ENSURING SAFETY DURING LIGHTNING STRIKES IN EARLY MONSOON SEASON PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Ambassador of Thailand in Nay Pyi Taw
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services receives Thai Ambassador
PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor receives UNHCR Chief

STATE COUNSELLOR and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the delegation led by Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at 10:00 a.m on 23 May 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters relating to the extension of the MoU signed between the Government of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR on 6 June 2018, implementation of the community-based Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), voluntary return of verified Myanmar nationals from the temporary camps along the Myanmar-Thailand border in Thailand, and provision of assistance by UNHCR in the efforts of the Government of Myanmar for ensuring peace and development in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and the officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 19,000 acres of vacant, fallow, virgin land to be confiscated

OVER 19,000 acres of vacant, fallow, and virgin land granted for land use across the country will be confiscated, in keeping with the law, according to the Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Land Management Central Committee.

The decision was made at the19th coordination meeting of the committee, which was chaired by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

According to a resolution taken at the meeting, land which is not in conformity with the Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Land Management Law will be confiscated.

A total of 1,467,693 acres of land has been confiscated as it is not in conformity with the law.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu stressed the need to supervise the country's land resources and to grant people land ownership rights and land utilization rights, in accordance with the law.

He also called for efforts towards reforestation and making the best use of vacant, fallow, and virgin land in the interests of the country and the people.

The meeting was attended by members of the central committee.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

INSIDE TODAY

PARLIAMENT
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Myanmar acceding to ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement
PAGE-2

PARLIAMENT
Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 16/2019
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Discussions underway to export farm products directly from Yangon to Yunnan, Shanghai
PAGE-7

NATIONAL
Myanmar foreign trade hits US$ 20,203 mln in FY 2018-2019 (October to April)
PAGE-11

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Myanmar acceding to ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement

AT the tenth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12th regular session held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, Hluttaw approves Myanmar acceding to ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement.

Tenth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Bill Committee report on Major Bridge Bill

In the first agenda of the day a Joint Bill Committee report on Major Bridge Bill sent by the President with comments was read by committee member U Zaw Win and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Joint Bill Committee report on second amendment to the Settlement of the Labour Dispute Law

Next a Joint Bill Committee report on second amendment to the Settlement of the Labour Dispute Law sent by the President with comments was read by committee member U Nay Myo Tun and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Hluttaw explained about National Planning Report and Union Budget Report

Afterwards Fiscal Year 2018-2019 first six months National Planning Report and Fiscal Year 2018-2019 first six months Union Budget Report sent by the Union government was read and explained to the Hluttaw by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win. After each report was read and explained Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the findings and comments reports of Joint Public Accounts Committee were scheduled to be read, submitted and discussed.

Hluttaw discuss and agree to establishing diplomatic relations

Following this U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency, U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1, U Ar Moe Si of Khaunglanphu constituency, U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency 5, U Aung Thike of Seikphyu constituency, U Zaw Thein of Wakema constituency, Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 and U Tin Maung Win of Seikkan constituency discussed establishing diplomatic relations with Republic of Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo and Togolese Republic. Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin also discussed about the benefit of establishing diplomatic relations.

After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's agreement on establishing diplomatic relation with the three countries.

Hluttaw approves Myanmar acceding to ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement

Later the matter of Myanmar acceding to ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement was discussed by Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2, Dr. Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency, U Than Soe @ Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency 4 and U Hsan Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo also discussed the benefit of acceding to the agreement.

As Hluttaw decided to approve the matter, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval on Myanmar acceding to ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement.

Reports on Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill

In the final agenda of the day Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman U Aung Min and secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin read, explained and submitted to the Hluttaw the committee's legal and financial assessment reports.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the reports to register their names. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also announced further that Hluttaw representatives will discuss the reports as well as tabling amendment motions on 29 May while relevant union level organizations will respond to the discussions and decision of the Hluttaw will be made on 31 May. The eleventh-day meeting of the 12th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 29 May it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the meeting 16/2019 of the Joint Committee on amending the 2008 Constitution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 16/2019

MEETING 16/2019 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, 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)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Ambassador of Thailand in Nay Pyi Taw

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar on 23 May 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the meeting, the State Counsellor and Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar discussed matters on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, labour cooperation, people to people contact and culture, road connectivity and trade sectors, cooperation for the development of border areas and promotion of investment and humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State.

Also present at the meeting were U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand. —MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Thailand Ambassador Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung receives UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talks with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi at the Ministry of Border Affairs yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER Lt-Gen Ye Aung received UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed implementation of socio-economic development, implementation of suggestions of advisory commission on Rakhine state, livelihoods of IDPs, accepting and resettling them, help given to immigrant workers by related departments, the ministry's work on closing of IDPs in Myebon and teaming up with other ministry in closing the rest of the IDP camps.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives UNHCR Chief

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population, U Thein Swe received the delegation led by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the ministry's efforts for ensuring reaching true information those who left Myanmar for the neighbouring country, and efforts for creating peaceful coexistence between the two communities in Rakhine State, cooperation of Myanmar and Thailand for repatriation of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand and for ensuring their legal status in Thailand, for closing the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps in Kachin State and Rakhine State, and aid from UN and INGOs for dignified return of displaced persons.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe holds talks with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services receives Thai Ambassador

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Ambassador of Thailand Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ambassador of Thailand Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they openly and cordially discussed the status of the friendship between the two countries and the armed forces of the two countries, the situation of border area stability, development and prevention of drugs by holding TBC, RBC and HLC meetings between the two countries, promoting the cooperation between the two armed forces, according to the press release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)

Union Minister for Construction receives Swiss Ambassador Mr. Tim Enderlin

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw meets with Swiss Ambassador Mr.Tim Enderlin in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw received Swiss Ambassador Mr. Tim Enderlin at ministry's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed assistance given to construction of roads, bridges and tunnels, collaboration in erecting security oriented school, upgrading roads in Rakhine State and southern Shan State and city development projects.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

CBM Governor receives Italian Ambassador

CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung meets with Italian Ambassador Mrs. Alessandra Schiavo. **PHOTO: MNA**

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, received Italian Ambassador Mrs. Alessandra Schiavo and the entourage at Gangaw hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed World's trade, prospects of Myanmar's trade, cooperation in finance and banking sectors among ASEAN countries, opportunities for investment and for cooperation in banking services between Italy and Myanmar and maintaining the right balance between financial technology and stability.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 20/2019
5th Waning of Kason, 1381 ME
(23 May 2019)

Resignation of State Minister approved

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 264 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 52 (b) of Region or State Government Law, U Tayza Htut Hlaing Htwe, State Minister, Ministry of Bamar Ethnic Affairs, Kayin State Government, has been permitted to resign of his own volition from the position of State Minister.

Sd/-
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Disaster Management Department of SWRR Ministry, UNHCR sign MoU

MEMORANDUM of understanding between the Department of Disaster Management of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee was sighed at the ministry yesterday.

During the event, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung said the MoU is an indication of collaboration and that detail need to be discussed. According to the MoU, the ministry has to be notified of any challenges and difficulty on the ground. Such obstacles will be overcome together. While carrying humanitarian works, the ministry also prioritizes security and stability of the conflict areas.

He also said that he hopes to collaborate more in welcoming the immigrant workers coming in from other countries and giving humanitarian assistance to IDPs.

Then, High Commissioner Mr. Filippo Grandi expressed his thanks for arranging the signing of the MoU during his visit to Myanmar.

He also assured that they will abide by the remarks by the deputy minister in his opening speech.

Afterwards, Mr. Filippo Grandi and Director General Dr. Ko Ko Naing signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

Officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and representative and members of UNHCR attended the event.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Director General Dr. Ko Ko Naing and Mr. Filippo Grandi exchange the notes of MoU at the singing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Civil Service Board, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Union Attorney-General Office explain third-year performances

THE press conference on the third-year journey of the Union Civil Service Board, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, and the Union Attorney-General Office answered to reporters in the Ministry of Information's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Civil Service Board, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Union Attorney-General Office hold press conference on performances in third one-year period in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Civil Service Board member

U Saw Valentine, a member, said the Union Civil Service Board are now only allowing civil servants who have passed the screening test to go to the next round of interview so that they can find the right person for the right place in union ministries and organizations.

He said they upload video files of the screening test on their website (www.ucsb.gov.mm) and Facebook page (Union Civil Service Board Myanmar) so that people can gain better knowledge of the process. He said they also upload job advertisements, the roll number and candidate results of the screening test, and the list of chosen candidates.

U Saw Valentine said UCSB issued 4 job advertisements in the third-year period for 642 vacant positions in 20 union-level ministries and organizations. He said there were 8,601 applicants and from that number 2,183 passed the screening test, 611 passed the written exam at the next stage, and 593 passed the mental health assessment and interview process. He added that they performed mental health assessments for 715 staff from the Union Supreme Court, Union Attorney-General Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the General Administration Department at their request.

The UCSB verified 8,296 experienced staff for promotion, 58 staff with less experience for promotion on special criteria, and 27 staff for promotion on special criteria despite not meeting set education standards.

The UCSB received lists of individual assessments for 3,932 directors and 5,779 deputy directors-general from 48 ministries and government organizations, said U Saw Valentine, adding that they have accepted a waiting list for 2,258 directors and 2,793 deputy directors-general.

