

NATIONAL

Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State provides aid to IDPs

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

Religious objects of Eternal Peace Pagoda displayed for public obeisance in Loikaw

PAGE-7

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 26, 10th Waxing of Kason 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 13 May 2019

President U Win Myint attends 16th UN Vesak Day celebration in Viet Nam

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, who were in Viet Nam, Hanoi attended the opening ceremony of the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration at Tam Chuc International Buddhist Convention Center in Ha Nam Province yesterday morning.

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho arrived at the venue of the celebration at 8.30 am local time and poured water on Buddha Images.

Attendees at the opening ceremony then recited the Three Gems in Pali.

The message of the Supreme Patriarch Most Ven. Dr. Thich Tri Quang of National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha was read out, and President of the National Viet Nam Buddhist Sangha Most Ven. Dr. Thich Thien Nhon extended greetings.

Then, the video documentary message of UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres was shown.

Afterwards, Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmapundit and Prime Minister of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc delivered addresses.

In his address, President U Win Myint said It is my honour and privilege to participate in this auspicious the United Nations Vesak Day celebration today. I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet



President U Win Myint and First Lady pour water over the Young Buddha Statue before attending the UN Vesak Day celebration in Ha Nam, Viet Nam yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Nam and the National Viet Nam Buddhist Sangha (NVBS) for inviting me to attend this great event in Ha Nam Province.

Our presence here at this auspicious occasion of the United Nations Vesak Day, demonstrates our firm commitment

to exert our collective efforts in building peace, security and stability around the world through propagation of Metta (Loving-Kindness).

Buddhist devotees all over the world celebrate "Vesak", on the Full Moon Day of our Lunar

month of Kason, as it is the most Sacred Day commemorating the Birth, Enlightenment and Parinirvana of the Gauthama Buddha who attained Enlightenment 2600 years ago. We acknowledge with much appreciation the great efforts made by the then

Sri Lanka Foreign Minister, Mr. Lakshman Kadigamar, to pave the way for the recognition of the United Nations on the Vesak Day by its General Assembly's Resolution No. 54/ 115 of 1999.

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Passenger plane with failed front landing gear safely lands in Mandalay

PAGE-4



NATIONAL

Local director shooting scenes at Ministry-owned studios

BUSINESS

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade decreases 8.8% in seven months

PAGE-5

LOCAL NEWS

Police seize illicit drugs in some townships

PAGE-6



President attends 16th UN Vesak Day celebration in Viet Nam



President U Win Myint delivers the speech at 16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration at Tam Chuc International Buddhist Convention Center in Ha Nam Province yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-1

The first Vesak Day was held by the United Nations in 2000 at its Headquarters in New York, and since then, we annually celebrate this holy Buddha Day. Taking this opportunity, I wish to express my profound appreciation to the respective governments and the people of Viet Nam, Thailand, and Sri Lanka for their active role in promoting the Buddha Sasana (Buddha teachings, knowledge and wisdom) by annually celebrating the United Nations Vesak Day.

At a time when the world we live in is full of violence and miseries, it has become even more relevant and necessary to hold annual celebration of Vesak Day devoted to the Buddha's teaching of loving kindness and living in

peace and harmony.

We believe that this annual event would contribute to our collective efforts in rekindling spirit of culture of peace and in promoting mutual understanding among the peoples of different cultures, religions and civilizations.

Most Venerables, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The historical records indicate that Buddhism has rooted in Myanmar since 2 A.D. of Pyu era. Between 4 A.D and 9 A.D, Buddhist Ceties, Stupas, and Pagodas have been apparently built in Myanmar. In 11 A.D of Bagan era, Theravada Buddhism has flourished in fullbloom in Myanmar together with its genuine teachings. Starting from Bagan era to Konbaung era (from 11

A.D.to 18 A.D), Theravada Buddhism has been maintained by members of Sangha together with the support of the Royalties and Myanmar people.

Taking this opportunity, I

lished three Buddhist Universities, namely the State Pariyatti Sasana University in Yangon, the State Pariyatti Sasana University in Mandalay and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary

Wisdom. I am delighted to inform that 13 Vietnamese monks, 45 nuns and 3 female lay persons have been attending the courses at the above-mentioned University during the 2018-2019 academic year. A total of 63 monks, nuns, male and female laymen from 14 countries including Viet Nam, will be attending the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in the Buddha Dhamma Diploma Courses during the 2019-2020 academic year. As part of our efforts to promote peace and national reconciliation, Myanmar has organized Advisory Forums on National Reconciliation and Peace for twice in cooperation with Religions for Peace Group (RfP). The first forum was held in November 2018 and the second forum was held recently from 7 to 8 May 2019.

The celebration of Vesak Day reminds us to reiterate our dedication to follow the Buddha's teachings and doctrine.

would like to apprise the meeting of Myanmar Government's efforts for flourishing and propagating Buddha Sasana and Buddha's noble teachings. Myanmar government has estab-

University under the supervision of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. The main policies of these Universities are to contribute to raising the number of Sangha students with high moral standards, wide knowledge of the Canonical Texts of Theravada Pitaka, high proficiency in the Pali language, the grammar and the syntax of the language and good skill in written Myanmar. All the students attending these Universities will have a good opportunity to study Theravada Buddhist Scriptural Canons in the respective courses under the B.A, M.A and Ph.D degree programmes.

Furthermore, those who are willing to study the Theravada Buddhism in both ways of theory and practice, irrespective of their religious faiths, can enroll in the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. The Myanmar government shall provide free board and lodging, and educational expenses for foreign students as our donation for fulfillment of their pursuit of

Most Venerables, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Religion plays a vital role in maintaining peace and stability of the world. The great religious teachers taught us the moral principles and values such as self respect, respect to others, reduction and ultimate eradication of greed and hatred. If we follow the teachings of our respective religion, we would be able to build a harmonious societies, ultimately peaceful and prosperous world. The universal spirit of loving-kindness, boundless compassion and great tolerance is a common platform for attaining the common goals of peace and prosperity for the entire world.



Viet Nam's cultural dance troupe performs at Viet Nam's Cultural Show yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

SEE PAGE-3

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

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

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

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 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)



President U Win Myint and First Lady, heads of state, Members of the Sangha and religious leaders pose for documentary photo after the opening ceremony of 16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration at Tam Chuc International Buddhist Convention Center in Ha Nam Province yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-2

The celebration of Vesak Day reminds us to reiterate our dedication to follow the Buddha's teachings and doctrine. I wish to conclude by calling for everyone to exert efforts to promote loving kindness as widely as possible firstly within our own families and then among the social, political, civil and religious institutions in this highly diverse world.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Afterwards, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. KP Sharma Oli, Vice President of India M. Venkaiah

Naidu, and Chairman of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Mr. Tran Thanh Man delivered addresses.

After the opening ceremony, President U Win Myint and the First Lady, the Vietnamese Prime Minister, heads of state, Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and religious leaders attending the ceremony posed for documentary photo.

The United Nations General Assembly in 1999 made the resolution No 54/115 designating the full moon day of May, the day on which three important events -- the birth, full awakening, and the passing away of the Buddha

– occurred, as the United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration. The first Vesak Day was held in the UN (New York) in 2000. Later Thailand, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam held the Vesak Day celebration in turn. Viet Nam hosted the Vesak Day celebration in 2009 and 2014. It is the third time the country is hosting the Vesak Day celebration. The 16th Vesak Day celebration is being jointly held by National Viet Nam Buddhist Sangha and International Vesak Day Organizing Committee from 12 to 14 May under the support of Vietnamese government. Over 1600 Buddhist representatives

of 113 countries around the world and over 20,000 Vietnamese Buddhist are taking part in the Vesak Day celebration.

In the afternoon, President U Win Myint and the First Lady attended the luncheon hosted by Vesak Day Celebration Organizing Committee at the Tam Chuc International Buddhist Convention Center. The President and the First Lady paid homage and offered incense and lights to Buddha images at Tam Chu Pagoda. They also donated a 20-inch tall Buddha image to the pagoda Board of Trustees for public obeisance together with

Buddha images donated by other Buddhist countries.

The President and the First Lady paid homage and offered incense and lights to Buddha images at Bai Dinh Ancient Pagoda in Ninh Binh Province and presented cash donations to Sayadaws.

The President and the First Lady paid homage and donated incense, lights and offertories to Bao Thap Stupa at Bai Dinh religious area. In the evening, the delegation led by the President and the First Lady enjoyed the Vietnamese cultural performances. — MNA/ Translated by TMT

Union Minister inspects upgrading of Swa Chaung Bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw inspected the upgrading of Swa Chaung Bridge which was damaged by the overflowed water from Swa Chaung Dam after destruction of the dam's spillway on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Yadashe Township, Bago Region, yesterday.

