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Local farmers in Thanlyin Township gather at the Thanlyin Township Agricultural Development Bank to get loans for planting rice in rain-fed fields. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

Agri-loans available to rice farmers

WITH the monsoon rain season in Myanmar, the Agricultural Development Bank has begun disbursing agricultural loans to rice farmers nationwide through its bank branches.

Agricultural loans for cultivating rice in rain-fed fields are disbursed no later than September, and those farmers who have land use Form-7 are eligible to receive loans at an

interest rate of 8% per year.

According to statistics, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation issued form-7 to over 6 million farmers.

Until last year, farmers who inherited farmland from their ancestors, but did not have Form-7 which documents land use rights for cultivation, faced challenges in receiving agricultural loans.

"The old farmland law did

not allow for the changing of ownership names of farmland when farmers sold their land to others. But, the new Farmland Law allows farmers to change the ownership name beginning from 1st June. The situation is okay now," said U Min Sein, Manager of the Agricultural Development Bank of Thanlyin Township.

His bank will disburse loans of K150,000 per acre to over 4,800 farmers in 28 vil-

lage-tracts in the township.

Paddy was planted on 7,137 acres of farmland last year and yielded over 5.8 million baskets of paddy.

Farmers obtained loans at an interest rate of K8. However, farmers who failed to pay back their loans within the set time frame are required to pay one kyat per month as a fine. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Meeting discusses extended healthcare for Naga people

A MEETING on extended healthcare undertakings as a special program for the Naga Self-Administered Zone was held in Monya yesterday morning.

The extended healthcare undertakings include vaccination, nutrition, maternal and child health, hygiene, school health and environment cleanliness.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister for Health Dr Myint Htwe said the meeting would seek means to provide more effective healthcare services in Layshe, Lahe and Nanyun of Naga Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region, where transport was poor, in cooperation with the international NGOs and partner organizations.

The meeting would collectively seek out means that could be applied in the practical field, he said. "Villages in Layshe, Lahe and Nanyun of Naga Self-Administered Zone are difficult to access and speak many dialects," he noted, adding, "Curable diseases are occurring there as people lacked healthcare knowledge."

"Although there are many international level health promotion programs, they cannot bring success if they are not suitable for regional situation and practical field.

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Union Minister visits nurseries, elephant camp in central Myanmar

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win inspected the thriving trees of the 50-acre village fuel-wood plantation at Mondaing forest reserve in Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region yesterday. The plantation was established by Arid Zone Greening Department.

At the plantation, the Union Minister spoke of the need to distribute fuel-wood to the villages, replace young trees killed by excessive summer heat with the new ones of the same age, to work in accord with the departmental procedures, to systematically keep the records, and to transfer duties of the plantation in-charges systematically.

Accompanied by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Kyaukpadaung Township U Shwe Ko, and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative of Kyaukpadaung and NyaungU Township Constituency U Kyaw Tok, the Union Minister inspected a special greening plantation at milepost 48/0 on Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung road. The Union Minister said that as the plantation was a public recreation place, efforts must be

made for its long-term existence. He stressed the need to replace the dead trees with the new ones as soon as the monsoon started, and to build mini dams.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party inspected a nursery in NyaungU Township and pointed out the need to conduct test plantation of trees with strong and deep roots at the nursery of the Arid Zone Greening Department. The program to grow deep-root trees is being jointly conducted by Forest Department and Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center.

During inspection of Chaukphayahla permanent nursery in the Township, the Union Minister urged officials to grow evergreen species, to replace matured trees with saplings, and to replant the matured trees at a designated place. In the evening, he visited Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp on NyaungU-Myintgyan road. After hearing a report presented by the camp in-charge, the Union Minister looked into requirements in providing satisfactory services for the public, collecting necessary material for



Union Minister U Ohn Win feeds the elephant at the Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp on NyaungU-Myintgyan road yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

a new bridge that is suitable for people to enjoy the cool breeze and finishing the elephant museum before the onset of monsoons.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party inspected a community plantation jointly established by the Forest Department and

the Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center. During the visit, the Union Minister said stakes should be driven in to mark the trees killed by high summer heat, so that new samplings could be planted in their places. Planta-

tions should begin as soon as the soil got enough water, and staff should be assigned with specific duties. The Union Minister also held open discussions with the public, and looked into their requirements. MNA ■ (Translated by TMT)



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein joins hands in hands with officials during the ceremony to sign the contract on the development of fuel oil storage in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Officials sign the contract on the development of fuel oil storage in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thai company agrees to open filling stations in Myanmar

TWO non-financial branches of Kanbawza Group of Companies yesterday formed a partnership with a Thai-based company for fuel oil storing and retail fuel distribution in Myanmar under common interest.

PTT Oil and Retail Business Public Company Limited (PTTOR) under the PTT Public Company Limited of Thailand and Brighter Energy Company Limited and Brighter Energy Retail Company Limited of the Kanbawza group of companies will complete a fuel oil silo, which will become the largest of its kind in Myanmar, and a LPG tank in 2020.

Brighter Energy Company Limited and PTTOR signed a contract on the development of fuel oil storage in Myanmar, and PTTOR and Brighter Energy Retail Company Limited signed the contract on fuel oil storing and retail fuel distribution in the presence of Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein, regional cabinet ministers, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphatra Sri-maitreepithak, President of PTT

Public Company Limited (PTT) Mr Chansintreenuchagron, Chairman of PTTOR Mr Attapol Rerkpiboon and members of the board of directors, President U Zaw Min Win and members of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), heads of foreign missions in Myanmar, officials of Brighter Energy and guests.

The Chief Minister, the Ambassador of Thailand and officials of the companies gave speeches at the signing ceremony.

Under the contract, there will be 70 more PTT filling stations in the nation by 2023. Each filling station will house a Café Amazon, a minimart, an engine oil service, a money exchange counter and a public restroom. There are also plans to join hands with the SMEs.

PTTOR is a reliable oil and LPG distributor of PTT Public Company Limited of Thailand. It has over 2000 filling stations in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines.—MNA ■ (Translated by TMT)

Meeting discusses extended healthcare for Naga people

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“Taking into consideration the basic needs including geography, transport, farming, trade, socioeconomic situation, development, health, knowledge level, belief, culture, customs, availability of health care, ability of healthcare providers, human resources, and other factors, we will find the best program for the region,” he vowed.

“Broader public health awareness involving vaccination, nutrition, maternal, reproductive and child health and hygiene, will be our priority for the zone,” he noted. As the ministry alone could not implement the task, it would work together with regional officials in the specific sectors including transport and farming,

he said.

“The participation and suggestions of local health officials, doctors, nurses, and other persons of the health field is important in adopting the work program,” the Union Minister pointed out. He called for the effective cooperation between the ministry and UN agencies, international NGOs, and partner organizations for the success of the program.

He also urged officials of the self-administered zone to make direct contacts and cooperate with the officials.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region Dr Zaw Win welcomed the extended healthcare undertakings for the zone. Member of Naga Self-Administered Zone Governing Body and Sagaing



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the speech at yesterday's coordinating meeting in Monywa to promote healthcare services in Naga Self-Administered Zone. **PHOTO:MNA**

Region MP U Karsi Yan extended greetings.