He said they have adapted the curricula of the central institutes of civil service to be more learner-centered and problem-centered, on the suggestions of the advisory board, so that graduating civil servants will be capable of working in line with the policies set by the Union. He added that the CICS' have trained 13,177 trainees between 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

U Saw Valentine said the Second Bill Amending the Union Civil Service Board Law was ratified on 17 March 2019 with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Announcement No. 38/2019. He said the Second Bill Amending the Civil Servant Law was ratified with Section-16 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law on 13 June 2018, which amended three sections of the law.

U Saw Valentine said this amendment will ensure civil service personnel and public servants will be categorized differently with their own unique duties and responsibilities. He said this will also ensure decisions for salaries, fees, pensions and entitlements are clear-cut for everyone.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Cooperation

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Cooperation U Myint Thu said:

Our ministries have been practicing an "active and independent foreign policy" based the aspirations of the State and the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence".

We were also able to improve and consolidate our Strategic Partnership relationship with China; a Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership – CCP with Vietnam; and achieve the level of Natural Strategic Partners with Thailand. The State Counsellor also went on official visits to Laos, Thailand, China, United States, Japan, Singapore, Italy, Vatican, Britain, Belgium, India, and Australia. During the third year, she went on friendly visits to Vietnam, Japan, Singapore and Nepal to attend summits of ASEAN and regional organizations.

During the three year period of the tenure of the new Government, we were able to promote and elevate the friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and countries such as Singapore, India, Laos, the Philippines, Mongolia, Cambodia and Vietnam which sent Presidents, State Leaders and the Pope on friendly visits. Countries such as China, Italy, Canada, Japan, India, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Australia, Serbia, Britain, Hungary, United States, Norway, Ukraine, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France, Czech Republic, Turkey, EU, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Malaysia sent high-level delegations on friendly visits totalling more than 80 visits.

We were able to successfully arrange these visits and thus greatly enhance and promote bi-lateral and regional level relations. In addition, we were able to make concerted efforts to promote the socio-economic development of Myanmar and the people and obtain development assistance, technical assistance and financial assistance.

We are participating actively in regional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Greater Mekong Cooperation Scheme, ACMECS – Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy, Mekong-Lacang Cooperation, Mekong-Japan, Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund, and the LMI – Lower Mekong Initiative.

We are making increasing efforts to establish diplomatic relations with new partner countries to promote friendship with the countries of the world in the international arena for providing mutual help and support increasingly. Within the three year period of our government, we were able to establish diplomatic relations with seven new partner countries. Out of 193 countries of the world, we have established diplomatic relations with 121 countries. To promote friendship with African countries, we are in the process of establishing diplomatic relations with the Republic of Benin, Congo Republic and the Republic of Togo.

To improve our contacts and relations with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region, and for countries in Middle and Eastern Europe, we are in the process of establishing diplomatic missions in Havana (Cuba), and Prague (the Czech Republic). We are working to open these diplomatic missions in 2019.

Since the breaking out of the conflicts between the two communities in Rakhine State in June 2012, the issue of Rakhine State has attracted greater international attention and found its way into the resolutions on Myanmar adopted by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. The Government has therefore accorded high priority to resolve the issue of the Rakhine State ever since it took office.

With regard to the formation of the Fact Finding Mission (FFM) on Myanmar, we have stated our position loud and clear, right from the time of the adoption of the resolution to establish the FFM citing the facts that there was no transparency in the process; its mandate was also biased and could pose an impediment to the efforts made by the government in resolving the issue; it would not be in conformity with the real situation at the ground level. For these reasons we made our position clear that the mandate given to the FFM was unacceptable to Myanmar. The Government's clear position on the report of the FFM was also made known when its report came out.

When I attended the high-level segment of the Human Rights Council meeting held on 26 February 2019 in Geneva, I stated again in my speech why we cannot accept the repot of the FFM. Whenever the draft resolutions on Myanmar were taken up at the UN General Assembly or Human Rights Council, the Myanmar delegations led by the Myanmar Permanent Representatives in New York and in Geneva spared no efforts to defend their position constantly by calling for a vote or by delivering their position statements to make our position known.

At the same time we have sought the assistance of those friendly countries who understand the complexities and challenges facing Myanmar, and we are making concerted efforts to deliver improvements on the ground and to start repatriation process to take back those who could be verified as former residents and free from crimes in accord with the bilateral arrangements reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Union Attorney-General Office

Daw Nu Nu Yin, Permanent Secretary of the UAGO, said the Formation of Law Offices scrutinized 181 laws, 257 bylaws and 43 Constitutional matters, and also translated 114 documents.

Through the past year, the UAGO has reviewed and discussed over 181 draft laws from the ministries as well as 257 rules, regulations and notifications. The office also gave consultation on 688 international projects, 1097 on local and foreign investments and other 527 on law-related matters. The UAGO launched the Strategic Plan 2015-19 entitled "Moving Forward to the Rule of Law" in 2015 and we are now in the final year of the plan.

SEE PAGE-11

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Yangon has over 18,000 cases of illegal use of farmland

By Aye Yamone

OVER 18,000 cases of illegal use of farmland have been reported in Yangon Region, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

"Yangon is one of the most sensitive regions concerning land matters. Over 18,000 cases have been reported where farmland has been used for other purposes, without permission being sought through the proper channel. Many cases pertaining to illegal use of farmland have been filed in the region. We have sought the opinion of the concerned Union Ministry for legal action on the issue," said U Phyo Min Thein. "Currently, around 5,000 cases of land confiscation by the previous government are being investigated. Among them, just over 100 cases need to be scrutinized for submission to the Central government," he said.

"Moreover, 5,000 fresh cases involving land have been reported in Yangon Region. Among them, some cases are of the same nature as the old ones, and just over 1,000 cases may involve fresh issues. The authorities plan to resolve land issues in May," he said.

"Concerning the use of farmland for other purposes without government approval, we have to take action against those owners who are holding the 2012 farmland ownership certificates (Form-7). However, in many cases, we have found Form-7 registered under one name and the land being used under another name. Now, the Union Ministry has directed that the title on Form-7 be changed. Owners will be able to change the title on Form-7 starting 1 June. If they change the title, they can purchase the land, change the name, and apply for using the farmland for other purposes," he added. He made these remarks at the 27th regular meeting held on 22 May at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), which was attended by Vice President U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation has granted permission to form a special team in Yangon Region to look into land issues.

"The fine for livestock farming should be the same as the fine for fish farming. So, the state and regional governments must coordinate in this regard," said Dr. Mya Han, the chairman of the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Livestock farmers are facing budget constraints when it comes to paying the fines because the permission for using farmland for other purposes is often delayed. Therefore, the Myanmar Livestock Federation asked that more livestock products be manufactured, prices be kept stable, and permits for using farmland for other purposes be issued within a short period, at the meeting held on 22 May. ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Free eye care services offered in Meiktila Township

THE Myanmar Ophthalmological Society provided free eye care services to communities of Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin, Taze, Yamethin, Pyawbwe, Myingyan, Taungtha, Kyaukpadaung, and Natmauk townships on 20 and 21 May at the Htilaoo Eye Hospital in Meiktila Township.

A team of specialists, led by Professor Dr. Khin Ohmar Khine, the President of the Myanmar Ophthalmological Society, performed free eye surgeries, while Dr. Khin Zaw Tun from the Htilaoo Eye Hospital received patients suffering from eye problems.

An ophthalmologist gives free eye care medication to locals in Meiktila Township. **PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)**

"Medical equipment was supplied to the Htilaoo Hospital, and the six-member team of eye specialists provided eye care medication, especially to people with eyelid and tear duct problems. Patients residing near Meiktila Township were given free eye diagnostic testing at the same place," said Dr. Khin Ohmar Khine.

Thirty-eight patients from different townships near Meiktila were treated, and it took two months to compile a list of patients, said Dr. Khin Zaw Tun.

The Myanmar Ophthalmological Society and team of eye specialists had provided free eye care services with the help of the Myanmar Medical Association, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports, in January in Thandwe Town of Rakhine State.—Chan Thar (Meiktila) ■ *(Translated by La Wonn)*

YRTA, MOGE discuss 24-hr service at CNG stations to cut queues

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority and Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) have discussed providing 24-hour services at CNG stations to reduce long queues for gas owing to frequent power cuts, said U Hla Aung, the Joint Secretary of the YRTA.

At present, there are 41 CNG stations, and power outages have resulted in long queues forming at the stations, with some people having to wait for 7 hours to fill gas using a power generator. Therefore, the transport authority has discussed 24-hour services at CNG stations with MOGE.

"Some drivers have to wait for 7 hours in the queue for gas. Filling up gas takes only 25-30 minutes. When we met MOGE representatives, we noted that 10 stations provide services to taxis, and 20 of the remaining stations offer 24-hour services. We asked MOGE to allow more gas stations to connect directly to the power grid so they can operate 24 hours a day. Stations which have limited power generation capacity could then be directly connected to MOGE. That may help solve the current problem," said U Hla Aung. Long queues at CNG stations cause difficulties to daily commuters.