In the tour of inspection, the Union Minister gave instruction on timely completion of the work, work site safety and providing smooth transportation to the people. He also visited the worksite at the bridge which is located near the Mile Post 165 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

U Tun Lin, Director of the

Construction Group 3 of the Ministry of Construction, reported on to the Union minister on work progress of the upgrading of the bridge. The disaster damaged the one lane of the two-way bridge. The remaining lane of the bridge is being used by traffic.—MNA(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



The Swa Chaung Bridge in Swa, Yadashe Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State provides aid to IDPs, pledges to build shelters

THE Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine provided aid yesterday at the state government office for those people displaced by the conflicts in Rakhine State.

Attending the event were Vice Chairman of the committee, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, committee members, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, members of the Rakhine State Cabinet, IDP representatives, social organizations and officials.

Speaking at the gathering, Chairman U Aye Tha Aung said that having collected data regarding how to pacify and ease the conflict in the short term and long term, the suggestions and related data will be submitted to the state government.

He continued, noting that suggestions and data collected at the meeting from monks, government officials, the state Hluttaw speaker, Hluttaw representatives, political parties and local residents proved to provide sound solutions to resolve the conflict, as the commission submitted them to the Union Government as an i



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung (Right) delivers the speech at the committee meeting for providing aid to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

nterim report.

As he stressed the importance of shelters for the IDP, he added that the infrastructures will be soon set up, along with health care and food programmes.

He also invited additional suggestions with data about the conflict from the attendees and said he appreciated the comments, for they have proven invaluable for the Union Government, the state government,

committees and the affected people, in easing the conflict.

Afterwards, Vice Chairman U Nyi Pu said that the committee is working with a genuine spirit of charity for peace and development for Rakhine state.

Also, participants discussed their views and perspectives on the conflict.

Following the discussion, the Chairman of the committee presented endowments of a month's rice ration to the IDP



He also stressed the importance of transparency regarding the endowment, saying that the information about construction of shelters for IDPs will be announced, in accordance with tender rules.

Regarding the suggestion, he explained that some of them will be carried out immediately and others will take time, as they need reporting.

He concluded by requesting collaboration and help from the

Rakhine State Peace and Stability Support team.

It was also reported that a rice endowment of over K268.5 million was given to 7257 households, making up 29839 people from Yathedaung, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, Kyawktaw, MraukU, Minbya and Buthidaung.

In the afternoon, the commission chairman and his entourage returned to Yangon by air. —MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Passenger plane with failed front landing gear safely lands in Mandalay

ALL 82 passengers and seven crew members on board Myanmar National Airlines flight UB103 were safe after the captain made a daring touch down at Mandalay using only its rear wheels, as its front landing gear failed to deploy.

The domestic plane coming from Yangon landed at Mandalay International Airport at 9:09 a.m. with all passengers and crew members able to safely evacuate after the plane dragged its nose down the runway and came to a perfect stop.

While approaching Mandalay International Airport at about 8 am, Captain Myat Moe Aung informed the air traffic tower about the malfunctioning nose landing gear, and then circled the airport to burn off fuel to reducing the landing weight and the degree

of a fire hazard.

At 9.06 am, the Embraer 190 plane touched down on its back wheels only. It travelled on its rear wheels, continuing some distance along the runway on its nose, kicking up smoke, followed by an urgent and orderly evacuation of the passengers and crew.

"When the plane was about to land at Mandalay International Airport, the nose landing gear stopped functioning. The plane landed just with its rear wheels, as it could not deploy its front wheel. Coming down on its nose, the plane stopped after rolling for about 5000 feet on the runway. We provided all necessary assistance for the 82 passengers and crew. Because of the incident, the airport might be closed for about four hours. As the runway is 14000 feet long, arrangements are underway for the landing of small planes on the remaining 9000-foot runway of the facility. We expect landings by international passenger jets may begin

in the afternoon," U Kyaw Hsan, the manager in-charge of the airport, told the media.

Dr Soe Myint, an anesthesiologist who was a member of a medical team flying from Yangon to Mandalay on its way to Sagaing to provide free treatment for local residents, said, "At about 8.15 am, I began to notice that the plane was still flying without reducing its speed. At that time, crew members came to us and told us that the plane had to circle the airport, as its nose landing gear was not functioning. Finally, the plane touched down safely at about 9 am. The captain remained in control and he made the right decisions."

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Dr Zaw Myint Maung surveyed the damaged plane, and comforted passengers and the crew. — Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-printing House)

(Translated by TMT)



The 82 passengers and seven crew members on board Myanmar National Airline plane lands safely in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade decreases 8.8% in seven months

BILATERAL border trade stood at over US\$19 million as of 26 April in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal year which saw a slight decrease of \$1.87 million or 8.8 per cent, from the corresponding period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's trade report.

At this time last FY, Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border gates was pegged at \$21.29 million, with exports worth \$20.27 million and imports amounting to \$1.02 million.

When compared with last FY, this FY saw a decrease in value of exports by \$7.87 million, however, the bilateral imports rose by nearly \$6 million. Between 1 October and 26 April, Myanmar exported \$12.4 million worth of domestic products to Bangladesh and imported goods valued at over \$7 million from the South Asian country.

Normally, Myanmar's ex-

ports to Bangladesh surplus its imports in bilateral border trade.

In bilateral border trade, goods are delivered mainly through two border gates—Sittway and Maungtaw.

In nearly seven months, trade via the Sittway gate totalled \$14.38 million, with \$7.4 million in exports and \$6.97 million in imports, while trade from the Maungtaw gate exceeded \$5 million, including \$0.04 million in imports.

Marketable goods at the Myanmar-Bangladesh borders contain bamboos, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear and beverages.

According to the ministry's annual statistical data, the total



Workers loading bags of ginger onto ship at Maungtaw border trade camp. PHOTO : HTET HTET

border trade with Bangladesh was over \$29 million in the 2017-2018 FY. According to the annual statistical report of the ministry,

the bilateral borders trade was \$3.83 million in 2012-2013 FY, \$22.8 million in 2013-2014 FY, \$14.3 million in 2014-2015 FY,

\$11.5 million in 2015-2016 FY, \$1.6 million in 2016-2017 FY.—Swe Nyein ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Sugarcanes growing strong in Meiktila



Farmers loading truck with cut sugarcane. PHOTO : CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

SUGARCANE plantations in Tae Hla Village of Than Bo village-tract, Meiktila Township, have been successful and are sold in the regional market daily, according to local cultivators.

U Tin Win and two other cultivators received help from

the township agriculture department and ActionAid Myanmar to plant sugarcane species from Nay Pyi Taw. He says the project began a year ago and is quite successful now, with their sugarcane making its way into the regional market every day.

The sugarcanes are sold at K300 per piece at the wholesale venue in Meiktila. There are sugarcane juice stalls along the Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung road and they purchase the plants at K400 a piece. They normally sell 40-50 bundles with 10 sugarcanes each every day.

U Tin Win, said they send more than that number to the wholesale venues. His plantation measures roughly 0.80 acre and currently produces about 7,000 canes. He predicts he will get to 10,000 canes for the first time. U Tin Win said he has invested K700,000 into the plantation.

Sugarcanes can be harvested up to three times but cultivators usually harvest only the second wave, which is said to be produce the best crops.—Chan Thar (Meiktila) ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Export value up \$14.3% in current FY

MYANMAR'S export sector saw an increase in value of US\$1.2 billion or 14.3 per cent in nearly seven months of this Fiscal Year 2018-2019, the Ministry of Commerce reported. As of 26 April this FY, the country sold \$9.6 bln worth of seven major groups of products to international trade partners. The figures included \$1.9 bln worth of agro products, \$280 million worth of animal products, \$488 mln worth of marine products, \$858 mln worth of minerals, \$102 mln worth of forest products, almost \$5.3 bln worth of manufactured goods, and \$635 mln worth of other miscellaneous items.

The ministry's data showed that the public sector exported animal and forest products, minerals, manufactured goods and

others amounting to \$2.75 bln during the period when the private sector sold all major groups of commodities valued at \$6.85 bln. The current international trade saw an increase in value of exports from both sectors in comparison with the corresponding period last FY. During the period, the country's exports of minerals, forest and other miscellaneous products declined by about \$600 mln, whereas the exports of agro, animal, marine and manufactured products went up by nearly \$1.8 bln as against that of the previous FY. In the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), Myanmar earned \$18.6 bln from the export sector.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Goat export market down in Mandalay as demand from China declines



Shepherds drive a horde of goats in a village in Mandalay Region. PHOTO : AUNG PHYO KYAW

THE price of goats is on a downward trend as demand from China has fallen, according to goat farmers in Mandalay.

"The price of goats has decreased from K3,600 for one pound last year to K2,000 this year," said U Tin Shein, a goat farmer in Mandalay.

Local exporters place the blame for lower prices on having solely relied on the

Chinese market for goat exports.

Before exporting goats to China, local traders also exported goats to Thailand.

They shifted the export market to China when the demand from Thailand decreased.

"With restrictions on our goats, the demand from China has fallen.

We are facing this situation

because we depended only on the Chinese market," said U Maung Hla, a goat farmer from Mandalay.