Officials of the UNICEF, WFP, Access to Health Fund, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Health Assistant As-

sociation, WHO Country Office, PATH, CPI, and Medical Action Myanmar presented plans to support the ministry. The morning session was presided over by the Union Minister and the afternoon

session by Permanent Secretary Dr Thar Tun Kyaw. During both sessions, participants presented suggestions for the success of the special program.—MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

Myanmar Evening Tour Promotion held in Seoul

MYANMAR Tourism Federation organized Myanmar evening Tour Promotion, with the support of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and in collaboration with Korean Embassy, at Coex Hotel in Seoul in the evening of June 8th.

Myanmar Ambassador to Republic of Korea, U Thant Zin, Vice Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation, U Thet Lwin Toe, Myanmar-Korea travel businesses and invited guest attended the event.

At the event, Ambassador U Thant Zin gave the key note

speech.

It was reported that tours to Myanmar were able to be sold by giving Myanmar traditional entertainment and serving Myanmar traditional food.

Korea World Travel Fair is held annually and Myanmar Exhibition usually attract attentions. After Myanmar-Korea travel was made Visa Free, the rate of travelling is going up by 90% every month.

It was reported, Myanmar exhibition was awarded second most attractive prize. — MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Myanmar pavilion wins second prize in the most attractive destination. **PHOTO: MNA**

International Archives Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Minister U Mg Mg Win delivers the speech at International Archive Day Symposium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A paper-reading session to mark the International Archives Day Symposium was held at National Archives Department in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning U Mg Mg Win gave a key note speech at the event.

He said, in his speech, that International Council on Archive was initiated on June 9th 1948. There are now 199 member countries, 1900 archives and 13 regional organization operation under ICA.

He also said that the aim of ICA is to promote the management of use of records and archives and preserve the archival heritage of humanity around the world, through sharing the experiences research and ideas of

archive expert with international organizations. ICA holds annual conference to effectively manage the archival heritage of the countries and to deal with problem and difficulty faced by archive experts in the era of technology. They also make use of different activities such as Archival Training Programs and workshops.

ICA designates June 9th international Archive day and celebrate it on that date annually with activities. It was the second time Myanmar had celebrated it.

The aim of annual international celebration is to inform citizen, governmental departments, organization and students of the fact that the archives play a vital role in preserving countries' records and heritage

and to share the experiences and works of archive experts.

He concluded the speech calling for making effort to preserve history, culture and record of the country.

Then they looked around the items on display at the event.

Afterwards, the symposium was held. An international retired person and 2 officials read documents on Archival education. Q and A Section followed.

Then, Deputy Minister gave presents to resource persons.

Directors-generals and Deputy Director Generals of Union Departments, members of the Committees of Pyithu Hluttaw, symposiasts and invited guest attended the event. —MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Kyaw Myaing

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

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Rare attires of Shan chieftains displayed in Yangon

THIRTY sets of rare attires worn by Shan chieftains over 100 years ago are on display at the National Museum in Yangon free of charge from 9 to 18 this month.

At the opening ceremony of the exhibition sponsored by the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library (DANML) of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Naing Thet Lwin said, "Costumes won by and items used by Shan chieftains of various regions throughout the past successive periods can be viewed by the public, especially the youth and middle-aged people at the exhibition. The civilization of a race can be studied through their costumes, style of dress, literature and culture. This kind of exhibition will enhance the spirit of an ethnic race to cherish its culture and traditions. Holding of this exhibition at a museum at a place where Shan people are the majority will attract more tourists."

Also speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein said, "The exhibition enhances the image of the Myanmar races." He suggested the conservation and display of the cultures and traditions of other ethnic races.



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin and officials observe the rare attires of Shan chieftains at National Museum in Yangon yesterday.
PHOTO : MNA

As all the national races are living in amity in the Union, they all should join hands for its perpetuation, he said, and added that all the citizens of the country have the duty to preserve and protect the ethnic cultures and traditions. "At this exhibition, Shan traditions costumes preserved for over 100 years are put on display, and it is a noble tasks," he said.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min said, "The attires were sent to France for keeping them under advanced preservation

techniques for today's people to study them. The Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library has been checking and preserving the attires of Shan chieftains displayed at the Nyaungshwe culture museum since Shan State Government requested help from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in 2016. So the ministry and the state government allotted the budget for the work."

Director-General of DANML U Kyaw Oo Lwin explained the purpose of the exhibition and Director Daw Nang

Laung Ngin the preservation work.

The deputy minister and officials presented certificates to those who rendered assistance in holding the exhibition.

Ambassadors for foreign missions in Myanmar, heads of department, technicians, relatives of the Shan chieftains and guests were present at the opening ceremony. Rare attires of Shan chieftains made of various types of fibers and decorated with patterns are on display at the exhibition.—MNA ■ (Translated by TMT)

Residents in Kyaikmaraw undergo free eye surgery



Eye specialists give free eye care service to local people in Kyaikmaraw Township yesterday. **PHOTO : CHO MYAT MYAT**

FREE cataract surgeries were performed by eye specialists at

the Parami Free Clinic in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mawlamyaing

District, Mon State, on Sunday 9 June, providing treatment to over 30 needy eye patients.

All costs for those suffering from cataracts were donated by the two eye specialists, who also conducted free surgical operations on patients to remove cataracts.

This is the ninth time the Parami Free Clinic has hosted this kind of eye care event, the manager of the clinic said, in which treatment is offered with compassion to patients of all ages, without discrimination.

According to a survey, common eye diseases in Myanmar

are cataracts, glaucoma, corneal diseases, injuries and retinal diseases. Cataracts are the most common cause of vision loss in people over age 40 in Myanmar. The World Health Organisation reports that cataracts are responsible for 51 per cent of all blindness worldwide.

In Myanmar, free eye treatment is frequently provided by individual donors and aid organizations, to protect people against vision loss caused by eye diseases.—Cho Myat Myat Htwe (Kyaikramaw) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

No injuries reported in electrical fire at hostel in NyaungU

AN electrical fire broke out early Saturday morning in Nyaungpyinkhan Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, according to the police.

The initial investigation showed that the fire was caused

by overheated wires at a hostel in U Win Zaw at 00:20 a.m. on 8 June.

No injuries were reported, but the fire destroyed the hostel.

With the assistance of res-

idents and police, firefighters brought the blaze under control within 25 minutes. The Singu Township Fire Service Department sent two fire engines to fight the fire.

The police are investigat-

ing and action is being taken against the hostel owner under Section 285 of the Penal Code for negligence.—Ye Win Naing (NyaungU) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Fishery export earns over \$564 mln during Oct-May period

EXPORT earnings from fishery sector from 1 October, 2018 to 31 May, 2019 in current FY amounted to about US\$564.35 million, which is an increase of \$39.5 million compared to that of last FY, according to the statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar fisheries such as fish, prawn, crabs are exported to markets of 40 foreign countries including European Union countries, China, Saudi Arabia, America, Japan, Singapore and Thailand. Earlier, only fish caught in the wild were permitted export to the EU market. At present, Myanmar is able to export farmed fish, prawn, and crabs to EU.

