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President cruises Ha Long Bay, receives Vietnamese business persons



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho viewing Ha Long Bay and the islands from a cruise ship in Viet Nam yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A DELEGATION led by President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho who were in Viet Nam, Hanoi visited the UNESCO World Heritage site Ha Long Bay in Quang Ninh Province yesterday morning.

The delegation led by the President and the First Lady was welcomed at Tuan Chau International Port by Quang Ninh Province Vice Chairman

Mr. Nguyen Van Thang.

Next the delegation led by the President and the First Lady toured Ha Long Bay on a cruise ship and observed international tourists visiting the bay and the islands in the bay.

In the afternoon the President received Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Mr. Chu Cong Phung and party at the Sheraton Hotel.

During the meeting mat-

ters relating to increasing Myanmar-Viet Nam friendship and cooperation and cooperation between the two friendship associations to increase trade and investment works were discussed.

Afterwards the President received Vietnamese business persons from Vietnam Airline, Vietjet Airline, Viettel and the Bank for Investment Development of Vietnam (BIDV).

In the meetings, Vietnamese business persons explained about the Vietnamese companies investing in Myanmar and investment projects to be expanded. The President spoke of his happiness of the successes achieved by the companies and his appreciation for supporting the socio-economic development of the Myanmar people.

— MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Religious objects meant for Eternal Peace Pagoda displayed in Toungoo

RELIGIOUS objects, along with two Buddha images carved from marble stones, meant for the Eternal Peace Pagoda were displayed in Toungoo yesterday to allow people to pay their respects, as part of a nationwide ceremonial procession.

The Eternal Peace Pagoda is under construction in Nay Pyi Taw. The religious objects and Buddha images were carried on decorated vehicles from Loikaw, Kayah State, yesterday morning and arrived at Toungoo, Bago Region yesterday evening.

The procession arrived in Toungoo after passing through Pekkoon, Pinlaung, Naungtayar, Kalaw, and Pyawbwe. The religious objects were placed at the Sasana Hitakari Beikman in Toungoo for public obeisance.

At 7 p.m., Shweparami Forest Retreat Sayadaw Ashin Sandar Dhika delivered a sermon about peace to mark the arrival of the religious objects for the Eternal Peace Pagoda. Among the congregation were Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein and members of the Bago Region cabinet. The religious objects and the Buddha images will be brought to Tatkon in Nay Pyi Taw tomorrow. The Eternal Peace Pagoda is being built on 1.3 acres of land in the compound of the Yanaungmyin Shwe Latt Hla Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. Dedicated to eternal peace in Myanmar, the pagoda will be 54-feet high when complete.

— Han Lin Naing ■

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 12th regular session's sixth-day meeting held

By Aung Ye Thwin,
Aye Aye Thant (MNA)
Photos: MNA

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 12th regular session's sixth-day meeting was held yesterday in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall where the Hluttaw was explained about Myanmar acceding to fourth protocol amending the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement and Hluttaw representatives discussed Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report and Euro 35.7 million loan from Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) for the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Fourth protocol amending the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement

At the meeting Myanmar acceding to fourth protocol amending the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement sent by the President was explained by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun. The Union Minister explained that by acceding to the agreement Myanmar will participate with other ASEAN member countries in promoting ASEAN region as the most attractive region for investment.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Hluttaw discusses Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report

Next Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report was



Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun.



MP Lt-Col Hla Naing.



MP Daw Ni Ni May Myint.



MP U Tin Htway.



MP U Khin Cho.



MP Maj. Win Min Thant.



MP Daw Cho Cho.



MP U Kyaw Aung Lwin.

discussed by Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Hla Naing, U Tin Htway of Waw constituency, U Kyaw Gyi @ U Ohn Khin of Minhla constituency, U Myint Wei of Gwa constituency, Dr. Aye Min of Kayan constituency, U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi Region constituency 7, U Kan Oo of Salin constituency, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, Dr. Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Myint

Swe, U Maung Maung Latt of Sagaing Region constituency 9, U Aung Theik of Seikpyu constituency, Daw Mar Mar Khaing of Thaton constituency, Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6, Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5 and U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1.

Hluttaw discusses AFD Euro 35.7 million loan

In the final agenda of the day U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu

Hluttaw representative Maj. Win Min Thant, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Tha Aung of Myothit constituency, U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency, U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi Region constituency 7, U Kan Oo of Salin constituency, U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 2, U Thant Zin Tun of Dekhinathiri constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency 5, Dr. Khun

Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11, Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11, U Mya Min Swe of Magway Region constituency 9 and U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency took part in the discussion on Euro 35.7 million loan from AFD for Ministry of Electricity and Energy sent by the President.

The seventh-day meeting of the 12th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held today.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 14/2019

MEETING 14/2019 of the Joint Committee on amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

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

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

(Translated by Zaw Min)



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

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

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

“As I continue to state, corruption is the major obstacle for the rule of law and needs to be addressed. Addressing corruption is essential to delivering good governance. It relies on the “tone from the top” and each of you here today must consider yourselves responsible for setting the appropriate tone in a clear and forceful manner and remove opportunities for corruption. Government organizations not only need to cooperate with the Anti-Corruption Commission but also implement E-government functions with great effort. Cleaning up corruption is not a program but a culture. It is a culture that needs collective effort by the government and the public for sustainable development of the country.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law in Nay Pyi Taw on 7th March, 2018)



Shweparami Forest Retreat Sayadaw Ashin Sandar Dhika delivers a peace sermon to Buddhist devotees to mark the arrival of the religious objects for the Eternal Peace Pagoda. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



President U Win Myint meets with a delegation led by Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Mr. Chu Cong Phung at Sheraton Hotel in Viet Nam yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

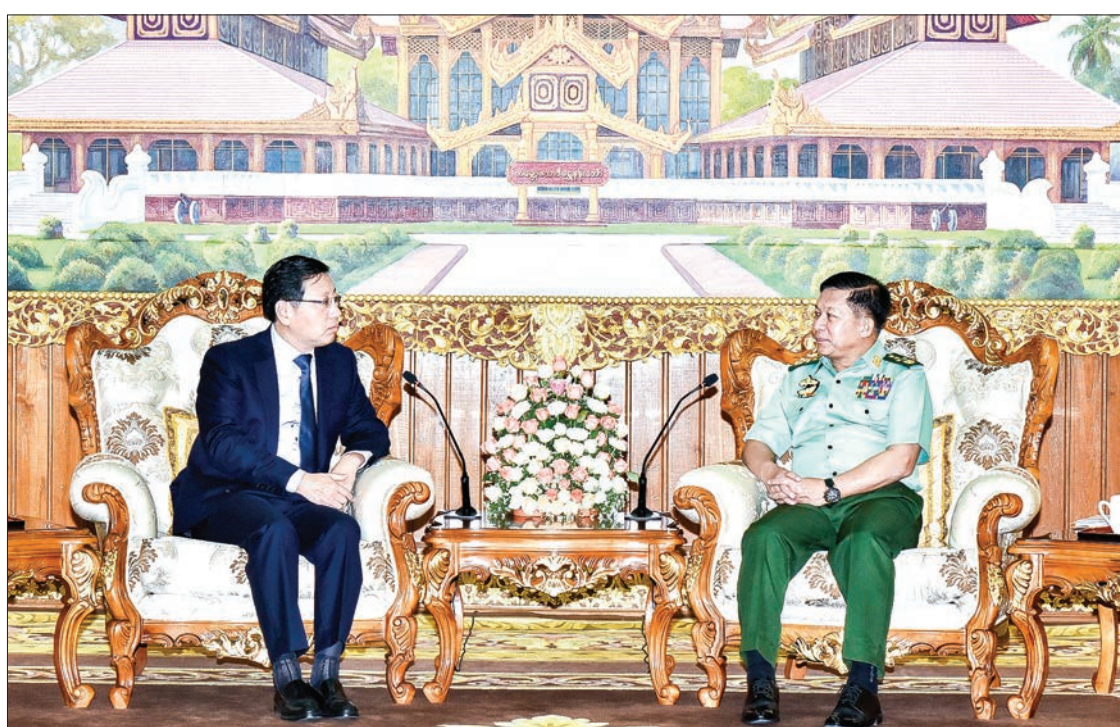
Senior General receives outgoing Chinese Ambassador

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang, who has completed his tour of duty, at the Bayintnaung Guest-house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and China and their militaries, China's support in helping Myanmar achieve lasting peace, and the collaboration required by the armed forces of both countries and administra-

tive organizations for promoting the stability and development of border regions.

They also discussed increasing border trade, how China's Belt and Road Initiative contains beneficial projects for Myanmar, and how China stands firmly by Myanmar's side in the international arena concerning the issues in Rakhine State, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Three ministries hold press conference on accomplishment in third one-year period in office

MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Industry held a press conference at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday over the accomplishments in the third one-year period of the government.

Child Protection Programme

At the press conference, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said as part of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Child Protection Programme, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided month cash assistance to children aged under two years old in Naga Self-administered Zone, Chin State and Rakhine State in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and in Kayah and Kayin states in 2018-2019 fiscal year.

