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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 75, 14th Waning of Nayon 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 1 July 2019

Tatmadaw extends unilateral ceasefire till 31 August

THE Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services issued a statement yesterday, extending the unilateral ceasefire till 31 August in order to aid the peace process.

On 21 December, 2018, the Tatmadaw had announced its decision to cease all military operations in the Northern Com-

mand, North-Eastern Command, Eastern Command, Eastern Central Command, and Triangle Region Command till 30 April, and it had later extended the ceasefire till 30 June, to help implement the peace process, according to the statement.

"It has been found that consecutive peace negotiations could be held during

the ceasefire period. Therefore, it is hereby announced that the Tatmadaw will extend its ceasefire period till 31 August in keeping with the expectations of the local ethnic people for peace, and so that all organizations involved in the peace process have the confidence to take it forward, with greater efforts," according to the statement.—MNA

Low pressure area over Bay of Bengal likely to intensify into depression

According to the observations at 6.30 pm yesterday, the low pressure area over the Northeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next 48 hours. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1st July, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 -13) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. — GNLM ■

Fifty-seven cyclone shelters under construction in Ayeyawady Region



A cyclone shelter is seen in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: THUZAR NWE (PYAPON)**

FIFTY-SEVEN cyclone shelters are being constructed in Ayeyawady Region to keep people safe in the event of a natural disaster, according to the

region's Department of Disaster Management.

"Ayeyawady Region gets a lot of rain every year, and it has plenty of creeks and rivers, which is

why floods are common here. As it was one of the regions affected by cyclone Nargis, it is essential that people here have cyclone shelters to protect them from

natural disasters, especially storms. For this reason, cyclone shelters have been built in the designated fiscal years,"

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MSWRR educates parents about early childhood development in Nay Pyi Taw

A ceremony to educate parents about early childhood development was held at Zabuthiri Hall in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday, with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement-MSWRR Dr Win Myat Aye calling on parents to systematically nurture their under three year old children

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said his ministry is also giving trainings to the employees to educate the parents as the ministry is concerned for early childhood development.

Long-term manpower resources need to be created from early childhood. Brain development of a child is within its first 1,000 days so parents must take the duty of systematic nurturing, said the Union minister.

To cover the needs of whole country, there are not enough state-operated daycare centers and preschools and still requirements across the nations. The government is providing as-

sistance for self-operated preschools and mother circles.

The Union minister has urged the parents to check the development of children until three years old regularly with the use of directives of the ministry.

Afterwards, the MSWRR Union Minister and Deputy Director-General answered to the questions raised by attended parents about the matters related to nurturing children, disabled children's education, more cooperation on hearing-impaired children, and trainings and techniques required for setting up home-based mother circles.

Then, the Union Minister, the Deputy Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, members of supervision committee on nurturing early child's development and related officials met and discussed.

Following the meeting, the Union minister held a meeting with Nay Pyi Taw authorities



The ceremony to educate parents about early childhood development being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

over a child abuse case in Nay Pyi Taw.

In accordance with the ministry's procedures, the Social Welfare Department of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area has been

working over the child abuse case occurred in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area since it happened, pledging to discover the truth about the case.

Pre-primary schools have

been ordered to accept children aged three to five years old and not to open the schools before permission, according to the ministry.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win addresses the meeting for insurance development in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Planning & Finance Ministry hold meeting on insurance development

DEPUTY Minister for Planning Finance U Maung Maung Win and officials held a meeting to seek means for further progress of the domestic insurance industry yesterday at Myanmar Insurance (head office) in Yangon.

Speaking on the occasion, the deputy minister said permits would be issued for the foreign insurance companies that would join the Myanmar market in the near future, and expressed belief that they would be the facilitator for the growth of domestic insurance industry.

He called for intensifying public awareness of the insur-

ance, as most of the people were not familiar with the business till now. "If compared with the industries of the regional countries, ours is much smaller in scope," added.

"As for our insurance industry to reach the international level, we need systematic schooling of the personnel and agents of the sector," he suggested. The participants then shared experiences and knowledge sector-wise, and the IBRB members and officials took part in the general round of discussions.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn) ■ (Translated by TMT)

New market for Myanmar agricultural and livestock product discussed

With the aim of development of agriculture, collaboration on agriculture and agriculture research and cementing friendship between Myanmar and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mr. Zhang Xiu Long called on Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw and officials at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the Meeting, they discussed market demand in Guangxi Zhuang, collaboration

of experts on agriculture and Livestock research, possible successful cropping of Guangxi Zhuang corn in Myanmar, exchanging technology on using all natural pesticide and reducing use of chemical pesticide, pricing of Myanmar Sein Ta lone Mango in Guangxi Zhuang, negotiation between business people to buy cane and acquiring new technology of pig farming currently successful in China.—MNA ■ (Translated by Alphonsus)



Officials of Myanmar and China hold the meeting over agriculture and livestock research and cementing friendship between Myanmar and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

NRPC meets KIO, MNTJP, PSLF, ULA in Mongla, Special Region (4)

A DELEGATION of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) held talks with four armed groups which are non-signatories to Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) -- Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party (MNTJP), Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF), and United League of Arakan (ULA) – at Orient Hotel in Mongla, Special Region (4), eastern Shan State at 10 am yesterday, according to Adviser U Hla Maung Shwe of the Peace Commission (PC).