Saudi Arabia's suspension of fish imports from Myanmar, beginning from April last year, has affected rohu fish suppliers.

Myanmar keeps only 25 per cent of rohu fish for local consumption and exports the remaining 75 per cent to Saudi Arabia, UAE, as well as Bangladesh. Myanmar exports farmed fish to Saudi Arabia, accounting for 30 per cent of its farm-raised fish exports and 40 per cent of rohu exports.

Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF) is exerting concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming ponds which meet international standard and adopt advanced fishing techniques.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country, and Myanmar has earned over US\$717 million through its fishery products last fiscal year, according to MFF statistics.—Ko Htet ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*



Workers sort out prawns at a sea food processing factory in Kawthoung. PHOTO : AYE THAN

Set value of property in Yangon drops, apart from Pyay Road

THE set property market price in Yangon declined by over 10 per cent, apart from property on Pyay Road, according to the set value of land for market prices for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, as ordered by the Internal Revenue Department.

The price of land in high-ranking townships in Yangon, such as Dagon, Bahan and Yangon downtown townships, as well as other townships, are set at reduced rates.

Property market prices in Yangon declined K150,000-350,000 per square foot, compared with last year's prices. For example, the minimum market price for land in downtown Yangon's six townships was K150,000, while the maximum rate was K270,000 last year. This year, market prices declined to K135,000 for the min-

imum rate, and K245,000 for the maximum rate.

Realtors are expecting the reduced income tax to stimulate the real estate market, which has been cool for the last three years. At present, the sales market has been depressed and only the Yangon rental property market is growing, realtors said.

Reductions in the income tax and less red tape in government departments might boost the real estate market. Nevertheless, the stock market, automobile market, gold export/import market and banking operations are also competitive investment options. As there are many markets that can catch the investor's eye, the manipulation of prices will not be a significant factor in the real estate market, a realtor said.—GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

FDI stands at \$2.69 bln in eight months

DURING Oct-May period, over all foreign direct investments of \$2.69 billion flowed into the country, including expansion of capitals by existing enterprises and investments of over \$196.5 million in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, according to press release of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 October, 2018 and 29 May, 2019, a total of 169 foreign

enterprises were received permits and endorsements, bringing in capital of \$1.74 billion. Singapore-listed enterprises pulled the largest investments during Oct-May period, followed by China and Hong Kong.

Transport and Communication absorbed over \$1 billion of FDI, topping in the investment sector line-up, followed by manufacturing sector. MIC targets to attain \$5.8 billion of FDIs in

the current fiscal year 2018-2019, according to the DICA.

According to the Myanmar Investment Law, the Regions and States Investment Committees are allowed to grant permissions to local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million with an aim to facilitate the verification process of investment projects.—GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Border export up 12.5% in current Fiscal Year

MYANMAR'S export of goods through border gates has touched US\$1.1 billion between October and May in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, up by \$1.25 million or nearly 12.5 per cent, from the same period last 2017-2018 FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

From the corresponding period last FY, the country earned \$10.053 billion from border exports of marketable domestic products to international coun-

tries. Despite an increase in value of border export during the eight-month period this FY, border imports of overseas goods declined by \$787million against this time last FY when Myanmar imported \$12.9 billion worth of commodities from borders. Myanmar delivers goods not only through by sea but also 17 land borders. The border trade camps with China include Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and

Kengtung. The country has carried out border trade with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung border stations. The cross-border trade points between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu, Reed and Htantalan border gates. ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar's import of consumer goods continue to decline in eight months

IMPORT of consumer goods as of 31 May this fiscal year stood at US\$2.2 billion, registering a decrease of \$148 million or nearly 6.3 per cent, from the corresponding period last FY, according to the statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The total imports of consumer products covered \$697 million by the public sector

and \$2.18 billion by the private sector. This 2018-2019 FY saw a continuous decline in the imports of consumer goods by both sectors compared with the same time last FY.

At this time during the last FY, Myanmar's import of consumer goods totalled almost \$2.36 billion, with \$61 million by the public sector and \$2.3 billion

by the private sector.

The country's imports of consumer products were pegged at \$2.6 billion in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018).

The ministry's annual statistical report indicated that the imports of consumer goods were \$1.245 billion in the 2011-2012 FY, \$1.4 billion in the 2012-2013 FY,

\$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$2.9 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$3.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, over \$4 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and \$4.403 billion in the 2017-2018 FY.

From 1 October through 31 May, Myanmar also imported three other major groups of commodities, consisting of \$3.82 billion worth of capital goods,

\$4.57 billion of manufactured goods and \$1.57 billion worth of raw materials used by CMP (cut-make-pack) businesses. Aside from the CMP raw materials, the country saw a decline in import value of over \$1 billion in the current 2018-2019 FY.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

260 gem lots put on sales today at gems & jades emporium in Nay Pyi Taw

THE second day of a sale of gems and jades in the local currency continued at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, putting up 260 gem lots and 3,108 jade lots for sale through an open tender system.

In the morning of the second day, gem merchants looked at the gem and jade lots displayed at the emporium and bid price proposals for their selected lots were put into the designated tender boxes.

Two hundred sixty gem lots will be sold through an open tender system on 10 June

at the gem emporium.

The Gem Emporium will also put 1,050 jade lots, nos. 1 to 1,050, on 11 June, 1,050 jade lots, nos. 1,051 to 2,100, on 12 June, and 1,008 jade lots, nos. 2,101 to 3,108, on 13 June for sale through an open tender system. The purpose of the Gems Emporium selling with Myanmar currency being held from 8 to 13 June is local small merchants to provide local small merchants with raw materials and businesspersons with income. — Maw Si ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Experts examine gem stones at Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Constitutional Tribunal delegation arrives back after attending conference in Mongolia



A delegation led by Constitutional Tribunal Member U Myint Win attends the International Conference on 7 June in Ulaanbaatar. **PHOTO: MNA**

A delegation led by Constitutional Tribunal Member U Myint Win attended International Conference with the theme “Separation of Powers and Constitutional Court” on 6-7 June 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, at the invitation of Mongolian Chair-

man of Constitutional court.

They flew back to Myanmar from Ulaanbaatar at 11:35 pm last night. They were welcomed by the officials of Constitutional Tribunal at the Yangon International Airport. —MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Fertilizer, paddy strain to be distributed to farmers in Gangaw this month

AS part of efforts to boost the country's rice production, the agricultural authorities are currently arranging to distribute fertilizer and paddy strain to farmers in Htilin Township, Gangaw District, Magway Region.

According to officials, over 100 bags of compound fertilizer, and some 180 baskets of marketable paddy strain, including Sinthukha, Palethwe and Sinpadetha-11, will be distributed

to farmers in the township this month.

Rice is not only a staple food, but also an important exported cereal in Myanmar. Rice tops the list of the country's export products.

