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Monday, 27 May 2019

New inter-village tar road in Ayeyawady cuts travel time and costs to residents



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Minister U Han Zaw and officials open the new inter-village tar road in Kyonbyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN INTER-VILLAGE tar road was opened in Kyonbyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday, as part of the rural roads, bridges, rural economic and transport development project.

Undertaken by the Department of Rural Road De-

velopment (DRRD), with aid provided by the World Bank under the emergency rehabilitation program against floods and landslides, the tar road connecting the villages of Shan Zu-Chaung Zauk-Hle Zeik-Moe Gyo Pyit was commissioned by dignitaries, including Manh Win

Khaing Than, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker Manh Win Khaing Than said, "Under the emergency rehabilitation program, DRRD of the Ministry of Construction has been rebuilding and upgrading rural roads destroyed by natural

disasters in Magway, Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, with an interest-free loan of US\$ 70 million disbursed by the World Bank." The emergency rehabilitation program also deals with standardizing rural transport facilities.

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State Counsellor to visit Czech Republic, Hungary in near future

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay an official visit to the Czech Republic in the near future.

After the visit to the Czech Republic, the State Counsellor will proceed to Hungary to pay a working visit.—MNA ■

Conservationists honoured as no wild elephants killed in past year in Yangon Region

The Yangon Region Government honoured conservationists for their work in wild elephant conservation, noting that no wild elephant was killed from April 2018 to April 2019. In Myanmar, from 2010 to 2018, 227 elephants died, and of these, 124 were killed by poachers, according to statistics disclosed at the event. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein presented certificates of honour to the conservationists at the ceremony.—Thi Thi Min ■





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New inter-village tar road in Ayeyawady cuts travel time and ...



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of inter-village tar road in Kyonpyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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“As for the upgrading and maintaining the rural roads and bridges, we must acquire aids and loans from our development partners, apart from the funds allotted by the Union,” he said , adding that the Hluttaws should also set up funds for the purpose.

“Fifty percent of the villages of the country are accessible by all-weather roads; and 36 percent, by summer-only dirt roads.

But the remaining 14 percent is not connected with any proper roads,” the Speaker noted.

He then continued to say that the importance of the transport improvement of the rural areas where 70 percent of the population of the country lived.

“As the inter-village tar road, which is a part of the WB-aided emergency rehabilitation program, is now serving as an all-weather road for the rural

people of Ayeyawady Region, the local government and public are responsible for maintaining the facility”, he stressed.

The 14-kilometer long Shan Zu-Chaung Zauk-Hle Zeik-Moe Gyo Pyit village-to-village tar road directly benefits 10,627 persons of 2487 households of 17 villages in and around Kyonbyaw Township. Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw also gave a speech, saying that under

the agreement signed with the World Bank, the global financial body would provide US\$ 70 million as an interest-free loan to rebuild over 189 miles of rural roads and 29 bridges, destroyed by a certain kinds of unforeseen and uncontrollable natural forces in 2015, in 43 townships of Magway, Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

“The Shansu-Chaung-sauk-Hleseik-Moegyopyit village-to-village road cuts travelling time and cost of the rural people,” he said, stressing the importance of maintaining such standard rural transport facilities for their durability.

The Union Minister elaborated on the ministry’s role in maintaining 55,507 miles of rural roads and 24,183 rural bridges in the country which had 63,889 villages; and upgrading 2,838 miles of rural roads into 306 miles of concrete roads, 328 miles of tar roads, 425 miles of gravel roads, 1086 miles of laterite roads, and 694 miles of dry-weather roads, and 1498 rural bridges into 470 concrete bridges, 908 box culverts, 37 bailey bridges and 80 other types of bridges.

As the task of building, upgrading and repairing rural roads and bridges was enormous, the

Ministry of Construction had been working hand in hand with the relevant ministries and development partners, he said.

Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung of Ayeyawady Region explained the regional development and transport improvement undertakings.

Mr. Mark Austin, the Representative of Country Management of the World Bank, extended greetings, and Ms. Hinerike Brecht, the Task Team Leader, explained points of the Shansu-Chaungsauk-Hleseik-Moegyopyit road project. A local expressed thanks for the rural road, and assured collective protection and maintenance of the facility.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Minister U Han Zaw, Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Region MP Mahn Johnny, Director-General of DRRD U Khin Thet, and Mr. Mark Austin and Ms. Hinerike Brecht of World Bank formally opened the road and posed for documentary photos together with the local people.

Thanks to the facility, the transport improvement will surely propel development in multiple fields including social, economic, education and health sector of the rural people. —MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

MoI Deputy Minister meets with IPRD staff in Bawlake, Loikaw districts

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun inspected township offices of the Information and Public Relations Department in Bawlake, Pasawng, Meisei in Bawlake District and Dimawhso in Loikaw District

yesterday.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister urged employees of the IPRD to live and work happily, to get along with people they come across, and to collaborate with local Civil Society Organizations

and other departments for the benefits of their region, to be cautious about security and to put works of the staff on record systematically and truthfully.— MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun meets with employees of the Information and Public Relations Department in Pasawng Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

OFFICE OF THE
INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY

Press Release
26 May 2019

THE Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) held its ninth meeting from 25 to 26 May 2019 in Yangon.

The Commission discussed with Mr. Richard Horsey regarding his experience and work in Northern Rakhine. The Commission also met with Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing, Director of Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNH).

The meeting discussed its Plan of Action for ICOE’s second visit to Rakhine State. The ICOE intends to intensify its fact-finding and deliberated its modalities of enquiry.

The ICOE discussed Evidence Collection and Verification Team’s (ECVT) proposed programme in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh and will be forwarding this information to the Bangladesh authorities.

ICOE had intensive discussions on its preliminary report which will be submitted to President of Myanmar.

Office of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE)
Nay Pyi Taw
26 May 2019

Experts rally for Bagan's inclusion in World Heritage List

"If Bagan gets included in UNESCO's World Heritage List, it will increase our national integrity and promote tourism," said U Thein Lwin, the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

He made the remark during an event, arranged by Myanmar Tourism Directory Association, on campaigning for the inclusion of Bagan on UNESCO's 2019 World Heritage List and a general discussion on noteworthy things in Bagan, held at the Minister's

Building in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, yesterday evening.

Talking to the journalists in attendance, U Thein Lwin also said foreign tourists mainly come to Myanmar to visit Bagan and upgrading it from a national heritage to a world heritage ranking will significantly boost tourism. This in turn will create more jobs for the local residents and promote businesses related to tourism, he added.

Authorities have been applying for Bagan's inclusion on the World Heritage List since 1996



Dhamma Ya Zi Ka Pagoda in Bagan. PHOTO: POE THANT

but have been dismissed for not meeting certain standards or requirements. But now, the Department of Archaeology and Na-

tional Museum is applying again in 2018 with all the requirements having been met, said U Thein Lwin. Whether Bagan will be included on the world heritage list will be decided at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in July this year.

Daw Ommar Myo, an expert on heritage preservation, said they have been collaborating with domestic and foreign experts since 2013 to formulate a management system for inserting Bagan in the world heritage list. She said Bagan has an exceptionally high chance of entering the list as it holds unique cultural value and architecture and over three to four thousand structures, all in one place.

Daw Ommar Myo also said Bagan will be protected from even international fighting within

its area if its included in the world heritage list. They would also receive the necessary technological assistance to preserve Bagan in line with international standards. She added that universities and research departments around the world would be able to conduct more research on Bagan. Three ancient Pyu cities were entered into the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2014. If Bagan makes it into the list, authorities say they will campaign for including MraukU Region into the list in 2020.

Panellists at the event included management expert Mr. Kai Weise, Daw Ommar Myo, U Thein Lwin, U Myo Swe Than from 'Bagan in Our Heart', and U Thura Aung, Secretary of the Myanmar Archaeology Association. —Min Thit, Thant Zin Win ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Holiday-makers visit the pagodas in Bagan, which is submitted for inclusion in the UNESCO's World Heritage List. PHOTO: POE THANT

Mandalay General Hospital commemorates World Digestive Health Day 2019

THE Gastroenterology Department of Mandalay General Hospital organized a commemora-

tion event and health seminar for World Digestive Health Day 2019 at the Myanmar Medical

Association's Yadanarbon Hall, in Mandalay, yesterday.

Present at the event were

the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, the Deputy Speaker of the regional Hluttaw, Dr. Khin Maung Htay, regional cabinet members, the rector and professors of Mandalay's University of Medicine, the head of the regional public health department and its officials, hospital superintendents, the Chairman of the Myanmar Gastroenterology Association, Dr. Nwe Ni, medical specialists, and invited guests.

Firstly, the Chief Minister and Rector cut ceremonial ribbons to formally open the event, took a commemorative photo with participants, and observed the photographs on exhibit.