About 5,000 goats are now stranded at the Muse Market waiting to be exported to China.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLMTHE GLOBAL
NEW LIGHT OF
MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for usWe appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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 flock to Mandalay's Seven-Mile Beach this summer

By Tin Maung Lwin

DUE to warmer than average temperatures, visitors are flocking to the Seventh-Mile Beach, as well as the beach resorts on the coast of Dokhtawaddy River, which is a major tributary of the Ayeyawady River.

According to the Sunday report of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the daytime temperature reached 44° C in Mandalay, which is why Seventh-Mile Beach is seeing an increase in visitors from Mandalay and nearby areas.

Regarding the facilities, U Tun Myint, in-charge of the beach, said, "Located between Mandalay and PyinOoLwin, Seventh-Mile Beach is only a one-hour drive from Mandalay and one-and-a-half-hour drive from PyinOoLwin. It is open between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on a daily basis. Regularly, the beach is crowded with 500-800 visitors per day. The number of visitors significantly increases to 1,000-1,500 on weekends and public holidays. The majority of visitors are young people. The beach currently charges K2,000 per visitor."

Holiday makers enjoy their vacation at 7th-Mile Beach near Mandalay **PHOTO : MAUNG HMWAY**

"Due to the extreme temperature, residents in Mandalay are used to going somewhere to keep themselves cool. The number of visitors usually decreases on rainy days. Earlier, we collected only K1,000 per head. Admission fees were raised to K2,000 starting on the full moon day of Dabaung on 20 March, after we improved customer services for

visitors," he added.

Regarding the beach, Htet Ye Paing, a visitor from NyaungU, said, "I have never been to Seven-Mile Beach. I am now at the beach and it provided an awesome experience for me. There are various facilities to fully enjoy a great beach vacation. During the holidays, we swam in the clean water and played basket-

ball there." The beach hosts visitors with several entertainment programmes, including music and dance shows, magic shows and games. There is also a car park, food stalls and souvenir shops for visitors. In addition, life guard services are available at the beach, including staff manning life saving boats. ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Police seize Illicit drugs in some townships

Illegal drugs seized in Mabain Township. **PHOTO: POLICE INFORMATION**

A combined team comprising police members of Mongchaung police post in Phaungpyin Township seized 190 grams of heroin from two persons on a motorcy-

cle travelling along the MongchaungThanga village road near Mongchaung village in the township on 11 May morning. Of the two Kyaw Win was the motorcy-

clist and Ba Win was the passenger. In the evening, a combined team comprising members of Anti-Drug Police Force of Bago, stopped Japangyi who was riding a motorcycle in Yaypohgone village, Toungoo Township, and found 600 stimulant tablets and a cell phone in his possession.

At 5.30 pm the same day, a combined team comprising members of Anti-Drug Police Force of Kunglon seized 3.4 kilos of heroin and 200 yuan from three Chinese citizens in Laukai. Similarly at 4.45 pm, a combined team comprising mem-

bers of Mabain Myoma police station searched the house of Hsan Htwe at Maugon village in Mabain Township and found 2450 stimulant pills and 32 grams of heroin. A combined team comprising members of Ngaoh police post acting on information found 17.06 kilos of heroin, 234,000 stimulant pills and K2.03 million packed in suspicious bags in a bamboo grove, in the eastern side of Ngaoh-Mabain road in Mabain Township at 6.30 pm.

Police took legal actions against the suspects and cases.—*Police Information* ■

Fire guts four buildings in Buddhist Monastery in Myingyan, no casualties

Fire fighters suppress fire at the site in Myingyan Township yesterday. **PHOTO : ZAW MIN NAING (MYINGYAN)**

A fire destroyed four religious buildings at a village monastery in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, early on Sunday morning, but there were no casualties, according to the District Fire Services Department.

The fire started in the kitchen of the monastery, located in the west end of Gaungkwe Village, at about 5.15 a.m. on 12 May when U Visuta, one of the monks residing there, was cooking breakfast for the monks. The blaze spread quickly, destroying four nearby buildings, causing

an estimated K6.3 million in damage.

With the support of residents, firefighters brought the blaze under control within 40 minutes. Officials said the District Fire Services Department brought in eight fire engines to fight the blaze.

Action is being taken against U Visuta Thu for fire-related negligence and recklessness, in violation of Section 285 of the Penal Code.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan) ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Religious objects of Eternal Peace Pagoda displayed for public obeisance in Loikaw



Officials carry religious objects of Nay Pyi Taw's Eternal Peace Pagoda for displaying at Myonam Pagoda in Loikaw yesterday. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

RELIGIOUS objects to be fixed atop the Nay Pyi Taw's Eternal Peace Pagoda and two Buddha Images carved from marble stones to be housed at the pagoda were displayed in Loikaw yesterday for public obeisance.

The decorated vehicles carrying the religious objects and two Buddha Images, which were stopped over in Taunggyi, Shan State, arrived in Loikaw, Kayah State, and along the way to Loikaw, local people donated cash for the Eternal Peace Pagoda which is under construction in Nay Pyi Taw.

The religious objects were conveyed by Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho,

Kayah State Hluttaw Speaker U Hla Htwe, Kayah State Chief Judge U Kyaw Lin Maung, Deputy Speaker of Kayah State Hluttaw U Tin Myint, Kayah State Advocate-General and auditor general, members of the Kayah State Government, religious associations and local people to the Myonam Pagoda.

At night, Shweparami Forest Retreat Sayadaw Ashin Sandar Dika delivered a sermon on peace to mark the arrival of the religious objects of the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Loikaw. —*Han Lin Naing* ■

(Translated by GNLM)

Local director shooting scenes at MoI-owned studios

A local director shot some scenes of a movie at the studios of the Film Development Centre of the Ministry of Information in Bahan, Yangon, and yesterday morning.

While filming some parts of his movie A-pay A-yu (Give-and-Take), Director Steel (Dway Myitta) of Life+ Movie Production met reporters and said, "Nowadays, films in Myanmar are produced at studios. Likewise our neighbours as well as countries producing popular movies are also using studios. Sadly, we have no private studios. Thanks to the officials of the Ministry of Information, the local movie industry can do its work more conveniently and effectively. We

will shoot this film till 15 May. We can easily erect settings of a jail, a court or a police station or a mock catwalk at a studio. Normally, we can get more space at a studio which is totally free from outdoor disturbances such as noise and spectators."

He continued to say, "I hired all the three units of the studio, so that I can make specific settings at each unit. The main requirement in filming is a place under your full management, and a studio can fill that requirement. About two thirds of the movie will be shot here at the studio. I will film some of the scenes in Nay Pyi Taw, PyinOoLwin and Vietnam. Everything goes smooth and well because of the

assistance of the Information Ministry. More studios means better environment for the movie industry."

Nan Htaik Hta, a child actor of the movie said, "In this movie I play the role of the little sister of the main female protagonist. I find no problem in acting as the director has provided me with constant training and help. Acting is interesting for me."

Zin Waing, an academy award winner and the chair of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, told the reporters that he was a lawyer in the movie. "I am familiar with this place, as we filmed, edited, washed and developed films or screened movies in this place where the Information Ministry has set up the

studio 1, 2 and 3," he added.

"If we want to shoot worthy and standard movies, we must have studios. The advantage of a studio is that it offers an isolated place for movie producers and also reduces the filming cost. moreover, actors can concentrate more in their work. But we still need bigger studios for producing better movies in the future, he added.

The Ministry of Information opened the Film Development Centre on 21 July 2018, and studio I, 2 and 3 on 9 March this year. The performing arts directors are producing their movies, video plays, TV series, MTVs and interviews at the studios.—*Yi Yi Myint and Ohmma Thant* ■

Over 50 migrants force entry into Spain's Melilla enclave



Immigrants scaling the fence on 19 February 2015. **PHOTO: AFP**

MADRID (Spain) — Fifty-two African migrants forced their way into Spain's North African enclave of Melilla from Morocco Sunday by climbing over a towering border fence, Spanish authorities said.

About 100 migrants tried to storm the barbed wire fence at dawn but Spanish and Moroccan security force prevented "around half" from entering Melilla, Spain interior ministry in Melilla said in a statement. One migrant was taken to a medical centre to treat cuts he suffered scaling the fence while four Spanish police officers sustained bruises, it added. Police arrested one of the migrants for assaulting an officer.

Video images published by local newspaper El Faro de Ceuta showed migrants and jackets stuck to the razor wire that

tops the border fence, left behind by the migrants.

The 52 who managed to enter Melilla were taken to a temporary migrant accommodation centre where they were given new clothes.

It was the biggest assault on the border between Melilla and Morocco since October 2018, when some 300 migrants stormed the fence. About 200 migrants managed to get into Melilla that time and one died of a suspected heart attack in the attempt.

Spain's two North African enclaves, Melilla and Ceuta, have the European Union's only land borders with Africa.