Myanmar continuously exports rice, parboiled rice, sticky rice and broken rice to neighbouring countries, as well as to countries including the Ivory Coast, Senegal and other African states, Singapore, Sri

Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Russia, and some European states. To boost the country's income and promote the socio-economic status of farmers, the agricultural department is trying to boost production of quality rice, while trade authorities are seeking new overseas markets for rice exports. — Aung Si ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Contraband cell phones seized at Yangon airport

FOUR Chinese citizens trying to smuggle 129 Contraband cell phones worth nearly K24 million into Myanmar were caught at Yangon International Airport at 5.20 pm on 8 June.

A combined team comprising Customs officials and police officers found suspicious-looking images when they scanned the bags of four Chinese citizens including Mr. Zhi Weizhen through the X-ray machine at Terminal 1 of the airport.

When the police and Customs officials opened the suitcases they found the illegal cell phones from the four who arrived at the airport from Su-

wunna Bommi International Airport in Bangkok on board the Bangkok Airways.

Another 36 illegal cell phones worth about K7.2 million were also seized from a South Korean citizen at the same terminal at 6 am.

When the officials of the combined team scanned the suitcase of the Korean, Mr. Lee Myung Ja, they noticed suspicious-looking images, and when they opened it they found the illegal phones in his possession. Mr. Lee arrived at the airport from Hanoi airport in Viet Nam on board Vietjet flight. —MPF ■

(Translated by TMT)



Contraband mobile phones seized from Korean tourist Mr. Myung Jae.



Contraband mobile phones seized from four Chinese tourists.

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Pressure mounts on aviation industry over climate change

PARIS (France)—Under pressure from frequent flyers alarmed over climate change, the airline industry says it is “hellbent” on reducing emissions—but the technology needed to drastically reduce its carbon footprint is still out of reach. In recent months climate activists have stepped up efforts to convince travellers to boycott air travel, with Swedish schoolgirl and campaigner Greta Thunberg spearheading the trains-over-planes movement and making “flygskam”, or flight shame, a buzzword in the Scandinavian country.

“The sector is under considerable pressure,” admitted Alexandre de Juniac, chief executive of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), whose members met this week in Seoul.

The industry has been under fire over its carbon emissions, which at 285 grams of CO₂ emitted per kilometre travelled by a passenger far exceed all other modes of transport. Road transportation follows at 158 and rail travel is at 14, according to European Environment Agency figures. De Juniac said the industry was “hellbent” on lower-



Cutting CO₂ emissions is a major challenge given that the number of passengers is expected to double over the next two decades. PHOTO: AFP

ing emissions but the sector is also accused of underestimating its environmental impact, with the IATA chief lobbying heavily against a “green tax” on aviation backed by several countries including the Netherlands.

“Often these taxes are absorbed in the budgets of states and are spent on whatever they want, except the environment,” he said. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

estimates that air transport is responsible for two percent of global CO₂ emissions—roughly equivalent to the overall emissions of Germany, according to consulting firm Sia Partners.

But aircraft also emit particles such as nitrogen oxides, which can trap heat at high altitude, meaning the industry is actually responsible for five percent of global warming, according to the Climate Action Network,

an umbrella group of environmental NGOs. The industry has committed to improving fuel efficiency by 1.5 percent per year from 2009 to 2020 and stabilising its CO₂ emissions in preparation for a 50 percent reduction by 2050 compared to 2005.

It is a major challenge given that the number of passengers is expected to double over the next two decades to reach 8.2 billion in 2037.—AFP ■

Gondoleering goddesses teach ancient art to the masses

VENICE (Italy)—“Big wave incoming, use your legs!” shouts Gabriella Lazzari, as her laughing students try out their new gondoleering skills in the sunshine of Venice’s lagoon. Lazzari is one of some 20 women who teach tourists from around the world how to row standing up, Venetian style, in “Batela coda di gambero”, shrimp-tailed wooden boats.

“We take them out to the lagoon so they can do the gondoleering part without crashing into everybody,” quips Jane Caporal, who founded the Row Venice organisation more than eight years ago in a bid to save the “voga alla veneta” style of rowing. “Obviously Venice is motorised now, so people don’t row around in their little boats anymore,” she said. “The idea is to save the tradition. Not just the actual rowing, everything: the boat building, the oar making, the forcola (oar rowlock) making, crafts that have been going for centuries and centuries,” she said.—AFP ■

Fast, efficient way to build amino acid chains developed

CHICAGO—Using a streamlined process, researchers at the University of Illinois (UI) now can purify the amino acid precursors and build the polypeptides at the same time. Drawing inspiration from ribozymes, which excel at making amino acid chains quickly while isolating them from the cellular environment, the researchers have developed a system that mimics the ribozyme function, building the amino acid chains quickly while removing any molecules that could contaminate the system. This allows the researchers to build the desired chains with non-purified amino acid precursors, namely N-carboxyanhydride (NCAs).

Amino acid chains, called polypeptides, are the building blocks needed in drug development and the creation of new biomaterials. Traditionally, making polypeptide chains has been a very complicated process. Synthesizing and purifying the NCAs requires days of tedious effort, and building the polypeptide chains takes hours to days.—Xinhua ■

W. African farm ‘bootcamp’ gets green entrepreneurs into shape

TORI-BOSSITO (Benin)—Machetes in hand and wearing a straw hat against the sun, the participants of an “agro-bootcamp” in the farmlands of the West African nation of Benin harvest maize, cowpeas and rice.

“Cut at the base,” says Oluwafemi Kochoni, an organic farming teacher, who runs the agricultural workshop to prepare young people for a future sustainably working the land. “Then leave the plants in place, we will

bury them—they will decompose and fertilise the soil.” It’s beginner’s advice but the programme in Tori-Bossito, just outside Benin’s economic capital Cotonou, aims to teach basic, traditional ways of agriculture to those who have forgotten or never known a life on the land.

In Benin, a poor country next to oil giant Nigeria, some 80 percent of its 11 million people depend on agriculture, according to the UN’s Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO). Most are subsistence farmers eking out a living growing crops on small plots where a lack of infrastructure and flooding that can wipe out harvests and seed stocks are key challenges, the FAO warns.

But the “agro-bootcamps”—the name is borrowed from the intensive training of the US army—take place close to the suburbs of the city and are aimed at a different market. They are part of a wider movement to encourage self-sufficiency on the continent, which has some two-thirds of the world’s remaining uncultivated arable land—but spends \$64.5 billion a year importing food, according to the African Development Bank.

For 27,000 CFA francs (\$45, about 40 euros) a week, agro-bootcampers learn agricultural techniques, follow marketing courses and can network with successful agro-entrepreneurs.

‘Ecologically-aware businesspeople’

Like in traditional farming,

the agro-bootcamp way of life is communal on the three-hectare (seven-acre) plot of land put at its disposal for the week by a family in exchange for baskets of vegetables.

On the edge of the fields, a border hedge of moringa plants and grasses are grown to help stabilise the soil. There is also a fish farm in a pond, and another area to grow mushrooms. Behind the scheme is the Gardens of Hope, an organisation promoting sustainable ways of farming. “The advice usually received by farmers is based on the use of chemicals,” said participant Rachidi Idrissou, an agronomy student in Benin.