Next, a seminar commenced under the title "Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer" with the Mandalay Chief Minister delivering the opening speech. This was followed welcom-

ing remarks from Dr. Nwe Ni, an explanation on oesophageal cancer by Dr. Kyaw Lwin Aung Hmu from Mandalay General Hospital's Gastroenterology Department, an explanation on gastric cancer by Dr. Kyaw Sithu from the same department, on pancreatic cancer by Dr. Min Tun, and on colorectal cancer by Dr. Naing Lin, in addition to health trivia.

Afterwards, the panellists answered to questions from the audience, an awarding ceremony was held, the Gastroenterology Department's honorary professor Dr. Kyaw Hla delivered a closing speech, and a lucky draw programme for the attendees was held. Attendees could also get a free blood test at the event to check for stomach viruses. —Tin Maung (Mann Sub-printing House) ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



World Digestive Health Day 2019 event being convened in Mandalay yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS

Zaw Min

Zaw Htet Oo

Win Ko Ko Aung

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ye Htut Tin,

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),

nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

Hay Mar Tin Win,

Ei Myat Mon

Kyaw Zin Lin

Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER

Nyein Nyein Ei,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,

Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01) 8604529,

Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,

Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,

Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Plastics, netting removed from coral reefs in Kawthoung



Divers remove the plastic bags, fishing nets and garbages on reefs near Nayng Oo Phee Island in Myeik, Kawthoung District. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

AS part of efforts to conserve coral reefs, plastic, fishing nets and garbage on reefs near NyaungOoPhee Island in Kawthoung District in the Myeik Archipelago were removed by

volunteers yesterday, who were working for the third day.

A 10-member team of divers and support staff removed some 30 kg of waste from the coral reefs.

TZK Hotels and Tourism Company and NyaungOoPhee Hotel and Resort have sponsored clean ups of the reefs two to three times each tourism season for the past three years.

Ghost nets or ghost gear, also known as ALDFG (abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear), are becoming a serious problem for the health of coral reefs. —*Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)*

Eight fishermen killed after boats capsize in sea off Nant Thar Myaing Village, Thongwa Township

As it was reported eight bodies were found on the beach 6 miles east of the Mee laung creek, Nant Thar Myaing village, Thongwa Township, Yangon Region, Township Officer U Kyaw Myo Naing and Police officers went to the scene along with the witness.

At the scene, the victims were identified as U Kyaw Thu 40, U Kyaw Soe Lwin 25, Ko Soe Oo 40, Ko Luu Chaw 20, Ko Niang 47, Ko Tun Tun 53, Ko Naing Win 53, Ko Aung Aung 36.

According to survivor helmsmen Ko Aung Than Win and Ko Kyaw Htoo Aung,

the victims came from Alote village, in Paung Township, Mon state, and they went fishing by two boats on 26th May 12:05 am and got caught in the whirlwind that wracked their boats while they catching fish in the sea.

During investigation, no

external injuries were found rather than signs of drowning.

It was reported Thongwa Myoma Police Station opened case to find out whether they died of natural cause or not. —*Ko Kyaw (Thongwa)*

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Myanmar Nautical Association to help seafarers improve English proficiency

THE Myanmar Nautical Association (MNA) will help local seafarers improve their English language skills free of charge.

This programme was announced following the MNA meeting held on 25 May in Yangon.

Regarding the new pro-

gramme, Captain U San Moe Aung, an executive member of the MNA, said, "Our association will help improve English language proficiency of Myanmar seafarers through suitable means."

As per the MNA, there are currently about 42,000 My-

anmar seafarer employees, including 17,000 officers. The MNA will conduct a survey prior to its programme to improve the English language among seafarers who have returned to Myanmar.

English language proficiency is vital for those seafarers

wishing to join overseas shipping companies.

Formed in 2011, the Myanmar Nautical Association helps its member seafarers by sharing knowledge and experience.—*Myint Maung Soe* ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Five dead in tug boat sinking in Chindwin River



Sinking tug boat in the Chindwin River yesterday.

PHOTO: POLICE FORCE

A tug boat pulling the log barge sank in the Chindwin River

yesterday, killing five people, officials said.

The tug boat pulling the log barge collided with the cargo vessel, according to township police.

Sub-inspector Moe Min Tun said the accident happened in the early hours of Sunday (May 26), between pier Nos. P3 and P4 of the Chindwin bridge. Carrying 11 people, the tug boat collided with a cargo vessel sailing in the river in the same direction. Following the accident, the tug boat sank in the river, leaving five people dead, including the boat's helmsman.

Subsequently, five bodies were found and six passengers were rescued, by a search-and-rescue team, he added.

U Myo Win, a passenger on the boat, said both vessels collided while they were sailing in the same direction. The rear-seat passengers escaped, as they jumped from the boat during the accident, but people seated in the front perished. —*Police Force* ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar fish breeders need to adhere to GAqP for EU market

AS Myanmar's farmed fish is now allowed for exporting to the European Union, breeders are preparing to follow requirements to ensure Myanmar fishery products meet the regulations of importing countries, including the European Union (EU), according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF). To ensure the safety of all food, the European market requires suppliers to have Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practice (GAqP) certificates. Myanmar has only a small number of entrepreneurs who hold those certificates, so, fish breeders are preparing for this.

In a bid to meet EU import standards, fishery products must be produced by only those hatcheries that are compliant with Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP). MFF is working together with fish farmers, processors and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, to develop a GAqP system.

"Myanmar is able to export products, such as fish, prawn and

crabs to the EU. Yangon supplies freshwater fish and fish farmers in Ayeyawady place their freshwater fish, prawn and soft-shell crabs in the export market. Those products are required to meet the criteria and to comply with regulations of the market", said U Win Kyaing, secretary of MFF, on 15 May. Regarding the food safety of fishery products, processors can screen their products at ISO accredited laboratories serving under the Fisheries Department.

Earlier, breeders did not understand GAqP. Now, they are acquainted with its regulations, and some breeders are trying to implement GAqP to export their products to more foreign markets. Other businessmen are practising mixed farming, with fish and other livestock, such as broiler chickens and pigs. This kind of farming is rejected by some foreign countries. To penetrate the global market, GAqP is a must for breeders, said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin, vice president of Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF), speaking to the Global New Light of Myanmar last year.



Fishermen catch fishes with net in a breeding pond in Thaton.
PHOTO : KHUN (WIN PA)

Earlier, only fish caught in the wild were permitted for export to the EU market. There are more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar, of which 23 have been permitted to export fish caught in the wild to the EU, and those wild fish are flown into the UK, Italy, France, Cyprus, Netherlands, Sweden, Greece,

Belgium and German markets.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country. Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 foreign countries, including countries in the European Union, China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand. In the 2017-2018 FY, some 568,227

tonnes of fishery products, worth US\$717.7 million, were exported, according to MFF statistics. Myanmar shipped fishery products worth \$533.29 million to foreign countries over the past seven and half months (Oct-May) of current fiscal year 2018-2019, Commerce Ministry data showed.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

China electronic enterprises prepping to invest in Myanmar

CHINA'S electronic enterprises are eyeing Myanmar's market, as the country has eased investment rules and regulations to promote foreign investments. Beginning on Saturday, Myanmar-China Electrical Appliances Expo was being held at the Myanmar Expo at the corner of Minanda Road and Thumana Road. Regional Hluttaw representatives and officials from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Chinese entrepreneurs formally opened the expo by cutting ribbons yesterday. "China electronic compa-

nies jointly exhibiting their electronic appliances in Myanmar. More than 20 factories joined the expo. This is a first step for Chinese electronic manufacturers to invest in Myanmar", said a local participant. More than 200 electronic appliances, such as rice cookers, TVs, fans, and electric pans, are being displayed at the expo. This three-day expo will be held until 28 May. The public can attend the expo free of charge, and attendees may purchase Chinese electronic appliances.—Myint Soe ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mineral exports down 24% in current FY

MYANMAR'S export of minerals totalled US\$966 million in the current Fiscal Year 2018-2019, a decline in value by over \$300 million, or 24 per cent, from the corresponding period last 2017-2018 FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Between 1 October and 19 May, this FY, the public exporters sold mineral products amounting to \$336 million, declining by nearly \$275 million from this time last FY. Also this FY, the private sector's export of the same stood at \$630 million, decreasing by nearly \$30 million against the same period last FY.

At this time last FY, the country's mineral exports exceeded \$1.2 billion, including \$611.6 million reported by the public sector and \$660.2 million by the private sector.

Other products which saw a downward trend in export growth in the current FY contained forest-based products and other miscellaneous products. Compared with last FY, the current export value of forest products declined slightly by \$12 million, whereas the export of miscellaneous items this FY dropped by about \$300 million.

During the 2018 mini-budget

period between April and September, the country's export of mineral products was pegged at \$1.034 billion.

As per the ministry's yearly trade report, mineral exports were valued at \$897 million in the 2011-2012FY, \$399 million in the 2012-2013FY, \$1.339 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$1.498 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$968 million in the 2015-2016FY, and \$1.010 billion in the 2016-2017FY.