"Previously, it took us one to two hours in the queue. Now, the power cuts have increased the time we spend in queue to six-seven hours," said a vehicle owner. Furthermore, some companies have requested setting up of CNG stations at their bus terminals, according to the YRTA.

"We want to have gas-filling facility at bus terminals, which can be seen in certain countries. However, the national budget is limited. The Omini Focus Public Company has also forwarded that request. But, in response, MOGE has asked who will be responsible for the cost of installation of gas pipes, maintenance, and operation. All stakeholders, including MOGE, the government, companies, and the YRTA need to discuss that matter," said U Hla Aung.

The YRTA has been supervising the Yangon Bus Service in the region since 16 January, 2017. As commuters in the commercial hub of Yangon depend on bus services, the YRTA is endeavouring to offer better services to the public than the All Private Bus Lines Control Committee.

Over 100 bus lines are operating 4,300 buses on 123 routes. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million.

The YRTA was formed on 8 July, 2016 to improve the transport facilities in Yangon for the convenience of the public. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein was appointed as the Patron of the transport authority, while Daw Nilar Kyaw, the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry, and Transportation, was made the Chairperson. In April, 2019, the number of members was increased to 22 from 16, with the YRTA appointing the Security and Border Affairs Minister as Deputy Chairman 1 and Yangon Mayor as Deputy Chairman 2, besides officials from related departments and organizations. ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Black sesame fetching good price in Mandalay this harvest season

BLACK sesame from Salin and Sinphyukyun townships of Magway Region is fetching a high price in the Mandalay market this harvest season, according to merchants.

"Black sesame was cultivated in the summer, and it was priced at K220,000 per bag last year. But now, the price of black sesame has increased to K2750,000 per bag, and the market is stable due to high demand from China," said U Soe Win Myint, a merchant at the Mandalay Commodity Depot.

"White sesame is also fetching a high price in the market. The price of sesame is increasing steadily due to good demand in the China market. Additionally, low supply of sesame seeds is causing great difficulties for growers," U Soe Win added.

Earlier, black sesame seeds cost K200,000 per bag during the rainy season, and currently, the price has increased to K300,000 per bag. As the supply of sesame seeds is low, growers have to buy the seeds at higher prices. Sesame can be cultivated within 100 days in any season, and enjoys a good demand in the market. — Aung Phyo Kyaw ■ *(Translated by La Wonn)*

Traders negotiate prices of pulses at a wholesale market in Mandalay. **PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW**

KDDI, Sumitomo jointly enter Myanmar mobile game market

MAJOR Japanese mobile carrier KDDI Corp. and trading house Sumitomo Corp. are launching a mobile game business in Myanmar in cooperation with a state-run telecommunications entity.

Their wholly owned local arm, Funcreate Myanmar Ltd., is distributing its first title Puzzle TanTan Myanmar, a KDDI spokesman told NNA.

Funcreate Myanmar, a unit of their Singapore-based joint venture Funcreate Pte. Ltd., will soon launch a second one, the spokesman said.

KDDI, operator of the "au" mobile phone service in Japan, and Sumitomo together entered Myanmar's mobile service market in 2014.

The two Japanese companies said in a statement Wednesday that the Southeast Asian country's mobile game market enjoys a compound average growth rate of 52 percent and is poised to total 28 billion yen ($254 million) in 2020.

They said their Myanmar unit plans to launch more than 10 locally suited Japanese and other foreign titles by March 2021 in a bid to top 1 million downloads each.

The Myanmar unit aims to grab market share of at least 10 percent by taking advantage of the roughly 22 million strong customer base of its local partner, the state-owned Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. —Kyodo News ■

Japan's Suzue expanding Yangon warehouse five-fold

JAPANESE logistics firm Suzue Corp. is increasing the size of its warehouse in Yangon by five times to meet growing transport demand in Southeast Asia's emerging economy.

KMA-Suzue Logistics Myanmar Ltd., its joint venture with local container shipping firm KMA Shipping Co., will ramp up a total floor space of its container freight station to about 8,200 square meters by

April 2020 from the current 1,560 square meters., the Japanese company said.

The warehouse, opened in January 2018, is located in Yangon's Dagon

Seikkan Township, about 15 kilometers from both Yangon and Thilawa ports, through which manufacturers in Yangon and surrounding areas export products.

The local unit aims to capture logistics and transshipment demand

from Japanese companies in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone as well as local companies in the areas.—Kyodo News ■

Discussions underway to export farm products directly from Yangon to Yunnan, Shanghai

By Aye Yamone

DISCUSSIONS are currently on to export farm products from Yangon directly to Yunnan and Shanghai, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

He made the remarks at the 27th regular meeting held on 22 May at the Republic of the Union Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Vice President U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs attended the meeting.

"It is difficult to bring products back once they reach the border gates. It is also difficult to store them in the border areas. Therefore, we are negotiating with the authorities in Yunnan and Shanghai to export Myanmar agri products to them directly, and establish a market," said U Phyo Min Thein.

"We are making arrangements to transform the market system, whereby, we will only send products via the border gates after making a deal with the purchasers in Yangon region. Therefore, the Yangon Region government is making arrangements to extend the Yangon market to the Myanmar-China Economic corridor. Moreover, the authorities will look into inputs and technical issues to upgrade the supply chain in the agriculture and livestock sectors. The authorities are working to export products to China, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce," said an official with the Ministry.

Shanghai imports about 90 per cent of foodstuffs from other provinces and countries. Therefore, the Union government discussed the export of farm products to Shanghai when the Shanghai Deputy Mayor visited Myanmar. The Yangon Region government is also negotiating with the government of Yunnan Province to export Myanmar farm products.

Local entrepreneurs export their products through the border gates. However, they are forced to sell products at reduced prices if they do not get any buyers, and also when there is no space to store their products.

To develop Myanmar's agriculture and livestock sectors and establish a strong market, the authorities are taking the necessary measures to export agricultural products and livestock to China as well as other countries. "Currently, 100 acres of land in the Nyaung Hna Pin agriculture and livestock zone is being upgraded under a pilot project. Now, we are ready to export farm products to other countries," said the official with the Commerce Ministry. ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Muse trade falls by $697 mln

THE value of Sino-Myanmar trade through the Muse gate reached US$3.1 billion between 1 October and 10 May in the current financial year, a decline of $697.9 million from $3.8 billion registered in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

During the October-May period, exports through Muse gate were valued at $2 billion, while imports were registered at $1.06 billion.

Exports through Muse gate have dropped drastically owing to tight confiscation and trade suspension by China since October, 2018, coupled with closure of the border gate.

A major border gate in Myanmar, Muse handles the largest volume of trade, but trade through the gate has seen a steep drop as China is strictly cracking down on illegal goods.

Myanmar merchants cannot export goods to China through the legitimate channel as traders find the tax levied by China too steep. The import duty is set at 35-100 per cent. Some duties are as high as 150 per cent.

Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation occur often.

Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agriculture machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods.—GNLM ■

24 MAY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Ensuring safety during lightning strikes in early monsoon season

THE start of the monsoon season in Myanmar is accompanied with the formation of dense cumulus clouds, which can produce lightning, gale-force winds, and twisters.

With the advent of rains, farmers begin to prepare for growing crops, and people tend to be on the alert for diseases and disaster risks. At the same time, they must take care to be on the lookout for lightning strikes.

The bright streaks of light that flash across the sky during thunderstorms are categorized as some of the most dangerous weather events, and we have had more reports of people being killed by lightning strikes.

> With the formation of cumulus clouds in the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon season, there has been an increase in the number of lightning strikes, hailstorms, and gale-force winds.

Since 1978, the monsoon has been shortening gradually, with rains arriving late in Myanmar and retreating early. This means we have been experiencing long pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons. With the formation of cumulus clouds in the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon season, there has been an increase in the number of lightning strikes, hailstorms, and gale-force winds.

Flash floods kill people and animals every year, and twisters are also common.

The number of deaths from lightning has also increased, reaching over 100 during some years. It has been found that a majority of victims were farmers, and they were struck by lightning while working in the farmland.

The death toll from lightning strikes is expected to continue rising year by year.

Most parts of the country have experienced lightning and strong winds during the day due to high temperatures. However, there are ways in which people can protect themselves and reduce the risk of death.

We must switch off electrical appliances such as televisions and mobile phones during rainstorms accompanied by thunder and lightning.

Gale-force winds, which tend to follow heavy rainfall, hit parts of Myanmar every year, destroying homes and toppling trees.

In April and May, which see more rain showers, people must be on the alert for flash floods, landslides, gales, lightning, and hailstones due to cumulus clouds.

For outdoor safety, people must get off hills, mountains, or peaks as quickly as possible, never use a cliff or overhang as a shelter, move as far away as possible from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water, stay away from objects that can conduct electricity, and never lie flat on the ground or stand under an isolated tree.

Operators of vessels in rivers must remain on the alert for tornadoes that can occur during thunderstorms.