The Ministry is planning to carry out the same programme in Ayeyawady Region and Shan State in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The ministry has expanded the social pension programme for the aged people to a nationwide level, providing cash assistance to over 180,000 people aged 85 and above.

The ministry is planning to establish child care centres nationwide to give care to children aged three to five.

Tasks of Youth Care

Youth policy was approved by the State in 2018. There are 16 sectors in the policy and strategies for implementing the policy has been adopted. Representatives from regions and states are carrying out the tasks which are given priorities.

Response to disaster, rehabilitation

The ministry is carrying out disaster management system with commitment to quickly response and rehabilitation after the disasters.

The disaster management committees were also formed at regions, states, self-administered division and zones, districts, townships, wards and villages, and that the rehabilitation tasks were carried out in momentum in 2018.

The ministry spend over K2



Ministries hold press conference on performances in third one-year period in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

billion on providing rice seeds to farmers who were hit by floods in 2018 and renovation of religious buildings after the disaster.

With the use of the National Disaster Management Fund, the ministry constructed 102 cyclone shelters and multi-purpose shelters 220 nationwide in 2018.

The year 2018 can be called as the year of rehabilitation because the Rehabilitation Department and the Social Welfare Department has worked hard for

plan. The ministry is also working together with the Ministry of Health and Sports to upgrade the Wathtikan and Phekhon rehabilitation camps handed over by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ministry has expanded the rehabilitation period from 35 days to three months.

The Ministry is also cooperating with Thailand, China and Indonesia to carrying out rehabilitation of the victims of the human trafficking and also in Hpakan.

The Ministry is also cooperating with Thailand, China and Indonesia to carrying out rehabilitation of the victims of the human trafficking.

Dr. Win Myat Aye

the people with disabilities last year. Besides, the ministry has prepared to carry out rehabilitation works once the camps of the internally displaced people in Kachin and Rakhine states are shut down.

Plans are underway for better treatment to be delivered in a separate department in top gear to the people with disability; to the elderly; to the drug addicts; to the trafficked victims; to the abandoned kids; to the child soldiers; to the helpless women; to the IDPs of conflict zones; and to the migrated families.

More emphasis is being centered for the people with disabilities during the third year term of the new government with all round care in five-year strategic

Rakhine issue

The ministry is working hard to bring harmony between the two different communities. Realising that socio-economic development can bring the peaceful coexistence between them, the ministry is making utmost efforts for development of socio-economic life in Rakhine State.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye also reiterated that Myanmar is ready to accept the returnees from Bangladesh and will cooperate with ASEAN in future tasks.

U Win Khant (Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications)

With approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 3 December

2018, we negotiated for the 80 million yuan interest-free loan with China to purchase 28 train coaches. We signed the Exchange Letter on 14 March and will receive the coaches within two years.

Kerry Logistics Co. Ltd and Resource Group Logistics Co. Ltd, who both won tenders for the Dry Port project, cooperated with Myanmar Railways and under the BOT system successfully completed and opened the Ywar Tar Gyi Dry Port on 18 November 2018 and Myit Nge Dry Port on 23 January 2019.

Since the dry ports opened up, we conduct cargo train routes twice a week and have run 69 trips as of today while transporting 3,007 cargo containers weighing 57,786 tonnes.

We've had 5.9 million vehicles registered in March 2016 and 7.2 million in December 2018. We've called tender to construct airports in Heho, Mawlamyine and Kawthoung under the PPP system and are currently handling negotiations to sign contracts.

We began construction on the airport in Falam, Chin State, in 2015-2016 FY using funds from the Union budget. The airport will be capable of handling ATR-72 planes and is currently 50 per cent complete. We are aiming to have it fully operational before September 2020.

We conducted 18 projects for improved waterways and 204 for embankment in 2018-2019 FY. In the same fiscal year we built 7,145 feet of retaining walls along Wam Pone port, Golden Triangle region, Myanmar-Thai border and the Myanmar-China

border areas.

National reforms attracted more domestic and foreign investments in 2014 and improved the communications and information technology sector. In a population of 51.486 million people in 2016 the teledensity was 86.20 per cent. Three years later, the population has increased to 54.074 million people and teledensity has climbed to 99.57 per cent. Similarly, the number of Internet users in 2016 was 55.41 per cent of the national population and has now increased to 82.56 per cent.

We received approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in December 2018 to borrow US\$93 million from South Korea in order to construct an e-Government Integrated Data Center (eGIDC) that meets international standard Tier 3. We are working to send a Loan Pledge Acceptance Letter to South Korea and aim to have the eGIDC operational by early 2022. As phase 2 of the Myanmar satellite Condosat system, we made an IRU investment to be included as MyanmarSat 2 in Intelsat Satellite Operator's newest satellite to be launched in August this year. This will give us 864 MHz satellite channel that can be used starting from November this year until it the satellite expires in the next 15 years.

We are facilitating discussions between Japan's Hokkaido University and our Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University to launch our nation's own Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) as the third phase of our satellite system. We are aiming to begin work on it in the coming 2019-2020 fiscal year.

We have installed one weather radar each in Kyaukpadaung, Yangon and Mandalay in 2015, 2016, and 2018, respectively, to be updated on the location, intensity and trajectory of cyclones in real time and to issue warnings with haste. The radars scan for signs of cyclones once every 15 minutes. We are currently negotiating with Japan to install a weather radar in Dawei to have more comprehensive data across the nation. In 2015-2016 FY, we had 188 meteorology, hydrology and earthquake centers and within three years we opened 2 new meteorology centers, 2 hydrology centers and 5 earthquake centers.

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Workshop on development of soil-geographic databases held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu and attendees pose for the documentary photo at the third International Workshop of ASEAN-RUSSIA Joint Project (2017-2019) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A THIRD International Workshop of ASEAN-RUSSIA Joint Project (2017-2019) on “Development of expert systems based on large-scale soil-geographic databases” was held at Park Royal Hotel Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the workshop, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu said experts on soil-geographic databases will develop through sharing of knowledge, technology and experiences on soil that plays a main role in producing nutritious food. Co-operation with soil development partner organizations must be conducted on the five sectors of soil management, development of knowledge, research, information and databases.

Soil plays an important role in greening of natural

environment and production of nutritious food all over the world. It also support changes in biological processes, acquisition of clean water, sustainable occurrence of weather processes, life and livelihood of human being. Due to rising population and climate change the world was facing problems of rising requirement to produce more food and deterioration of soil. The best ways to overcome these problems were for regional and international experts to cooperate and work on it said the Union Minister.

Next, Department of Agricultural Research Director General Dr. Naing Kyi Win explained about Myanmar soil-geographic database group and Moscow Lomonosov State University project manager Dr. Irina O. Alyabina and Mr.

Oleg M. Golozubov explained about the project and Russia Soil Data Center.

The aim of the workshop was for experts from Russia, Thailand and Myanmar to discuss and exchange news and information on soil-geographic, put in basic information on soil in databases, prevention of soil deterioration and to maintain soil resources. The first workshop was held in Moscow, Russia from 14 to 19 May 2018. The second workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 7 December 2018. Project supports were being provided by Moscow Lomonosov State University, Russian Federation. The third workshop held now was hosted by Myanmar and will be held from 13 to 17 May it is learnt.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Constitutional Tribunal delegation departs for Russia



The delegation of Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar are seen at the Yangon International Airport before departs for Russia. **PHOTO: MNA**

A delegation of the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar, led by Member U Khin Maung Cho, departed for St. Petersburg, Russia, on 12 May upon the invitation of Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and Russia's Justice Minister to attend the 9th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum from 14 to 17 May.

They were seen off by officials from the tribunal at Yangon International Airport. Also accompanying the delegation were Deputy Director U Aung Paing. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union NREC Minister receives UN-Habitat's Country Programme Manager

U OHN WIN, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, received Mr. Bijay Karmacharya, the Country Programme Manager of UN-Habitat, at his office guest hall yesterday.

They discussed the technological assistance provided by UN-Habitat and UNEP, the first phase of implementation of Myanmar's climate change pro-

gramme funded by the European Union and its accomplishments, the date for issuing the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2030), how to reduce the negative consequences of climate change, and future work to mitigate and adapt to climate change in all related sectors. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister U Ohn Win holds talks with Country Programme Manager of UN-Habitat Mr. Bijay Karmacharya yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union P&F Minister receives Executive Director of Europe Commerce Chamber

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance, U Soe Win, received Mr. Filip Lauwerysen, the Executive Director for the European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar, at his office

in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They discussed the Everything But Arms (EBA) Agreement and developing the textile industry in Myanmar. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister U Soe Win welcomes Executive Director of Europe Commerce Chamber Mr. Filip Lauwerysen in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

Women's Entrepreneurship Development Centre to be set up

A Women's Entrepreneurship Development Center will be set up to make women's lives better and provide them economic information in real time, said Daw Khin Lay, the chairperson of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association (MWEA).