They are often used as entry points into Europe for African migrants, who either climb over their border fences or try to swim along the coast. —*AFP* ■



Local director shoots A-pay A-yu (give-and-take) film at the studios of the Film Development Centre of the Ministry of Information in Bahan, Yangon, yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

Careful analysis on prioritizing policies important in nation's current situation

WHEN we talk about consumer rights, the issue with fake products will always be raised most often. Selling products whose quality and composition are different from that which was advertised is nothing short of lying to consumers. We might even be so bold as to say this is an age in which the public has serious doubts about advertisements that claim products to be the best in their market.

There are a plethora of fake items in every conceivable product range. Companies duplicate famous brands and claim they contain no harmful chemicals, but this, unfortunately, is too often found to be untrue. The end product becomes a shady, low quality version of the genuine item.

The worst offences in fake products are in medicine and food, when they manufacture products that are inferior to

the original items, or make complete duplicates. The consumer pays the same price as they would for the real thing, but receives a counterfeit, instead. Of course, the real danger is in the health concerns for the consuming public.

We strongly voice our opinion to the authorities that this is not something to be taken lightly. For this is not just deception, but a major health hazard to the people.

We believe that departments tasked with examining food and medicine for counterfeits should exercise greater caution in this regard. We understand there is not enough budget, finances or human resource to always carry out their work. But we must then carefully scrutinize what the shortcomings are, in order to gradually address them.

How much have these fake foods and medicines increased the national health expenditure by? And how much negative consequences have they caused? They must be examined in laboratories and then have appropriate action taken, while keeping in mind the budget constraints of Myanmar.

While it is true that our country is facing economic hardships, we must prioritize national expenditures in these sectors to reduce the people's spending in healthcare and, simultaneously, increase their well-being and capabilities.

The people view the role of political leaders as undertaking the critically important task of deciding which policies and procedures to prioritize, after careful systematic analysis. In addition, the public is saying that more time and attentive consideration should be given to policy making.

It is true that our policymakers and general administrators have a lot on their plate during our country's current transitional period. We urge them to regularly assess what actions should be taken first, so that we may achieve our dream of a democratic federal Union much more quickly.

■■■

ADB: Asian Development Outlook 2019 on Myanmar

By Khin Maung Nyo (Economist)

OUTLOOK and assessment of Asian Development Bank (ADB) is centered over six-month period during the transition to new fiscal year in Myanmar. During the past six months under reference, the current account deficit was sliding with the inflation running in high tempo.

Meanwhile, ADB expects Myanmar's economy to resume growth this year and continue to expand in the next as the tourism industry and related businesses are in the upswing to spur and stimulate the foreign investment.

The current account deficit for this fiscal year and the next are expected to get sharp, while the inflation for this year is reduced with the expected rise in the next year.

Transitional budget means the period from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018, witnessing the rise in the exports, the downswing in the domestic purchasing power, and the dollar market stepped up. Due to the fall in value of Myanmar currency, the export percentage rose to 19 per cent in 2018 from previous 10.5 per cent ending 31 March 2017.

In the backdrop of slow growth of income with compounded inflation rate, the domestic consumption is sluggish.

From January to August 2018, the tourism industry saw 1 per cent increase due to incoming globe-trotters from Asian Continent despite the actual decreased of tourists from the United States, Europe and Oceania.

With regards to investment in the country, the assessment of ADB was of the view that the government spending and distribution were considered lesser favorable to draw interest of foreign investors and the slower pace of foreign investment paradigm.

The approval of foreign investment hits 4.1 billion dollars from April to September 2017, but it stagnated at 1.8 billion dollars in 2018.

With the fine weather embracing in 2018 fiscal year, the agricultural sector speeded up faster, but the industrial sector and service sector were remained unfortunate.

Last year, higher international oil prices and kyat depreciation against the U.S. dollar drove up inflation from 4 per cent to 7.1 per cent. However, inflation is expected to rise again in 2020 to 7.5 per cent as Myanmar's economic growth gains momentum.



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Weaker income growth seems to have capped private consumption growth amid strong inflationary pressures; inflation jumped in part due to higher oil prices and the depreciation of the kyat, following the Central Bank's decision to remove the trading band for the currency.

From April to September, the value of kyat was down to 16.7 per cent, citing reasons on the ups and downs of exchange rates fluctuation being regularized and put under framework of trading band on currency by the Central Bank had been rescind in August 2018.

While the domestic buying power is lethargic, the imports from abroad have exhausted. (When the dollar market is elevated, the import value of goods also went up high).

In 2017, the imports value stood at 9.3 per cent increase, however, this year saw only 5.5 per cent increase, resulting with downswing of trade.

With regards to the service industry, the inflow remained net, however, due to the trade deficit, the current accounts that stood at 4.7 per cent of the GDP in 2017 fiscal year has slipped away to 2.0 per cent of the GDP.

In 2018 fiscal year, the government reserved funds have the capability to cover three months imports.

In connection with the government budgeting, the ADB was of the view that the government tends to spend profusely over the large projects in 2018 and pointed out that the reform to public financial management should aim for greater fiscal prudence, transpar-

ency, and efficiency.

It should also include strengthened treasury functions, more systematic public investment planning and implementation, and the adoption of appropriate accounting and auditing standards to make public spending more productive.

The 2018 fiscal year coincided with the rainy season resulting with difficulties in the implementation of larger projects. In the pragmatic approach, the spending did not incur as have earlier expected, and the figure remained as 4.5 per cent of the GDP.

Regarding the monetary policy, the exchange rate mechanism is moving in term of flexible reform with the appropriate functioning of the banks procedures. The possible risk factors in financial issues have been taken up in watchfulness in advance.

The year 2018 saw the rise of 18.2 per cent in the deposit of cash and legal tender notes compared to previous year; and that the loans accorded and facilitated to private banks went upswing to 23.7 per cent compared to previous year.

Future Prospects

The ADB views the economic prospect of Myanmar as unfavorable due to outside circumstances, and that it also views the economy of China as inauspicious. However, as the retail trade, the wholesale trade and insurance business have been opened up for investment in the country, the local and foreign investments are likely to increase. The newly enacted company law

tends to increase the investment.

The Asian Development Outlook 2019 forecasts Myanmar's economy to grow by 6.6 per cent in 2019 and by (6.8) per cent in 2020. Last year, Myanmar's growth slowed to 6.2 per cent, down from 6.8 per cent in 2017.

The ADB said foreign direct investment (FDI) approvals in Myanmar nearly doubled from \$823 million between October 2017 and January 2018 to about \$1.5 billion over the same period a year on.

culture was projected to slow from (2) per cent during April–September 2018 to (0.5) per cent this year following floods in mid-2018 that likely affected harvests, especially of rice in November. Due to poor anticipation in agriculture sector, the industrial sector in 2019 is expected to rise only (8.2) per cent.

For the sustainable development, the inflation rate must be controlled as the impact should pull up the rate of dollar; and the kyat value would be down.

The report said inflation was expected to ease to 6.8 per cent this year as international oil prices soften. Last year, higher international oil prices and kyat depreciation against the U.S. dollar drove up inflation from 4 per cent to 7.1 per cent. Moreover, inflation is expected to rise again in 2020 to 7.5 per cent as Myanmar's economic growth gains momentum.

Current fiscal year as well as next, the export trade would likely to fall, as the government investment projects and other investment plans would require more imports resulting with trade deficits.

According to the report, the trade deficit is expected to widen this year and next as export earnings weaken and imports strengthen on the back of growing investment, particularly by the government. It said that even if net service receipts improve with a pickup in trade and

regards to fiscal issues.

The ADB also warned of the risks to an otherwise bright outlook, including the possible withdrawal of the European Union's trade preferences for Myanmar; the effect on exports of a slowdown in the major economies, domestic conflicts, and the slow progress in implementing economic reforms. According to the report, external risk would increase if the European Union withdraws Myanmar's privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), affecting 10 percent of exports from Myanmar. Domestic risks may include uninspiring progress on economic reform and communal tensions flaring in conflict-affected areas.

Challenges on policies

The government has continued to reform since April 2016, announcing a number of strategic planning initiatives such as the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018–2030; National Education Strategic Plan 2016–2021; Myanmar National Health Plan 2017–2021; and the Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan – NSPSP (2014).

The ADB also suggested that building on these initiatives, the country needs to accelerate reform which will contribute to inclusive development.

The report concluded that Myanmar could become more competitive by further strengthening its legal and regulatory framework toward improving the business and investment climate, which would also encourage integration into regional and global value chains.

The report added that Myanmar's monetary and fiscal policies are moving in the right direction and it called on people to take advantage of the resources available in the country. With strong and appropriate administrative paradigm, it is to be supplemented with responsibility and accountability which is under the purview of international assistance.

The country is still receiving a lot of concessional assistance, and the effective use of such concessional ODA (official development assistance) including the exceptional financial resources will lead to improvements in infrastructure in social services delivery, of which the country is in real need.