“We think of quick yields—and not sustainable production to preserve our land.” Benin is a youthful country; nearly two-thirds of the population is aged under 25. Camp organisers want to show young people struggling in the crowded cities looking for a job that working the land can offer an alternative and successful livelihood.—AFP ■



The programme aims to teach basic, traditional ways of agriculture to those who have forgotten or never known a life on the land. PHOTO: AFP

In historic first, G20 weighs ageing as global risk

FUKUOKA (Japan)—Ballooning healthcare costs, labour shortages and financial services for the elderly: for the first time Sunday, the world's top policymakers are tackling economic issues relating to ageing and shrinking birth-rates.

G20 finance ministers and central bank chiefs meeting in Japan—where a rapidly ageing population is a major domestic problem—have been warned to address the issue before it is too late.

“What we are saying is, ‘If the issue of ageing starts to show its impact before you become wealthy, you really won’t be able to take effective measures against it,’” Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso, the meeting’s host, told reporters late Saturday.

The G20 is a mixed bag of countries at various stages of development and population profiles, ranging from rapidly-ageing Japan to Saudi Arabia, next year’s G20 chair, which has a very young society.

In their communique, the group said “demographic changes... pose challenges and opportunities for all G20 members” and the issue requires a mix of “fiscal, monetary, financial and structural policies”.

And host Japan is eager to share its experience, with Aso sounding the alarm that nations must be ready to act before population ageing rears its head and piles pressure on the economy.

Longer life-expectancy and



Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (front C) and Bank of Japan governor Haruhiko Kuroda (front 3rd L) pose with other delegation members during a family photo session at the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in Fukuoka on 9 June 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

sliding birth rates, particularly among wealthy nations, have resulted in a rapid expansion of the elderly population in places such as Spain, Italy and South Korea, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

But the pattern is not limited to the rich world, with emerging powers such as Brazil and China also facing “rapid demographic change” relative to their early development stage, according to the OECD.

By 2050, the world is projected to have more than two billion residents aged 60 and above -- more than double the number in

2017 -- the OECD says.

But many economies have failed to update their pension and employment systems to adjust to the changing demographics, experts warn. This has resulted in fiscal and debt risks for whole countries, as well as individuals.

‘Workforce is shrinking’

OECD chief Angel Gurría sounded the alert in an interview with AFP on the sidelines of the meeting in the western Japanese city of Fukuoka. “You basically have a very large portion of mankind that is ageing and then the workforce is shrinking. But I would say the G20 in particular

are ageing faster,” the OECD secretary-general told AFP. “These are trends that will continue, I am afraid. It’s not something you can suddenly stop.” With its fast-shrinking workforce, Japan finds itself scrambling to find ways to cover the cost of its national pension. It has left many elderly fearing cuts to their benefits, while young people worrying that a pension may not exist by the time they retire. Meanwhile, a shrinking labour force means Japanese firms are unable to fill job openings. While unemployment stands at 2.4 percent, the job-to-applicant ratio was 1.6 earlier this year. —AFP ■

Thousands of Venezuelans cram border with Colombia

VILLA DEL ROSARIO (Colombia)—Several thousand Venezuelans, desperate for food and medicine, packed a border crossing to Colombia on Saturday, hours after President Nicolas Maduro partially reopened it.

Maduro had the day prior ordered the reopening of the Venezuelan border in the western state of Tachira, near the location in Colombia where the international community had massed humanitarian aid that Maduro’s government refused to take.

Early Saturday, thousands of people rushed to the border bridges between the two countries, and crowds in long queues stretched throughout the day.

“My two daughters have dengue. They have a fever, and I had to come get care in Colombia,” says Belky Rangel, 34,



Venezuelans line up to cross from San Antonio del Tachira to Cucuta, in Colombia, amid Venezuela’s economic and political crisis. **PHOTO: AFP**

about to burst into tears after waiting three hours with her two daughters, five and eight, to cross to Cucuta.

At midday, 18,000 people had crossed the border from Venezuela and 8,000 from Colombia, the head of the Migration Service in Colombia, Christian Krueger, told AFP.

Before the border closed

in February, about 30,000 people crossed the Simon Bolivar International Bridge every day, from San Antonio del Tachira, Venezuela, to Cucuta, official data show.

But containers deposited on the Venezuelan side to prevent any entry of humanitarian aid, considered by the government a potential pretext for foreign

military intervention, were still in place. “They have not moved the containers at all. It is so hard getting across. There are so many people” on the Venezuelan side, says Carlos Julio Perez, 55. He waited hours to go to a medical appointment on the Colombian side. When the border was closed, many Venezuelans crossed via hidden trails linking the two countries, putting themselves at the mercy of smugglers and armed groups.

The economically-devastated South American nation is suffering from shortages of food, medicine and other essentials amid a power struggle between socialist Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaido, who has been recognized as interim president by more than 50 countries including the United States. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi technology minister open to using Huawei products

TSUKUBA (Japan)—Saudi Arabia’s technology minister said Sunday he sees no problem with using products made by Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies Co.

“No, we don’t see a problem,” Abdullah bin Amer al-Swaha said in an interview with Kyodo News, after being asked whether he has any concerns about using Huawei products. —Kyodo News ■

4 dead in shootout between rival Indian political parties

KOLKATA (India)—Three supporters of India’s ruling right-wing party and another from a rival regional party have been killed in a gun battle in West Bengal state, police and a local politician said Sunday.

At least 18 others were injured in the clashes that broke out Saturday in the eastern state that has been on edge since Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched an aggressive campaign to win parliamentary seats last year. “Three of the dead were BJP workers while the other was a (regional) Trinamool party supporter,” a police official told AFP. Local BJP leader Mukul Roy tweeted that three BJP workers were “shot dead” in Sandeshkhali, West Bengal. —AFP ■

Mt. Sinabung erupts in western Indonesia, no casualty reported

JAKARTA—A column of thick ash was spewed seven km high to the sky from the crater of Mount Sinabung volcano in Sumatra Island of western Indonesia on Sunday, the country’s national volcanology agency said.

Belching of ash and smoke was shot at 16:28 p.m. Jakarta time, followed by a spread of hot ash to the southeast and south of the crater by up to 3.5 km and three km respectively, the agency said in a statement. —Xinhua ■



The city's pro-Beijing leaders are pushing a bill through the legislature that would allow extraditions to any jurisdiction with which it does not already have a treaty—including mainland China for the first time. PHOTO: AFP

Huge Hong Kong protest against China extradition law

HONG KONG (China)—Hong Kong witnessed its largest street protest in at least 15 years on Sunday as crowds massed against plans to allow extraditions to China, a proposal that has sparked a major backlash against the city's pro-Beijing leadership.

At least 150,000 people marched in blazing summer heat through the cramped streets of the financial hub's main island in a noisy, colourful demonstration calling on the government to scrap its planned extradition law.

The city's pro-Beijing leaders are pushing a bill through the legislature that would allow extraditions to any jurisdiction with which it does not already have a treaty — including mainland China for the first time.

Police told AFP at least 153,000 had started the march, but they had yet to calculate the crowd's peak figure with new people still joining hours after it began. Historically the police give much lower figures than organisers, but even this preliminary estimate would make it the largest street protest since 2003.