"We will set up a Women's Entrepreneurship Development Center to improve women's lives. Sometimes, women want to be engaged in small and medium enterprises. But, they don't know how to start these businesses. Our association will assist those who want to start such businesses, after consulting the related departmental officials and consultants. Moreover, our association usually provides school fees for children. This year, we will also conduct a training course on the education lifestyle of children. We will also raise awareness among parents with respect to improving their family life," said Daw Khin Lay.

The Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association



Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association holds its 24th annual general meeting at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR

was established with the aim of helping women take up entrepreneurship, and develop the capabilities of women who are confined to their homes.

The association usually conducts seminars to educate mothers and provide knowledge

about the micro finance sector. Women from the association, who have achieved success in the economic and social sectors, have already received 32 ASEAN awards.

Currently, the MWEA is providing assistance to those who

want to start small and medium enterprises, including helping them secure agricultural loans. The association was formed with more than 2,000 members.—

Pwint Thitsar

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Zayetkwin Industrial Park to be established in Hlegu Township

THE Zayetkwin Industrial Park will be set up in the Hlegu Township of Yangon Region with an estimated capital of K65 billion, and it will create many job opportunities for local residents, said officials.

"A Memorandum of Understanding on that project was signed at the Yangon Investment Forum 2019. The investment amount is estimated at K65 billion. The industrial zone will span 665.82 acres," said U Win

Htut, Assistant Vice President, New City Development Public Company.

The New City Development Public Company and China's Bauing International Construction Investment signed the MoU at the Yangon Investment Forum, in the presence of Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

"We are preparing the necessary measures to bring about the development of 11 townships

outside Yangon city. We invited all interested companies and organizations to contribute to the development projects. We will conduct several feasibility studies and implement further plans," said U Phyo Min Thein.

The Zayetkwin Industrial Park will be located near the old Yangon-Mandalay highway, 38 miles from Yangon city and 20 miles from Bago Town. The industrial zone will be situated close to 9 townships of Yangon

northern district.

Agro-based products, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, construction goods, machines and equipment, garments, and food processing enterprises will be invited to the zone.

Yangon Region has 29 industrial zones and one Special Economic Zone. Efforts are being made to implement 11 more industrial zones outside Yangon.—

Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Contract farming needs to be backed by existing law: Director-General of Agriculture Department

WHILE adopting the system of contract farming, its profitability and the existing laws and rules in the system need to be evaluated, said Dr. Ye Tint Tun, the Director-General of the Agriculture Department.

"We need take measures to make the contract farming system profitable. Also, law enforcement on contract farming needs to benefit both parties — farmers as well as buyers, and they must adhere to business ethics. Guaranteed price is crucial in the contract

farming model, and it can motivate farmers to produce quality products and reap profits," said Dr. Ye Tint Tun.

A workshop on implementation of contract farming was inaugurated last Thursday at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. U Hla Kyaw, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, said that contract farming can maximize the income of farmers, reduce production costs, ensure quality, guarantee price, and foster a co-op farming model.

The contract farming system will be implemented with private banks providing cultivation loans, said U Ye Min Aung, Vice President, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI).

Contractual agreements will vary and may include farmers, financial institutions, private companies, the government, and civil society organizations, he added.

Officials from related min-

istries, the UMFCCI and its associated bodies, banks, and related financial institutions attended the workshop.

The workshop mainly discussed standard operating procedures (SOP) for contract farming agreements; reporting oil bearing crops; price, quality, criteria, and pledges by parties involved in contracts; and, dealing with breach of contract in accordance with the rules.—

MNA

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Executive Director of Euro Cham Myanmar



Union Minister U Thein Swe meets Executive Director of Euro Cham Myanmar Mr. Filip Lauwerysen. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received a delegation led by Executive Director of Euro Cham Myanmar, Mr. Filip Lauwerysen, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the suggestions made by Euro Cham Myanmar in March 2019, the condition of labour affairs for 108th Session of the Inter-

national Labour Conference which will be held in June in Geneva, Switzerland.

Cooperation between employers and employees including related ministries, International Labour Organization-ILO, International Organisation for Migration-IOM and other development allies including EU in tackling the challenges being faced by Myanmar were also discussed at

the meeting.

They also discussed matters related to implementations by Myanmar and Bangladesh after signing MoU over keeping peace and stability in Rakhine State, rights for media freedom, and tasks and talks about laws on labour organization being conducted in the department, considering the reports of employers and employees. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

11th education and TVET sector coordination group meeting in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi addresses the 11th education and TVET sector coordination group meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

11TH Education and TVET Sector Coordination Group Meeting was held at Office No. 13 meeting hall, Ministry of Education, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, directors general and deputy directors general of departments under Ministry of Education, officials from the two education sectors, representatives from relevant ministries, representatives from development partner organizations, officials and invited guests.

First Union Minister said the ministry in cooperation with Ministry of Ethnic Affairs had conducted courses on 54 ethnic

national languages in 12,248 basic education schools during academic year 2018-2019 and cash supports were provided to 28,783 teachers and outside trainers. In December 2017 a total of 5,161 Teaching Assistants were appointed. Arrangements were being made with Ministry of Ethnic Affairs to appoint more Teaching Assistants in time for the new academic year. Out-of-school education was being provided in 83 townships and basic reading writing courses were also being conducted all year round instead of during the summer only.

Cooperation with international partner organizations to upgrade the quality of distant education was being conducted.

Relevant responsible persons, representatives of related ministries and development partner organizations were to effectively cooperate to raise the quality of education and to implement 7 priority works said the Union Minister. Next relevant responsible persons from the two education sectors under Ministry of Education, representatives of related ministries and development partner organizations then discussed, coordinated and suggested on effective cooperation and works conducted by Education and TVET Sector Coordination Group, strength and weaknesses and future works. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Former Mongolian President, former Norwegian Prime Minister visit Nay Pyi Taw

THE former President of Mongolia, Mr. Elbegdorj, and his delegation who are in Myanmar, flew from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw and landed at 6:15 pm yesterday.

Similarly, Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, the former Prime Minister of Norway and Executive Chair of the Oslo Center for Peace, Democracy and Human

Rights, departed from Bangkok, Thailand, and landed in Nay Pyi Taw at 6:30 pm yesterday.

Both dignitaries were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Former Mongolian President Mr. Elbegdorj arrives in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine Chief Minister separately meets UN Assistant Secretary-General, WB Senior economist

U NYI PU, the Chief Minister of Rakhine State and Vice Chairman of the Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State, received a delegation led by Ms. Ursula Mueller, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, at his office in Sittway, Rakhine State yesterday.

They discussed the humanitarian aid supplied from the UN

and international organizations for IDP camps and the UN's response to humanitarian affairs.

Later in the afternoon, the Chief Minister received a delegation led by Dr. Mauro Testaverde, Senior Economist of the World Bank, and discussed rehabilitation and development processes, and the Rakhine State rehabilitation and development project. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Rakhine Chief Minister U Nyi Pu meets Dr. Mauro Testaverde, Senior Economist of the World Bank in Sittway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Fulfilling the national electricity requirement

SUMMER is here, and people across Myanmar are sharing electricity produced by power utilities that are struggling to meet the demand. The commercial capital of Yangon has implemented a turn-based electricity distribution system to provide equal power to all townships. Acknowledging the inconvenience caused by this, the authorities have expressed the hope that Yangonites will understand the reasons behind the power shortages.

Myanmar's hydropower plants produce 3,800 MW of electricity, which is enough to meet demand. However, in the summer, the rivers and lakes dry up and hydropower stations produce less electricity than normal.

As on 7 January this year, the highest electric volume generated was 3,303.9 MW, but this declined to 3,078 MW on 5 May.

With production declining by 255.9 MW and Yangon Region consuming 1,282 MW of the total electricity produced, summer is a hard time for everyone when it comes to enjoying 24-hour power.

Not only does Yangon consume more than half of the nation's electric supply, the expansion in its infrastructure, businesses, and industrial zones means that this consumption is climbing gradually year by year. The authorities are working hard to fulfill the requirements through measures such as the national power grid project, and the Yangon Region government is implementing alternative electricity distribution plans.

With such high energy consumption, Yangon Region has felt the summer power cuts the strongest among all states and regions. Region/state governments need to coordinate with each other when they plan power cuts and communicate this clearly

to the public. They also need to keep a separate reserve for street lamps and important locations. It is important to make the public understand the services they will be receiving.

The Union Government is working tirelessly to ensure regions already connected to electricity sources receive sufficient power, and areas with no networks receive electricity. The National Electrification Plan (NEP) aims to electrify 55 per cent of Myanmar's households by 2021, 75 per cent by 2026, and achieve 100-per-cent electrification by 2030.

Electrification plays a key role in national development and raising the living standard of all citizens. The concerned authorities are endeavouring to explain the current situation for everyone to understand and to achieve the objectives laid down in this regard.

■■■

They also need to keep a separate reserve for street lamps and important locations. It is important to make the public understand the services they will be receiving.

Message sent to all mankind by the Most Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara on this most auspicious occasion of the Buddha's Day- 2562 B.E, the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations 2019 in Ha Nam Province, Viet Nam on 12 May.

*Venerables
Excellencies, Distinguished
guests
Friends in the Dhamma
A Very good morning to you
all!*

It has been 2642 years since the Sakyamuni Siddhattha Gotama was born.