Reference: ADB- Asian Development Outlook 2019
(Translated by UMT (Ahlon))



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 12th May, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 13th May, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Southern Shan and Kayah states, scattered in Bago and Yangon regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region, Eastern Shan and Chin states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions, (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Chin and Kayah states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th May, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th May, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th May, 2019: Partly cloudy.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Call
Thin Thin May,

● 09251022355

● 09974424848

Yemen government blasts rebel 'deception' over port pullout

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates)—Yemen's government on Sunday accused rebels of a "policy of deception" after they announced a pullout from a string of Red Sea ports in a long-delayed move agreed under a ceasefire deal last year. The docks serve as a lifeline for millions in the impoverished Arabian Peninsula country, which has been pushed to the brink of famine by more than four years of devastating war. According to the United Nations, the Huthi insurgents began to withdraw from the ports of Hodeida, Saleef and Ras Issa on Saturday.

The pullback is considered a first step in implementing a hard-won truce agreement for Hodeida struck in Sweden in December between Yemen's Saudi-backed government and the Iran-aligned Huthi rebels. The flashpoint city is the main entry point for Yemen's imports and humanitarian aid.

But government officials cast doubts over the handover process, saying it was unclear who was taking control of the ports, and experts said it was too soon to say if the move represented genuine progress. "The (Sweden) agreement is very difficult to execute because the lines are blurry and each side interprets it the way it wants to," said Yemen expert Farea al-Muslimi, a visiting fellow at the Lon-



Yemen's Red Sea ports serve as an aid lifeline for millions in the impoverished country. PHOTO: AFP

don-based Chatham House think tank. "Overall, the next two weeks will show if this is a handover or a yet another hangover," he told AFP.

'Theatrical play'

Yemen's information minister accused the rebels of faking the pullout. "What the Huthi militia did is a repeated theatrical play of handing over control of the port to its own forces (in different uniforms)," Moammer al-Eryani

tweeted on Sunday. "This shows its continued manipulation and evasion to implement the Sweden agreement... by adopting a policy of deception." The governor of Hodeida, Al-Hasan Taher, said Saturday the insurgents were merely reshuffling personnel. "The Huthis are staging a new play by handing over the ports of Hodeida, Saleef and Ras Issa to themselves without any monitoring by the United Nations and the government side,"

said the official, appointed by the internationally recognised government. "This is totally rejected by us, and the agreement must be implemented in full, especially with regards to the identity of the troops that will take over from the Huthis," he added. Sources close to the Huthis said the ports were handed over to coastguard personnel who were in charge before the rebels took over Hodeida almost five years ago.—AFP ■

At least 300 Himalayan yaks starve to death in India

NEW DELHI (India)—Indian officials Sunday said that at least 300 yaks starved to death in a remote Himalayan valley after a bout of unusually harsh winter weather. Officials in the northeastern state of Sikkim said they received the first distress call from around 50 people cut off in the remote Mukhang Valley in December.

Following very heavy snowfall the residents asked for help providing feed for their herd of around 1,500 yaks, a source of local milk, milk products, transportation and wool.

"We made several attempts to reach them but couldn't. No roads or air transport could reach there because of the weather conditions. We reached there now and have already confirmed at least 300 yak deaths," local official Raj Kumar Yadav told AFP. "The local families say that 500 yaks have died because of starvation. We are trying to confirm that. Around 50 yaks are also receiving urgent medical attention," Yadav added. Yaks are one of the mainstays of the region's tourism-dependent economy. A few yaks die because of extreme conditions in the region each year, but the authorities say that this year's toll is unprecedented.—AFP ■

ANC wins election, to lead S. Africa govt with diminished majority

PRETORIA (South Africa)—South Africa's ruling ANC was Saturday declared winner of general elections, handing it a sixth straight term in the post-apartheid era on what was nevertheless its worst electoral showing.

The African National Congress (ANC) won a healthy majority with 57.5 per cent—or 230 out of the 400 parliamentary seats.

But that still represented 19 seats fewer than in 2014.

The official results, as declared by the electoral commission, were therefore the ANC's poorest ever showing in its long electoral run, which started in 1994, when Nelson Mandela led it to victory in the first multi-racial polls.

The party has been battling corruption scandals, sluggish economic growth, record unemployment and poverty—issues its leader Cyril Ramaphosa, a veteran of the anti-apartheid



The African National Congress (ANC) will be mathematically assured more than 50 per cent of votes cast in the final official tally. PHOTO: AFP

struggle, has promised to tackle.

But its poor electoral showing could hamper efforts to revive the flagging economy and fight corruption.

Businessman Ramaphosa, 66, took over last year when the ANC forced then-president Jacob Zuma to resign after nine years dominated by graft allegations

and economic decline. The ANC's closest rival, the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), trailed at a distant 20.7 per cent or 84 seats. The radical left Economic Freedom Fighters, founded six years ago by former ANC youth leader Julius Malema, came third with 10.79 per cent. But that was four percentage points more than in

2014 and means a jump from 25 to 44 parliamentary seats.

A 'lifeline'

After the official declaration of the results in Pretoria, Ramaphosa said: "Our people have spoken—and they have done so clearly and emphatically.

"They voted for a united South Africa, they voted for a more equal society, free from hunger and want. We can declare with certainty that democracy has emerged victorious." Despite the plunge in support, ANC chairman Gwede Mantashe said the party was grateful for a new "lifeline".

It was an improvement on its 2016 local government elections performance "when we were really facing a disaster", he said. "We are picking up from that disaster." Minister in the presidency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma acknowledged the decline in support, but said: "We are happy

with the mandate the people have given us and we will work hard to improve." "The ANC are being given a chance," said political analyst Lumkile Mondli. "This is an opportunity for them to reincarnate themselves." Analyst Susan Booysen of the Wits School of Governance said the tally was "way higher for the ANC than it would have been had Zuma been still in power".

The ANC's reputation suffered under Zuma, and Ramaphosa still faces resistance to his reform agenda, especially from Zuma allies still holding senior positions in the party and government. Support for the party has fallen in every election since its 2004, when it got nearly 70 per cent. By 2016, it had fallen to 54 per cent in municipal polls in which it lost control of key city governments. A record 48 parties contested Wednesday's elections.—AFP ■

US-China standoff heralds risky shake-up of global order: analysts



PHOTO: AFP

PARIS (France)—Flaring tensions between Washington and Beijing are raising the prospect of new global diplomatic and economic fault lines, with consequences that analysts say could pose unfamiliar challenges to world leaders.

From an escalating trade war to an influence struggle in the South China Sea, “we’ve entered a period of strong and long-term rivalry between the United States and China,” said Alice Ekman of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI).

President Donald Trump’s combative stance, highlighted by the new round of import tariffs imposed this week, has

upended decades of cautious statecraft in the West aimed at coaxing China to join the global order.

“A paradigm shift in America’s China policy is under way, with major implications for the world’s most important bilateral relationship and, more importantly, for global security,” said Brahma Chellaney of the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.

The fallout could prove long-lasting, requiring countries in Europe, Asia and Africa to rethink how they engage with two diametrically opposed superpowers.

“The profound policy shift under Donald Trump will out-

last his presidency because it reflects a bipartisan consensus in Washington that the earlier policy of ‘constructive engagement’ with China had failed,” Chellaney said.

For Trump, “the fatal error was letting China join the World Trade Organisation in 2001,” said Jean-Francois Di Meglio of the Asia Centre research and advisory firm in Paris. “Before then, we had a Chinese administration that played the game on westernising, which led the United States and the EU to say, ‘Let’s give them more than the benefit of the doubt, let’s open the door and give them developing country status,’” he said.—AFP ■

Russia to spend 46 mln USD on better agricultural equipment

MOSCOW—Russia has signed a decree to allocate 3 billion rubles (46.03 million U.S. dollars) to upgrade agricultural equipment in the country and reduce the financial burden on lessees, the Russian government said Saturday.

“The signed decree made a decision on a budget allocation in the amount of 3 billion rubles from the reserve fund of the Russian government in 2019 in order to increase the rate of renewal of the fleet of agricultural equipment and re-

duce the financial burden on lessees,” a government statement said.

It is envisaged that the use of these funds will allow 374 units of new self-propelled agricultural equipment, including 153 tractors and 221 combine harvesters, to be additionally supplied on financial leasing terms for seasonal field work, the statement added.

Russia’s agro-industrial complex has been renewing its agricultural equipment on various preferential terms in

recent years, which provided agricultural producers with new equipment totaling 22 billion rubles (337.6 million U.S. dollars) in 2012-2018, according to the government.

In May 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree for Russia’s roadmap of strategic development that sets targets of the national development in a wide range of spheres up to 2024, which includes further improvement of the country’s agro-industrial complex.—Xinhua ■

6 dead after bus overturns in S. Chile

SANTIAGO—At least six people were killed and 30 others injured after a bus overturned in the La Araucania region of south-central Chile, according to the Pullman bus company that owns the vehicle on Saturday.

The accident occurred Saturday morning, claiming the lives of four women and two men, one of whom was a Paraguayan citizen, said Jose Silva, manager of corporate affairs.

