayman Ali Mohamed was among those preparing to march in the capital.

"We fear that the military council might steal our revolution, so we have to participate until the transfer to civilian rule is accomplished," he said.

"We are standing our ground no matter what."

The planned march follows a late-night meeting between the military council and leaders of the umbrella group heading the protest movement.

"We have an agreement on most demands presented in the document of the Alliance for Freedom and Change," Lieutenant General Shamseddine Kabbashi, spokesman of the military council, told reporters afterwards.

He did not elaborate on the key demand of handing power to a civilian government, but said there "were no big disputes".

The Sudanese Professionals Association, which spearheaded months of protests against



Protest leaders have called for a huge demonstration on Thursday in the capital Khartoum. PHOTO: AFP

Bashir, described the meeting as a step towards "confidence-building".

"Both sides agreed on the importance of joint cooperation to steer the country toward peace and stability," the SPA said Thursday. Writing on Twitter, the association said a "joint committee" was being set up to "discuss outstanding disputes" as part of efforts to reach a "comprehensive agreement".

## 'Middle path'

After returning from the protest site on Thursday, activist Najdi said she was expecting "a joint military-civilian sovereign council, which I think is the middle path and most protesters would agree to that."

Wednesday's meeting was followed by the military council announcing three members of the ruling body had stepped

down. They were Lieutenant General Omar Zain al-Abdin, Lieutenant General Jalaluddin Al-Sheikh and Lieutenant General Al-Tayieb Babikir.

The late night developments came as Siddiq Farouk, one of the leaders of the protests, confirmed a "million-strong" march was planned for Thursday.

He told reporters that the demonstrators were also preparing for a general strike if the military council refuses to hand power to a civilian administration.

The council, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan since his predecessor quit after barely 24 hours in the post, says it has assumed power for a two-year transitional period.

Despite Bashir's fall, demonstrators have kept up their encampment outside the military headquarters to press their demands. For the first time, Suda-

nese judges said they would join the sit-in on Thursday "to support change and for an independent judiciary".

## 'Revolutionaries' want civil rule'

Protesters in Khartoum were joined Wednesday by hundreds of demonstrators from the central town of Madani, the second major batch of new arrivals from outside the capital in as many days. "Revolutionaries from Madani want civilian rule," they chanted, according to witnesses. Crowds of protesters carrying Sudanese flags marched through the protest site late Wednesday, an AFP correspondent reported. The previous day a train laden with demonstrators rolled from Atbara, where protests began on 19 December against a decision by Bashir's government to triple bread prices.—AFP ■

# Cambodia sentences Australian to 30 years for drug trafficking

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia) — An Australian woman was sentenced to 30 years in prison by a Cambodian court on Thursday, for attempting to smuggle almost two kilograms of heroin out of Phnom Penh.

Ve Thi Tran was arrested at Phnom Penh airport last January by immigration police after they received a tip from the Australian Federal Police.

The thirty-eight year old was about to board a flight to Hong Kong, bound for Australia as her final destination.

The municipal Court found her guilty of drug trafficking after she had been held in Phnom Penh's notorious Prey Sar prison for more than a year.

"The court has decided to sentence VeThi Tran to 30 years in jail and fines her 80 million riel (\$19,700)," said Judge Khuon Sona. The Vietnamese-born Australian admitted to the court on 9 April she carried the bags of heroin, which she received from two Vietnamese men in Phnom Penh.

She had stashed the bags in the lining of her luggage, according to state media.

Cambodia has taken a hard line on drugs in recent years in response to smugglers turning to the country as a transit point, particularly for heroin and methamphetamine. Heavy sentences are passed down for drug trafficking, with hundreds arrested including senior officials and foreigners.—AFP ■

# Fifty arrested in Solomons election riots

HONIARA (Solomon Islands) — Solomon Islands police were maintaining an uneasy calm in the capital Honiara Thursday, a day after more than 50 people were arrested in riots following the contested election of prime minister Manasseh Sogavare.

Police commissioner Matthew Varley said most Honiara shops remained closed after Wednesday's unrest, which saw vehicles damaged, roadblocks set on fire and police stations attacked by people throwing rocks.

"Our officers were battling a moving, running crowd," he told reporters Thursday, adding more

than 50 people were arrested or detained for offences relating to "riots, rock throwing and other acts of criminal damage".