Dense crowds chanting "Scrap the evil law!" and "Oppose China extradition!" stretched for miles. Coffee shop owner Marco Ng said he was closing his store to join the march.

"Our city matters more than our business," the 26-year-old told AFP. "If we don't speak out, then there's no way that the government will listen to our concerns."

The last time the city saw a protest crowd of similar size was in 2003 when a massive demonstration forced the government to shelve a deeply unpopular national security law.

Groundswell of opposition

The extradition plans have sparked an opposition that unites a similarly wide demographic.

In recent weeks lawyers have held sombre marches dressed in black, anonymous senior judges have given critical media interviews and the city's two main legal groups — the Law Society and the Bar Association — have urged a rethink.

Business figures are also rattled with multiple chambers

of commerce and commercial groups expressing alarm, adding to criticism from the United States, Canada, former colonial power Britain and many European governments.

Hong Kong's leaders, who are not popularly elected, say the law is needed to plug loopholes and stop the city being a bolthole for mainland fugitives.

They say dissidents and critics will not be extradited and have urged the bill's quick passage to extradite a Hong Kong man who is wanted in Taiwan for murdering his girlfriend.

But critics fear the law would entangle people in China's opaque and politicised court system and say the government is using the Taiwan case as a Trojan Horse. The proposed law has been fast-tracked through the city's government-dominated legislature and on Wednesday it will receive its second reading, with plans to have the law on the statute books by late July. Previous sessions in parliament have descended into chaos with rival lawmakers scuffling. —AFP ■

India's Modi makes unscheduled stop at bombed Sri Lanka church

COLOMBO—India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday made an unscheduled stop at a Catholic church bombed during the Easter suicide attacks ahead of his official welcome to Sri Lanka.

Modi's entourage made a detour to St Anthony's shrine on their way to President Maithripala Sirisena's office, where a red carpet military parade awaited. "I am confident Sri Lanka will rise again," Modi said on Twitter while posting photos of himself at the church.

"Cowardly acts of terror cannot defeat the spirit of Sri Lanka. India stands in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka." Modi is stopping in Colombo on his return home after an official visit to neighbouring Maldives, where he inaugurated a coastal radar system and military training centre.

His brief but politically significant visit to the two neighbours comes as New Delhi seeks to fend off Chinese influence on the strategic nations. The Maldives, a low-lying archipelago of more than a thousand tiny coral islands south of the Indian subcontinent, straddles the world's busiest east-west maritime route. Sri Lanka is located

at a halfway point on the same sea route.

India, the traditional ally of both Sri Lanka and the Maldives, had watched with unease as former governments of strongman leader Abdulla Yameen of the Maldives and Sri Lanka's Mahinda Rajapakse leaned towards Beijing for political and financial support. Yameen's election loss last September, however, has seen the new administration under President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih swing back towards New Delhi. Colombo too has moved back to New Delhi after the defeat of Rajapakse in January 2015.

Last month, Colombo announced entering into partnership with India and Japan to develop a deep-sea container terminal next to a controversial \$500-million Chinese-run facility in the capital. A memorandum of cooperation (MOC) had been signed between the three countries to develop what is known as the East Terminal of Colombo port. China owns 85 percent of the adjoining Colombo International Container Terminal, which was commissioned in 2013. The state-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority owns the remaining 15 per cent.

—AFP ■



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe (r) welcomes Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (l) upon Modi's arrival at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake on 9 June 2019. PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh fishermen protest two month fishing ban

COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh)—Hundreds of Bangladeshi fishermen staged a protest in the country's south on Sunday, police said, after the government imposed an unprecedented two-month long fishing ban on the Bay of Bengal. Carrying placards and banners, the fishermen marched to Cox's Bazar city from coastal villages days after the government's 65-day long fishing embargo came into effect.

"This is wrong. This is injustice. No other country in the world has ever imposed such a long ban," said union leader Kolim Ullah through a loudhailer during the pro-

test. Ullah said the ban has hit the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of people in Bangladesh's coastal districts, home to about 20 million people, most of whom depend either directly or indirectly on fishing. "The embargo has especially hit the poor fishermen hard. They don't know any other work," he said. Bangladesh imposed the ban on fishing in the Bay of Bengal last week in an effort to replenish depleted stocks.

The junior minister for fisheries, Ashraf Ali Khan, said the ban would run from 20 May to 23 July, and that navy

and coast guard vessels would patrol the bay to prevent boats from putting to sea. Bangladesh frequently slaps seasonal bans on fishing in deep seas and coastal rivers, but authorities said this was the longest-ever imposed for shallow waters near the coast. It covers all types of fishing boats. Ullah said the protesters submitted a memorandum to the administrator in Cox's Bazar demanding the ban be shortened to one month and the government stop foreign fishing vessels from entering Bangladeshi waters. —AFP ■

Sudan police try to quell civil disobedience campaign

KHARTOUM (Sudan) — Sudanese police fired warning shots Sunday to disperse protesters building roadblocks in the capital, as part of a civil disobedience campaign against the ruling generals following a bloody crackdown that left dozens dead.

The campaign got underway nearly a week after the assault on demonstrators at a sit-in outside army headquarters, which followed talks breaking down between protest leaders and military rulers.

Following the call for civil disobedience, protesters set about building roadblocks in Khartoum while markets and shops were closed in several other towns and cities.

In the capital's northern Bahari district, people gathered tyres, tree trunks and rocks to build new roadblocks.

"Almost all internal

roads of Bahari have roadblocks. Protesters are even stopping residents from going to work," a witness told AFP. But riot police swiftly moved in, firing gunshots in the air and tear gas at demonstrators before clearing the makeshift barriers, he said.

The Sudanese Professionals Association, which first launched protests against longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir in December, said the civil disobedience campaign would continue until the military rulers transfer power to a civilian government.

In the Bahari district, onlookers saw a police truck full of people in civilian clothing but it was not possible to confirm whether they were arrested demonstrators. Khartoum residents have mostly remained indoors since Monday, when men in military fatigues raided

the protest camp and killed dozens of people. Several vehicles of the feared Rapid Support Forces (RSF), blamed by witnesses for the killings, were seen Sunday moving across some parts of the capital loaded with machine guns.

The RSF were also seen surrounding the main electricity station.

Residents in Khartoum have remained on edge since the raid on the sit-in, which killed at least 115 people according to doctors close to the demonstrators. The health ministry says 61 people died nationwide in the crackdown, 49 of them by "live ammunition" in Khartoum.

Several airlines have scrapped their Sudan flights since the deadly raid and passengers were left waiting outside Khartoum airport's departures terminal Sunday, although



In Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, across the River Nile, many shops and markets remained closed. **PHOTO: AFP**

it was unclear whether any flights would take off.

The downtown business district was largely shut and buses were not running in several districts, but private vehicles were ferrying passengers in some areas.

Markets, bakeries close

In Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, across the River Nile, many shops and markets remained closed but residents were seen buying staples in some grocery stores.

"Troops were also seen removing roadblocks from some streets in Omdurman," an onlooker said.