Causes of the accident have yet to be determined, given the bus was currently on technical revisions, Silva told the electronic news site EMOL.—Xinhua ■

Inequality tops agenda as Lithuanians elect new president

VILNIUS (Lithuania)—Lithuanians were choosing a new president on Sunday in a close race dominated by concerns over poverty and income inequality in the Baltic state that boasts some of the eurozone’s strongest growth.

Nine candidates are vying to fill the shoes of two-term independent incumbent Dalia Grybauskaite, nicknamed the “Iron Lady” for her strong resolve and who has been tipped as a contender to be the next president of the European Council.

But surveys suggest only three stand a chance of making it to an expected 26 May run-off that would coincide with European Parliament elections.

Centre-left Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis, conservative ex-finance minister Ingrida Simonyte and independent economist Gitanas Nauseda lead the pack focused primarily on bread and butter issues. Simonyte, who scored 22.3 per cent in a pre-election poll, is popular with wealthy, educated urban voters while Skvernelis’ populist approach resonates with the rural poor.

The Vilmorus pollsters gave him 16.7 per cent backing, while Nauseda scored 21.9 per cent.

Nauseda, an economist, seeks to bridge the rich-poor divide in the former Soviet republic of 2.8 million people that joined the EU and NATO in 2004.

It is struggling with a sharp decline in population owing to mass emigration to Western Europe by people seeking a better life. A recent EU report noted that almost 30 per cent of Lithuanians “are at risk of poverty or social exclusion” and that this risk is “nearly double” in rural areas. “Citizens are thirsty for social justice and seek a candidate who can bridge existing social

polarisation,” Donatas Puslys from the Vilnius Policy Analysis Institute told AFP.

All candidates support EU and NATO membership as bulwarks against neighbouring Russia, especially since its 2014 military intervention in Ukraine.

Rich-poor gap

Robust annual wage growth of around 10 per cent has raised the average gross monthly salary to 970 euros but poverty and income inequality remain among the highest in the EU, largely due to weak progressive taxation. Unemployment stood at 6.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2019, and the economy is forecast to grow by 2.7 per cent this year, well above an average of 1.1 per cent in the 19-member eurozone.

Brussels has urged Vilnius to use solid growth fuelled mostly by consumption to broaden its tax base and spend more on social policies. A technocrat who warns against deepening inequality and the rural-urban divide, Simonyte has vowed to reduce it by boosting growth further.

Voting on Sunday in Vilnius Simonyte insisted presidents need to listen to “different opinions, seek consensus and properly represent Lithuania abroad.” Socially liberal, Simonyte supports same-sex partnerships. Seeking stronger anti-corruption measures and faster income growth, Raminta Tubinyte said that Simonyte got her vote. “We could do more to align with Western states,” the 21-year-old Vilnius sales clerk told AFP. A former police chief named prime minister after the Farmers and Green Union won general elections in 2016, Skvernelis is courting the disgruntled rural poor.—AFP ■

Sri Lanka Catholics hold first Sunday mass after Easter attacks



Sri Lankan Catholics attend mass at St. Theresa's in Colombo as Catholic churches held services again.

PHOTO: AFP

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)—Thousands of Catholics attended mass in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo Sunday amid tight security to prevent a repeat of Easter bomb attacks that killed 258 people.

Soldiers armed with automatic assault rifles guarded St. Theresa's church at Colombo's Thimbirigasyaya residential quarter, while members of the congregation were searched for explosives.

The sprawling church car park was empty as the authorities did not allow any vehicles into the compound as part of high-level security. The government has blamed local jihadists for the deadly 21 April bombings, which targeted three Christian churches and three luxury hotels.

Regular services were cancelled across all churches soon af-

ter the deadly suicide attacks, but the archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith announced Thursday that mass would be held in his diocese from Sunday. The Cardinal conducted private Sunday services in the past two weeks, which were broadcast live on national television.

He also said a special mass for the victims of the 21 April attack at the St. Lucia's cathedral on Saturday. The congregation was made up of relatives of victims and survivors of the Easter Sunday attacks. At least 258 were killed and nearly 500 people were wounded.

Most churches outside Colombo had resumed regular services from last week, but under tight security provided by the local police. Catholic private schools which remained closed after the

Easter holidays will now reopen on Tuesday, church officials said.

All state-run schools — more than 10,000 in total — resumed classes last week after police and security forces deployed armed guards. But attendance has been low despite a raft of new security measures, including parking restrictions near schools.

The government has blamed a local group, the National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ), for the bombings. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility and the bombers filmed themselves making a pledge of allegiance to the militants' elusive leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi before the attacks. The authorities have banned the NTJ under new emergency laws that were invoked to deal with Islamists responsible for the attacks. —AFP ■

'Love vs. hate' in penultimate Indian election round

NEW DELHI (India)—Tens of millions voted Sunday in the penultimate round of India's increasingly bad-tempered election, with all eyes on the coveted capital New Delhi after an ugly campaign of slaps and savage pamphlets. India's almost-seven week election, the biggest on Earth with Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a new term from the 900 million voters, wraps up next Sunday with results due on 23 May. Notoriously unreliable opinion polls put Modi, 68, as favourite but likely with a reduced majority, with the vote seen as a referendum on the Hindu nationalist's five years in power in the world's biggest democracy.

Modi has sought to deflect opposition attacks on his economic record by striking a fiercely patriotic tone following February's bust-up with Pakistan, portraying himself as India's "chowkidar" or "watchman". He has also sought to turn the tables on corruption allegations levelled by Rahul Gandhi of the opposition Congress party with claims Rahul's assassinated father Rajiv used a Navy ship for a family holiday in 1988. "Narendra Modi used hate and we used love and I think love is about to win (this election). We will respect whatever people decide," Gandhi, 48, told reporters as he voted in Delhi on Sunday.

Common man

Fifty-nine seats were up for grabs across the country of 1.3 billion people on Sunday on the sixth voting day, with just over 100 million Indians eligible to cast ballots. The tussle for Delhi is front and centre, with all eyes on chief minister Arvind Kejriwal,

whose Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) —or Common Man party—was formed seven years ago on an anti-corruption platform. It has since taken control of Delhi's regional government and is fighting to add to its four seats in India's lower house of parliament.

"More schools need to be built," said Delhi voter Purvek Shah. "And my other big concern is air pollution in Delhi. We see that Delhi has one of the worst pollution levels." Kejriwal, a tax commissioner turned campaigner, has suffered more than most in India's notoriously rough-and-tumble political bullring.

Since 2013 and his first term as Delhi chief minister, the 50-year-old has been the target of at least seven attacks, including when his car was set upon by a mob with iron rods. In November his face was smeared with chilli powder inside the Delhi government building. Last week a man climbed onto the open top car Kejriwal was campaigning in and slapped him. AAP candidate Atishi Marlena broke down in tears last week after a vicious anonymous pamphlet accused her of being a prostitute and of having sex with a fellow teacher.

Both Atishi and Kejriwal accused Gautam Gambhir, a former international cricketer and candidate for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), of being behind the pamphlet. He vociferously denied it. "People of Delhi have been fooled by a bunch of no-gooders who promised a new kind of politics. But they have become synonymous with anarchy and obstructionism," Modi told a Delhi rally on Wednesday. —AFP ■

Pakistan's Khan condemns attack on luxury hotel in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday condemned a deadly attack the previous day by insurgents on a luxury hotel in the southern port city of Gwadar.

In a statement issued by his office, Khan said such attacks "are an effort to sabotage our economic projects and prosperity. We shall not allow these agendas to succeed."

Around 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, four gunmen wearing paramilitary uniforms reportedly stormed the Pearl Continental Hotel, killing a security guard after they opened fire with small arms.

Troops rushed to the hotel and launched an operation during which all the assailants were killed overnight.

No foreigners were staying in the hotel, and all the guests were safely evacuated, officials ear-

lier said.

The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad also strongly condemned the incident.

Gwadar features prominently in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor plan linking Gwadar, a deep-sea port, with Xinjiang Province in western China. The \$50 billion project is being opposed by Baluch nationalists and insurgents. —Kyodo News ■

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE PROCUREMENT OF WORKS

Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP), Credit No.:5889-MM
Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction

Contract Title: THANDWE-GWA ROAD WORKS - RAHKHINE STATE

Reference No. : NCB C1-MOC-W-1-2 LOT 1 and LOT 2

The Department of Highways (DOH) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following road works along the Thandwe - Gwa Road in the Rakhine State:

C1-MOC-W-1-2 LOT 1: 35 BOX CULVERTS, 480 METRES OF MASONRY RETAINING WALLS AND 1,600 METRES OF SAFETY RAIL ALONG THANDWE-GWA ROAD

C1-MOC-W-1-2 LOT 2: 13 BOX CULVERTS AND 2,378 METRES OF ROAD SIDE DRAINS ALONG NGATHAINGCHAUNG - GWA ROAD

Project Duration	- 240 days
Pre-bid Conference	- 28 May 2019
Bid Submission Date	- 11 June 2019 (12:00 noon) local time
Bid Opening Date	- 11 June 2019 (13:00)

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information within office hour Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 16.00 Hrs and a complete set of electronic bidding documents in English Language may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders simple e-mail request to the address below.