After Sogavare won a run-off ballot for prime minister, crowds of protestors trashed businesses in Chinatown before causing "serious and substantial" damage to a hotel and casino, the police commissioner said.

Riot police were deployed with tear gas and used "less lethal rounds" to restore order after a dozen officers and a number of civilians were injured, he added. The Solomon Islands has often struggled with ethnic

tensions and political violence since gaining independence from Britain in 1978.

Varley called for calm and said he expected the tension to ease in the coming days.

Following an inconclusive election earlier this month, Sogavare won the backing of 34 of 50 members of parliament in a controversial run-off, with his opponents boycotting the vote.

It is his fourth time as prime minister. He has been ousted in votes of no confidence in two of his previous terms.

A 2006 election prompted widespread rioting in the capital



Protestors gathered outside Parliament House Wednesday (Apr 24) with the election of veteran politician Manasseh Sogavare. PHOTO: AFP

with shops in Chinatown looted and burnt down, forcing foreign peacekeepers to step in.

Police have urged the public

to accept the outcome of the latest poll and let parliament and courts deal with electoral issues.—AFP ■



Indonesia's President JokoWidodo inspects a peatland clearing that was engulfed by fire in 2015. PHOTO: AFP

# Tropical forest the size of England destroyed in 2018: report

PARIS (France) — Last year humanity destroyed an expanse of tropical forest nearly the size of England, the third largest decline since global satellite data become available in 2001, researchers reported Thursday.

The pace of the loss is staggering -- the equivalent of 30 football fields disappearing every minute of every day, or 12 million hectares a year.

Almost a third of that area, some 36,000 square kilometres (14,000 square miles), was pristine primary rainforest, according to the annual assessment from scientists at Global Forest Watch, based at the University of Maryland.

"For the first time, we can distinguish tree cover loss within undisturbed natural rainforests, which contain trees that can be hundreds, even thousands, of years old," team manager Mikaela Weisse told AFP.

Rainforests are the planet's richest repository of wildlife and a critical sponge for soaking up planet-heating CO<sub>2</sub>.

Despite a slew of counter-measures at both the national and international level, deforestation has continued largely unabated since the beginning of the century.

Global forest loss peaked in 2016, fuelled in part by El Nino weather conditions and uncontrolled fires in Brazil and Indonesia.

The main drivers are the livestock industry and large-scale commodity agriculture — palm oil in Asia and Africa, soy beans

and biofuel crops in South America.

Small-scale commercial farming — of cocoa, for example — can also lead to the clearing of forests.

A quarter of tropical tree cover loss in 2018 occurred in Brazil, with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia each accounting for about 10 per cent.

Malaysia and Madagascar also saw high levels of deforestation last year.

Nearly a third of primary forest destruction took place in Brazil (13,500 km<sup>2</sup>), with the Democratic Republic of Congo (4,800 km<sup>2</sup>), Indonesia (3,400 km<sup>2</sup>), Colombia (1,800 km<sup>2</sup>) and Bolivia (1,500 km<sup>2</sup>) rounding out the top five.

Madagascar lost two per cent of its entire rainforest in 2018.

**Indonesia a bright spot**

"The world's forests are now in the emergency room," said Frances Seymour, a distinguished senior fellow at the World Resources Institute, an environmental policy think tank based in Washington DC.

"The health of the planet is at stake, and band aid responses are not enough," she added.

"With every hectare lost, we are that much closer to the scary scenario of runaway climate change."

Globally, forests absorb about 30 per cent of manmade greenhouse gas emissions, just over 11 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.

Oceans are also a major "sink", soaking up another 23 per cent.—AFP ■

# Isolation helps Brazil indigenous group defend way of life

ALTAMIRA (Brazil) — As the diesel generator rumbles to life in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, teenagers scramble to charge their phones and watch music videos — an ordinary pastime in an extraordinary setting.

The teens are members of the Arara indigenous group — and they had to travel eight hours round-trip by boat to the nearest city, Altamira, to download those video clips.

They live with about 200 others in Laranjal village on the edge of the Iriri River in Brazil's northern state of Para.

On a daily basis, they are isolated and off the grid. They are also part of an 800,000-strong indigenous community that Brazilian President JairBolsonaro says he wants to "integrate into society."

"The Indian cannot continue to be trapped within a demarcated area as if he were a zoo animal," he once said.

"My plan is to make Indians our equals," the far-right leader said in December, a month before taking power.

"They have the same needs as us — they want doctors, dentists, television, internet."