In the central city of Al-Obeid, the main market was shut and several bank employees did not report to work, residents said. In the town of Madani, south-east of the capital, people were seen queueing outside closed bakeries while the main market was also shut.—AFP ■

Hundreds held as Kazakhs vote for first new leader in decades

ALMATY (Kazakhstan)—Police in Kazakhstan arrested hundreds of opposition protesters Sunday at polls to elect the country's first new president in 30 years following the departure of historic leader Nursultan Nazarbayev. His hand-picked successor Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, 66, was a shoo-in to win the vote contested by six other candidates.

But the day was marked by the biggest protests the Central Asian country has seen in three years. AFP correspondents in Kazakhstan's two main cities Nur-Sultan and Almaty witnessed hundreds of arrests. Two AFP journalists were among those detained by police in the largest city Almaty where police broke up a protest involving several hundred people. One AFP correspondent was taken to a police station before being released while another had video equipment confiscated by police.

In Almaty, a journalist for Radio Free Europe/



Police officers detain opposition supporters during a rally in Nur-Sultan on 9 June 2019 - the day of Kazakhstan's presidential elections. **PHOTO: AFP**

Radio Liberty, Petr Trotsenko, and Marius Fossum from the Norwegian Helsinki Committee rights NGO were also detained. Both were later released by police. In Nur-Sultan, another Radio Free Europe journalist Saniya Toiken was held by police before being released. Nazarbayev's foreign-based political nemesis, fugitive banker Mukhtar Ablyazov had called for protests in cities across the nation on Sunday and Monday.

Career diplomat

Career diplomat and interim president Kass-

ym-Jomart Tokayev, 66, is running for the ruling party with backing from authoritarian Nazarbayev, who stepped down from the presidency in March. The 78-year-old strongman's departure shocked Kazakhs who had lived under his rule since Soviet times but he is still expected to call the shots in the oil-rich Central Asian state of 18 million people.

Tokayev's rivals in the polls that opened at 0100 GMT included one low-key opposition figure, but none is widely known in Muslim-majority Kazakhstan.

By contrast Tokayev

has won endorsements from pop stars and film actors, and appears to have the weight of the state machine behind him.

Both the president and his predecessor men voted early in the capital Nur-Sultan. Tokayev told reporters Nazarbayev was "still in power in the capacity of chairman of the security council... and other capacities". Responding to concerns about police crackdowns on protests ahead of the vote, Tokayev said that he would be "building up a dialogue with all those who support the government and those who are against the government."

Marat Sagyndykov, a 65-year-old retired civil servant said he had voted for Tokayev "in order to continue the course of the Leader of the Nation", referring to Nazarbayev's constitutionally designated status. "I think in 30 years we have had some successes. There have been negatives, too, but they exist in all countries," Sagyndykov told AFP.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (621 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (621 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1025 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1025 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-06-2019 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

Befriending and working with **Dolphins**

By Maung Thar (Archaeology)

I WAS excited as I sat in hull of the small boat that was paddled along the flowing Ayeyawady River. I was sitting between two fishermen, one at the bow and another at the stern of the boat as they skilfully rowed and guided the boat.

Ko Tha Chan sitting at the bow was striking the boat hull rhythmically with a short stick. The stick was like a drumstick used on a drum set in a rock band.

"If they are around and hear the sound of my stick, they'll come" he said. So I kept my gaze on the water that has yet to show anything yet. I was with the two fishermen between Mingun and Kyaukmyaung in the Ayeyawady River hoping to see the world famous Ayeyawady dolphins working together with the local fishermen to catch fish. This is the home of the Ayeyawady dolphins where the fishermen befriended and worked with them.

Dolphin lovers from all over the world come to this place to see fishermen and dolphin cooperating to catch fish.

"They remember the way I strike the stick. We fishermen has different way of striking a stick and a dolphin associated to a fisherman respond to the particular way a fisherman strikes a stick. It is like a fisherman having a specific dolphin as a friend or a partner and that dolphin respond to that fisherman." What Ko Pan Sein said as he rowed the boat from the stern was quite interesting.

Of the ten fishing villages between Mingun and Kyaukmyaung, fishermen from villages of Sin Kyun, Aye Kyun, Sein Pan Gon, Myit Kan Gyi, Hinthama, Se The and Myit Soon fish in co-operation with dolphins. A fishing boat had two fishermen with one rowing the boat and another handling the net. The rower had two oars, a short one and a long one. The short one was used for normal rowing while the long one was used as





PHOTOS: WCS MYANMAR

can't find them we asked those on shore about them. As the dolphins stay in a group and they regularly went up to the surface to breath, those on shore usually could see them. It looks like my dolphins are not here. Don't worry, we'll find them," he said.

Dolphins are mammals and they couldn't stay beneath the water for long and they came up to the surface to breath. As they breathe, they blow out waters so the fishermen were said to be able to identify their partner dolphin at sight. An average Ayeyawady dolphin is six feet long and had a circumference of about four feet.

As our boat approaches a sandbank near the middle of the river suddenly we saw two dolphins poking their heads out of the water. Ko Tha Chan immediately said, "Those are my dolphins. They're here because they heard the sound of my sticks. My group had three dolphins. Just watch, they'll signal once they find fish."

As he said that a dolphin stuck a tail fin straight up the

once the fishes were huddled together, the dolphin wiggles its tail fin above the surface of the water which was an indication to cast the net.

As the lead weighted net was casted fishes remaining outside the casted net were feasted upon by the dolphins. The dolphins were said to never feast on the fishes in the net as they seem to have an understanding with the fishermen that the one in the net was for the fishermen while only fishes outside the net were theirs. They also have the uncanny knack of indicating to cast the net at a shallow depth so that some fishes remain outside the net for them rather than having the whole school of fish caught in the net if it was cast-

ed in deep water.

As I looked in wonder at the way the two fishermen and dolphins cooperate to catch fish, my thoughts drifted toward the dolphins.

Documentaries on Ayeyawady dolphins and fishermen cooperating to fish were shot and screened by television stations from Japan and Germany in 2007 and 2008 making the world know more about these animals.

In the world dolphins, whales and dugongs were the only mammals to live in the water. Of the more than 30 dolphin species in the world, Ayeyawady dolphins are the only freshwater dolphin and were zoologically called *Orcaella brevirostris*.

... Dolphin lovers from all over the world come to this place to see fishermen and dolphin cooperating to catch fish.

The earliest record of Ayeyawady dolphin was made by Sir Richard Owen who found it in the harbour of Visakhapatnam on the east coast of India. From 1871 to 1879 an English Naturalist John Anderson explored along Ayeyawady River and found the Ayeyawady dolphins for the first time in its namesake river. On his return to England, he read a paper titled "Description of a new cetacean from the Irrawaddy River, Burma" at Zoological Society of London where he used the term Ayeyawady (Irrawaddy) dolphin for the dolphin he found. Later, when same species were found else-

where, they were also called Ayeyawady dolphin.

Professor G.H. Luce published a research paper titled Ancient Pyu in the Journal of Burma Research Society vol. 27, Part III (1937). Among the writings of Tang Dynasty on the Pyu, a word "River Pig" was used to describe an animal in the Ayeyawady River which is most likely the Ayeyawady Dolphin indicating that the animal has been thriving in the river for more than a thousand years.