It has been 2607 years since the Sakyamuni Siddhattha Gotama attained the Supreme Enlightenment and became the Buddha, the Fully Enlightened One.

It has been 2562 years since the Sakyamuni Siddhattha Gotama passed into Parinibbana.

On this "Threefold Sacred Day" of the Buddha, I would like to convey my profound message to the entire people of the world.

It was the Buddha who appeared only after exceedingly long period of incalculable worlds.

It was the Buddha who renounced his luxurious life as a Crown Prince, high royal position and power, wealth, wife and son in exchange for the Noble Truth, Emancipation and Genuine Peace.

It was the Buddha who taught humans to understand the true nature of life. Without understanding the truth, it is very difficult to solve the problems of life. Without understanding the truth, it is not possible to become real humans or Buddhists.

It was the Buddha who renounced all worldly pleasures



Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara delivers the address at the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations 2019. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

religious teachers who could guide him the right way to Truth, Peace and Emancipation he had been searching for.

It was the Buddha who went his own way to attain the Supreme Enlightenment as he found that all teachings and methods of famous religious teachers of his time did not satisfy him.

this world.

It was the Buddha who indicated the misguided men to refuge only in the noble character they have practiced and the wisdom they have penetrated through their own striving.

It was the Buddha who opened the eyes of the blind who were guided by the unlearned at the beginning of the world's religions by virtue of the Middle Way he himself had discovered.

It was the Buddha who began to spread His noble teachings over 2600 years ago and since then, no single drop of blood has been shed throughout its peaceful march.

It was the Buddha who always protested against racial discrimination and caste distinction between Kings and peasants, bankers and beggars, holy men and robbers, princesses and prostitutes, Bramins and outcasts.

It was the Buddha who emphasized the importance of wisdom and Character which is non-aggressive, non-dogmatic, non-extreme,

non-theocentric, realistic, homo-centric and ethical teachings.

It was the Buddha who always asserted that if one is endowed with Wisdom and Character, he or she is undoubtedly noble, regardless of race or caste that he or she belongs to. It is Wisdom and Character that play a vital role in living a better and meaningful life. If one lacks one of them or both, one's life would be insecure, unstable and meaningless;

It has been 2562 years since the Buddha, who untiringly admonished human beings with such noble and invaluable teachings, took his noble demise. On his demise, he did not take anything with him but only peace he had achieved, but He left his teachings, the Dhamma which is Truth and Peace and also the way to practice the Dhamma. The way to Wisdom and character, Truth, Peace and Emancipation he expounded is not confined to any particular race, religion and nation. The Dhamma the Buddha expounded is neither optimism nor pessi-

It is Truth and Peace that the Buddha left is the common destination for all human beings.

It is the Buddha who has given warmth to the whole world and lit it with his sun-like wisdom;

It is the Buddha who has spread peace to the whole world with his moon-like loving-kindness and compassion;

Thus, we always pay our unswerving tribute to the Buddha who is endowed with such most glorious and virtuous attributes, and as the Though 2562 years have elapsed since the passing away of the Buddha, the Greatest Teacher of all beings, yet the Dhamma Torch He lit is still shining brightly not only in Asia but around the whole world, which indicates the way of peace that we all have to walk on together.

I sincerely wish all human beings to live together in peace and harmony on our Common Platform of Wisdom and character as guided by our Greatest Teacher, the Buddha.

May you all be calm and

I sincerely wish all human beings to live together in peace and harmony on our Common Platform of Wisdom and character as guided by our Greatest Teacher, the Buddha.

mism; it is the way to realize the Truth and Reality. It has nothing to do with dogmatic extremism and racialism. The Buddha and his Dhamma do not belong to the Buddhists only; it is open for all pure-hearted and noble-hearted people. It belongs to the general inheritance of all cultivated men who can think clearly with their open minds.

It is Wisdom and Character that the Buddha left is the common ground for all human beings.

It is Morality and Wisdom that the Buddha left is the common platform for all human beings.

peaceful like the full Moon.

Dr. Ashin Nyanissara
Vice Sangha Raja of
Shwekyin Nikaya Buddhist
Order Abhidhammaratthaguru, Ph.D., D.Litt. Founder of
Sitagu International Buddhist
Missionary Association Chancellor of Sitagu International
Buddhist Academies Patron of Sitagu Ayudana and Sekhu
Dhana Hospitals Chairman of the Board of Director of Theravada Dhamma Society of America

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 18/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 11 May.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 11 May.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 15 May issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar: — GNLM

Press Release

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Chen Hai as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Chen Hai was born in December 1971. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995. From 1995 to 1999, he served at the Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1999 to 2004, he served at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Korea. From 2004 to 2009, he served as Director at the Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2009 to 2014, he served as Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Korea. From 2014 to 2015, he served as Deputy Director-General, Guangxi International Expositions Bureau. From 2015 to date, he served as Deputy Director-General, Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He is married with one son.—MNA

Don't take plastic bags from stores if you don't need them.

It's okay, I have a bag with me.



The ozone layer protects us from ultraviolet rays and their damaging effects.



Condo market slightly active in Yangon



Price of condominium units is not likely to decrease in Yangon. PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR

THE condominium market has picked up in Yangon Region, according to real estate entrepreneurs. The price of high-rise condominium units is not likely to decline as construction costs have increased, they said.

"In the condominium market, buyers have to deposit 30 per cent of the price. Now, they are safe from being cheated because they have to deposit the advance payment with the registrar of the Yangon Condominium Management Committee through the developer concerned. After the condominium rules have been promulgated, the Yangon regional government will make arrangements to enact the Apartment Law and the Housing Building Law. So, the real estate market will become active again in future, too. And, the fact is that only real estate entrepreneurs can implement high-rise condominium projects," said a veteran high-rise condominium construction entrepreneur.

"The application process for the construction of high-rise condominiums takes at least one year. So, there are only a few entrepreneurs who are motivated to construct high-rise condos because it takes five or six years to complete the whole project," said U Than Naing, a construction entrepreneur.

"This is a good time to purchase condo units. In our country, people do not like to buy condo units when their price is on the decline. They wait for a time when there are signs that the price of condo units will rise again. If that happens, they rush to purchase condo apartments. Despite the decline in supply, the demand has not risen because buyers are not aware that there will be no new condo projects for the next three years as the construction market has been suspended," he said.

The license fee to construct a condominium building is K10 million. The Yangon Condominium Management Committee (YCMC) has announced that the registration fee for a condo unit will be K20,000 for units worth over K100 million, K30,000 for condos priced in the range of K100 million to 300 million, and K50,000 for unit worth over K300 million.

"There are around 1,000 construction contractors in Yangon Region. However, there are just over a 100 high-rise condo developers. The Union Government promulgated the Condo Law in December, 2018. The YCMC was formed in 2019," according to high-rise condo construction entrepreneurs.—Pwint Thitsar ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Thilawa SEZ has attracted FDI of over \$1.6 bln so far: U Phyo Min Thein

FOREIGN direct investment in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone has exceeded US\$1.6 billion so far, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 26 April, 2019 of the current fiscal year, the Thilawa SEZ saw foreign fund inflows of over \$134 million, according to data from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The manufacturing sector has absorbed the largest share of FDI in the zone, and investments have also flowed into trading, service businesses, transportation and logistics, real estate, and hotel sectors.

Singapore has topped the

list of countries with the largest share of foreign direct investment in the Thilawa SEZ, followed by Japan and Thailand. South Korea, Hong Kong, the UK, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, Panama, China, Brunei, Viet Nam, Australia, and the Netherlands have also invested in the SEZ, along with some domestic enterprises.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones in Thilawa, Kyaukpadaung, and Dawei. Of the three, Thilawa is leading in terms of infrastructure and profitable businesses.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Pyi Thu Dana Company Ltd gets nod for producing, distributing gypsum powder in Kayin State

Kayin State Investment Committee made a decision to grant permission to a private company to produce and distribute gypsum powder in the state.

The decision came at the meeting 4/2019 of the committee at Kayin State government office yesterday.

Approval for production and distribution of gypsum powder was granted to Pyi Thu Dana Co., Ltd., a 100 per cent Myanmar national investment.

Starting from fiscal year 2016-2017 to date 4 foreign investments valued at US\$ 31.54 million and 10 local invest-

ments valued at K 36,282.57 million were permitted creating more than 2,000 job opportunities in Kayin State.

The gypsum powder production and distribution work of Pyi Thu Dana Co., Ltd., is situated on 4.05 acre of land in Hpa-an Industrial Zone 2 beside Hpa-an to Hlaingbwe road. A total investment of K 2,046.37 million will be made creating 51 jobs according to state Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Kayin State Investment Committee Chairman Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint attends the Kayin State Investment Committee meeting 4/2019 yesterday. PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)

China fires back at US with tariff hike on goods worth \$60 bln

BEIJING (China)—China said Monday it will raise tariffs on \$60 billion worth of US goods from 1 June, in retaliation for the latest round of US tariff hikes and Washington's plans to target almost all Chinese imports.