Bolsonaro's remarks have alarmed the Arara, who like other indigenous groups across Latin America's biggest country of 209 million people have long battled to protect their traditional way of life, away from towns and cities.

Their fears have been heightened by the uptick in illegal logging since the arrival of the new Brazilian leader — and what that means for their land.

"Bolsonaro wants the Indians to live like the whites, but we will never give up our customs," says Mouko, 43, wearing a T-shirt and shorts.

"We live on fishing and hunting. We must preserve nature and stop tearing down the trees."

Thousands of indigenous people converged Wednesday on the nation's capital Brasilia at the start of their annual three-day lobbying effort to defend their land rights.



The village of Laranjal is located along the Iriri river in Arara indigenous land in the Amazon rainforest in northern Brazil — its 200 or so residents live nearly off the grid, and four hours by boat from the nearest city. PHOTO: AFP

grass football pitch.

Roosters and hens roam freely around the homes, which were built by the company managing the nearby Belo Monte hydroelectric power plant as compensation for environmental damage to their ancestral lands.

While they enjoy some of the trappings of modern life, the Arara say they are fiercely attached to their traditional culture.

Some decorate their faces and bodies with motifs inspired by local plants or animals using pigments extracted from jenipapo fruit. Unlike residents of many indigenous villages in Brazil, everyone in Laranjal can speak their ancestral language. Some of the elders even refuse to use Portuguese, the mother tongue of Brazil's colonizers. Children's names and birth dates written on colored paper decorate the walls of the four classrooms in the school that goes up to the seventh grade (about age 12).

"Young Indian people are not very different from other children," said teacher JaneteCarvalho, 35, as she prepared for the new academic year.

"They are usually very good at math and love art classes."

Subsidies from Brazil's "BolsaFamilia" (Family Fund) anti-poverty program encourage Arara parents to send their children to classes.—AFP ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1101 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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.

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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.

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| No | Trade Name              | Active Ingredients                  | Registration Type | Registration No. |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1  | PinSein - Mancome 72WP  | Mancozeb 64%+Metalaxyl 8% WP        | Provisional       | 2016-3161        |
| 2  | PinSein - PZE 10WP      | Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 10% WP         | Provisional       | 2016-3163        |
| 3  | PinSein - Cyperfos 55EC | Chlorpyrifos 50%+Cypermethrin 5% EC | Provisional       | 2016-3164        |
| 4  | PinSein - Emectin 50SG  | Emamectin Benzoate 5% SG            | Provisional       | 2016-3165        |
| 5  | PinSein - Gate 480SL    | Glyphosate 48% SL                   | Provisional       | 2016-3167        |
| 6  | PinSein - Quat 20SL     | Paraquat Dichloride 20% SL          | Provisional       | 2016-3168        |
| 7  | PinSein - Cart 50SP     | Cartap 50% SP                       | Provisional       | 2016-3169        |
| 8  | PinSein - Chlopl 48EC   | Chlorpyrifos 48% EC                 | Provisional       | 2016-3170        |
| 9  | PinSein - Fipro 50SC    | Fipronil 5% SC                      | Provisional       | 2016-3171        |
| 10 | PinSein - Miprid 20SL   | Imidaclopride 20% SL                | Provisional       | 2016-3172        |
| 11 | PinSein - Manco 80WP    | Mancozeb 80% WP                     | Provisional       | F 2018-1646      |

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# Kim, Putin vow to seek closer ties at first talks

VLADIVOSTOK (Russia) — Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un met face-to-face for the first time on Thursday, vowing to seek closer ties as they look to counter US influence.

The summit in Russia's Far Eastern city of Vladivostok came with Kim locked in a nuclear stand-off with Washington and Putin keen to put Moscow forward as a player in another global flashpoint.

The two leaders shook hands and shared smiles before heading into one-on-one talks that lasted nearly two hours, longer than expected, on an island off the Pacific coast city.

In brief statements before their meeting, both men said they were looking to strengthen ties that date back to the Soviet Union's support for the founder of North Korea, Kim's grandfather Kim Il Sung. Kim said he hoped to turn the modern relationship with Moscow into a "more stable and sound one" while Putin said the visit would give a boost to diplomatic and economic ties.

As the talks expanded to include other officials, Kim thanked Putin for "a very good" meeting.

"We have just had a very



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to seek closer ties. PHOTO: AFP

meaningful exchange of views on issues of mutual interest," he said. Putin said the talks had been "rather detailed" but neither leader said much about their substance.