Myanmar exports minerals mainly to China and Thailand.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Over 4,900 tons of mangoes go to China from Muse border in one week



Customers choose mangoes at the fresh fruit market in Muse.
PHOTO : THANT ZIN (MUSE)

MYANMAR exported 4,970 tons of mangoes to China through Muse 105th mile border trade zone in the second week of this month,

earning 2,000-9,800 Chinese yuan (K434,000-K2.13 million) per ton, according to border trade authorities. Exporters have earned a

handsome price from the sale of domestically produced mangos through Sino-Myanmar border gate during this season. The market saw a gradual increase in export volume of mangos as against the previous weeks.

Based on quality and freshness, a ton of mango was priced at 2,000-9,800 Chinese yuan (K434,000-K2.13 million) in the Muse border market during the week between 8 and 14 May when the exchange rate of Myanmar Kyat against Chinese yuan is

K221-K226 per yuan. In the first week of this month, mangos were sold at 2,500-9,000 Chinese yuan (K543,500-1.95 million) per ton. During the week, Myanmar sold 1,380 tons of mangos to neighbouring China. Between 8-14 May, Myanmar also exported 3,068 tons of watermelons and sweet potatoes weighing 192 tons from the same border gates, according to the wholesale fruits and vegetables suppliers. According to the Ministry of Commerce's statistical report, the border trade value

from the Muse station as of 17 May exceeded US\$3 billion, a decline in value by over \$700 million in comparison with the corresponding period a year ago. Roughly, there are 250,000 acres of mango plantations throughout the country and 200,000 acres of plantations can yield about 700,000 tons of mangoes. Myanmar's mangoes are sent mainly to China and India, followed by Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Japan.—Shwe Khine ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Seminar on Knowledge Sharing for Better Dams held in Yangon

MYANMAR National Commission on Large Dams (MNCLD) held the Seminar on Knowledge Sharing for Better Dams in Yangon yesterday.

In his address, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu said, "The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to the sharing of professional information and knowledge of the design, construction, maintenance, and impact of large dams."

"It was founded in 1928 and has its central office in Paris, France. It consists of 100 member national committees, he added.

The members had already presented 32 research papers including nine papers that were read here, he said.

The Union Minister, on behalf of nation and the public, lauded thanked the members of the commission, who retired from their respective departments, for

their intellectual and physical efforts, based on their technological and general knowledge, for the national and public interest. He also honoured all the resource persons of his ministry and Yangon University of Technology.

Chairman of Myanmar ICOLD U Win Maung explained the purpose of establishing ICOLD.

U Myo Myint, a resource person, read a paper on Opinion Pieces Relating to Safety of Large Dams, and answered the questions raised by the participants.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu presented a certificate of honour to U Myo Myint, former Deputy Minister for Electric Power, for his paper. He then posed for group documentary.

Nine persons read papers on dams at the seminar.

Also present were patrons and members of the MNCLD, officials of the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu delivers the speech at Seminar on Knowledge Sharing for Better Dams in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Management, experts in the field of water and interested persons.

Accompanied by Permanent Secretary of the ministry Dr Khin Zaw, Director-General of Fisheries Department U Khin Maw Maw and officials, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu visited the fisheries science school project in Twantay and met with officials of the con-

tractors. He urged them to build the school in accordance with the set standards.

Director-General U Khin Maw Maw and officials of the contractors conducted the Union Minister and party round the project.

In response to the reports, the Union Minister said that the

school will be the first of its kind in the major fishery zone located between Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. So, the standard will be its image as well as the reputation of the contractors. Contractors should make themselves ready for any quality and financial inspections, he noted.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Two new bridges benefit residents in Sagaing Region, Chin State



Over 700 feet long Nanp Pagun Bridge seen on the Thakkekyin-Phaungpyin-Homelin-Kamti Road.

TWO bridges on a road linking upper Sagaing Region and Chin

State were inaugurated yesterday by Sagaing Region Chief

Minister Dr. Myint Naing. Nanp Pagun Bridge lo-

cated between the Mile Posts No. 258/0 and 258/1 is on the Thakkekyin-Phaungpyin-Homelin-Kamti Road. The over 700 ft long bridge is the iron-reinforced type bridge, and can withstand about 60 tons of load.

Nant Sapi Bridge located at the Mile Post No. 253/4 and 253/5 is 420 ft long and it can withstand about 60 tons of load.

Thanks to the completion of the two bridges, the residents in the Naga Self-Administered Zone and upper Sagaing Region can get easy accessible to border town Moreh in India and Tamu in Sagaing Region.

About 330-mile long Thakkekyin-Phaungpyin-Homelin-Kamti Road and over 60-

mile long PhaungPyin-Pinlebu Road have been upgraded to all-weather roads.

Upgrading of the 70-mile long Monywa-Yargyi-Kalewa Road is expected to be completed by October, 2020, and upon completion of the road, the road transportation between Myanmar and India will also smooth. Meanwhile, over 90-mile long, Kantbalu-Kyunhla-Chatthin-Kawlin-Wuntho-Indaw Road and over 100-mile long YeU-Kalewa Road is given second priority for upgrading to all-weather infrastructure and the work are targeted to be completed in 2030-2031 fiscal year.—Tun Ko Ko (Yinmarbin)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

EII Pilot Project launched

The Social Security Board of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population launched the Employment Injury Insurance (EII) Pilot Project in collaboration with International Labour Organization at Awel Metta Hotel in Yangon. At the event, Yangon Region Minister Labour and Rakhine Ethnic Affairs, U Zaw Aye Maung and Liaison Officer—Rory Mungoven (ILO) delivered key note speeches.

Then, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour, Immigra-

tion and Population Dr. Myo Aung said that EII Pilot will be tested in Hlinethaya township and Pyi Gyi Ta Kun township, Mandalay from 1st January 2019 to December. During the trial period, it will be monitored and evaluated, so the lessons learnt from the pilot will be used in extending the project to other regions and states. They will have other benefits too.

In the second section of the event, Senior Technical Officer Ms. Mariana Infante Villarroel detailed design of EII Pilot Pro-



Yangon Region Minister U Zaw Aye Maung and officials pose for a documentary photo at the launching ceremony of the Employment Injury Insurance Project in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ject and Director-General of SSB spoke of the current status of EII

Pilot Project. In Q and A section, official from SSB answered the

questions.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Iraq warns of 'danger of war' as Iranian FM visits

BAGHDAD (Iraq)—Iraqi leaders have warned of the risks of war during a visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, whose country is locked in a tense standoff with the United States.

Zarif's visit to neighbouring Iraq—which is caught in the middle of its two allies, the US and Iran—follows a decision by Washington to deploy 1,500 additional troops to the Middle East. "We are currently repelling all the efforts of war against Iran, whether economic or military," Zarif said at a joint press conference with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammed Ali al-Hakim.

"We will face them with strength and we will resist," he added. Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi warned of the "danger of a war" during a meeting with Zarif on Saturday night, his office said. Abdel Mahdi pleaded for the "stability of the region and the upholding of the nuclear deal," it said, referring to a 2015

agreement between Tehran and major powers. Iraqi President Barham Saleh discussed with Zarif "the need to prevent all war or escalation," his office said.

On Saturday, Zarif called the deployment of extra US troops to the region "very dangerous and a threat to international peace and security." It follows a US decision in early May to send an aircraft carrier strike force and B-52 bombers in a show of force against what Washington's leaders believed was an imminent Iranian plan to attack US assets.

Washington says the latest reinforcements are in response to a "campaign" of recent attacks including a rocket launched into the Green Zone in Baghdad, explosive devices that damaged four tankers near the entrance to the Gulf, and drone strikes by Yemeni rebels on a key Saudi oil pipeline. Iran has denied any involvement. On May 15, the United States ordered the



Washington has deployed an aircraft carrier group and B-52 bombers to the Gulf against what it claims is an imminent threat from Tehran Navy Office of Information. **PHOTO: AFP**

evacuation of non-emergency staff from its Baghdad embassy and Arbil consulate, citing an "imminent" threat from Iranian-linked armed groups in Iraq, two of which rejected the claim.

During the three-year battle

to oust the Islamic State group from Iraqi cities, Iran-backed Shiite militias on the ground effectively fought on the same side as US-led coalition warplanes in the skies. But since Iraq declared victory over the jihadists in De-

cember 2017, relations between Washington and Tehran have deteriorated sharply. In May last year, US President Donald Trump pulled out of the landmark nuclear deal with Iran and later re-instated tough sanctions. —AFP ■

Israel restores Gaza fishing zone to ease humanitarian crisis

JERUSALEM —Israel said it eased on Sunday fishing restrictions off the blockaded Gaza Strip with the aim of preventing a deterioration in humanitarian conditions in the Palestinian enclave.