Yangon University is the birthplace of brilliant Myanmar National Football Team and famous footballers

By Tommy Pauk

RANGOON University (Later, known as Rangoon Arts and Sciences University—RASU) is the birthplace of brilliant Myanmar Football Team and famous footballers. In other words, Rangoon University Sports Council was regarded as the nursery for developing Myanmar football team in Asia Region. The 100th Anniversary of the existence of Yangon University is just around the corner. When we honor Yangon University, we should not merely say about its knowledge- sharing of Arts and Sciences which are of priceless treasures. In addition, we ought to say about Rangoon University's significant activities of the Sports Council.

Sitting Left to right: Ngwe Gaing, Professor Ba Toke (chairman Football committee), Ne Win (the then Myanmar Movie Actor collegian Ne Win), Dr.Shein (Manager), Kyaw Soe (captain), U Nyein (coach),Mg Pyone (vice captain),Professor Ko Ko Lay (chairman ,Sports Council), Professor Hla Thwin (vice chairman , Football committee).**Standing L to R :** Nyi Nyi Lwin, Tin Htut, S.A Rashid, Terrance Vel,B.Singh, Saw Biosanny, Kyaw Kyaw, Kyaw Pe, Soe Myint, Mg Mg Nyunt

Rangoon Universities Football Team which won 1965-66 Burma Football Federation Cup Championship **First Row , L-R:** Soe Thin, Judson. **Second Row, L-R:**Kyaw kyaw, Professor Dr.Hla Thwin (Manager), Aung khin, Professor U Ba Toke (Vice- Chairman of University Sports Central Committee), Soe Myint (Captain), Professor William Paul (Chairman of University Football Committee), Ba Maung ,Saya Nyein (Coach),Nyunt Lwin. **Third Row, L-R :** Tin Maung, Kyaw Myint, Chit Swe, Saw Oo, Taik Hlaing, Maung Maung, Soe Than. **Fourth Row, L-R :** Kyaw Htin, Ba Ohn, Nyan Htun, Soe Myint Lwin, Kyaw Sint.

Rangoon University was founded in 1920 and higher learning could be pursued by the students those who passed matriculation. Even then they not only studied the major subjects but also do the specific sports as their extra curriculum activities in Rangoon University. The most popular sport was football in those days for boy students. With the encouragement and support of Rangoon University Sports Council (former name), the students of other university and college joined respective sports clubs, doing exercises and participating in the occasional tournaments conducted by state.

Furthermore, Rangoon University football Club had formed University Football Team composed with the students from Rangoon Institute of Technology, Yangon Medical College and Institute of Economics. During the periods of 1960s, Rangoon University Football Team gained the tremendous victory in the local football games like Aung San Shield, League, Round Robin (1st division), Knock-out opening season and Rice-Mill Owner Cup. Despite the football players being amateurs, they could perform their football skills in various matches impressively. The coach and all the players belonged to Universities and Colleges of Rangoon at that time. Saya Nyein was the coach of University Football Team (his designation was University Sports officer of Rangoon University) and he trained the players to become excellent football players. He was the higher caliber of football coach and the pioneer who sowed the seed of the tree of victorious University football team indeed. Even when we look at back to the 1930s, one of varsity blues was a football team which stood as an unbeatable team in the football games such as Dunlop Cup, Walter Locke Cup and Rice -mill Owner Cup held in Rangoon. University football team was notably recorded as a successful or victorious team in those days as well. In 1934, the University Team won the Cup Final held by BAA (Burma Athletics Association).The opponent team was Burma Police which was formed with British Colony Police members whereas University Team was formed with the students of University and college of Burma.

Rangoon Universities Football Team which won 1966-67 Burma Football Federation Round -Robin Shield
Front Row L-R: John Aye Shwe ,Chit Swe, Khin Mg Myint, Khin Mg Tint, **Middle Row L-R:** Saya Nyein (Coach), Kyaw Kyaw, Professor William Paul Vice- Chairman of University Sports Central Committee), Ba Maung (captain), Professor Dr. Hla Thwin (Manager), Saw Oo, Maung Maung. **Back Row L-R:** ,Khin Mg Zaw, Kyaw Tin, Than Aye, Kyaw Sint, Judson, Soe Myint Lwin, Nyan Htun, Win San, Soe Than.

> In those days in Asia region, Myanmar football team was very popular for its victory and its brilliant players, individual players' skill and the fair-play-spirit.

Saya Nyein was a coach who trained the players well. We may regard Saya Nyein as a pioneer of Asia Champion Myanmar National Football team. The players also tried hard to become excellent ones in line with what they were responsible for their proper positions in playing game. Originally, they were amateur players from Rangoon University. Later, they joined football clubs of ministries. In those days in Asia region, Myanmar football team was very popular for its victory and its brilliant players, individual players' skill and the fair-play-spirit. Due to these significant characteristics, Myanmar National team had won the love of local and Asian football fans.

In the 1960s, Rangoon University Football team won the Aung San Shield Round Robin (First Division) and other football tournaments in Myanmar. Besides Rangoon University Football team, there exist football teams belonged to the respective Ministries and their Departments which participated in Aung San Shield Round Robin (First Division) tourney. The names of the teams were SAMB (State Agricultural Marketing Board), Burma Police, Customs, Post and Telegraph, Municipal, Burma Army, Burma Naval, Burma Air Forces and Burma Railways. Amid all those teams were strong and well-trained, Rangoon University team won over the tourney and stood as a champion team brilliantly. The big round of applause and shouting the phrase "varsity…varsity ...Rah…Rah..." had echoed by the fans in the BBA (Burma Athletic Association) ground (later it was changed to name Aung San stadium). The motto of Rangoon University Football team was : "Play fair, play hard ,never quit". It is learnt that the motto was written by coach Saya Nyein.

In fact, Rangoon University Football club nurtured and cultivated the triumphant Myanmar national Football team to stand in Asia and in South East Asia in which various soccer tournaments were held. In 1966, the Asian Games were held in Bangkok, Thailand. Myanmar national team won victory over Iran in the final match and became a champion team. Two of the Rangoon University Football team players had been selected to Burma National Football team and they tremendously performed well in the various matches. Those two varsity team players were Aung khin (striker) and Soe Myint (defender).Significantly, the scorer of the winning goal over Iran in final match was Aung khin. In Bangkok stadium, 1966 Asian Football Game winner and names of Myanmar footballers have honorably been inscribed. We are very proud of our Myanmar football Team because it won tremendous victory over other Asian Football teams through many games in some Asian countries.

The records describe that pre-war varsity famous players of forward combination were Yoke Kwin, Mg Win and Kan Nyunt and post-war varsity famous players of forward combination were Ne Win (the then Myanmar movie star Collegian Ne Win), Kenneth Shein and Tun kyi. Aung Khin, Tin Mg and Saw Oo were famous players in 1960s. The goalkeeper named Judson was the one who had been selected for Myanmar national team (Burma selected) in 1960s.Those famous footballers have served for Rangoon University as well as for Myanmar National Team. They did brighten Myanmar Sports standard involving in football games both in Myanmar and in Asian countries.

Team spirit, national spirit and sporting spirit led Burma National Football Team to become Asia Champion in that era. Essentially, we should honor and archive the University Football Team when we say about the history of Myanmar Football Team's victorious matches and tourneys which glorified the country Myanmar and its sports standard. Most of the famous Myanmar sportsmen were born in Yangon University especially the footballers who are famous at home and Asian countries for their brilliant football skills and performances.

References: Chronical of Myanmar Football

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 23rd May, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 24th May, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Tanintharyi Region, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions, Shan and Chin States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th May, 2019 Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

Myanmar Investment Commission's work in March, April, 2019

MYANMAR Investment Commission is permitting local and foreign investments according to Myanmar Investment Law.

Myanmar Investment Commission had permitted in March 2019 a total foreign investment including the increasing of investment totals US$ 166.018 million and in April 2019 a total foreign investment including the increasing of investment totals US$ 545.683 million.

Foreign investment permitted during March and April of 2019 is as follow.

Sr.	Sector	March		April	
		No. of Investments	Capital US$ million	No. of investments	Capital US$ million
a	Transportation and communication sector	-	-	1	475.124*
b	Industrial sector	28	80.518*	8	66.967*
c	Hotel and tourism sector	1	50	1	2.592
d	Other service sector	1	35.500*	1	1.000
Total		**30**	**166.018**	**11**	**545.683**

* Increase in the investment was included in the investment amount.

Myanmar Investment Commission had permitted in March 2019 Myanmar national investment totaling Ks 75,705.325 million and in April 2019 Myanmar national investment totaling Ks 81,536.987 million.

Myanmar national investment permitted during March and April 2019 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	March		April	
		No. of investments	Capital Kyat million	No. of investments	Capital Kyat million
a	Housing and building construction sector	1	4,457.094	-	5,440.000*
b	Industrial sector	6	62,393.981*	3	29,898.357*
c	Hotel and tourism sector	-	-	1	500.000
d	Mining sector	1	420.500	-	-
e	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	1	500.000	-	1,320.000*
f	Agriculture sector	2	641.010	-	-
g	Other service sector	3	7,292.740	2	44,378.630
Total		**14**	**75,705.325**	**6**	**81,536.987**

* Increase in the investment was included in the investment amount.