The meeting was Kim's first one-on-one talks with another head of state since returning from his Hanoi summit with US President Donald Trump, which broke down without a deal on North Korea's nuclear arsenal in February.

## North Korean labourers

Among the issues likely to be on the table was the fate of some 10,000 North Korean labourers working in Russia and due to leave by the end of this year under sanctions. Labour is one of North Korea's key exports and sources of cash. Pyongyang has reportedly asked Russia to continue to employ its workers after the deadline. Kim, whose government has told the United Nations it is facing food short-

falls this year, will also be keen to see Moscow continue or boost its aid.

Russia has provided some \$25 million in food aid to North Korea in recent years, according to the Kremlin. One delivery in March saw more than 2,000 tonnes of wheat supplied to the port of Chongjin, news agency TASS reported. For Putin, the summit is a chance to push Russia's agenda of opposing US international influence.—AFP ■

## Sri Lanka Catholic churches halt public services over security fears

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)—Sri Lanka's Catholic churches suspended all public services over security fears on Thursday, as thousands of troops joined the hunt for suspects in deadly Easter bombings that killed nearly 360 people.

Security forces also made fresh arrests overnight over the

attacks, as the government faced pressure over its failure to act on intelligence warnings about possible bombings. Recriminations have flown since suicide bombers blew themselves up in luxury hotels and churches packed with Easter worshippers on Sunday.

The president has asked the police chief and top defence min-

istry bureaucrat to step down, though neither has done so yet.

Overnight, security forces using newly granted powers under the country's state of emergency arrested 16 more suspects in connection with the attacks.

Police have so far arrested 75 people but tensions remain high with several suspects unaccounted for. A senior Catholic priest told AFP that all public services were being suspended and all churches closed "on the advice of security forces". Private services for burials will still be carried out, but no public masses are scheduled. Brigadier Sumith Atapattu said the army had increased its deployment by 1,300 to 6,300 overnight, with the navy and airforce also deploying 2,000 more personnel.

Authorities also announced a ban on drone flights and suspended licences issued to commercial operators with immediate effect.

## 'Major' lapse

The government has been on the defensive over revelations that specific warnings about an attack went ignored. Sri Lanka's police chief warned on 11 April that suicide bombings against "prominent churches" by the local Islamist group National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) were possible, citing information from a foreign intelligence agency. CNN reported that Indian intelligence services had passed on "unusually specific" information in the weeks before the attacks, some of it from an IS suspect in their custody. But that information was not shared with the prime minister or other top ministers, the government has said. "It was a major lapse in the sharing of information," deputy defence minister Ruwan Wijewardene conceded at a press conference on Wednesday.—AFP ■



The deadly Islamic State-claimed attacks in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday killed hundreds. PHOTO: AFP

## Ex-Nissan boss Ghosn granted release on bail by Tokyo court

TOKYO—The Tokyo District Court granted the release on bail of former Nissan Motor Co. Chairman Carlos Ghosn on Thursday, after he was indicted for the fourth time at the start of the week over the alleged misuse of company funds.

Ghosn has already made the 500 million yen (\$4.5 million) bail payment. The prosecutors appealed the court decision, which if rejected, would pave the way for his release from the Tokyo Detention House, possibly later in the day. Following his initial arrest in November over allegations of underreporting his remuneration, the ousted chairman was released in early March on 1 billion yen bail. The 65-year-old was then rearrested on 4 April. The bail conditions set by the court again require that he remain in Japan, said a source knowledgeable of the matter. Ghosn will also be prohibited from meeting his wife Carole, who is suspected of having contacted individuals related to the allegations. Tokyo prosecutors have told the court that they are concerned about concealment of evidence. Ghosn has denied all the allegations against him. Ghosn's first release was conditional on 15 stipulations such as not contacting people related to the allegations including Nissan executives, having a security camera installed at the entrance of his residence in Tokyo and restricted use of mobile phones and computers.