The announcement came after the latest round of US-China trade negotiations ended Friday without a deal, and after Washington increased tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese products.

US President Donald Trump had also ordered the start of a process to impose new duties on another \$300 billion worth of Chinese items.

China's rates will target a number of American imports with tariffs rising up to as high as 25 per cent, according to a statement by the Tariff Policy Commission of the State Council — China's cabinet.



The Chinese countermeasures are the latest salvo in a bruising trade war between Washington and Beijing that has spooked global markets. **PHOTO: AFP**

"China's adjustment of tariff-adding measures is a response to US unilateralism and trade protectionism," the statement said, adding that it hoped the US would work with China towards a "win-win agreement".

Despite the retaliation, Beijing appeared to give time to find a resolution by setting the 1 June date.

The announcement sent Wall Street stocks plunging Monday, with losses on the tech-rich

Nasdaq exceeding three percent, the Dow Jones Industrial Average sliding 2.3 per cent, and the broad-based S&P 500 tumbling 2.4 per cent.

Most observers have warned a trade war between the world's two

largest economies could shatter global economic growth, and hurt demand for commodities like oil.

The Chinese response was announced soon after Trump warned Beijing not to retaliate.

"China should not retaliate—will only get worse!" the US president wrote in a series of tweets on trade.

But Beijing appeared to dig in.

"China will never surrender to external pressure," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular briefing on Monday.

In addition to tariff hikes, China could also use other measures to hit back at the United States, as it imports fewer US products — which limits its ability to match tariffs dollar-for-dollar.

"China may stop purchasing US agricultural products and energy, re-

duce Boeing orders and restrict US service trade with China," Hu Xijin, editor of China's state-run Global Times, wrote on his verified Twitter account.

"Many Chinese scholars are discussing the possibility of dumping US Treasuries and how to do it specifically."

Beijing is the biggest holder of US debt, and Bloomberg News estimated last year that the Chinese state held around \$1.2 trillion's worth.

"As for the trade war launched by the US side, China has long expressed that it is unwilling to fight, but it is not afraid to fight, and it has to fight when necessary," China's main broadcaster, the state-run CCTV, added.

Aircraft manufacturer Boeing later said it remained "confident" US-China trade talks would yield an agreement.—AFP

German police find two more bodies linked to crossbow killings

MUNICH (Germany)—German police said Monday two more female bodies had been found during investigations into the deaths of three people discovered in a Bavarian hotel room and killed by crossbow bolts.

The latest macabre finds were uncovered in the north German town of Wittingen, while detectives probed the mysterious deaths of a man and two women discovered over the weekend in the Bavarian town of Passau, close to the Austrian border.

The two crime scenes are around 660 kilometres (410 miles) apart at opposite ends of Germany.

Police made the latest discovery of two female bodies when they went to the home of one of the women discovered dead in the hotel room in Passau.

A police spokesperson confirmed that the two corpses in Wittingen, Lower Saxony, had not been killed by crossbow bolts, "the modus operandi cannot be

compared".

"Further details and identities of the two women are still unknown - possible connections to the dead found in Passau are currently the subject of investigations," added police in a statement.

Forensic police officers were combing both crime scenes on Monday for clues. - 'Strange group' -

Hotel staff in Passau had on Saturday discovered the three dead Germans in their room around noon alongside two crossbows.

A third crossbow was later found packed inside a bag, police said.

The three were a 33-year-old woman and a 53-year-old man from Rhineland-Palatinate state and a 30-year-old woman from Wittingen, who had arrived Friday.

Local media reported that the man and the 33-year-old woman were found dead in bed holding hands, with bolts in their heads and chests.—AFP

Gunmen kill six during Catholic mass in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU (Burkina Faso) — Gunmen killed a priest and five parishioners during mass Sunday in an attack on a Catholic church in Dablo, northern Burkina Faso, security sources and a local official said.

"Towards 9:00 am, during mass, armed individuals burst into the Catholic church," Dablo mayor Ousmane Zongo told AFP. "They started firing as the congregation tried to flee."

The attackers — between 20 and 30 according to a security source — managed to trap some of the worshippers, Zongo added. "They killed five of them. The priest, who was celebrating mass, was also killed." The gunmen then set fire to the church, several shops and a small cafe before heading to the local health centre, which they looted, burning the chief nurse's vehicle. "There is an atmosphere of panic in the town," said Zongo.

"People are holed up in their homes. Nothing is going on. The shops and stores are closed. It's practically a ghost town," he added. Security reinforcements



Despite patrols by the security forces in the east and north of the country, the jihadist attacks have continued. **PHOTO: AFP**

were sent from Barsalogho, about 45 kilometres (30 miles) south of Dablo, and were combing the area, a security source told AFP. Dablo is located in the northern province of Sanmatenga. Condemning the "barbaric and cowardly attack", the government confirmed the toll of six killed, including a priest. After "failing to pit communities against each other with targeted killings of traditional chiefs and community leaders, terrorist groups are now attacking religion in an evil plot to divide us", it said in a statement. The attack came two days after French special forces freed four foreign hostages in the

north of the country in an overnight raid that cost the lives of two soldiers.

The operation was ordered to free French hostages Patrick Picque and Laurent Lassimouillas who disappeared while on holiday in the remote Pendjari National Park in Benin on 1 May. The team also found two other female captives, an American woman and a South Korean.

Christian, Muslim clerics targeted

Sunday's church strike came two weeks after a similar attack against a Protestant church in Silgadji, also in the north, when gunmen on motorbikes killed a pastor and five

worshippers.

Burkina Faso has suffered from increasingly frequent and deadly attacks attributed to a number of jihadist groups, including the Ansarul Islam group, the Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM) and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara. The raids began in 2015 in the north before targeting the capital Ouagadougou and other regions, notably in the east.

Nearly 400 people have been killed since 2015 — mainly in hit-and-run raids — according to an AFP tally. Jihadist groups target both Muslim and Christian clerics, mainly in the north.

According to security sources, the jihadists do not consider certain Muslim clerics sufficiently radical and sometimes accuse them of having collaborated with the authorities.

Religious leaders are not the only people targeted by the extremists. Last month, jihadists attacked a village school in Maitaougou, in the eastern province of Koulpelogo, killing five teachers and a municipal worker.—AFP

Three ministries hold press conference on accomplishment in third one-year period in office

FROM PAGE-4

U Ko Ko Lwin (Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry)

There are six industrial training centers under the Ministry of Industry and they regularly produce experienced mechanical workers every year. Their centers have formed mobile vocational training units and have conducted 'mobile industrial and vocational training courses' for youths in rural areas and workers in industrial zones.

The short-term courses cover automobile, electrical and welding courses via three mobile vocational training trucks. As of now, they have opened 25 training courses and taught

1,242 trainees.

Additionally, No.2 Industrial Training Center (Mandalay) has opened a one-year Japanese language course that has taught 198 trainees and send 40 graduates to Japan.

We plan to open two more training centers in Thaton and Monywa with support from the Indian government. We are also begin renovation on the center in Mandalay with support from China. These are our accomplishments and plans in the human resource development front.

As for the pharmaceutical sector, in the 2018-2019 FY, we have tested and are producing 15 brands of medicine from Pharmaceutical

Factory (Insein) and 5 brands of medicine from Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung).

In the third year of the civilian government, we have produced K49 billion worth of safe and quality medicine, which has filled in 10 per cent of the national requirement and reduced foreign medicine imports.

With support from Australia, we have produced snake antivenom in freeze dried form at the Insein factory and distributed it to rural areas with no access to electricity and proper pharmaceutical storage conditions. The medicine will remain potent for 5 years if stored at normal room temperature.

Myanmar uses 75 million saline injections every year but the Ministry of Industry used to be able to produce only 5 million. But now, we have completed construction of a new production line for international quality saline at the Inyaung factory in Kyaukse. Now we will be able to produce 15 million units a year and fulfil 20 per cent of the national requirement.

We addressed the domestic requirement of 1/40 yarns through a private sector collaboration with India's technology September 2016. In 2018-2019 FY, we produced 1.35 million pounds of yarn and are planning to expand production to meet increasing demand.

We are undertaking research to combine our original products of medical dressings, locally produced gypsum, and cloth bandages to produce P.O.P bandages at the Textile Factory Branch (Myingyan). We have formed the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance, Myanmar to check the quality of domestically assembled ambulances. We have produced 55 standard type ambulances for the Ministry of Health and Sports and will produce new models in the 2018-2019 FY assembled with medical equipment and medical grade trimming parts that meet the end user's needs.

We have constructed a 350-ton capacity silo in

Maungdaw, Rakhine State, on 19 February this year and have transferred it to the Rakhine State government.

During the new government's administration, the Ministry of Industry has submitted a report on its 3,481.912 acres of confiscated land to the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands. The ministry has handed over 2,276.201 acres to the collector and is continuing processes to return the remaining 1,205.64 acres.

The question and answer session then commenced with ministry officials replying to questions raised by the attending journalists. —MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Japan says economy “worsening” for 1st time in over 6 years

TOKYO — Japan lowered its assessment of the economy on Monday, using the expression “worsening” for the first time in more than six years, amid slowing demand for exports of automobiles and manufacturing equipment.