Increased number of jobs created by foreign investment during March and April 2019 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	No. of jobs created for local workers	
		March	April
a	Industrial sector	16,926*	5,362*
b	Transportation and communication sector	-	1,176
c	Hotel and tourism sector	576	56
d	Other service sector	82	26
Total		**17,584**	**6,620**

Increased number of jobs created by Myanmar nationals investment during March and April 2019 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	No. of jobs created for local workers	
		March	April
a	Mining sector	39	-
b	Industrial sector	934	667
c	Hotel and tourism sector	-	8
d	Housing and building construction sector	10	-
e	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	33	-
f	Agriculture sector	44	-
g	Other service sector	215	198
Total		**1,275**	**873**

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Conservation increases Sarus crane population

CONSERVATION of Sarus Carne in Ayeyawady Delta has proven successful and resulted in increase of 200 crane in three years' time.

Crane survey was started in 2016. 33 nests in that year, 138 nests in 2017 and 184 nests 2018 were recorded.

Bird Expert from Bird Conservation (Myanmar program) U Thet Zaw Naing said that the work has been more successful year after year.

It was recorded that 400 crane in 2016 rose to 600 in 2019.

In that region, Community Conversation Group has been formed to reserve other species including crane. The place is now a destination for both local and international visitors.

Department of Forestry, Main Ma Hla island Santuary and Bird conservation (Myanmar program) are working together to conduct conservation and research on endanger Sarus Crane.—Nyi Tu ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Photo shows endanger Sarus cranes. **PHOTO: NYI TU**

Strong winds destroy over 150 homes in Dimawhso

STRONG winds and torrential rains destroyed about 154 houses in Dimawhso Township of Kayah State on 21 May.

Ninety-five houses were destroyed in Okay Village, four in Dawbuku Village, seven in Leego Village, three in Nam San Kham Village, two in Phaungtaw Village, 39 in Nam Mae Khone Village, and one house each in Phayar Phyu, Dawkamee, Kapaeku, and Hsin Taung villages.

Strong winds also destroyed around 27 houses in the Hsin Taung village-tract in Dimawhso Township on 21 May. Officials from the concerned departments are making the necessary arrangements to provide assistance to people.

Kayah State Agricultural, Livestock, and Irrigation Minister U Boss Ko and officials are visiting the villages and distributing relief materials to them.—Yee Yae (Dimawhso) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

PHOTO : YEE YAE (DEMOSE)

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with UN representatives, Norwegian people's Aid in Norway separately

UNION MINISTER of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye met with Special Representative of United Nations Secretary General on Sexual Violance in Conflict , Ms. Pramila Patten, General Secretary of Norwegian People's aid, Ms. Henriette Lilli Westhrin and Special Envoy of UN Secretary General for Myanmar Ms. Christine Schranner Burgener, individually.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye shakes hands with United Nations Secretary General Special Representative on Sexual Violance in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

When Meeting Ms. Pramila Patten in Radisson Blu Hotel in special meeting room, they discussed the current status of effort to pass law to protect women from violence, current status of National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, working Network of UNFPA,UNWOMEN and other local woman organizations and implementation of agreement between central government and UN.

He, then met with Ms. Henriette Killi Westhrin at meeting hall of Myanmar Embassy in Norway.

During the meeting, they discussed preparation for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Department of Rehabilitation and Norwegian People's Aid, speeding up the process of educating people on danger of mine, courses and workshops on mine cleaning given by Norwegian people's aid in collaboration with Thailand and Cambodia and giving scholarship development of human resource.

Afterwards, He went to meet Ms,. Christine Schraner Burgener at the same place. During the meeting they discussed current status of Fact Sheet on welcoming IDPs, Signing MoU with UNHCR, policy on closing IDP camps, ASEAN collaboration in welcoming IDPs, Drawing up new law to protect child right, and protecting women from sexual harassment in conflict.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Myanmar foreign trade hits US$ 20,203 mln in FY 2018-2019 (October to April)

MYANMAR foreign trade for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (October to April) (Provisional) totals US$ 20,023 million of which export was US$ 9,734 million and import was US$ 10,469 million. As Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (October to April) foreign trade total was US$ 19,680 million of which export was US$ 8,678 million and import was US$ 11,002 million, export increases by US$ 1,057 million while import decreases by US$ 534 million and total trade increases by US$ 523 million.

Following is the export item wise comparison of the two periods

US$ million

Sr.	Item	2018-2019 (October to April) (Provisional)	2017-2018 (October to April)	Comparison (+/-)
1	Agriculture products	2,017.969	1,823.956	194.013
2	Animal products	281.872	72.271	209.601
3	Aquatic products	496.026	467.643	28.383
4	Mineral products	878.401	1,190.829	-312.428
5	Forest products	103.585	115.332	-11.747
6	Industrial goods	5,316.255	4,094.581	1,221.674
7	Other products	640.470	913.054	-272.584
	Total	**9,734.578**	**8,677.666**	**1,056.912**

Following is the import item wise comparison of the two periods.

US$ million

Sr.	Item	2018-2019 (October to April) (Provisional)	2017-2018 (October to April)	Comparison (+/-)
1	Investment goods	3,306.729	3,710.127	-403.398
2	Raw material	3,912.035	4,140.709	-228.674
3	Consumer goods	1,926.059	2,068.669	-142.610
4	CMP	1,323.811	1,082.757	241.054
	Total	**10,468.634**	**11,002.262**	**-533.628**

Union Civil Service Board, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, ...

FROM PAGE-5

There are arrangements to review and discuss its advantages and disadvantages for another 5 year plan. The Plan will continue to push the office to draft and vet laws that serve the Myanmar people and uphold the existing ones such as prosecution under fair trials and accountability of the office.

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

Daw Nu Nu Yin said they have been active in publishing books regarding advice on upholding and practicing rule of law. There were also rule of law workshops held in collaboration with the UAGO and the Denmark Embassy such as International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR). We were also able to publish a Guideline on Scrutinizing Joint Venture Agreement and Land Lease Agreement. Research committees have also been formed as well for further publications in the multiple research journals.

She said the Myanmar Law Information System website (www.mlis.gov.mm) was successfully launched on 24 May 2018 and is constantly updated with the latest legal information.

The Department of Prosecution represents the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in criminal cases in the Supreme Court. If the Republic is involved in the case, we are involved. The department also reviews various laws that comes up from the respective parliaments on whether or not they are fit for consideration. With the help of USAID, there are plans to digitalize our system and dockets.

There are also workshops and collaborative training with other departments such as the Border Police, Myanmar Police Force, the Anti-trafficking Police Force and other law officers. Cooperation Guidelines have been written and distributed throughout so the teams are most efficient in working together and prosecuting criminals. The Fair Trial Standards document was also published on Feb 20, 2018 for various levels of law officers to be familiar with fair trials and right judgment and procedures during cases. Afterwards, the officials replied to questions from the media.—Kyaw Myo Tun, Nandar Han *(Translated by GNLM)*

Diploma in Research Methodology and Research Ethics (Dip.RMRE) Class No.1 (2019) opens

OPENING Ceremony of Diploma in Research Methodology and Research Ethics (Dip. RMRE) Class No.1 (2019) was held at University of Medicine (Yangon) on 22nd May.

Rector of the university Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, invited rectors, deputy rectors, members of Research and Ethics Committee, honorary professors, heads of the departments, teachers attended the event.

The Rector delivered opening speech at the event. He said that the diploma course is for teachers from medical related universities and researchers and that the course is conducted with the support of NIH Forgaty Grant "internation Research Ethics Education and Curriculum development Award (R25)project ,which University of Medicine-1 (Yangon) applied for in collaboration with University of Mary Land , Baltimore, USA.

The course aims to educate participants on Ethical research Culture.

Then, Professor Henry Silverman of University of Maryland, Baltimore explained how the course came about and the method of teaching. It was reported that the course will last a year and includes five workshops. Some of the lectures will be delivered online. 24 Researching teachers joined the course.—GNLM

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Dollar stuck in lower 110 yen on concern over US-China trade war

TOKYO —The US dollar moved narrowly in the lower 110 yen zone in Tokyo on Thursday, as market players refrained from taking bold action amid the US-China trade dispute and uncertainty over Britain's planned departure from the European Union.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 110.29-30 yen, compared with 110.28-38 yen in New York and 110.36-37 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Wednesday. It moved between 110.13 yen and 110.36 yen during the day, changing hands most frequently at 110.22 yen.

The euro was quoted at $1.1140-1142 and 122.87-91 yen against $1.1146-1156 and 123.01-11 yen in New York, and $1.1151-1153 and 123.06-10 yen in Tokyo late Wednesday afternoon.

The dollar came under modest selling pressure throughout much of the day, with traders turning to the perceived safety of the yen while continuing to pay attention to developments in the US-China trade war, dealers said.

Media reports said Washington is considering preventing several Chinese surveillance video suppliers from buying electronic components from US companies, similar to the curbs imposed on China's Huawei Technologies Co.

Risk appetite was also hit after a report that British Prime Minister Theresa May will announce her resignation Friday, which could create further uncertainty over Brexit.