In the latest indictment, Ghosn is accused of having a Nissan subsidiary in the United Arab Emirates pay a total of \$10 million to a distributor in Oman between July 2017 and July 2018, and having \$5 million of that transferred to a savings account at a Lebanese investment firm that Ghosn effectively owns. Sources close to the case have said it is alleged that part of the money was then channeled to the company of Ghosn's wife, where a portion may have gone toward the purchase of a luxury yacht worth 1.6 billion yen mainly for use by the family. Ghosn is already preparing to defend himself against charges that he violated the financial instruments law by underreporting his remuneration by 9.1 billion yen in Nissan's securities reports presented to Japanese regulators over the eight years through March last year.—Kyodo News ■

## Japan succeeds in creating world's 1<sup>st</sup> man-made crater on asteroid

TOKYO— Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe has successfully created a man-made crater on an asteroid that altered the body's terrain in a historical first, the country's space agency said Thursday.

Hayabusa2 had shot a projectile at the Ryugu asteroid around 340 million kilometers from Earth as part of the probe's mission to explore the origin of life and the evolution of the solar system.

"The asteroid's terrain has clearly been altered," said Yuichi Tsuda, an associate professor at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

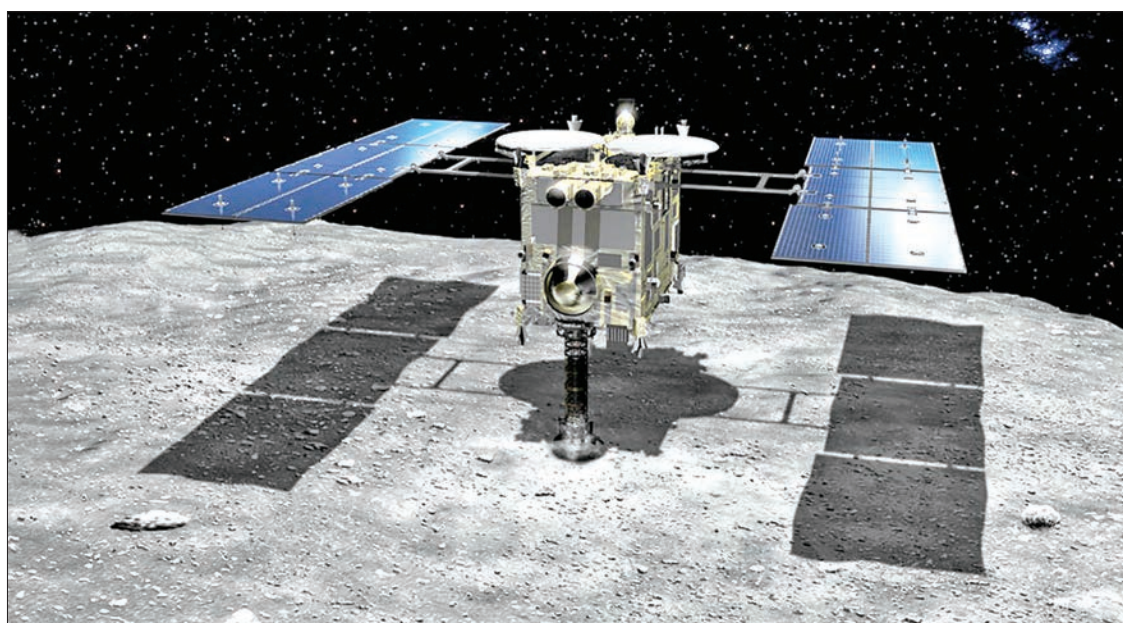
Hayabusa2, which began its descent toward the asteroid

Wednesday afternoon, captured images of its surface to determine the existence of the crater after it successfully shot a metal projectile at Ryugu on 5 April in an experiment deemed the first of its kind.

According to the JAXA, the probe photographed the area hit by the projectile from a distance of 1.7 km. The agency compared images of the asteroid's surface before and after the shooting of the projectile to determine the presence of a man-made crater.

Hayabusa2 shot a copper "impact head" at Ryugu. The agency confirmed a burst of debris caused by the collision.

Launched in December 2014 from the Tanegashima Space



Supplied computer graphic shows image of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's asteroid explorer Hayabusa2 landing on the Ryugu asteroid. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Center in southwestern Japan, Hayabusa2 reached Ryugu last June.

It touched down in February to collect surface samples and found hydrated minerals that will help scientists determine

whether asteroids brought water to Earth as hypothesized.

Hayabusa2 is due to return to Earth in 2020, according to JAXA.

Asteroids like Ryugu are often likened to fossils holding

the preserved traces of the time when the solar system was born.