The move came just three days after Israel had reduced the offshore fishing limits in response to Palestinians floating balloons fitted with incendiaries over the border.

COGAT, the defence ministry unit that oversees such regulations, said the fishing zone was being "expanded to 15 nautical miles," back up from 10.

It restores the fishing zone to the limits set in April ahead of Israel's general election, and is the largest allowed in years.

"This measure is part of the civilian policy for prevention of deterioration in humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip and is consistent with the policy of distinguishing between terrorists and

the unimplicated population," COGAT said in a statement.

Palestinians in Gaza have frequently floated balloons fitted with firebombs over the border to damage Israeli property and have succeeded in setting fire to large areas of farmland.

The additional nautical miles are important to Gaza fishermen as they bring more valuable, deeper water species within reach.

Around 80 percent of Palestinians in impoverished Gaza are reliant on international aid, according to the United Nations.

Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza have fought three wars since Hamas assumed power over the enclave more than a decade ago.

Four Israeli civilians and 25 Palestinians, including at least nine militants, were killed in an escalation earlier this month. —AFP ■



A bigger fishing zone is important to Gaza fishermen as it brings more valuable, deeper water species within reach. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sudan main opposition group rejects general strike call

KHARTOUM (Sudan)—Sudan's main opposition group and supporter of the protest movement Sunday rejected its call to stage a two-day general strike because of a deadlock in talks with the ruling military.

"We reject the general strike announced by some opposition groups" in the umbrella protest movement, the Alliance for Freedom and Change, the National Umma Party said in a statement.

Its opposition to the strike slated to start Tuesday was a sign of division between protest leaders at a time of deadlock in negotiations with army generals over installing a civilian administration. —AFP ■

India, Pakistan PMs speak for 1st time since air strikes

NEW DELHI (India)—The leaders of India and Pakistan spoke by phone on Sunday, their offices said, in their first conversation since before tit-for-tat air strikes in February, their worst bust-up in years.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated his counterpart Narendra Modi on his recent election victory, the two nuclear-armed arch foes said in separate statements.

Khan "expressed his desire for both countries to work together for the betterment of their peoples," Pakistan's foreign ministry said.

"Reiterating his vision for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia, the Prime Minister said he looked forward to working

with Prime Minister Modi to advance these objectives," it added.

Modi meanwhile "stressed that creating trust and an environment free of violence and terrorism were essential for fostering cooperation for peace, progress and prosperity in our region," India's foreign ministry said. In February a suicide bombing in Indian-administered Kashmir—divided between India and Pakistan since partition in 1947—claimed by a militant group based in Pakistan killed 40 Indian troops.

India and Pakistan then carried out tit-for-tat air strikes, but to the great relief of the international community the two countries retreated from the brink of further action. —AFP ■

Schools are a place for academic and social development

SCHOOLS are about to reopen for the academic year 2019-2020, and parents and students across the country are busy enrolling in schools during the registration period from 25 to 31 May.

Everywhere around the nation, people are encouraged to enroll children in schools, with authorities promoting the slogan: "Everyone must cooperate to ensure school-age children can access quality education without discrimination".

The Ministry of Education has also issued 17 statements on public media, notifying every principal, school faculty and relevant

official to maintain proper conduct during the 2019-2020 academic year, including a restriction on collecting or accepting any form of payment from students and their parents.

MoE – the Ministry of Education has also announced that their revised national curriculum will foster better discipline in students, greater love for their country, increased tolerance for cooperation, a sense of equality, and heightened innovative thinking and reasoning.

Physical education, art, music and social studies were previously extracurricular subjects, but are now upgraded to primary subjects in the new curriculum. Furthermore, authorities will have to provide necessary support to ensure each school has the required

facilities and equipment to teach these new subjects.

Nevertheless, the new curriculum is already aiming to transition from the previous education system into one in which students are taught and guided by skilled teachers to develop their mental capabilities and ability to find solutions to problems on their own. This will nurture a future generation of valuable citizens.

During her visit to Pynmana's Basic Education High School No.2 in Nay Pyi Taw on 21st May, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi remarked that our nation still had a long road ahead in development, but the chief priority remained reforming the education system. She said that it would be possible to catch up with other countries within a short period of time if the education system could be reformed. She also expressed her wish for our students to be smarter in a unique way to those in other nations, and for the country's students to excel in both academics and mental discipline.

Teachers and parents need to work with each other and with students to develop a positive learning environment for children, both at school and at home. This will create a positive attitude towards education and literature in students, and remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Schools are about to reopen and Grades 3 and 6 will begin teaching their new curriculum. No matter how good the curriculum becomes, it will not be of much use without skilled and capable teachers to fully utilize it. We wish for the Union government to increase its support to teachers, who are investing time and energy into the education sector and promoting the literacy and capabilities of the future generation of our country.



BIMSTEC: An Opportunity for International Collaboration, Cooperation, Coordination and Communication (4Cs) for Conservation of Regional Forests, Wildlife and Biodiversity

By S. K. BASU

(CONTINUED FROM
YESTERDAY'S ARTICLE)

Increased surveillance and joint monitoring can help reduce the level of criminal and insurgent activities along international borders; and bring peace, prosperity and tranquility between two countries while helping in long term conservation of local and regional ecosystems, forests, wildlife and biodiversity.

Some important recommendations suggested for BIMSTEC nations towards collaboration, co-operation, coordination, and communication (4Cs) for successful long term conservation of local forests, wildlife and biodiversity are listed below:

1. Joint Conservation Initiative (JCI) between adjacent member countries sharing international border could make a big difference between short or long term success or complete failure in the process of conservation efforts.
2. Conservation of natural resources could run hand in hand with the development of the local economy. BIMSTEC has huge potential for tourism promotion and development between member countries as the spectacular natural beauty, majestic flora and fauna and improved infrastructure could certainly help in more tourist footfall in these countries helping the economy to be developed steadily over time.
3. A part of the profit could be shared among the local communities and infrastructure

development; while the other could be used for the conservation of forest, wildlife and biodiversity. This could be a win-win situation for all as this will make the ecology and economy to be integrated together if planned judiciously and executed carefully with environmental assessment of the local ecosystems regularly and diligently.

4. BIMSTEC platform can boost up the security along the highly vulnerable and unguarded international border areas across land and water between adjacent member nations. Under monitored and porous international borders is an extremely serious issue involving the security of South and South East Asian countries for past several decades; since their independence from the former colonial rulers.
5. The border areas are exploited by insurgents, local goons and criminals, smugglers, drug, human and wildlife traffickers, poachers and several other anti social elements. This should lead to intelligence sharing between the immigration, customs, narcotics and forest departments, intelligence agencies, security forces and border guards on either side of the international border. This will build up better security and trust with the local communities on either side of the border; and help in curbing poaching as well as drug, wildlife and human trafficking.
6. Joint patrolling of the porous border areas by both countries



Crocodiles and alligators are some of the biggest reptiles on Earth. PHOTO: S. K. BASU



India is home to large family of monkeys species. An endangered langur monkey sitting on tree top. PHOTO: S. K. BASU

sharing international borders will also help in reduction and prevention of border area crimes (such as abduction, kidnapping, rapes, molestation, extortion and smuggling) successfully.

7. Additional monitoring and surveillance of the densely forested border areas or vast coastal zones by member nation together will reduce incidents of insurgent infiltration, pirates attacking commercial vehicles, poaching of fish and other marine resources by foreign groups in the deep ocean or in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) could be effectively handled.
8. High powered satellite and drone based aerial surveillance will also help alert member nations regarding potential security threats by insurgents or illegal migrants, traffickers (drug, wildlife and humans), potential natural and/or anthropogenic disasters (cyclones, floods, forest fires, earthquakes, tsunamis etc) in due time for proper management and handling of the situation. This will not only help in the conservation of local and regional forests, wildlife and biodiversity.
9. BIMSTEC can also help in establishing hospitals and medical facilities for the unfortunate remote, rural communities along the sensitive border or frontier areas where very little or no modern health care is available. The development of infrastructure like highways and railway networks, bridges, under passes and freeways, water based transpiration networks, building small, medium and large sized air ports and harbours at suitable places and



South Asia's snakes exhibit a remarkable diversity of colour, patterning, shape and size. PHOTO: S. K. BASU

locations will bring in employment and economic prosperity for the local communities.

10. Together with conventional tourism as well as ecotourism in the forested areas with spectacular natural beauty; there is ample opportunities for both long term and short term economic growth in all the member nations that will get better connectivity with one another over time.

11. The agreements between the member nations can be proactively used for establishing different forestry and wildlife conservation educational and research institutes for building research and development capability of individual member nations for protecting their unique ecosystems. Exchange of technology, expertise, tools and gadgets between member nations will further facilitate the roots of conservation in these countries deep enough to sustain and protect numerous vulnerable and extremely fragile ecosystems located in this region.