Ayeyawady dolphins were found not only in Myanmar but also at Chika Lake in Odisha State, India; Mahakan River, Borneo Island, Indonesia; Songkla Lake in Thailand and in the Mekong River. Anderson recorded his sighting of Ayeyawady Dolphin in Ayeyawady River between Yenangyaung and Bhamo but was now only found in upper Mingun area.

Six locations along the 275 miles stretch of Ayeyawady River between Mingun and Bhamo were designated as protected areas for Ayeyawady dolphin by Wildlife Conservation Group and Fishery Department.

Once the river was full of dolphins but according to a survey conducted in 2014 there remains only about 70 dolphins. Despite the strict control against catching of dolphins and preventing battery shock fishing that kills the dolphins too, two dead dolphins were found recently. As the memories of the fishermen befriending and working with dolphins remain permanently etched in my mind, I thought that it is very important for the locals to value and cherish the dolphins and preserve and protect them.

Translated by Handytips



a pushing pole when the boat was in shallow water.

"There are a lot of fishermen but the dolphin remembers the specific fisherman it works together with. Of course it didn't remember the fisherman as a person but in a way the fisherman strikes the stick. On our part we remember our dolphin as they have different faces!" said the two as I was kept in awe by their words.

Even though some time went by and not a dolphin came into view even though Ko Tha Chan was striking his stick regularly.

"We just have to seek out where they are this way. If we

water surface and then hit the water with a big splash. Ko Tha Chan said this was a signal to follow it and rowed the boat to follow the dolphins.

Soon the dolphin stuck a tail fin straight up again. This was another signal to prepare for casting the net as it had found fishes beneath the water said Ko Tha Chan who then stood up in preparation to cast his net.

The dolphin leader that had stuck a tail fin was then seen swimming in a circle while other dolphins were doing the same. They were said to be circling the fishes tighter and tighter into a small circle and



Myanmar to play friendly match against Singapore on 11 June



The Myanmar national football squad, headed by its coaching team and officials, pose for a group photo at the airport in Singapore yesterday. **PHOTO:MFF**

THE Myanmar national football team will play a friendly match against Singapore at National Stadium of Singapore on 11 June, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar national football team arrived in Singapore yesterday afternoon, and the team has been training for the upcoming friendly match.

Team Myanmar will be headed by its new head coach,

Miodrag Radulovic.

There are 22 players who were selected for the squad, said a source with the Myanmar Football Federation.

The goal keepers are Kyaw Zin Htet and Kyaw Zin Phyo.

The defenders are Soe Moe Kyaw, Zaw Lin, Zaw Min Tun, Pyae Phyo Zaw, Win Moe Kyaw, David Htan, Thein Than Win, and Nanda Kyaw.

The midfielders are Yan Aung Kyaw, Yan Naing Aung,

Hlaing Bo Bo, Ye Ko Oo, Suan Lam Mang and Maung Maung Lwin.

The strikers are Kyaw Ko Ko, Aung Thu, Than Htet Aung, Zin Min Tun, Si Thu Aung and Win Naing Soe.

The friendly match will be held at 6:15 pm (Myanmar Local Standard Time) at the National Stadium of Singapore and will be broadcast live on Canal Plus Sports Channel.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar selects squad for AFF Women's Championship in Thailand

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has selected 26 players for its preliminary list to play at the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Women's Championship 2019 in Thailand from 15 to 27 August.

The squad contains veteran players, mixed with youth stars, and training will be begin on 11 June, said officials from the MFF.

The goalkeepers are Zar Zar Myint, May Zin Nwe and Khaing Zar Win.

The defenders are Ei Yadnar Phyo, Aye Aye Moe, Wai Wai Aungm Khin Than Wai, Khin Myo Win, Chit Chit, Khaing Thazin, Z-

in Zin Naing and Phyu Pyu Win.

The midfielders are Nge Nge Htwe, veteran star Khin Malar Tun, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Le Le Hlaing, Thin Thin Yu, Khaing Thazin Oo and May Thu Kyaw.

The strikers are Khin Moe Wai, Nu Nu, Ye Ye Oo, veteran star Win Theigi Tun, July Kyaw and youth star Myat Noe Khin.

Myanmar will compete in Group B, together with Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

The host Thailand has been placed in Group A, with Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Timor-Leste.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



File photo shows the Myanmar national women's football squad singing the national anthem during the international friendly match against Viet Nam at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 23 March. **PHOTO:MFF**

Golovkin brutally knocks out Rolls, calls for third Canelo fight

NEW YORK (United States)—Former unified middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin turned back the clock on Saturday night with a sensational fourth-round knockout of Steve Rolls in their super middleweight fight at Madison Square Garden.

The 37-year-old Kazakhstan fighter hit Rolls with a short left that sent the Canadian crumbling face first to the canvas with one minute to go in the fourth in front of a crowd of 12,357. "I feel great, I feel like a new baby," said Golovkin. Golovkin, who was fighting for the first time in nine months and coming off the first loss of his career, chose to fight the heavy underdog Rolls as he jockeys for a third fight against champion Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez.

But in the back of everyone's mind was last week's shocking heavyweight upset that saw unheralded and overweight Andy Ruiz steal three titles by dismantling champion Anthony Joshua.

Golovkin made sure there was no repeat of that, using the first three rounds of the 164-pound fight to figure out how

to break down the undefeated Rolls. Golovkin sized him up by winning a close first round. In the second, Rolls (10-1) hit him with a left hook and a left jab that snapped Golovkin's head back.

But Golovkin started to see cracks in Rolls' defence in the

third round. He stayed patient—even holding off and not throwing punches despite getting Rolls in a vulnerable position. Golovkin's the type of boxer who can put those moments away in his muscle memory bank for use later in the fight.

And that's just what he did to finish off the Canadian in the fourth, first landing a chopping left hand to the top of the head that hurt Rolls. The wobbly-kneed Rolls staggered backwards and then tried unsuccessfully to get Golovkin in a clinch. Golovkin

worked his way out of it and then slammed a short left from a southpaw stance into the face of Rolls for the knockout. "It is my style to knock people out," said Golovkin, who once had a 23 knockout streak. "I told my coach, 'OK I see it now, I see, I just need a little bit of time'."

Asked who he wanted to fight next, Golovkin didn't hesitate, "Everybody knows. I am ready for Canelo. Just bring him, ask him. If you want a big drama show, tell him."

Golovkin (39-1-1, 35 KOs) made a number of key changes heading into the scheduled 12-round fight.

He split with long-time trainer Abel Sanchez and signed a lucrative six-fight deal with US streaming company DAZN which may well smooth the way to a third bout with Alvarez, another DAZN fighter.

This was his first fight with new trainer Johnathon Banks and he hopes also a new beginning for his career.

"I come back to my knockout (ways)," he said. — AFP ■



Kazakhstan's Gennady Golovkin knocked out Canadian Steve Rolls in the fourth round of their super middleweight fight at Madison Square Garden. **PHOTO: AFP**