The Cabinet Office said its coincident index of business conditions for March fell 0.9 point from the previous month to 99.6 against the 2015 base of 100.

The downgrade is a major setback for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as his government is poised to raise the consumption tax in October to 10 per cent

from the current 8 percent, a move that could dampen consumer spending and hurt the world's third-largest economy.

The assessment of the key index by the Cabinet Office came after a recent series of sluggish economic data, including a 0.9 per cent drop of industrial output in March, amid protracted trade tensions between the United States and China.

An official who briefed reporters said sluggish shipments to China and some other parts of Asia of equipment used to produce semiconductors took a toll on the results for the

reporting month. The Cabinet Office used the weakest of its five expressions for assessing the key index in describing the economy as “worsening.” It last used such a description for the index between October 2012 and January 2013.

It cut its economic assessment of the index in January from “weakening” to “signaling a possible turning point” in the economy. The move raised doubt about the government's assertion that growth in the country from December 2012 had likely surpassed the Izanami Boom, a 73-month streak from 2002 to 2008.

A government panel will formally decide the length of the economic cycle after analyzing more data, a process that can take more than a year.

Analysts said the panel may not judge the “worsening” situation as a recessionary phase, if an economic slowdown proves to be short-lived. — Kyodo News ■



A shopper selects vegetables at a supermarket in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(17/2019)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-212(18-19)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 50D Sr Rigs (17) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-213(18-19)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Sr Rigs (51) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 14 May 2019.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 13 June 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **13-6-2019, 14:00 pm**

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

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 – RAKHINE 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)

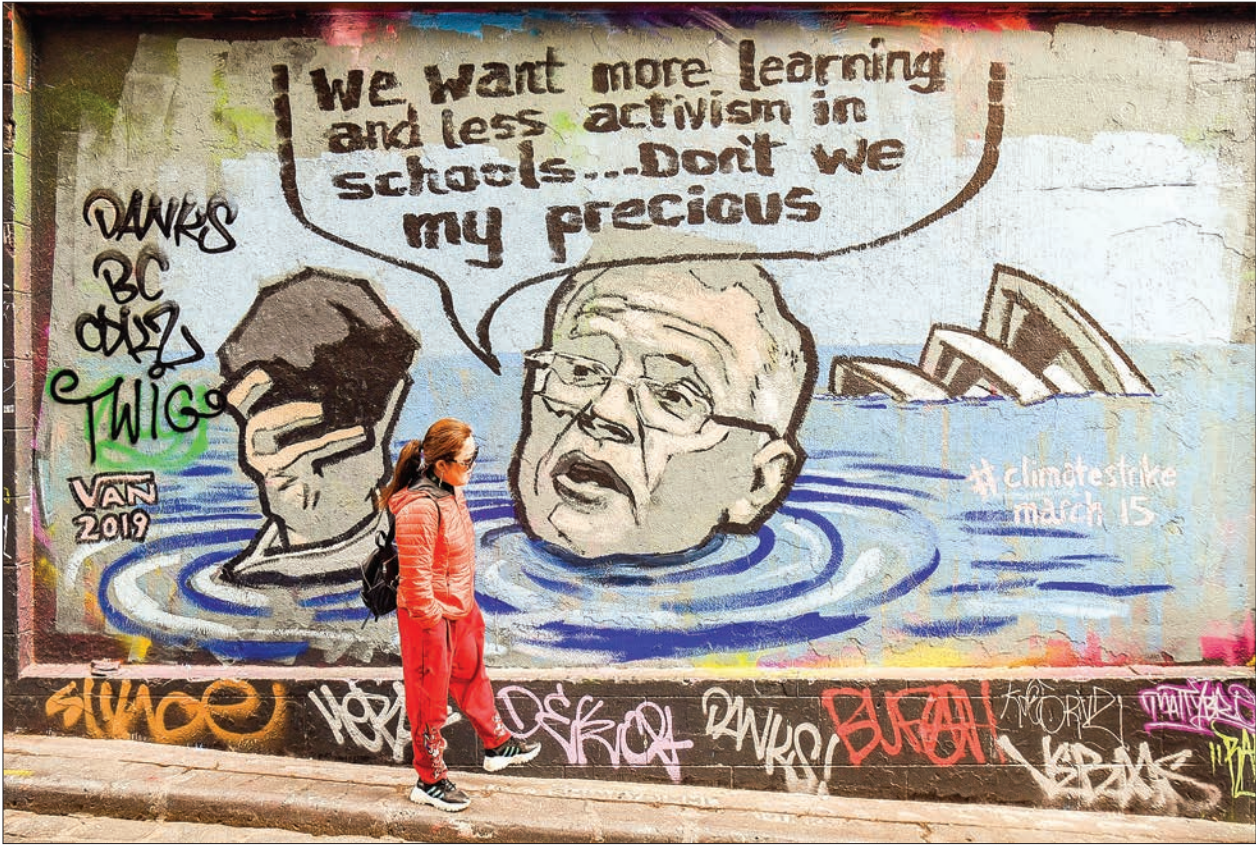
Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information within office hour Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 16.00 Hrs and a complete set of electronic bidding documents in English Language may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders simple e-mail request to the address below.

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
FLERP 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

Indigenous Australians take government to UN over climate change



Mural in Melbourne shows Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison holding a lump of coal as it advertises a rally by students around the world to protest climate change. PHOTO: AFP

SYDNEY (Australia) — Indigenous residents of low-lying islands off northern Australia will submit a landmark complaint with the United Nations on Monday accusing the government of violating their human rights by failing to tackle climate change.

The Torres Strait Islanders will tell the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva that rising seas caused by global warming are threatening their homelands and culture, lawyers representing the group said.

The lawyers, from the non-profit ClientEarth, said the case was the first of its kind to be lodged with the UN equating government inaction on climate change to a human rights violation.

In their complaint, the islanders ask the UN

to find that international human rights law requires Australia to reduce its emissions to at least 65 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The country should become carbon neutral by 2050, phasing out its use and export of coal completely, they say.

The complaint also demands the government allocate Aus\$20 million (US\$14 million) for emergency infrastructure like sea walls to protect Torres Strait communities.

“Advancing seas are already threatening homes, as well as damaging burial grounds and sacred cultural sites,” the claimants said in a statement.

“Many Islanders are worried that their islands could quite literally disappear in their lifetimes without urgent action.”

KabayTamu of War-raberisland said that his community had a “right to practice our culture in our traditional homeland”.

“Our culture starts here on the land. It is how we are connected with the land and the sea. You wash away the land and it is like a piece of us you are taking away,” he said in a statement.

The complaint is being lodged just days before Australian elections in which the conservative government of Prime Minister Scott Morrison trails in opinion polls.

Climate change has been a key campaign issue, with Morrison’s government accused of dragging its feet on emission reduction efforts while backing the expansion of coal mining.

John Knox, a law professor at Wake Forest

University in the US and a former UN Special Rapporteur on human rights, called the Torres Islanders claim “potentially groundbreaking”.

The UN committee late last year determined that states’ duty to safeguard human rights also meant protection against environmental harm, including climate change, Knox said on Twitter.

“This case gives the Human Rights Committee its first chance to give specific application” to that determination “by assessing and explaining what Australia should do to protect the human rights of the Torres Strait islanders,” he said.

While the UN committee’s rulings are non-binding, “its decision may increase pressure on Australia to do the right thing”, he said. —AFP ■



The ship was carrying more than 700 tonnes of heavy fuel and leaked a huge amount of oil into the sea. PHOTO: AFP

Stricken ship refloated after Solomons oil spill

WELLINGTON (New Zealand) — The ship at the centre of an environmental disaster near World-Heritage listed waters in the Solomon Islands was refloated Saturday after being stranded on a coral reef for more than three months.

The MV Solomon Trader ran aground on February 5 while loading bauxite at Rennell Island, about 240 kilometres (149 miles) south of the capital Honiara. The 225-metre (740-foot) ship was carrying more than 700 tonnes of heavy fuel and leaked a huge amount of oil into the sea, sparking an international effort to contain the spill. “They have been trying to refloat the vessel since Thursday but because of low tide they have not been able to, until today”, the chairman of the Solomons National Disaster Council, Melchior Mataka, told AFP.

An oil slick more than six kilometres long has spread along the shoreline, destroying the livelihoods of islanders who rely on

waters in the ecologically delicate region. Rennell Island is the largest raised coral atoll in the world and includes a UNESCO World Heritage site which extends kilometres out to sea. Authorities have said the site was not affected by the spill, although Mataka said a detailed environmental assessment will be undertaken now that the vessel is out of the way.

“There is a preliminary report but the full report will be made known once assessments and investigation findings are compiled properly”, he said, adding the government would likely seek compensation for environmental damage.

The Australian government had sent salvage experts to assist the response and vowed to help the Solomons make sure those responsible for the spill are held to account.