12. BIMSTEC platform should be also properly exploited for the purpose of mass education and awareness among the citizens of the member nations regarding the ecological and economical values of the local ecosystems, forests, wildlife and biodiversity in their local languages and dialects. This will help build positive attitude among the mass regarding the need and value of conservation and will also encourage them to come forward in the process as a stakeholder.

13. In addition to several priority centers being built in different member nations to fulfill the target objectives of BIMSTEC;

it is important to establish different nature and ecology interpretation centers, wildlife retention and rehabilitation centers too to facilitate conservation.

14. Such an effort will help to build awareness among the citizens for conservation; and will also encourage people to bring in injured or accidentally captured wildlife to the rescue centers for treatment, rehabilitation as well as their release in appropriate wilderness areas. These small efforts if considered cumulatively over a decade will have significant impact in protection of local ecosystems, forests, wildlife and biodiversity.

15. Students at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education in BIMSTEC member nations who are the new generation citizens will be particularly benefited by academic visits to such forest, ecosystem, wildlife and biodiversity interpretation as well as wildlife retention and rehabilitation centers through sensitization about ecological and environmental issues.

16. BIMSTEC platform can thus generate a new breed of future conservators, ecologists, foresters, teachers, veterinarians, lawyers, lawmakers and legislators to push forward the conservation agenda for protecting local and regional natural resources and help in promoting Joint Conservation Initiative (JCI) between participating governments by building positive opinion through people to people contact.

17. Thus better transport and communication as well as infrastructural development together with joint monitoring

and surveillance will help in the successful conservation of natural resources (forest, wildlife and biodiversity) as well as encourage reforestation (revegetation), afforestation and social forestry practices to bring in additional areas under forestry practices.

18. The latest IPCC report has indicated the rise of global temperature and consequent negative impacts of that on both ecology and economy. BIMSTEC provides a unique platform for member nations to join hands in their efforts protecting, conserving as well as increasing areas under forestry through joint efforts.
19. The BIMSTEC opportunity has significant role to play for the security and conservation of transboundary migrating mammals (elephants, tigers, leopards etc) and migratory birds between different member nations. This platform provides the opportunity to sign treaties and/or agreements in safeguarding mammal and bird migrations corridors and flight paths respectively through proper legal framework supported by respective parliamentary and/or judiciary process. This will secure wildlife that strays across the border and protect them with priority under proper joint legislative umbrella. This could also be easily extended to protect estuarine and marine flora and fauna among member nations that move from the water of one country into another.

20. The process will also help in marking international marine boundaries of member nations where applicable; and will prevent illegal exploitation of marine resources by third part

members or by a law violating member nation and help in marine conservation and will also establish peace and tranquility in the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea and the Indian Ocean region.

21. One of BIMSTEC's major priority objectives has been agriculture and this should be integrated with conservation of ecosystems, forests, wildlife and biodiversity in member nations. All BIMSTEC member nations suffer from some form of political instability and disturbances integrated with slow economic growth and exponential rise of human population putting extra pressure on the carrying capacity of their local natural ecosystems and environments.
22. Due to economic backwardness people settled in and around forested areas are heavily dependent on the local forest for their sustenance as well as livelihood. This heavy anthropogenic footprint on the local ecosystems is steadily depleting local forest of major and minor forest resources. Due to absence of any organized poultry, cattle and livestock people are dependent on the availability of bush meat as a cheap and significant source of their daily need for protein. This has been depleting local wildlife in several parts of BIMSTEC nations and need to be controlled urgently

23. Agricultural development in such areas and within such communities will certainly help reducing their heavy dependence on local forests for sustenance and livelihood; as agriculture will provide both food and employment for many of the marginal communities



A tiny freshwater crab *Amarinus lacustris* with three eyes. PHOTO: S. K. BASU

living in remote forested areas of the BIMSTEC member nations. This could a new initiative in integrating ecology and economy together.

24. Another important opportunity that can lead from this BIMSTEC platform is the exchange of related species and sub species between similar ecosystems and habitats across different member nations. There are strong similarities of species habitats across South and South East Asia. Many species had wide distribution across the region historically; but has now been restricted to distinct habitats within particular country due to numerous natural and anthropogenic factors. For example avian species like blue peafowl (popularly called peacocks) and antelope like blue bulls have now got wide distribution and substantially large populations in India due to successful conservation practices. Their numbers have increased to such an extent that in many Indian states these two species have become pests for standing crops. Some state governments in India even went to this extent of culling these species by shooting them to bring their population under control! It gave rise to huge controversy and resulted in strong human-animal conflicts. Neighbouring Bangladesh however had these two species becoming extinct in the wild in the past. Through BIMSTEC platform excess species could be relocated to suitable habitats in Bangladesh and help bringing back lost species to its historical range rather than killing them mercilessly.

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Trump hints won't push Japan for trade deal before summer election

TOKYO—U.S. President Donald Trump indicated Sunday he will not push Japan for a bilateral trade agreement before a House of Councillors election in the summer.

"Much will wait until after their July elections," Trump said in a Twitter post after playing golf with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the second day of his four-day state visit to Japan. Later Sunday, the leaders watched a sumo tournament and had dinner with their wives.

The two leaders may reach a broad agreement in September when they meet on the sidelines the U.N. General Assembly, according to sources familiar with bilateral relations.

"Great progress being made in our Trade Negotiations with Japan. Agriculture and beef heavily in play," Trump wrote, a sign that he will not prod Abe for a swift conclusion of the ongoing bilateral trade talks when they



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (Front l) and U.S. President Donald Trump (Front r) head for the course in a buggy to play golf together near Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

hold an official meeting Monday.

Trump apparently took into account Abe's concern about being forced to make concessions related to the agricultural sector—a sensitive issue for Japan—

as the prime minister leads his Liberal Democratic Party into the upper house election, with a simultaneous election for the House of Representatives also a possibility.

Speaking to reporters after playing 16 holes with Trump and veteran Japanese professional golfer Isao Aoki, Abe said, "I think I had a frank exchange of views (with Trump) in a very

relaxed atmosphere," without providing details.

The two leaders had breakfast and lunch together at Mobar Country Club in Chiba Prefecture, and their lunch included double cheeseburgers with U.S. beef, according to Japanese officials.

It was their fifth round of golf together since Trump took office in 2017. The most recent time they played was during Abe's trip to Washington in late April.

Abe, dressed in a blue blazer and white pants, welcomed Trump, wearing a red pullover and carrying a red hat in his hand, who arrived at the golf course on his Marine One helicopter. Trump's tweet came a day after he said he wants to make bilateral trade "a little bit more fair," a sign of his frustration about the hefty and chronic U.S. trade deficit with Japan. — Kyodo News ■

BIMSTEC: An Opportunity for International Collaboration, Cooperation, ...

FROM PAGE-9

25. Another good example is green peafowl that is currently found in the wild only in certain pockets of old forests in South East Asia like Myanmar and Thailand. At one point of time green peafowls were found commonly across various states in North East India. But due to over hunting, illegal capture and habitat lost; the species has become extinct in India. Through BIMSTEC platform breeding pairs could be imported from South East Asia to reintroduce and re-establish the beautiful green peafowl once again across their historic North East India habitats.

26. Gharials have become extinct from most parts of South and South East Asia; with last breeding populations surviving in Nepal and India only. But successful captive breeding programs and relocation in suitable wild habitats across Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka could be achieved through exchange of breeding pairs and introducing them to ideal habitats in older range of the species following proper conservation management

and constant surveillance and monitoring.

27. Similar captive breeding programs for pangolins, red panda, Indo-Chinese tiger, Indo-Chinese leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, Asiatic lions, one horned Indian rhinoceros, Asiatic elephants, river dolphins, dancing deer, gaur, bears, sloths, gibbons, various species monkeys and endangered raptors and vultures with trans border distribution could be practiced under BIMSTEC agreement to reintroduce species to their old range of distribution through legal exchange of breeding pairs and captive breeding and reintroduction approach. Numerous such other examples could be cited that could be made a reality by using the BIMSTEC cooperation and agreements between member nations.

28. Recently there have been numerous reports across South Asia and South East Asia regarding over crowding of certain species that needs relocation and redistribution in other open habitats for their healthy and sustainable growth and to avoid any unwanted genetic bottlenecks. Furthermore, overcrowding

of a dominant species in one single habitat also runs the risk of unexpected extermination through the dissemination of contagious diseases or due to any natural and/or anthropogenic disturbances such as draught and flooding, earthquake or massive forest fires.

29. For example the high concentration of Asiatic lions in the Gir Sanctuary in the western Indian state of Gujarat or one horned Indian rhinoceros in the Kaziranga Biosphere Reserve in Assam in north east India and Chitwan Reserve Park in Nepal or Royal Bengal tigers and Asiatic elephants in western, central and southern Indian, Nepal and Bhutan wildlife sanctuaries and reserved forests can be cited as examples. BIMSTEC platform could help member nations to share this over crowding in related suitable habitats in adjacent countries having similar species and quality habitats.