"A wait-and-see mood has taken over the market. It is hard to place bets with so many (economic) risks at the moment," said Kengo Suzuki, chief foreign exchange strategist at Mizuho Securities Co. —Kyodo News ■

The Nikkei 225 stock average fell below 22,000 on Tuesday, hit by renewed concerns over US-China trade tensions. Japanese yen traded at110.18 against the US dollar on Thursday. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Singapore's CPI grows by 0.8 pct in April, despite core inflation falls

SINGAPORE — Singapore's Consumer Price Index (CPI) grew 0.8 per cent year on year in April, following 0.6 per cent increase in March, said the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) in a joint release on Thursday.

The authorities attribute the higher inflation to a pickup in private road transport costs in April.

Meanwhile, the MAS Core Inflation, which excludes the costs of accommodation and private road transport, further eased from 1.4 per cent in the previous month to 1.3 per cent this April on a year-on-year basis, as a fall in the cost of electricity and gas and lower food inflation more than offset higher services inflation, said the authorities.

The authorities predict in the release that an acceleration in inflationary pressures on Singapore is unlikely against the backdrop of slower GDP growth, uncertainties in the global economy, as well as the continuing restraining effects of MAS' monetary policy tightening in 2018.

MAS Core Inflation is expected to come in near the midpoint of the forecast range of 1-2 per cent in 2019, while Singapore's CPI inflation is expected to average 0.5-1.5 per cent, according to the joint release.

Selena Ling, Head of Treasury Research & Strategy, OCBC Bank, said that the bank sees some upside risks to headline CPI prints for the remainder of 2019, but this is unlikely to tilt MAS policy bias in the interim as core inflation is still easing.

"Given that crude oil prices had collapsed from around 80-85 US dollars per barrel for WTI and Brent in October 2018 to around 43-50 dollars per barrel by late December last year, this would translate into double-digit year-on-year increases for oil-related items even if they hold around current levels of 61-70 dollars per barrel," she said.—Xinhua ■

FILE PHOTO : A customer pays with her smartphone at a department store in Singapore.
PHOTO: XINHUA

World Bank's country director lauds Gambia's economic growth

BANJUL — The World Bank's outgoing country director in Gambia Louise Cord said on Wednesday that she is impressed with the fact that the country's economy is back on track for a 6-percent growth.

The diplomat was at the State House to bid farewell to Gambian President Adama Barrow after three years of service.

"The economy has been restored, growth is about 6 percent, which is a very promising situation, inflation is also down to 6 percent," Cord said.

She also expressed delight for being part of the country's economic transformation under the current government.

However, for the inclusive growth to be sustained and for everyone to benefit, Gambia needs to continue to see important investments in energy, reform, and telecommunication sectors to ensure efficiency, Cord added.

World Bank has provided several financial assistance to the west African country in recent years, including a 56 million US dollar budget support in 2017.—Xinhua ■

Yangtze Delta provinces and municipality see digital economy over 1 tln yuan

NANJING — The digital economy of east China's Yangtze Delta region including the provinces of Zhejiang and Jiangsu, and Shanghai Municipality exceeded one trillion yuan (145 billion US dollars) respectively, according to a Tuesday summit in Jiangsu.

Statistics show that Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai saw their digital economy reach 3 trillion yuan, 2 trillion yuan and one trillion yuan respectively in 2018, reporting record growth in the Yangtze Delta region.

"The digital economy is leading today's scientific and technological revolution and industrial change," said Yan Li, vice chairman of Jiangsu provincial political consultative conference. "The Yangtze Delta region should cooperate in building a pilot zone of China's digital economic development," said Yan.

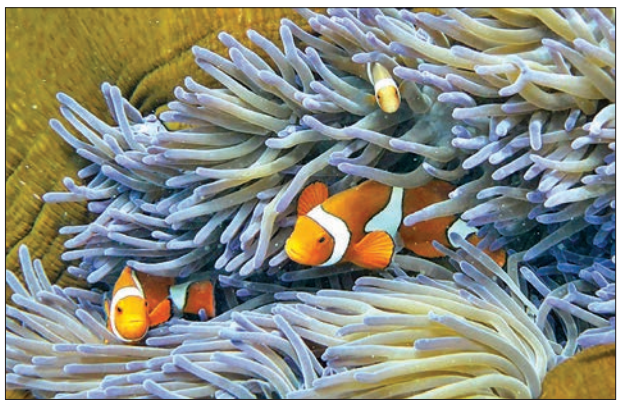
The region should enhance cooperation in developing infrastructure and cultivating software talents, said Zhou Hanmin, head of Shanghai Institute of Socialism. "Talents are the pillar for the digital economy and the region's educational sectors should work together to exploit their strength."

China's digital economy reached 31.3 trillion yuan (about 4.6 trillion US dollars) in 2018, accounting for 34.8 percent of the country's total GDP.—Xinhua ■

"ScUber" launches submarine trips to Great Barrier Reef

SYDNEY (Australia)— A select few Australians will soon be able to briefly book an Uber submarine to the Great Barrier Reef, the ride-sharing giant said Thursday.

From next week — in what Uber is pitching as a world first — people in Queensland state will be able to order a ride through the Uber app on a two-person submarine and tour the World Heritage site.



Australians will be able to book a dive to the Great Barrier Reef through the global ride-hailing app Uber from the end of May. **PHOTO: AFP**

A piloted battery-powered "scUber", costing Aus$1,500 ($1,030) per person, will take 20 dives between 27 May and 18 June with each trip lasting an hour. The sub will take two passengers down to 20 meters below sea level and along designated dive paths around the reef, in partnership with environmental advocacy group Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef. Susan Anderson, general manager for Uber Australia and New Zealand, said the company was committed to encouraging ride-sharing to make "conscious behaviour changes" to travel in more efficient and sustainable ways.

A scUber booking includes a helicopter trip to the submarine's dive location. The Great Barrier Reef is home to more than 1,500 fish species and coral varieties, but has been seriously damaged by pollution and climate change. —AFP ■

Climate change can be reversed, DiCaprio's 'Ice on Fire' claims

CANNES (France) — "We don't need advanced technology, Mother Nature has seaweeds and shellfish which sequester five times more carbon than land-based plants," said Bren Smith, winching a glistening haul of glossy brown kelp out of the sea.

A fisherman turned "steward of the sea" who runs a restorative ocean farm growing seaweed and farming shellfish, Smith is one of dozens of characters who appear in "Ice on Fire", an eye-opening environmental documentary at Cannes film festival.

Produced by Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio and directed by Leila Conners, who worked together on 2007 climate documentary "The 11th Hour", the film offers a fascinating look at the innovations and people working to significantly reduce carbon in the atmosphere.

Take kelp. Not only does it soak up five times more carbon than plants on land, it is one of the fastest growing plants on earth and can be widely used for everything from food to fertiliser and even animal feed. "If you provide a seaweed diet to cows, you get a 90 per cent reduction in methane output," said Smith, in what could play a key role in reducing the huge quantities of methane produced by livestock, a greenhouse gas that is 25 times more potent than CO_2. For Conners, it was learning about the properties of kelp and other innovations that provided the biggest surprise in putting together the film.

"If you plant kelp in nine percent of global waters, you can reduce global emissions by 50 per cent," she told reporters in Cannes, flagging other innovations like the development of biochar (charcoal produced from plant matter) and a Swiss-made direct air capture machine.

"And that's completely doable."

'There are solutions'

Even though warnings about climate catastrophe grow ever louder, the film argues, the world is still spending hundreds of billions of dollars every year to subsidise the very fossil fuels that are causing the planet to overheat.

"Excess carbon creates climatic disruption, it changes the weather patterns and life support systems that society relies on to survive," said the voice-over by DiCaprio, long an environmental activist.

But the film goes beyond the current narrative.

"Climate change can be reversed if we act now," DiCaprio said. —AFP ■

Radiated tortoises are native to Madagascar, and are listed as ab endangered species. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tortoise poachers get stiff sentence in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO (Madagascar) — A court in Madagascar upheld Wednesday six-year sentences against three people convicted of dealing in 10,000 extremely rare tortoises, the WWF wildlife conservation group said.

An appeals court in Tulear, southwest Madagascar, also fined the defendants 100 million ariary (23,800 euros, $26,500) and ordered them to pay 100 million ariary to the environment ministry.

Judges ordered the three — two men and a woman — to remain in detention, the WWF said.

They were arrested in April 2018 in a house in possession of 10,072 so-called radiated tortoises, which the WWF said represented a "record" seizure. From lemurs to rosewood, Madagascar's natural resources are often targeted by poachers who are rarely punished by authorities on the impoverished Indian Ocean island. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (015N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (015N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
PROCUREMENT OF WORKS

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
FLERP – FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE EMERGENCY RECOVERY PROJECT
Credit No.:5889-MM

Contract Title: SAIGN NAIGN GWE – MYIN THE - KUNSEIK ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS
SAGAING REGION UNDER WATT LAT TOWNSHIP (20.424 KM)
Reference No. : NCB C2-W01-2-01 (single lot) chainage 0+000 to 10+115 meter
NCB C2-W01-2-02 (single lot) chainage 10+140 to 20+424 meter

Contract Title: KANT BALU – HTAN GONE – KABO ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS
SAGAING REGION UNDER KANT BALU TOWNSHIP
Reference No. : NCB C2-W01-2-03 (single lot) chainage 0+000 to 12+450 meter
NCB C2-W01-2-04 (single lot) chainage 12+450 to 19+765 meter

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) under the Ministry of Construction, in its role as Implementing Agency of Component 2 of the FLERP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract(s) for the procurement of Road Works.

The Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following road works in the Sagaing Region:

C2-W01-2-01:
ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS. LENGTH OF ROAD 10,115 METER ON THE SAIGN NAIGN – MYIN THE - KUNSEIK ROAD UNDER WATT LAT TOWNSHIP (chainage 0+000 to 10+115 meter)

C2-W01-2-02:
ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS. LENGTH OF ROAD 10,284 METER ON THE SAIGN NAIGN – MYIN THE - KUMSEIK ROAD UNDER WATT LAT TOWNSHIP (chainage 10+140 to 20+424 meter)

C2-W01-2-03:
ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS. LENGTH OF ROAD 12,450 METER KANT BALU – HTAN GONE – KABO ROAD UNDER KANT BALU TOWNSHIP (chainage 0+000 to 12+450 meter)

C2-W01-2-04:
ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS. LENGTH OF ROAD 7,315 METER KANT BALU – HTAN GONE – KABO ROAD UNDER KANT BALU TOWNSHIP (chainage 12+450 to 19+765 meter)

Bids will be evaluated bid by bid, taking into account discounts offered, if any, for combined bids. The contract(s) will be awarded to the Bidder or Bidders offering the lowest evaluated cost to the Employer for each individual or combined bids, subject to the selected Bidder(s) meeting the required qualification criteria for each lot or a combination of bids as the case may be.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in "the World Bank's Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014" (the Procurement Guidelines), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD), Ms. Tin Moe Myint, DRRD Deputy Director General, (flercproject.drrd@gmail.com and/or ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 16.00 Hrs at the address given below. A complete set of electronic bidding documents in English Language may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders by simple e-mail request to the address below. No printed bidding documents will be made available or sent by DRRD.

Interested Bidders that obtained the bidding documents will be invited to attend:
- a Pre-Bid Conference including an Information Session on the Bidding Documents and Templates on Tuesday 11 June 2019 10:00 am
- a Technical Information Session on the new technologies to be used for the realization of the work on Tuesday 18 June 2019 10:00 am

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Tuesday 25 June 2019 10:00 am Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on Tuesday 25 June 2019 immediately after the bid submission.

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.

The address referred to above is:
Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD)
Attn: Daw Tin Moe Myint, Deputy Director General
Yanaung (2) Quarter , North of (200) Bedded Hospital, Pyinmana
Nay Pyi Taw, Republic Union of the Republic of Myanmar
For Detailed information please contact:
Ms. Tin Moe Myint +95(0) 24821 (office telephone) +95(0) 24762 (office fax)
e-mail: flercproject.drrd@gmail.com and/or ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com

Panasonic joins firms stepping away from Huawei after US ban

TOKYO (Japan) — Japan's Panasonic said Thursday it would stop supplying some components to Huawei, joining a growing list of firms distancing themselves from the Chinese telecoms giant after a US ban over security concerns.

Japan's Toshiba also announced it was temporarily halting shipments to Huawei to check whether US-made parts were involved, in order to comply with Washington's new restrictions. The moves came a day after major Japanese and British mobile carriers said they would delay releasing new Huawei handsets, upping the pressure on the world's second-largest smartphone manufacturer.

In an official statement emailed to AFP, Panasonic said it had announced in an "internal notification" that it would "suspend transactions with Huawei and its 68 affiliates that were banned by the US government".

It declined to comment on "other transactions that are not banned by the US".

Asked about its opinion about the news, Huawei pointed to a statement on Panasonic's Chinese website that said the firm was supplying Huawei "normally" and doing so "strictly abiding by the relevant laws and regulations of countries and regions where Panasonic is present". Washington's restrictions affect products made fully or partially in the United States, where Panasonic manufactures some of its components.

Toshiba meanwhile said it had temporarily halted shipments to Huawei while it checks if they include US-made parts.

"We will resume shipments if we confirm our products don't use American-made parts," spokesman Takashi Ebina told AFP.

'Economic bullying'

Last week, Donald Trump declared a national emergency to bar US companies from using foreign telecoms equipment deemed a security risk.

The move appeared aimed at Huawei, though the White House said no particular company or country was targeted.

The Commerce Department has also announced an effective ban on US companies selling or transferring US technology to Huawei. The moves have prompted a parade of firms to step back from dealings with Huawei, including Google, whose Android operating system powers most of the world's smartphones. And on Wednesday, mobile carriers in Japan and Britain said they were delaying releases of Huawei handsets.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi denounced the US moves and said Beijing would "fight to the very end" in its trade war with Washington.

"The US use of state power to arbitrarily exert pressure on a private Chinese company like Huawei is typical economic bullying," Wang said Wednesday at a meeting in Kyrgyzstan.

Telecoms giant EE, owned by BT, had been due to bring Huawei's first 5G phone, the Huawei Mate 20X, to Britain, but chief executive Marc Allera said Wednesday the company had "paused" the launch.

The delay would last "until we get the information and confidence and the long-term security that our customers... are going to be supported", he said.—AFP ■

President Donald Trump has effectively banned US companies from supplying Huawei and affiliates with critical components. **PHOTO: AFP**

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini of the anti-immigrant League and Marine Le Pen of France's far-right Rassemblement National (RN) want their Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF) group to become the third largest in Brussels. **PHOTO: AFP**

Populists eye upsets as Brexit-bound UK, Netherlands kick off EU elections

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Voters in Brexit-bound Britain cast ballots Thursday at the start of a 28-nation European election in which eurosceptic, anti-immigration forces have vowed to create a political earthquake that will shake the Brussels establishment.

As Britain's prime minister faced losing her job over her failed efforts to quit the bloc, the country joined the Netherlands on the first-day of a four-day election across the European Union.

It was an extraordinary spectacle for a country that voted almost three years ago to leave the bloc and whose prime minister, Theresa May, had vowed to honour the result in time to avoid the election.

The Brexit crisis mirrored deep divisions across the continent.

Rising anti-establishment forces across the continent are bidding to make significant gains, threatening closer EU integration.

More than 400 million European voters are eligible to elect 751 Members of the European Parliament, with the first results announced late Sunday once voting in all 28 member states has been completed.

Having voted to leave the EU in a seismic referendum in 2016, Britain was originally meant to depart on March 29 and therefore not take part in these elections.

But its MPs have not been able to agree on a divorce deal and the country now finds itself in the absurd situation of electing lawmakers to an institution it is planning to leave.

The issue looked set to dominate how Britons vote.

"Once you've made a decision to leave I felt that we should have executed it," said Neil Rodford, 49, as he cast his ballot in southwest London.

The Brexit Party, formed only this year by eurosceptic figurehead Nigel Farage, is leading the latest opinion polls with 37 percent of the vote.

Amid widespread frustration at Britain's stalled departure from the the EU and political gridlock, the ruling Conservatives are in fifth place with just seven percent while the Labour opposition also lag behind on 13.

"We are attempting a peaceful political revolution in this country," Farage told the party's final rally this week.

"The establishment: they're not frightened — they're absolutely terrified!" he said of his new party's rise. —AFP ■

Hundreds detained, deaths reported amid Indonesia election protests

JAKARTA — Hundreds of people were detained and some deaths have been reported in violent protests that broke out in Indonesia's capital Wednesday following the announcement of the final results of last month's presidential election.

In the early evening, there was a resumption of rock throwing by hundreds of rioters gathered around Bawaslu, Indonesia's election monitoring body, where protesters have been gathered since Tuesday morning.

Police said a total of 257 protesters had been detained, including 166 in West Jakarta where mobs carrying Molotov cocktails, rocks and firecrackers set fire to a police dormitory and dozens of cars.

Unsuccessful presidential candidate PrabowoSubianto and Jakarta Gov. AniesBaswedan, his staunch supporter, claimed that at least six people were killed in violence early Wednesday, with authorities trying to confirm the facts. "Please stop! Please help us. We are not going to fire tear gas, but please stop throwing stones at us!" Central Jakarta Police Chief Harry Kurniawan told the mobs there, while at the same time asking security personnel to restrain themselves.

The police had earlier in the day used tear gas to try to disperse the protesters, composed mainly of supporters of Prabowo.— Kyodo News ■

Amazon shareholders support selling face recognition tech to police

Seattle-based Amazon developed facial-recognition technology called Rekognition and sells it as part of its cloud services unit. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — Amazon on Wednesday confirmed that shareholders rejected proposals to prohibit sales of facial recognition technology to governments and study how it might threaten privacy or civil rights.

The proposals voted down at Amazon's annual stockholders meeting were put forth by a group of shareholders but opposed by the board of directors.

Seattle-based Amazon developed facial-recognition technology called Rekognition and sells it as part of its cloud services unit. Several police departments have tested Rekognition, and Amazon is reportedly marketing the technology to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, where it could be used to profile or surveil immigrants, the proposal contended.

The proposal called on the Amazon board of directors to ban sales of facial recognition technology to government agencies unless it concluded, based on independent evidence, that it would not contribute to violations of civil or human rights.

Amazon is mindful of the need to balance the benefits of facial recognition technology with potential risks, the board argued in opposition to the proposal."New technology should not be banned or condemned because of its potential misuse," the board said in a statement of opposition in the shareholder proxy.