The Hong Kong-registered ship was chartered by Indonesian-based Bintan Mining and was loaded with almost 11,000 tonnes of bauxite at the time of the incident.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (918S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (918S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CHANGING THE NAME OF TRADING

The foreign manufacturer **Beijing Multigrass Formulation Co., Ltd** will import and distributes the following products registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name-

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	ROCKET 25 WDG	Multi Ngwe Toe 25 WDG	Thiamethoxam 25% WDG	Provisional Reg:	P2018-4316
2.	AMAZING 250 SC	Multi Lucky 250 SC	Azoxystrobin 250 g/l SC	Provisional Reg:	P2018-4389

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West of Gyogone Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the changing trading name of insecticide and Fungicide.

Address -Close Friend Co., Ltd No.827/A, Thu Mingalar Road, 7th ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.

Ph. 01 8500424, 09 421032105

Pompeo to visit Brussels as Europe meets on Iran

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit Brussels on Monday to discuss “pressing matters” including the Iran nuclear deal, as the European signatories to the accord meet for talks on how to prevent its collapse.

The EU reiterated its determination to save the 2015 agreement to curb Tehran’s nuclear ambitions in return for sanctions relief, as tensions between the US and Iran rack up.

Iran last week announced it was suspending some of its commitments under the agreement, a year after US President Donald Trump withdrew from the accord and imposed swingeing sanctions on the Islamic republic — putting the deal in grave peril.

Adding a military dimension to the diplomatic tensions, Washington is sending an amphibious assault ship and a Patriot missile battery to the Gulf, having already deployed an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers.

The European Union’s diplo-

matic chief Federica Mogherini stressed the need for dialogue as “the only and the best way to address differences and avoid escalation” in the region, as she arrived for a scheduled meeting of the bloc’s foreign ministers.

“We continue to fully support the nuclear deal with Iran, its full implementation,” Mogherini said.

“It has been and continues to be for us a key element of the non-proliferation architecture both globally and in the region.”

Alongside the meeting of all 28 foreign ministers, the representatives of Britain, France and Germany — the three European signatories — will meet Mogherini to discuss how to keep the deal going.

“We in Europe agree that this agreement is necessary for our security. No-one wants Iran to come into possession of a nuclear bomb,” German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said as he arrived.

“That is why we will continue to support the implementation of this agreement.”



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will head to the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi to meet President Vladimir Putin. **PHOTO: AFP**

Few details of Pompeo’s agenda in Brussels have been announced, beyond the State Department saying talks would be held with officials from France, the UK and Germany.

Mogherini gave a chilly re-

sponse to news of Pompeo’s visit, which she said was only communicated to Brussels at the last minute.

“We’ll be here all day with a busy agenda so we’ll see during the day how and if we manage

to arrange a meeting,” she told reporters. President Hassan Rouhani issued an ultimatum to the Europeans last week, threatening that Iran would go further if they fail to deliver sanctions relief to counterbalance Trump’s renewed assault on the Iranian economy within 60 days.

The European powers rejected that ultimatum.

The US has continued to build pressure on Iran, with Pompeo accusing Tehran of planning “imminent” attacks and bolstering the military presence in the Gulf. Pompeo’s visit to Brussels means he is scrapping a stop expected on Monday in Moscow.

But he will still head to the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi on Tuesday to meet President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, a State Department official added just before Pompeo left Washington.

In recent days, Pompeo has already cancelled trips to Berlin and to Greenland to focus on the Iran issue.—AFP ■

Philippines votes in polls expected to strengthen Duterte

MANILA — Filipinos headed to the polls on Monday in a vote that is expected to strengthen President Rodrigo Duterte’s grip on power, opening the way for him to deliver on pledges to restore the death penalty and rewrite the constitution.

More than 18,000 positions are at stake, including half of the seats in the upper house Senate, which has served as a bulwark against some of Duterte’s most controversial policies.

Duterte is known internationally for his foul-mouthed tirades and deadly drug war, but remains hugely popular among Filipinos fed up with the country’s general dysfunction and leaders who have failed to fix it.

He wants to bring back capital punishment for drug-related crimes as part of his narcotics crackdown, in which thousands of alleged pushers and users have already been killed by police.

His tough-on-crime platform — which also includes lowering the age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 12 — was key to his landslide election victory in 2016.

Crowds gathered at voting centres in the capital Manila even ahead of polls opening at 6:00 am (2200 GMT Sunday) in an election where some 61 million are registered to cast ballots.

“I voted for many of the candidates endorsed by President Duterte because his government

is doing its job,” said Myrna Cruz, 51. “I support their programmes, including the anti-drug campaign... but I wish the bloodshed would stop,” she added, echoing many Filipinos’ nuanced backing of the crackdown.

Voters across the country flooded social media with images of their ink-stained fingernails, which are daubed blue as a protection against voter fraud.

The opening of the polls saw isolated outbursts of violence, which is not unusual in the Philippines’ frequently bloody competition for elected posts.

At least 20 people were killed and 24 wounded in election-related violence in the run up to the vote, according to an official count.

The military said nine people were shot and wounded Monday during a confrontation at a polling station on the restive southern island of Jolo, which is home to insurgents and powerful local clans. Several other small clashes were reported in the south, including one in which two men were wounded by gunfire in Maguindanao.

The violence is more frequent in lower level races and will not likely be a major feature in the election’s main contest for the Senate. — AFP

Saudi oil tankers hit by ‘sabotage attacks’ as Gulf tensions soar

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) — Saudi Arabia said Monday two of its oil tankers were damaged in “sabotage attacks” in the Gulf as tensions soared in a region already shaken by a standoff between the United States and Iran.

It came as US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo scrapped a planned visit to Moscow to head to Brussels instead for talks with European officials on Iran.

Tehran called for an investigation into the “alarming” attacks and warned of “adventurism” by foreign players to disrupt maritime security.

The United States has already strengthened its military presence in the region, including deploying a number of strategic B-52 bombers in response to alleged Iranian threats.

Saudi Arabia, the Islamic republic’s regional arch-rival, condemned “the acts of sabotage which targeted commercial and civilian vessels near the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates,” a foreign ministry source said.—AFP ■



More than 18,000 positions are at stake, including half of the seats in the upper house Senate, which has served as a bulwark against some of President Rodrigo Duterte’s most controversial policies. **PHOTO: AFP**

Microscopic remains of Nazi victims to be buried in Berlin

BERLIN (Germany) — More than seven decades after World War II ended, over 300 tiny pieces of human tissue from political prisoners executed by the Nazis will be buried Monday at a Berlin cemetery.

The samples — each a hundredth of a millimetre thin and about a square centimetre in size — were uncovered on microscopic glass plates by the descendants of the Third Reich anatomy professor Hermann Stieve.

Stieve dissected and researched the bodies of inmates killed at the Berlin Plötzensee jail, including those of executed resistance fighters — in part to examine the physical impact of fear experienced by women.

A ceremony will be held, with descendants of the victims expected to attend, before the remains are finally laid to rest at 1300 GMT at the Dorotheenstadt cemetery in central Berlin with a Catholic and a Protestant priest and a rabbi present.

A ceremony will be held, with descendants of the victims expected to attend, before the remains are finally laid to rest at 1300 GMT at the Dorotheenstadt

cemetery in central Berlin.

“With the burial of the microscopic specimens... we want to take a step toward giving the victims back their dignity,” said Karl Max Einhaeupl, the head of Berlin’s university hospital Charite.

He said the burial was part of a historical project by the hospital to confront its role in the medical profession’s difficult relationship with Nazism.

The burial site had been picked as there are many graves and memorials for the victims of Nazism there, said Johannes Tuchel, director of the German Resistance Memorial Centre, which is organising the special event with Charite.

Tuchel said the human tissue samples were among “the last remains of people who were victims of the Nazis’ unjust justice system... They were denied a grave at that time, and so today, a burial is a matter of course.”

Noose and guillotine

More than 2,800 people held at Berlin-Plötzensee prison were put to the guillotine or hanged between 1933 and 1945,

and most were then sent for dissection at the Berlin Institute of Anatomy. Stieve was the institute’s director from 1935 to 1952 and carried out controversial research on the female reproductive system.

Most of the 300 specimens found in Stieve’s estate stemmed from women, adds a plaque to commemorate them, which does however not list the names of individual victims at the request of relatives.

Among those executed at Plötzensee were 42 resistance fighters from the Berlin group Red Orchestra. Stieve is believed to have dissected at least 13 of 18 executed female Red Orchestra fighters.

He was never charged with a crime and continued his medical career after the war like many other scientists who collaborated with the Nazis.

Only the highest-ranking physicians under the Third Reich were prosecuted at Nuremberg in the so-called Doctors’ trial for grotesque human experimentation and mass murder under the “euthanasia” programme. —AFP ■

Martian full moon pictures captured for first time, resembling candies

WASHINGTON — The US space agency NASA’s Mars orbiter has caught the Martian moon Phobos in a full moon phase for the first time.

The pictures released by NASA recently showed three rainbow-colored spots like candies. Those observations were made since September of 2017 which could help scientists understand what materials make up Phobos, the larger of Mars’ two moons.

The colors, detected by the orbiter’s infrared camera, represent a temperature range.