30. Wildlife retention and rehabilitation centers could serve as another important objective through the BIMSTEC platform. In one hand they will serve as a treatment and

rehabilitation centers for injured or captured or recovered wildlife species before their release into their natural habitats. On the other hand they will serve as an important center for training and education of young and budding conservators, ecologists, foresters, wildlife veterinarians, animal care specialists and experts under the supervision of local, regional and international experts. Such institutes could serve as an important resource of protecting and recovering local wildlife once they accidentally move into human habitation/settlement adjoining forested areas or are recovered by customs department from poachers and wildlife traffickers trying to illegally transport animals and other forest resources across the international border.

31. Wildlife and conservation biologists, foresters, ecologists and other experts from the seven BIMSTEC member nations should have access to easily visit the forests, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, protected areas and national forests and parks, zoological and botanical gardens and museums in adjoining

countries for the purpose of research and development, education and training as well as for sharing their expertise and valuable field level experiences with one another for enriching their conservation experience and training.

32. Yearly evaluation of the status of the forest, wildlife and biodiversity in the BIMSTEC nations needs to be released following comprehensive surveys.

33. Yearly or bi yearly meeting of conservation experts should also take place regularly by rotation in seven member nations. Valuable lessons learnt should be shared and discussed among members.

34. Technological exchanges between member nations related to forest, wildlife and biodiversity protection and conservation would provide a big boost towards success of conservation in South and South East Asia.

35. A BIMSTEC high powered steering committee should be formed with members from seven nations that would provide updates and progress to their respective parliamentary member in a regular manner.

Ramaphosa sworn-in as president of South Africa vowing 'new era'

PRETORIA (South Africa) — Cyril Ramaphosa vowed a "new era" Saturday after he was sworn in as president of South Africa at a colourful ceremony in the capital, as he looks to revitalise his push to revive the economy and fight corruption.

Foreign heads of state from more than 40 countries were among 36,000 people who witnessed the event replete with pomp, military honours and an airforce flyover at a rugby stadium in Pretoria.

Ramaphosa, who became president last year through internal politics in his African National Congress (ANC) party and won a popular mandate in elections on 8 May, faces an uphill battle to drive through reforms in a country suffering from chronic jobless rates, inequality, crime and endemic corruption.

"A new era has dawned in our country. A brighter day is rising upon South Africa," said Ramaphosa, promising that the nation was beginning "a new era of hope and renewal".

"This is a defining moment for a young nation like ours. It is a time for us to make the future that we yearn for," added the 66-year-old.

The former trade unionist played a prominent part in the struggle to end white-minority rule — at one point seen as a protege of Nelson Mandela -- before becoming a successful businessman and served as vice president to former president Jacob Zuma.

Ramaphosa vowed to root out corruption as he took power last year when the ANC forced scandal-plagued Zuma to resign after nine years in office.

On Saturday he pledged "to build the South Africa that we all want and deserve.

"Let us forge a compact for an efficient, capable and ethical state, a state that is free from corruption."

Ramaphosa faces a herculean task to tackle the country's many problems -- from a sickly economy, in which more than a quarter of the workforce is jobless, to land ownership that



Cyril Ramaphosa raises his right hand as he takes the oath of office at his inauguration as South African President, at Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria, on 25 May 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

remains overwhelmingly in the hands of whites.

Many solutions will require him to inch his way along a high wire, balancing leftwing calls for radical change with investors' demands for caution.

Corruption scandals and the country's economic struggles have also dented the support for the ANC.

The party won 57.5 per cent of the vote on 8 May, its weakest result since apartheid was overturned 25 years ago.

Cabinet tensions

Main opposition Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane said he wanted to work with Ramaphosa to improve the lives of South

Africans.

"Today is a historic day in South Africa, the people of this country... have spoken, now the job that we have to make sure we do is build the reforms.

"I will work with the president when he supports the people of this country but when he puts the ANC first I will not be there," Maimane told reporters.

Ramaphosa's first test will be choosing a cabinet -- a task beset by rival factions within the ANC.

He is expected to name his new team within days, but the choice of vice president hangs in the balance after deputy David Mabuza said Wednesday he would defer taking his seat in parliament.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysian gov't committed to strengthening ties with China: PM

KUALA LUMPUR—The Malaysian government is committed to strengthening Malaysia-China relations with closer and more meaningful cooperation, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said as the two countries will mark the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties. In a message to a souvenir book by the Malaysia-China Friendship Association (PPMC) to mark the anniversary of diplomatic ties, Mahathir said trade and investment growth between both countries had been meteoric, reported state news agency Bernama on Sunday.—Xinhua ■

4 missing after 2 cargo ships collide in Pacific off eastern Japan

YOKOHAMA—Four crew members were missing after two Japanese cargo ships collided early Sunday in the Pacific Ocean off eastern Japan, the coast guard said. The 499-ton Sumiho Maru and another 499-ton ship, the Sensho Maru, collided about 12 kilometers off Inubosaki in Chiba Prefecture around 2:10 a.m. The Sensho Maru, based in Imabari, Ehime Prefecture, sank and four of its five crew, all Japanese, were missing, according to the 3rd Regional Coast Guard Headquarters, based in Yokohama.—Kyodo News ■

US hiker found after two weeks lost in Hawaii forest

LOS ANGELES (United States) —An American yoga instructor who spent two weeks lost in the wilds of Hawaii, surviving on plants and water, has been found alive after an ordeal she described as "the toughest days of my life." Amanda Eller, 35, was rescued Friday beside a creek bed at the bottom of a ravine in a national forest on Maui after a helicopter spotted her. She had been out on a hike when she vanished. "The last 17 days of my life have been the toughest days of my life and it's been a really significant spiritual journey," Eller said from her hospital bed in a tearful video posted Saturday on the "Find Amanda" Facebook page created after her disappearance on May 8.—AFP ■

European voters set stage for battle for EU's soul

BRUSSELS (Belgium)—Europeans headed to the polls in their tens of millions Sunday as 21 countries chose their champions in a battle between the nationalist right and pro-EU forces to chart a course for the union. Turnout by midday was higher than it had been in 2014 in some countries, notably France and Romania, and roughly stable in others, as reports began to trickle in from around the continent.

Seven EU member states had already voted, but no official results can be published until rest have taken part. The European Parliament will give a voting estimate at 1815 GMT and provisional results will begin to emerge from 2100 GMT. Eurosceptic parties opposed to the project of ever closer union hope to capture as many as a third of the seats in the 751-member Strasbourg assembly, disrupting the pro-integration consensus.

The far-right parties of Italian deputy PM Matteo Sal-



France is among the 21 countries voting Sunday in the European elections as nationalist right and pro-EU forces battle to chart a course for the bloc. **PHOTO: AFP**

vini and France's Marine Le Pen will lead this charge, and anti-EU ranks will be swelled by the Brexit Party of British populist Nigel Farage.

France's President Emmanuel Macron has taken it upon himself to act as figurehead for

the centrist and liberal parties hoping to shut the nationalists out of key EU jobs and decision-making. "Once again Macron is daring us to challenge him. Well let's take him at his word: On May 26, we'll challenge him in the voting booth,"

Le Pen told a rally on Friday.

It was not clear at midday which side was carrying the day, but the battle seems to have motivated French voters, with 19.26 per cent turning out, 3.5 points up from the same point in 2014.—AFP ■

Toyota to build car assembly plant in Myanmar: sources

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp. will start building a car assembly plant this year in Myanmar, where demand for new cars has been growing strongly after import

restrictions on used vehicles were tightened in 2017, sources familiar with the matter said Sunday.

Toyota will invest several billion yen for

the plant to assemble pickup trucks in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone located on the outskirts of Yangon, they said.

In Myanmar, new car

sales doubled to around 17,000 units in 2018. Suzuki Motor Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Hyundai Motor Co. already have plants in the country.—Kyodo News ■



Logo of Toyota Motor. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Sri Lanka detain nearly 100 in anti-Islamist swoops

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)—Sri Lanka's military has detained nearly 100 suspects during four days of search operations against remnants of an Islamist group blamed for the Easter attacks that killed 258, officials said Sunday.

Some 3,000 military personnel were deployed in and around the capital as well as other key towns for cordon-and-search activities that began on Thursday, a military official said.

In the first three days, security forces took 87 suspects into custody and they were handed over to police for further investigations, he added.

"The number of people detained could be around 100 by now," a security official said adding that almost all were taken in for possessing drugs and in some cases illegal weapons.

A few were also detained along with video and other propaganda material of the local jihadi group, the National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) which has



Some 3,000 military personnel were deployed in and around the capital as well as other key towns for cordon-and-search activities. PHOTO: AFP

been blamed for the April 21 bombings.

The Islamic State group has also claimed a role in the attacks.

Several parts of the capital were also targeted in search operations by troops on Sunday.