"Instead, there should be open, honest, and earnest dialogue among all parties involved to ensure that the technology is applied appropriately and is continuously enhanced."

Another proposal rejected by shareholders called for an independent study of Rekognition to assess the extent to which such technology could endanger privacy or civil rights, or disproportionately target people of color, immigrants or activists in the United States.

Rekognition is hosted at Amazon data centers in the internet cloud, and its capabilities are sold as services to subscribers who don't download the software, keeping it in Amazon's control.

Amazon said that in the more than two years that Rekognition launched, there have been no reports of Rekognition being misused in ways laid out in the shareholder proposals."The recent failures of Facebook to engage in sufficient content and privacy management, and the resulting economic impacts to that company should be taken as sufficient warning: it could happen to Amazon," supporters of the proposal argued.

A fresh ban on facial recognition for law enforcement in San Francisco highlights growing public concerns about technology which is seeing stunning growth for an array of applications while provoking worries over privacy.

Facial recognition technology uses a scan of a person's face to create an algorithm that is compared against a database. It can be used to unlock a smartphone or vehicle, pay in retail stores, verify identities at bank machines or develop customized fashion or beauty recommendations.

But its use in law enforcement has created the greatest outcry among rights activists because of the potential for errors and mismatches, and because the technology relies on vast databases that may have little or no oversight. —AFP ■

One billion year old fungi found is Earth's oldest

Of the 550 gigatonnes of biomass on Earth, fungi make up 12 Gt – more than six times all animals combined. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS (France) — Scientists have unearthed fossilised fungi dating back up to one billion years, in a discovery that could reshape our understanding of how life on land evolved, research showed Wednesday.

For decades, the earliest known fungi — organisms such as mushrooms, mould and yeast — was thought to have appeared on earth around half a billion years ago.

But recent fossil specimens unearthed in Canada and analysed using the latest dating technology appear to push back fungi's arrival to the earliest reaches of life on land.

Corentin Loron, a PhD student from the University of Liege, Belgium, and colleagues examined the microfossils to determine the chemical composition of their cells.

They found the presence of chitin — a fibrous substance that forms on fungal cell walls — and examined the age of the rock the fossils were found in by its ratio of radioactive elements.

They concluded the microfossils were between 900 million and one billion years old.

Loron said the finding was significant because in the "tree of life", fungi are part of the same umbrella group of organisms — known as Eukaryotes — as plants and animals.

"This means that if fungi are already present around 900-1000 million years ago, so should animals have been," he told AFP.

"This is reshaping our vision of the world because those groups are still present today. Therefore, this distant past, although very different from today, may have been much more 'modern' than we thought."

Fungi remain one of the most abundant organisms on the planet and are the third largest contributor to global biomass after plants and bacteria.

It is six times heavier than the mass of all animals combined — including humans.

The study was published in the journal Nature.—AFP ■

Aussie scientists confirm efficacy of silicon for quantum computing

SYDNEY — A team of Aussie scientists have made a world-first breakthrough, proving for the first time the accuracy of silicon two-qubit operations and confirming the promise of silicon for the future of quantum computing.

The study involved researchers from the University of New South Wales led by Prof. Andrew Dzurak."All quantum computations can be made up of one-qubit operations and two-qubit operations, they're the central building blocks of quantum computing," Dzurak explained.

"Once you've got those, you can perform any computation you want, but the accuracy of both operations needs to be very high."The team were able to achieve an average two-qubit gate fidelity of 98 percent in silicon, a high enough level of accuracy to bring full-scale quantum computers one step closer to reality. Dzurak says that the success of the study is proof that silicon as a technology platform is ideal for scaling up to the large numbers of qubits needed for universal quantum computing.

While silicon has been used for close to 60 years in the computing industry, it was not yet known if it would be readily adaptable to the new quantum technology. —Xinhua■

NASA spacecraft finds changes in Jupiter's magnetic field

LOS ANGELES — Jupiter's internal magnetic field is changing over time, a phenomenon observed by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the first time outside of the Earth, the agency has said.

The phenomenon, called secular variation, was detected by NASA's Juno spacecraft orbiting Jupiter, according to a release of the agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on Monday.

Juno determined that Jupiter's secular variation is most likely driven by the planet's deep atmospheric winds, the report said.

The winds, believed to shear the magnetic field, extend from the planet's surface to over 1,860 miles (about 3,000 km) deep, where the planet's interior begins changing from gas to highly conductive liquid metal. —Xinhua ■

Myanmar grabs gold at Thailand Open Track & Field 2019

TEAM Myanmar won one gold, four silver, and two bronze medals at the Thailand Open Track & Field 2019. Aye Aye Aung, who won the gold medal in the 1,500-metres women's event in the tourney, arrived at the Yangon International Airport with her teammates on Wednesday. Aye Aye Aung clocked in 4:55.34 minutes to win the 1,500-meter women's event. Myanmar's Swe Li Myint (2:15.19) won the silver medal in the 800-meter women's event.

In the women's 400x4 meters relay event, Aye Aye Aung, Swe Li Myint, Thi Thi Mon, and Aye Aye Than grabbed the silver medal, finishing the race in 3:58.0 minutes. Thi Thi Mon (57.60) won the bronze medal in the women's 400-meter event,, while Aye Aye Than (4:59.74) won the bronze medal in the women's 1,500-meter event. Thar Si Kyaw (9:57.34) won the silver medal in the men's 3,000-meter event.

Shine Aung (4:01.66) also grabbed a silver medal in the men's 1,500-meter event. The winners were welcomed by the Director of Sports and Physical Education Science (Yangon), U Soe Aung, officials, and students from Sports and Physical Education Science (Yangon).—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanma track and field medalists pose for a group photo with officials at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO : MNA**

AFC U-19 Women's Championship: Myanmar to face three Asian football giants

TEAM Myanmar will take on three Asian football giants, Japan, China, and Republic of Korea, in the final stage of the AFC U-19 Championship 2019, Thailand, according to the official drawing ceremony, which was conducted in Chonburi, Thailand on Thursday.

Eight teams which qualified in the previous rounds of the championship have been divided into two groups: A and B.

Myanmar has been placed in Group B with Japan, China, and Republic of Korea, and faces a tough fight for advancing to the final.

Defending champion Japan is a five-time winner, and China and Republic of Korea are also the toughest teams at the Asian level.

Meanwhile, host Thailand team has been placed in Group A along with Viet Nam, Australia, and DPR Korea.

Myanmar U-19 national women's football team seen at the previous qualifiers for AFC U-19 Championship 2019. **PHOTO : MFF**

DPR Korea were crowned champions in 2007 and runners-up in the 2017 edition of the championship. Myanmar will play against Japan on 28 October, China PR on 31 October, and the Republic of Korea on 3 November at the IPE Chonburi Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand.

The two best teams from each group will enter the finals, which will be held on 9 November, according to the AFC. In addition, the best teams will advance to the 2020 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup, scheduled to be held next year, said a source with the AFC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Australia name NBA star-studded Basketball World Cup squad

SYDNEY (Australia) — Philadephia 76ers star Ben Simmons headlines an NBA player-dominated preliminary Australia squad announced Thursday for this year's Basketball World Cup in China. Nine US-based players form the core of the 17-man Boomers squad, including Andrew Bogut of NBA champions Golden State Warriors, Joe Ingles of the Utah Jazz, Patty Mills of the San Antonio Spurs and another 76er, Jonah Bolden.

The NBA has seen a record number of Australian players this year and the Boomers are being touted as the strongest from the country to play at a World Cup. "No doubt, we have the opportunity to put a great team on the floor and that's exciting," head coach Andrej Lemanis said in a statement. "The depth of talent in Australian basketball means that some tough decisions are made at this point and some very good players miss out," Lemanis added after several hopefuls from Australia's national competition were overlooked. Simmons' 76ers lost the Eastern Conference semi-finals after an incredible game seven buzzer-beater by the Toronto Raptor's Kawhi Leonard earlier this month.—AFP ■

MFF Women's League: Late goal by Khin Mar Lar Tun helps ISPE beat Myawady

THE Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) team beat the Myawady team 1-0 in the Week 11 match of the MFF Women's League 2018-2019, held yesterday at the South Dagon Stadium in Yangon.

ISPE's victory hinged on a late goal by Khin Mar Lar Tun just before the end of the game. The match was a crucial one with both teams fighting for the first place on the table of the Women's League.

Both teams played energetically from the kickoff, and put up a strong defence.

Despite the teams making an all-out effort, the first half ended with a scoreless result. In the early minutes of the game, Myawady F.C. tried to gain control of the ball, but ISPE's systematic counterattacks kept Myawady defenders busy.

The second half was more active with tricky play by the ISPE team, who resorted to new tactics.

In speedy play, ISPE strikers tried to score, but their chances evaporated against the massive defense put up by Myawady F.C.

The teams were equally placed right till the end, when ISPE captain Khin Mar Tun managed to land the winning goal at the 90-plus-2-minute mark.

The win helped boost the confidence of ISPE, who have been cherishing the dream of winning the MFF Women League 2018-2019 championship.

With the win, ISPE is in the first place, followed by Myawady F.C. in the second place.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■