Electronic bidding will not be permitted. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security or a Cash Deposit with a reputable Bank in Myanmar, licensed by and under the supervision of the Central Bank of Myanmar for this activity. For detailed information and submission of the bid, please contact:

Attn: U Khin Zaw, Project Director of FLERP; Daw Ei Ei Myo, Procurement Director, FLERP
FLERC Project, CIU Office, Office No. (11), Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw.

Tel: (+95-67) 407658, +95(9)2450600, +95(9)5070469 e-mails: flerp.moc@gmail.com

UN kicks off major climate change effort

UNITED NATIONS (United States)—UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calls it the defining issue of our time: climate change is moving to the center stage at the United Nations, three years after the Paris agreement went into force. A major UN push for progress on climate change kicks off next week when Guterres travels to New Zealand and several Pacific islands, where rising sea levels are threatening the very existence of those small countries. The stepped-up diplomacy will culminate with a climate action summit at the United Nations in September, an event billed as a last chance to prevent irreversible climate change.

“We are still losing the battle,” Guterres told reporters last week. “Climate change is still running faster than we are, and if we don’t reverse this trend, it will be a tragedy for the whole world.” In Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, Guterres will meet with families whose lives have been upended by cyclones, flooding and other extreme weather events. Pacific island countries face an especially dire risk from climate change because of sea level rise. In some cases, low-lying countries could disappear completely. Fiji is working to build a coalition of more than 90 countries from the Caribbean, Africa and Asia facing climate crisis.

“We hope that the secretary-general will draw far more inspiration from his first visit to go further, faster and deeper with the climate summit,” Fiji’s UN Ambassador Satyendra Prasad told AFP. “We are very hopeful that the climate summit will mark a turning point.”



The Pacific island of Fiji is already feeling the impact of climate change through wild storms such as Cyclone Winston, which killed 44 people in 2016 and wiped out a third of the economy. **PHOTO: AFP**

China: climate power

The UN push on climate change is shaping up amid geopolitical shifts: the United States under Donald Trump has decided to pull out of the Paris agreement to combat global warming, giving China more space to assert its views. “The Trump administration’s disdain for climate diplomacy has left China looking like the main guarantor of the Paris agreement,” said Richard Gowan, UN director for the International Crisis Group. “While China is increasingly active across the UN, other states are suspicious of its stances on human rights and development. But it is the indispensable power in climate talks now.” Trump announced in 2017 that the United States would exit the Paris agreement, but under the terms of the deal the withdrawal will only become effective in 2020. The US adminis-

tration is not taking part in summit preparations but has not said it will skip the event, according to UN officials. Guterres’ mission may also be further complicated by Trump’s nomination of Kelly Knight Craft as UN ambassador.

Craft, who is married to a major coal magnate, raised eyebrows for declaring that she believed “both sides” of climate science, indicating she may well be out of sync with the UN on the issue.

Plans, not speeches

Guterres has told leaders to bring plans, not speeches, to the summit to be held in New York on 23 September during the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations. The summit is seen as critical because of US resistance to discuss climate change at other forums including the G7 and G20, and again last week at a meeting of the Arctic

Council in Finland. “What people are looking for is countries to commit to major ambition increases in 2025 and 2030 at the summit or in 2020,” said Nick Mabey, head of the E3G climate think tank. This should include legally binding targets for countries to phase out coal, become climate neutral and invest in climate resilience, especially for the poorest countries, he added. A string of apocalyptic reports on the state of the planet is bringing home the need for concrete steps. One million species are on the brink of extinction. Carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise, pushing targets from the Paris accord further out of reach.

UN climate envoy Luis Alfonso de Alba told AFP on Friday that he was optimistic about prospects for a breakthrough on climate, saying the dire predictions were having a galvanizing effect. —AFP ■

Fake blood flows at anti-extinction protest in Paris

PARIS (France)—Environmental protesters spilled fake blood Sunday on the steps of the Trocadero, a Paris tourist landmark, in a stunt to highlight the accelerated loss of biodiversity on Earth, AFP journalists reported.

As sightseers and police looked on, members of the Extinction Rebellion campaign group emptied canisters containing around 300 litres of red liquid on the famous esplanade across from the Eiffel Tower.

Brandishing banners with the slogan: “Stop the sixth mass extinction”, the protesters then observed a few minutes’ silence before cleaning the steps.

Also on Sunday, six Extinction Rebellion activists were detained in the south-west city of Bordeaux for putting up a banner overnight on the scaffolding of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a popular tourist site.

In a landmark report last week, the United Nations warned that a million of Earth’s estimated eight million species are at risk of extinction.

The campaign group was set up in Britain last year by academics and has become one of the world’s fastest-growing environmental movements.

It advocates the use of non-violent acts of civil disobedience to force governments to declare a climate and ecological emergency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and halt biodiversity loss. —AFP ■

Amid trade war, floods compound Nebraska farmers’ woes

ORCHARD (United States)—Already hurt by the US-China trade war, farmers in Nebraska are reeling from this year’s devastating floods, which ravaged crops and left little time to plant for the next harvest.

Damage from the March rains in the Midwest is visible across the landscape north of Omaha, the state’s biggest city: trees have fallen, growing fields are caked in mud and rivers are at elevated levels. “Road Closed” signs pop up often in particularly water-logged areas where bridges and dikes were overwhelmed, making neighborhoods uninhabitable and cutting off public services. Cows are visible in some pastures but many breeders are still tallying their losses. Some animals died in the floods and others perished after being sickened by bad water. “I know people who lost a lot of their animals because they were stranded in the floods,” said Jim Dinklage, a farmer in Orchard, about three hours from Omaha. “You couldn’t have access to them.” Of Nebraska’s 93 counties, 81 have declared states of emergency, said Steve Wellman, director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. —AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (917S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (917S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Advertise
with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 18th May 2019 (Fullmoon Day of KASON), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

Myanmar Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.00 feet to 20.10 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of May 18th to May 20th, 2019. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.



Tourist arrivals to Inwa (Ava) likely to rise in 2019

By Kyaw Htike Soe

INWA Region is located at the confluence of the Ayeyawady River and Dokhtawady River about 2 miles and four furlongs north of TadaU Township and around 20 miles southwest of Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest cultural city.

Inwa is known for hosting several ancient heritages such as pagodas, monasteries, moats and Buddhist temples. According to Myanmar history, the Inwa Kingdom was established by King ThadoeMinbya in 726 Myanmar Era and was the capital city of successive Burmese dynasties for more than 400 years. According to historical evidence, the Inwa Kingdom was administered by 31 Burmese Kings during four dynasties.

Inwa City was rebuilt eight times by successive Burmese kings and architectural designs of the religious buildings, palaces,

city's wall, and spire-like roofs have been changed. There are five ancient pagodas decorated with mural paintings, seven ancient pagodas with stone inscriptions, three ancient pagodas with bronze bells and 624 ancient buildings. The number of local visitors to Inwa Region has significantly increased when compared to previous time.

"The number of local travelers to the Inwa Region has increased considerably during the public holidays. But, arrival of tourists slightly declined when compared to previous years," said an official from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. He continued that he hopes Inwa Region will receive more visitors as the number of tourist arrivals to Myanmar is expected to reach almost 5 million in 2019. Here are some interesting places you should visit during your stay in Inwa Region.



PHOTOS: KYAW HTIKE SOE

Maha Aungmyay Bonzan Monastery

The Maha Aungmyay Bonzan Monastery is a unique architectural structure and is decorated with significant spiritual icons for the guests to see when they visit Inwa Region. The monastery was first constructed in 1818 by Me Nu, the primary Queen of King Bagyidaw, for the royal abbot Nyaungyan Sayadaw. The ancient brick structure is 192 ft. long, 112 ft. wide and 94 ft. high. It was extensively damaged in March 1839 by the series of earthquakes that struck Inwa and its surrounding areas, resulting in the monastery's abandonment.

Since earthquake damage in Inwa was extensive so the King Bagyidaw moved the capital to





nearby Amarapura, the monastery wasn't completely forgotten. In 1873, it was restored by the Queen's daughter named Hsin-byu-ma-shin who preserved the building in its original style and structure, according to the historical records.

Bagaya Monastery

The guests also shouldn't miss to visit the Bagaya Monastery. The Bagaya Monastery was built in 1834 during the reign of the King Bagyidaw. The monastery has 267 massive posts of teak, the largest of which is 60 feet high and 9 feet in circumference. Its floors and walls are made of teak. There are plenty of pony-carts waiting to take you around the ancient capital city.