The orbiter called Odyssey is NASA’s longest-lived Mars mission, equipped with a heat-vision camera that can detect changes in surface temperature as Phobos circles Mars every seven hours, according to NASA.

“This new image is a kind of

temperature bullseye — warmest in the middle and gradually cooler moving out,” said Jeffrey Plaut, Odyssey project scientist at NASA. On 24 April, 2019, the camera looked at Phobos with the Sun behind the spacecraft. A full moon view is good for studying material composition.

The data about how iron and nickel are mixed with other mineral could help determine whether Phobos is a captured asteroid or a pile of Mars fragments, blasted into space by a giant impact long ago, according to the researchers.

Space community are discussing the possibility of human exploration of Phobos in distant future. Identifying landing hazards and understanding the space environment could help future missions to land on the surface. —Xinhua ■

Scientists create smallest pixels applicable in large-scale flexible displays

WASHINGTON — Scientists from the University of Cambridge created the smallest yet pixels, a million times smaller than those in smartphones, that can be used for large-scale flexible displays.

The study published on Friday in the journal Science Advances reported the color pixels based on tiny particles of gold, each a few billionths of a meter across.

The scientists sprayed those tiny grains on top of a mirror-coated surface, allowing the rocks of gold trapping light in the gap in between.

They also surrounded each grain with a thin, sticky polymer

coating which changes chemically when electrically switched, causing the pixel to change color across the spectrum, according to the study.

“The strange physics of light on the nanoscale allows it to be switched, even if less than a tenth of the film is coated with our active pixels,” said Jeremy Baumberg at Cambridge’s Cavendish Laboratory, who led the research.

Those pixels can be seen in bright sunlight and do not need constant power to keep their set color, so they have a good energy performance that make large areas feasible and sustainable. —Xinhua ■



The Plötzensee memorial site in Berlin commemorates executed resistance fighters against Nazi rule in Germany. PHOTO: AFP

Oxygen content changes key to animal evolution during Cambrian Explosion: Study

NANJING — A team of paleontologists from China, Britain and Russia recently discovered that the oxygen content changes of the atmosphere and ocean were key factors affecting the Cambrian evolutionary explosion of animals 540 million years ago.

The Cambrian Explosion is a mystery that has puzzled

the scientific community since Darwin’s time. It refers to the sudden appearance in fossil records of complex animals which were precursors to most modern animals.

It may represent the most important evolutionary event in the history of life on Earth, but the sudden emergence of the complex animals and how they

evolved have been unclear.

The research team carried out fieldwork in Siberia, Russia, and collected a precious sample of carbonate rocks, which records the changes of carbon and sulfur isotopes in seawater in the early Cambrian period.

Researchers found that, between 524 million and 514 million years ago, the peak period of the

Cambrian Explosion, there were five fluctuations in the content of carbon and sulfur isotopes in seawater.

Further calculation showed that these fluctuations reflected oxygen variations in Earth’s atmosphere and seawater during the Cambrian Explosion.

The fluctuations were highly consistent with the changes

in animal fossil species in this period. That is to say when the oxygen level increased, the number of animals grew significantly, and while the oxygen content decreased, the animal population greatly declined.

About 512 million years ago, the oxygen level was very low in oceans, and global animal extinction occurred. —Xinhua ■

U Myo Min Tun resigns as Yangon United chief coach

THE Yangon United Football Club confirmed that U Myo Min Tun has resigned as chief coach of the club on 13 May as he had submitted his resignation letter, of his own will, to the club, according to the club's website.

U Myo Min Tun, who has formerly played for Yangon United, officially took over as the club's chief coach in 2017.

During his term, Yangon United finished as runners-up at the 2017 Myanmar National League and the 2017 General Aung San Shield, and won the 2018 MFF Charity Cup, 2018 Myanmar National League, and the 2018 General Aung San Shield.

Under his guidance, the team advanced to ASEAN zone semi-finals of the 2018 AFC Cup.

The 35-year old coach made



Yangon United chief coach U Myo Min Tun.

PHOTO: YANGON UNITED FC

his first appearance on the Myanmar national football team in 2004, and retired after the 2013 MNL season. — Kyaw Zin Tun ■

Mercedes dominance bad for F1 box office — Hamilton

BARCELONA (Spain) — Lewis Hamilton cut short his celebrations after winning the Spanish Grand Prix to warn that Mercedes' dominance could be a menace to Formula One's box office appeal.

The defending five-time world champion seized the initiative at the start of Sunday's race and then cruised to his 76th career victory ahead of teammate Valtteri Bottas, who had started in pole position. It was the Mercedes pairing's fifth consecutive one-two finish and left rivals Ferrari floundering in pursuit.

The two Mercedes drivers are competing against each other ... and it's not much fun for outsiders, admits Hamilton, especially for spectators.

Having hoped to see a Ferrari renaissance at the Circuit de Catalunya, where they were so dominant in pre-season testing, Hamilton was disappointed again at their lack of pace, which, almost incredibly, prompted paddock talk of the Silver Arrows winning all 21 races.

Not as much fun

Mercedes locked out the front row of the grid and then took a stranglehold on the race in

such fashion that some observers talked of them being 'the invincibles' with 16 races remaining including the classic Monaco Grand Prix later this month.

That street circuit challenge will be very different to all that has gone before, but rivals have already installed Mercedes as favourites and the drivers' championship as a two-man race.

Hamilton is hopeful that for the sake of the sport, any such scenario never happens.

"The biggest threat is always the person that's closest to you," he said. "And that person is Valtteri, but it still feels too early ..."

"It's not as much fun, for sure, as when you are competing against another team. That's what F1 is about.

"That's the exciting part, when you arrive and you're competing against one or two other teams who are also bringing their A-game. Naturally in those teams, that's another two drivers.

"That puts another spanner in the works and often when the cars are close, there's strengths and weaknesses of either team and how you play those and benefit from those, it's awesome.

"But when that's not there it's definitely not as exciting from

a competition point of view. Racing within a team, it's not really how F1 should be in my opinion, but it is how it is right now." No team has won every race in a season, but McLaren came close in 1988 when they triumphed in 15 of the 16 races — beaten only when Ferrari took advantage of a late collision at Monza — and Mercedes, in 2016, won 19 of 21.

Team chief Toto Wolff, like Hamilton, is wary of any premature assessments or forecasts, but said he recognised the conundrum he and his team faced as they reduced the sport's spectacle with their metronomic excellence and supremacy.

"If I take myself out of the Mercedes standpoint, of course, as a fan you want variability and unpredictability," he said. "We all enjoyed Liverpool coming back strong as they did and Spurs making it against all odds.

"I had my laptop on my knees watching the game when we saw they were beating Barcelona! But, where we are now, it cannot be our objective. "And, I feel, it's also bad karma if we were to think that we are now really walking on water — then, the next week, you are going to get one in the face for sure ...—AFP ■

Man Utd face daunting task to recover former glories after dismal campaign

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Manchester City jetted back to the Etihad to celebrate their stunning Premier League title triumph but across town at Manchester United the lights had long gone out.

Pep Guardiola's champions partied late into the night on Sunday in front of thousands of ecstatic fans after beating Brighton to win their second consecutive league crown, the first side to achieve the feat since United in 2009.

In that year Alex Ferguson's side celebrated a third straight title as the undisputed kings of English football while City, less than a year after their Abu Dhabi takeover, finished a lowly 10th.

It is difficult to overstate the dramatic nature of United's demise in recent years, which culminated in an embarrassing 2-0 defeat at Old Trafford at the hands of relegated Cardiff on Sunday.

United have finished outside the top four in four of the six seasons since Ferguson retired. This season the scarcely credible 32-point gap to their cross-town rivals left them as close to the relegation zone as the top of the table.

Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer enjoyed a prolonged bounce after taking over the reins from Jose Mourinho in December, winning 14 of his first 17 games in all competitions.

But, following an extraordinary comeback against Paris Saint-Germain to reach the Champions League quarter-finals, the wheels came off, with United winning just two and losing eight out of their final

12 games. United ended up in sixth position — exactly where they were when Mourinho was sacked — and have had to watch as City were crowned champions, Liverpool and Tottenham reached the Champions League final and Chelsea and Arsenal set up a Europa League final meeting.

"We're not a club which should end up sixth," Solskjaer told Sky Sports. "That's where we are at the moment, but we're ready for it, the fans, supporters today too. "It's near embarrassing when you walk off the pitch clapping them and get the support we have. That's the base of this club, the foundation is so great, we'll come back again."

Bitter end

Juan Mata is one of many who many United players who may have played his last game for the club.

"The feeling in the end is very bitter," the out-of-contract Spanish midfielder said in his weekly blog on his website.

"None of us are satisfied with the general performance levels that we have offered, for one reason or another."

United, with a bloated, underperforming squad, face a monumental challenge over the summer transfer window as Solskjaer plots how to turn around their fortunes and compete with City and Liverpool.

The wisdom of giving the relatively inexperienced Norwegian a three-year contract just over six weeks ago, a move that was followed by a dramatic decline in form, has been widely questioned by pundits.—AFP ■



Manchester United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has a huge job on his hands to revive the fortunes of the club. PHOTO: AFP