Similar raids were carried out in North Western Province, north of Colombo, where anti-Muslim riots this month left one man dead and left hundreds

of Muslim-owned shops, homes and mosques destroyed.

Security forces have arrested scores of suspects in connection with the April 21 bombings of three hotels and three churches, as well as over what appeared to be organised violence against the island's Muslim minority.

While authorities say the immediate jihadist threat has been blunted,

President Maithripala Sirisena on Wednesday extended for one month the 30-day state of emergency imposed after the suicide bombings.

Sirisena said the move was to maintain "public security", with the country still on edge after the Easter attacks.

Christians make up 7.6 percent and Muslims 10 percent of mainly Buddhist Sri Lanka.—AFP ■

Thai king's chief adviser and ex-PM, Prem, dies at 98

BANGKOK—Former Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, who in his later years served as an adviser to the royal palace, died Sunday, local media reported. He was 98.

Prem, a giant in the country's political landscape, reportedly died from heart failure at a mil-

itary hospital in Bangkok in the morning.

He last appeared in public early this month for the coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha was quoted by deputy government spokesman Werachon Sukhondapatipak as saying he was deeply sad-

dened over Prem's passing and praised him as a great man of the country.

"The premier said that the Privy Council president is a great man who is a role model as a Thai who loves the country and adheres to honesty," Werachon said.

The European Union's mission in Thailand also

expressed its condolences, praising Prem for his dedicated service to the country and role in shaping modern Thailand.

Born in August 1920 in southern Thailand's Songkhla province, Prem began his military career in 1941 and quickly rose through the ranks.—Kyodo News ■

Invitation for Bids

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No.: 5727-MM

Date: 27th May 2019

Contract Title: Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project (Phase 2)

Reference No.: MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-G2/19

- The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Concrete Pole for National Electrification Project.
- The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of concrete pole 10 Meter and 12 Meter, for the total quantities of 130,000 Concrete Poles to be delivered in 2019 and 2020 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 9 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots. Evaluation and award of contract will be on a lot-wise basis.
- For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:
 - Minimum average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) shall be 75% of the bid price in over the last two years per each lot. In case of a bidder bidding for multiple lots, the minimum average annual turnover requirement of those multiple lots will be cumulatively applicable.
 - The Bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years, at least two contracts for supply of Concrete Poles; and one of the two contracts shall be not less than 50% of the Bid Price for the offered goods.
 - More information is included in the bidding documents.
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Bidders may obtain complete set of bidding document from the purchaser via E-mail as mention below:

Attention : Project Manager
Project Management Office
(National Electrification Project)
Office Building No.27
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Nay Pyi Taw
City :
ZIP Code : 15011
Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 67 3431175
Facsimile number : +95 67 3431176
Electronic mail address : nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 am, 10th July, 2019. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below at 10:00 am, 10th July, 2019.

Yadanar Hall, Office Building No.27,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
ZIP Code: 15011.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the bidding document.

8. The address referred to above Para 5 and 6 are:

Attention: Project Manager
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)
Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
ZIP Code: 15011
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 3431175
Facsimile number: +95 673431176
Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

Rare albino panda caught on camera in China: state media

BEIJING (China)—A rare all-white panda has been caught on camera at a nature reserve in southwest China, showing albinism exists among wild pandas in the region, state media reported.

The spotless, red-eyed animal was photographed while trekking through the forest mid-April in southwestern Sichuan province, said official news agency Xinhua on Saturday. The panda is an albino between one to two years old, said Li Sheng, a researcher specialising in bears at Peking University, who was quoted in Xinhua's report.

The Wolong National Nature Reserve -- where the animal was spotted—told AFP it had no further details about the albino panda. More than 80 percent of the world's wild pandas live in Sichuan, with the rest in Shaanxi and Gansu province. There were about 548 giant pandas in captivity globally as of November, reported Xinhua.

The number living in the wild has dwindled to fewer than 2,000, according to the World Wildlife Fund.



The albino panda was photographed while trekking through the forest in southwestern Sichuan province. PHOTO: AFP

Famed for its “panda diplomacy”, in which China dispatches the rare animals to other countries as a symbol of close relations, Beijing has invested in different programmes to protect its furry ambassadors in recent years. In 2018, China announced plans to create a bastion for giant pandas three times the size of Yellowstone National Park to link up existing wild populations and encourage breeding of the notoriously slow-reproducing animal. At least 10 billion yuan (\$1.45 billion) had been budgeted for the Giant Panda National Park in mountainous southwestern China state-run China Daily reported. Pandas are currently listed as a vulnerable species, which means that while their survival is still threatened, conservation efforts have helped reduce their danger of extinction.—AFP

Under the dome: Fears Pacific nuclear ‘coffin’ is leaking



The huge dome built over top of a crater left by one of the nuclear tests over Runit Island in Enewetak in the Marshall Islands. PHOTO: AFP

MAJURO (Marshall Islands)—As nuclear explosions go, the US “Cactus” bomb test in May 1958 was relatively small—but it has left a lasting legacy for the Marshall Islands in a dome-shaped radioactive dump.

The dome—described

by a UN chief Antonio Guterres as “a kind of coffin”—was built two decades after the blast in the Pacific ocean region. The US military filled the bomb crater on Runit island with radioactive waste, capped it with concrete, and told displaced residents of the

Pacific’s remote Enewetak atoll they could safely return home. But Runit’s 45-centimetre (18-inch) thick concrete dome has now developed cracks. And because the 115-metre wide crater was never lined, there are fears radioactive contaminants are leaching

through the island’s porous coral rock into the ocean. The concerns have intensified amid climate change. Rising seas, encroaching on the low-lying nation, are threatening to undermine the dome’s structural integrity. Jack Ading, who represents the area in the Marshalls’ parliament, calls the dome a “monstrosity”.

“It is stuffed with radioactive contaminants that include plutonium-239, one of the most toxic substances known to man,” he told AFP. “The coffin is leaking its poison into the surrounding environment. And to make matters even worse, we’re told not to worry about this leakage because the radioactivity outside of the dome is at least as bad as the radioactivity inside of it.” —AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (920S/922N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (920S/922N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1011 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1011 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS
(S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MOUNT KELLETT VOY. NO. (921N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MOUNT KELLETT VOY. NO. (921N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1102 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1102 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ARION

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ARION VOY. NO. (1558) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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 CA SHIPPING PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928



By Aung Win Nyein
(Kanbalu)

Bat Cave in Kanbalu Township: a popular destination for holiday makers

Bat Cave Conservation Area

With the aim of developing tourism industry in Sagaing Region and to let globetrotters and local tourists know more of the little known natural beauties and environment of the region, the Sagaing Region government inaugurated the Bat Cave Natural Conservation Area and Park on 26 December 2018.

The cave in Kanbalu Township situated at an elevation of 689 feet above sea level is a habitat for bats. It is a natural area that possesses unique geological conditions. The cave interior was full of bats as well as natural beauties while the vicinity of the cave was full of traditional cultural heritages.

As such the area must be safeguarded as a conservation area according to the law to maintain it in a sustainable way.

Bat Cave is located on Minwun mountain range. The main 2,290 feet high Zin Mountain on the Minwun mountain range stands out with its limestone caves in comparison to other hills and mountains in the area. The caves and lush green forest and foliage covered mountains stand well together and bats inhabit the caves.

Various species of plants thrive in Minwun mountain range. The jungles are of upper deciduous forest with teak, hardwood and various tree species including bamboo species. Various bio-diverse animal spe-

cies such as elephants, boar, barking deer, bats, sambur, foxes, monkeys, squirrel, wild cats, reptiles, birds, butterflies and insects were also found.

Bats, with its forelimbs adapted as wings were not birds but mammals. In fact it is the only mammal that is capable of true and sustained flight. Different bat species have different diets that include insects, pollen, fruit, vertebrates and even animal blood. When not flying, bats hang upside down with their feet holding onto tree branches, a posture known as roosting. In general bats gave birth to single pup per litter but some bat species gave birth up to four pups. Lifespan of a bat is longer than other mammals



PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYYARTAING)

of similar size and some bat species have about 30 years of lifespan. A bat can fly up to a speed of 60 miles an hour.

Bats that prey on insect consume up to 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour. A flock of bats consumes tons of insects in a single night. There are about 1,300 species of bat accounting for one fourth of all mammals and except for Antarctica, bats are scattered to all part of the world.

Potential for tourism industry

Millions of bats inhabit the caves on Zin Mountain. Visitors are used to seeing flocks of bats leaving the caves in search for food in the evening. Flora and fauna on the mountain including wild animals like elephants create good potential to estab-

lish ecotourism. That was why the Bat Cave Natural Conservation Area and Park open not only for the public to relax and recreate but for students to learn about nature. Thanks to the conservation area and park students will have the opportunity to study the ecosystem, diverse species of trees, plants and animals.