Memories Group takes stake in Strand Hotel

MYANMAR tourism trailblazers Memories Group had bought a minority share in Strand Hotel International Ltd. The US\$3.19 million investment gives the Group stakes in a cruise ship and three hotels, most notably the world-famous Strand Hotel, an iconic landmark on the Yangon waterfront, which was built during the British colonial era in 1901, according to a release on 3 May.

The new partnership also includes: the 4-star Inya Lake Hotel, which was built in 1958-62 on a 27-acre lake-side property in northern Yangon; the modern Hotel G Yangon in the city center; and the Strand Cruise, a 200-foot luxury ship with 25 cabins, which operates sailings on the Ayeyarwady River.

"The acquisition is in line with our plans to own, develop and/or operate more hotels and lodges so as to expand our hotel business segment," said Memories Group CEO Cyrus Pun. "I remain convinced of the enormous tourism potential of Myanmar and I am keen to drive the expansion of our hotel business footprint across the country in order to further cement our position as the leading tourism company in Myanmar."

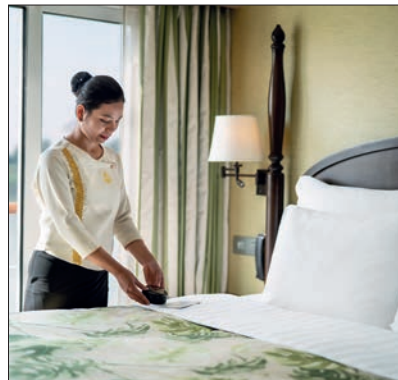
The Strand and its affiliates join an ever-expanding portfolio at Memories Group, which in the past six months has overseen the grand opening of three hotels in Myanmar – 4-star Awei Metta, overlooking the Pun Hlaing Golf Course in Yangon; the 72-key Hotel Suggati on the riverfront in Mawlamyaing; and Awei Pila, a 24-villa resort on a remote island in the Mergui Archipelago. In early 2018, the Group also acquired Burma Boating, a yachting and sailing operator in the archipelago.

The Myanmar-based tourism company, which is listed on the Singapore stock exchange, also owns Balloons Over Bagan, which in addition to its hot-air balloon flights over both the ancient temples of Bagan and popular resort Inle Lake, earlier this year announced the launch of balloon adventures in Loikaw, a remote outpost in eastern Myanmar which is home to the famed "lock-neck" ladies of Kayah State.

Boutique eco-lodges Keinnara Loikaw and Keinnara Hpa-an are the other resorts under the Memories Group brand.

Myanmar's tourism potential remains largely untapped. According to the country's hotel and tourism ministry, Myanmar attracted some 3.55 million foreign visitors last year, a far cry from the 38.27 million tourists that neighboring Thailand recorded.

Until recently, much of Myanmar, previously known as Burma, was off-limits to tourists due to the country's political and economic isolation. However, the government has now embraced an open-door policy towards visitors, viewing the development of the tourism sector as an economic priority. With this backing, Myanmar's fledgling tourism industry looks set to challenge many of the region's top destinations, thanks to a wide choice of historical sites, colorful ethnic cultures, and natural splendors such as rainforests and undiscovered tropical beaches which are growing more accessible every year.—GNLM



AFF U-15 Girls' Championship: Myanmar faces shocking loss to Philippines

MYANMAR U-15 girls football team suffered a surprise loss to the Philippines U-15 girls team at the second group A match of the AFF U-15 Girls' Championship 2019 at the Institute of Physical Education Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand yesterday.

Myanmar lined up with goal keeper May Oo Khin, Phyu Phwe, Khin Htay Kyng, Mary Oo, Aye Htet Htet Paing, Zin Moe Pyae, Htoo Theingi Naing, Su Myat Noe, Captain Than Than Soe, Phyo Phyo Wai and Kyal Sin.

As Myanmar earlier thrashed Timor Leste by an incredible 26 goals in their first game, Myanmar was expected to win over the Philippines.

However, the Philippines were thoroughly prepared in their defense, plus their attacks made team Myanmar unable to overcome their aggressive play.

The Philippines lost 2-0 to Vietnam in their first game, and that increased the pressure in the game against Myanmar.

Upon freezing the Myanmar team defense line, the Philippines side earned a first minute goal at the 2 minute mark with a free kick by Mikaela Vinalon Villacin.

The goal upset team My-



Myanmar's Kyal Sin (No.17) vies for the ball against a Philippines player (No.23) during Group A of AFF U-15 Girls' Championship 2019 at IPE Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

anmar's spirit, and again the Philippines girls created more opportunities for goals.

Due to the loss in concentration among Myanmar team defenders, the Philippines made the second goal at the 21st minute, as Jenny Perez netted the second goal for her team.

The first half ended with 2 goals and overall domination by the Philippines team.

In the restart of the second half, the Philippines scored their third goal when the referee saw a Myanmar defender hit the ball with his hand in the penalty area.

The penalty shot was kicked by the Philippines' Chenny Dano-so. Again, the Philippines scored their fourth goal at the 52 minute mark by Maegan Gacho Alforque at a short range from the goal.

Myanmar then attacked, but

lost its stamina and its opportunities to goals.

The fifth goal for the Philippines was scored by Rae Tolentino and the match was ended as a 5-0 win for the Philippines. As for the win, the Philippines hopes to win in the semifinal of the tourney and Myanmar's dream for the next stage also remains alive with a match against Viet Nam on 14 May.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

MFF to require coaches to attend MFF Academy

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has announced its requirements for football coaches to attend the MFF Academy in Mandalay, Patheingyi and Yangon, according to a statement from the MFF.

The requirement for coaches is expected to increase the number of new students for the upcoming year.

For the positions of football coach, interested applicants must be graduates or matriculation certificate holders, and should be between 30 to 45 years old with at least one year experience in coaching, the MFF stated.

Also, the applicant must have an AFC Coaching License Certificate, be able to communicate in English, possess basic computer skills, plus have superior social skills.

For the positions of goal coach, interested applicants must be graduates or matriculation certificate holders, and should be between 30 to 45 years old with at least one year experience in coaching.

Also, the applicant must have a AFC Goalkeeping License Level (1) and (2) or should have AFC (C) License for former national goalkeepers.

The salary for the positions are negotiable and interested persons can send their applications to email address: adm_mff@mff-ma.com, or to the headquarters of the MFF on Waizayanthar Road, Thindagun Township by 25 May. Detailed information can be discussed on the phone at 09-5131066 and 09-5191312, according to the statement from the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Pacquiao to fight Thurman in WBA welterweight showdown

MANILA (Philippines) — Philippine boxing legend Manny Pacquiao and Keith Thurman will fight for World Boxing Association welterweight supremacy on July 20, promoters confirmed Saturday.

An announcement on the Fox television broadcast of the Premier Boxing Champions card featuring Jarrett Hurd and Julian Williams confirmed the bout.

Eight-division world champion Pacquiao, 40, is coming off a January victory over American Adrien Broner that took his record to 61-7-2 with 39 knockouts.

He holds the WBA's secondary "world" welterweight title.

In Thurman, he'll be taking on the WBA's "super world champion" in the division.

"In the biggest night of boxing this year, boxing's only

eight-division world champion, Senator Manny 'Pac Man' Pacquiao, will take on undefeated WBA Welterweight World Champion Keith 'One Time' Thurman on Saturday, July 20 in a blockbuster showdown that headlines a Premier Boxing Champions on FOX Sports Pay-Per-View event," promoters said in a statement.

Venue for the bout was not announced, but the card will also

feature a free-television clash between undefeated International Boxing Federation Super Middleweight World Champion Caleb Plant, making his first title defense against unbeaten contender Mike Lee. Pacquiao, who last month polled his legion of social media followers on who he should fight next, took to Twitter to let them know the bout was coming.—AFP ■

Man City bounce back against Brighton to win Premier League title

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Manchester City retained the Premier League title in style on Sunday, holding their nerve to come from behind against Brighton and see off a charging Liverpool after a thrilling campaign.

Pep Guardiola's team thumped Brighton 4-1 away to finish on 98 points -- the sec-

ond-highest total in Premier League history -- as Liverpool beat Wolves 2-0 at Anfield to finish a single, agonising, point adrift.

City, who strung together 14 league wins at the end of the season, are the first side to retain the title since their bitter rivals Manchester United managed the feat in 2009, and remain on course

for the first domestic treble in English football history.

But Guardiola's team of aristocrats did not have it all their own way on a day of drama on England's south coast in keeping with an astonishing season in which the lead switched hands time after time.

Liverpool drew first blood on Sunday, with Sadio Mane striking

in the 17th minute to put them mathematically top of the table and on course for their first English top-flight title since 1990, before the Premier League era even started.

City fans' nerves were shredded even further when Glenn Murray put Brighton in front from a corner in the 27th minute, resulting in a huge roar

at Anfield. But those cheers were quickly muted, with Guardiola's side level just 83 seconds later, Aguero staying onside and keeping his cool to finish after a brilliant ball from David Silva.

Ten minutes later, the unmarked Aymeric Laporte rose to head in Riyad Mahrez's corner to complete the turnaround for City.—AFP ■