But the effects of the solar wind have weathered Ryugu's surface, making it necessary to dig deep to collect such materials.—

Kyodo News ■

## Russian scientists explain difference between ice thawing in Eurasian, American Arctic

MOSCOW — A group of scientists with support from experts of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT) described a mechanism, which explains why in the 21<sup>st</sup> century ice in the Eurasian Arctic thaws quicker than in the American part, the university's press service said on Wednesday. "Based on results of four expeditions in the Arctic Ocean and on satellite data, a group of Russian scientists with participation of MIPT experts described the ocean's seasonal memory mechanism," the press service said. "The mechanism explains how the air circulation in the region contributes to the phenomenon, where in the 21<sup>st</sup> century ice in the Eurasian Arctic thaws quicker than in the American Arctic."

The global warming is more evident in the Arctic, than in any other places. The ice degradation causes even bigger warming and consequently - further ice thawing. This never-ending circle may be explained by the facts that sunlight is reflected from ice, and water, on the contrary, absorbs and accumulates the warmth. Ice degradation differs through the Arctic's regions. Scientists say in the 2000s, in the Eurasian Arctic the ice cover has been degrading even in winter, while in the American Arctic - in summer only.

Researchers explain it by seasons and by specific air cir-



Researchers explain it by seasons and by specific air circulation in the Arctic. **PHOTO: TASS**

culation in the Arctic region.

"In late September, the ice layer is most thin. At that time, the ocean gains actively the sun heat. But if cold air comes in from the Pole or from Greenland, it takes some warmth. And vice versa: warm air from the mainland adds to the ocean's heating," the press service quoted Mikhail Varentsov, who participated in the studies. Scientists call this mechanism the seasonal memory: in winter the ice layer depends on the atmospheric conditions during the previous summer. In order to describe and explain the climate changes in the Arctic, the scientists collected data on water temperature and composition at different depths, as well as data on air temperature and humidity, on wind and other weather parameters in two circumpolar regions. The tests were taken during expeditions on research vessels

in August-September 2003, 2005, 2013, and 2015.

### Consequences from ice degradation

On one hand, less ice in the Arctic makes it easier to work in the region. The thinner and smaller the ice layer is, the easier is the navigation. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, even in summer navigation along the Northern Sea Route was possible with icebreakers only. Cargo transportation could be easier and cheaper if vessels need fewer or no icebreakers there. "At the same time, the climate change breaks the ecosystem's balance," MIPT's representatives said. "Take, for example, polar bears or seals - they need ice for rest and hunting. Or plankton, which may begin to multiply uncontrollably in warmer upper layers of water." —Tass ■

## Scientists develop low-cost energy-efficient materials

LOS ANGELES—An international team of scientists has developed new energy-efficient iron-based alloys which combine high mechanical and magnetic properties at a low cost, and open up new opportunities for industry.

The research results are to be published in the Journal of Alloys and Compounds.

Nowadays, scientists from different countries are facing the task of creating new materials which would help reduce losses in electricity transmission and transformation.

To meet the goal, scientists engaged in the development of amorphous softmagnetic alloys in low-cost alloy systems such as Fe-Si-B-Nb-Cu (iron-silicon-boron-niobium-copper).

The international research team consists of scientists from the National University of Science and Technology "MISIS" (NUST MISIS), which is a Russian technical university, Tianjin University of China, as well as from Japan and the United States.

"For the development of new alloys based on iron with a high complex of magnetic and

strength properties, we have analyzed a large number of alloy compositions," said Andrei Bazlov, one of the authors of the study, an engineer at NUST MISIS.

"At the same time, we tried to avoid the use of expensive alloying elements, such as niobium and molybdenum. All the alloys examined in the work were obtained using industrial technology—quenching from a liquid state (melt spinning technique)," Bazlov added.

According to him, the analysis of a large number of Fe82-85B13-16Si1Cu1 alloys allowed scientists to determine the effect of their chemical composition and heat treatment modes on the magnetic and mechanical properties. As a result, they managed to obtain alloys with high magnetic properties, technological plasticity, and ultra-high strength.

Scientists will continue to develop new compositions and processing regimes of amorphous magnetically soft alloys. They are also planning to implement their developments in the industry, according to a release of NUST MISIS.—Xinhua ■

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## MFF youth team beat Yangon United 1-0

THE Myanmar Football Federation's youth team beat the Yangon United U-21 team 1-0 at the national league for youth teams yesterday at the Padonmar stadium in Yangon.

The MFF youth team's Aww Bar Kha secured their win by scoring the only goal in the match.

Team Yangon led in the early minutes of the match with stable play.