Training and teaching

The conservation area and park has training hall, hostels for trainees, mess hall, lodge, forestry and environmental museum, orchid farm, turtle farm and lakes as part of an education effort that plays a critical role in Sagaing Region environmental conservation. The conservation area and park conduct training courses such as environmental conser-



PHOTO: AUNG WIN NYEIN (KANBALU)



PHOTO: AUNG WIN NYEIN (KANBALU)

vation Area and Park, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing urged local people to cooperate with authorities and relevant departments especially in supervising forests near the conservation area and park, re-establishing forests through educative talks and make efforts toward development of nature based tourism industry.

The conservation area and park was jointly developed by Sagaing Region government and Htawara Group of Companies. The place enable students, tourists and locals learn about the mutual interdependence of plants and species and importance of nature and environmental conservation. Htawara Group of Companies Chairman U Maung Ko spoke of being proud of his effort in carrying out environmental conservation and regional development.

Sagaing Region government coordinated with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation starting from 2016 to establish the Bat Cave Natural Conservation Area and Park. According to Sagaing Region Forest

over approval was sought from Mandalay Region government to add 3,674 acres of Gongah forest reserve from Thabikkyin Township into the conservation area and park. That was why the Bat Cave Natural Conservation Area and Park came to be formed on 30,308 acres of land in total.

Environmental conservation area

Plans are underway to extend formation of more environmental conservation areas in Sagaing Region. Conservation areas will be formed in 1,792 acres of Bawdi Tahtaung natural forest reserve in Monywa Township, 60,046.71 acres of Zalon Hill national park in Bamauk Township, 316 acres of Sheinmakar sanctuary in Wetlet Township and 290,140.8358 acres of Mahamyaing wildlife sanctuary in Mawlaik, Kalewa and Mingin townships totalling 398,731.546 acres of land.

Existing natural environmental conservation areas are located on 346,639.39 acres of Alaungdaw Kathapa natural park, 531,546 acres of Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary, 1,647,982.96 acres of Hukauing Valley wildlife sanctuary, 63,977 acres of Chatthin wildlife sanctuary and 50,874 acres of Minwun Hill wildlife sanctuary. Currently Minwun Hill wildlife sanctuary is under review for reorganization.

According to Forest Resource Assessment FRA-2015 of Food and Agriculture Organization, Sagaing Region has forest coverage of 47.14 per cent. The Bat Cave Natural Conservation Area and Park will be



PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYYARTAING)



PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYYARTAING)

vation, establishment of forest plantations and setting up of community-owned forests. A training course can accommodate up to 30 trainees.

At the opening ceremony of the Bat Cave Natural Conser-

Department, 9,126 acres of Gongah forest reserve in Kanbalu Township, 13,660 acres of Baw forest area and 3,848 acres of Zin forest reserve were combined to set up the natural conservation area and park. More-

part of the forest covered area of Sagaing Region that was maintaining and developing forest resources as well as developing the tourism industry. *(Translated by Than Tun Aung)*



Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE
AJISHIN No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)
ANAIMO No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)
BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)
BUSHIDO No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)
CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)
DINNING FUKUROU No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)
EDOZUSHI A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)
(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)
FUJINOBO (Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)
FURUSATO No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)
GEKKO 535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)
HIMARI MYANMAR Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)
HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)
HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant No -26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.
Hot Pot City 8 Miles No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon. Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)
101 Hot Pot & Sushi No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar 14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00
HOTEL BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861. CHATRIUM No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244. CHERRY HILLS HOTEL No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722. HOTLE 51 No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554. HOTEL KAN KAW No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731. HOTLE SIDNEY No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02. INYA LAKE HOTEL No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9. LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000. MERCURE HOTEL No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933. NOVOTEL YANGON MAX No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858. PAN PACIFIC YANGON No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810. PARK ROYAL No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388. PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687. ROSE GARDEN HOTEL No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500. SAVOY HOTEL No.129, Corner of Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305. SEDONA HOTEL No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377. SULE SHANGRI-LA No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828. SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966. SUPER HOTEL No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.



Yangon United's young player Aee Soe (27) attempts to kick the ball during the 1st leg of the semifinal of the General Aung San Shield 2019 at Monywa stadium in Monywa yesterday. **PHOTO: YUFC**

General Aung San Shield: Yangon draws Sagaing in 1st leg semifinal

YANGON United drew with Sagaing United 1-1 in the 1st leg of a semifinal in the General Aung San Shield 2019 at Monywa stadium in Monywa yesterday.

As the match was crucial for teams seeking to advance to the final of the tourney, both teams used its key players with colorful tactics.

Yangon United brought in star footballers goal keeper Kyaw Zin Htet, Maung Maung Lwin and Aee Soe, while Sagaing United used its best players, Captain Donal Bissa, Thant Zin Min and goal keeper A Zin Hmue.

Yangon United executed a fast attack from the kick off, but

Sagaing United's defense was massive enough for the opponents to clear nearly every ball.

Still, Yangon took advantage of Sagaing United's defense at the 37 minute mark, as youngster Aee Soe scored an opening goal with a header over the corner kick support of its team mate Maung Maung Lwin.

The lead goal for Yangon United did not last long, as Sagaing United made a quick attack in return to earn their equalizer.

The equalizer was scored by Sagaing expat player Bissa in a penalty shot at 45 plus 2 minutes mark, as the first half ended with

1-1 draw. The second half saw more aggressive play than the first half, with both team's displaying all out efforts.

Yangon United missed at 75 and 83 minutes, while Yangon's Maung Maung Lwin's scores were interrupted by the opponents.

Sagaing United remained strong in defence until the final whistle, as the match ended 1-1.

As for the draw, both teams will fight for the final match in the upcoming 2nd leg of the tourney's semifinal on 2 June, which is scheduled to be played at the home stadium of Yangon United.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

FIFA to fund indoor futsal stadium construction in Yangon

THE Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) will assist the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) in building an indoor futsal stadium in Yangon that meets international standards, said a source with the MFF.

In discussions about construction of a new stadium, officials from MFF worked last year with the FIFA to receive approval for the stadium under the FIFA Forward Program. FIFA approved the plans this year.

The FIFA Forward Program includes funding of 2 million dollars for the stadium, and FIFA will also monitor the construction, said officials from MFF.

To build the indoor stadium, MFF invited tenders in December 2018, with Suntac Company winning the tender to build the stadium.

Under the FIFA's program, the construction of the stadium has begun and is scheduled to finish by mid-2020.

The stadium includes 2000 seats, and displays international decorations inside the stadium, said officials.

After FIFA approved the funding for futsal stadium construction, MFF will also install flood lights in Thuwunna Stadium and improvements at the training stadium, said officials with the MFF.

To ensure that final details are completed at the two stadiums, MFF will also request FIFA assistance, officials added.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Raptors rally past Bucks to reach first NBA final

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Kawhi Leonard finished with 27 points and a career high 17 rebounds as the Toronto Raptors advanced to their first NBA final with a 100-94 win over the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks.

The Raptors won the series 4-2 as Saturday's contest at Scotiabank Arena was a mirror image of game five, featuring a strong start by Milwaukee before Toronto came back in the fourth quarter to close it out with several clutch plays down the stretch. The Raptors reached their first finals in their 24-year history where they will face the two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors. Game one of the best-of-seven final is Thursday in Toronto.

"I just took it one possession

at a time," Leonard said. "We kept fighting all game. The calls were not going our way, but we kept striving and striving." The victo-



Toronto's Kawhi Leonard, right, dribbles into Milwaukee's Malcolm Brogdon in the Raptors' series-clinching victory Saturday which puts them in their first NBA final. **PHOTO: AFP**

ry has galvanized the Canadian city's sports fans and touched off a wild celebration among the crowd of 19,800 in the arena and

tens of thousands more in the downtown "Jurassic Park", who watched the game on a giant screen. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he will be cheering on the Raptors.

"History made! @Raptors, it's time to bring that championship to Canada! #WeTheNorth," Trudeau tweeted Saturday. Leonard won the head-to-head battle against Giannis Antetokounmpo, even dunking over the mighty "Greek Freak" with six minutes left in the fourth to give Toronto a 87-79 lead. Leonard also hit another dynamic three-pointer from his favourite corner spot on the floor with three minutes left to make it 95-90.

'So special'

He shot nine of 22 from the

field and had seven assists for the Raptors, who roared back to win four straight games after falling into an 0-2 hole to begin the series. Pascal Siakam tallied 18 points, Kyle Lowry finished with 17 and Fred VanVleet came off the bench to score 14 points in the win. "I've been here seven years and this means a lot," said Lowry. "This group is so special."

Toronto was down by 15 points at one stage in the third quarter before Leonard and his supporting cast cut the deficit to five entering the fourth.

"We thrive at it. We enjoy the moment," Leonard said. "My teammates have my back. I was on the bench to start the fourth quarter and they came back. It was a collective effort." —AFP ■