Yangon got a goal chance at 37 minutes due to the efforts of Kyaw Min Htay. He tried to score from a direct cross from Naing Min Thu, but failed to land the ball in the net.

Yangon had one more goal chance just before the first half ended. Tin Thein tried to convert, but his efforts were in vain as the ball went over the goal bar.

The first half ended with

no goals scored by either team.

Both teams changed their tactics in the second half. The MFF team played better with counterattacks and complete passes.

They managed to break Yangon's defence, and secured the first goal of the match at 53 minutes.

The goal was beautifully scored by MFF's reliable player Aww Bar Kha, and boosted the confidence of the team.

The match did not go in favour of team Yangon, who missed two more goal chances at 58 and 82 minutes.

In the later minutes, Yangon launched an attack, but the MFF team managed to put up a strong defence till the final whistle.

The game ended 1-0 win in favour of the MFF Youth team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Yangon United's striker (white) tries to breach the MFF youth team's defense during the Myanmar National League's youth team competition yesterday at the Padonmar Stadium in Yangon.

PHOTO: YUFC

## AFC U-19 Women's Qualifiers: Myanmar to play Uzbekistan today



Host Myanmar training for the 2nd round of the AFC U-19 Women's Qualifiers. PHOTO: MFF

THE Group A match between Myanmar and Uzbekistan in the second round of qualifiers for the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 will take place at 7 p.m. today at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

The head coaches and players of Group A spoke to the media at a pre-match press conference at the Royal Mingalar Hotel in Mandalay yesterday.

Team Myanmar's head coach, Daw Thet Thet Win, said the team will try its best in the second round of the Qualifiers. "Actually, it will not be easy. The participating teams are among the best, but we will play with full confidence," she said.

The Australian team's head coach, Van Egmond, said the Qualifiers will help the team gain experience.

The team has a combination of senior players and talented newcomers, and is hoping for the best from this competition, he said.

Team Uzbekistan's head coach Carymar said they are readying to give their best performance. The team is expecting tough competition as all teams are good, she said.

The team is also coping with the change in weather as it was very cold and rainy back home, but it is very hot in Myanmar, she added.

Nepal team head coach

Hari Om Shrestha said the team has not had enough time to prepare for the second round of qualifiers. The team got just two months to get ready, he said.

Nepal has played two friendly matches in China in preparation for the Qualifiers, he said. He also said the team has upgraded with six senior players, and is hoping for a good result.

Entry to the matches of team Myanmar will be free of charge, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

Team Myanmar match will be broadcast live on My Sports and Eleven Broadcasting's Facebook Pages, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Capitals punished as Hurricanes advance in Stanley Cup

WASHINGTON (United States) — Brock McGinn scored the winner in double overtime as the Carolina Hurricanes sent the defending champion Washington Capitals crashing out of the NHL Stanley Cup playoffs on Wednesday.

McGinn's dramatic deflected close-range finish from Justin Williams' center sealed a 4-3 victory for the Canes, who had fought back from a 2-0 deficit in the first period of the game seven decider. Carolina will

now face the New York Islanders in the next round for a place in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Hurricanes win completed a remarkable series for the wild card entrants, who were beaten in the opening two games of the series.

Hurricanes veteran right wing Williams praised the team's resilience after matching the defending champions throughout the series. "We wanted to go as far as we

could," the 37-year-old former Capitals player said. "It feels great right now.

"I can't say enough about this team. Time and time again we've just manned up. It would have been easy to pack it in, especially against a team like that.

"We just had the belief all along that we could do it. Anyone can say it, but actually doing it and believing we could do it is something else. Every single guy played a part in this."

The Caps had appeared to be motoring towards the next round after Andre Burakovsky and Tom Wilson fired them into a 2-0 lead before a raucous home crowd at the Capital One Arena.

Sebastian Aho reduced the deficit for the Canes at 9:51 of the second period when he rammed home his rebound after Capitals goalie Braden Holtby failed to glove.

But Evgeny Kuznetsov restored Washington's two-goal

cushion soon afterwards to cancel out Aho's effort.

Again though, the Hurricanes refused to roll over. Teuvo Teravainen gave his team a lifeline with a goal at 16:37 of the second period, before Jordan Staal scored in the third to tie it 3-3.

After a nervy first spell of overtime finished scoreless it was left to McGinn to deliver the coup de grace, flicking in Williams cross for the series-clinching goal.—AFP ■