The government delegation after holding discussion with KIO, MNTJP, PSLF and ULA for over an hour, presented the proposal in connection with the bilateral ceasefire agreement (draft) of the government to them. The delegation also made an overture to the four armed group to meet again in the second or the third week of July.

As regards the meeting between the government and KIO+3, U Hla Maung Shwe

said, “The chair and members of Mongla Special Region (4) were included in the coordinators to hold the meeting. At the meeting which was held amidst the difficulties, the vice chair and secretary PC presented the proposals in connection with the bilateral ceasefire agreement (draft) of the government, which can also be termed “the second draft” to them. We have suggested to hold a follow-up meeting in the coming two or three weeks. We expect that the groups will review our proposals, meet with us again and discussed the matters on bilateral ceasefire agreement. Joint secretaries of Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) and National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA) (Mongla) attended the meeting as observers.”

Vice Chair of PC U Thein Zaw, Secretary Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retired), and advisers U Hla Maung Shwe, Dr Min Zaw Oo and U Moe Zaw Oo, and peace negotiator U Thet Naing attended the meeting as the del-



Delegation of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center holds talk with Kachin Independence Organization, Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party, Palaung State Liberation Front, and United League of Arakan in Mongla yesterday. **PHOTO: HMS**

egates of NRPC, representatives of KIO, MNTJP, PSLF and ULA as participants, and joint secretaries of SSPP and NDAA as observers.

The government delegation and the four armed groups

met at Muse-Namhkam Border Traders Association in Muse on 30 April this year, and discussed the peace process in connection with the definite points involving the pledges to sign the NCA which are included in the

Bilateral Ceasefire Agreement, troop deployments, and means to prevent armed conflicts. The definite points are to be stipulated in the draft bilateral ceasefire agreement.—Ye Khaung Nyunt
(Translated by TMT)

International standard Myanmar Aquarium targeted to open in 2020 in Yangon

U Tin Maung Tun of Mottama Development Company, which is implementing the aquarium project, said that Myanmar first international standard aquarium is underway to be opened in 2020.

“There will be glass tunnels, from which people can see fish above, called Under Water World. For that, there was a lot of security consideration. So, we took international technical assistance. The equipment is customized and cannot be bought in the market, which is why it takes

time. Now, the construction of the building has completed. It has yet to be installed Light Sporting System and put fish. We are trying to open in 2020”, U Tin Maung Tun said.

This aquarium is built on the 5 acres of compound of Kandawgyi Park by Myanmar Aquarium Co.Ltd with the permission of Yangon Regional Government. The project was started at the beginning of 2014.

It was reported that it is the collaborate effort of Depart-

ment of Fisheries and Myanmar Aquarium Co.Ltd with long term Loan agreement.

At the aquarium, there will be freshwater fish from most northern part of Myanmar, salt-water fish from Rakhine coastal region and fish along Ayeyarwady river for public to see.

It has been discussed with regional government that when it is open, the admission price will be affordable to everyone besides special prices for the students.

U Tin Maung Tun said “the priority is for the public to see the international standard aquarium. Freshwater and salt-water fish species from most northern and southern part of Myanmar will be on display. For international tourist, this is where they can see all Myanmar fish species. There will be different admission price for foreigners”.

There will be 20 exhibitions and visitor will be briefed on the fish at entrance of each exhibition. Plus, children can touch and play with fish from some exhibitions.

Mottama Development group implementing Myanmar Aquarium Project is now building five international standard aquariums: one on Pyay Road M tower, one at Terminal M Shopping mall near Aung Mingalar Bus Terminal, one at harbor trade tower near Yangon International Airport and one at HL tower.

Mottama showroom was opened at Maha Land Center on Kabar Aye Pagoda road, Yankin township, Yangon yesterday.—Zaw Gyi ■
(Translated by Alphonsus)



The architectural model of the Myanmar Aquarium. **PHOTO: MNA**

Illegal drugs confiscated in Maungtau, Muse

THE TATMADAW troops seized 117,200 stimulant tablets worth K 234.4 million from a boat near U Shay Kya creek in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State on 29 June.

During their patrol, Tamadaw found a boat on Naf River and asked to stop but the boat ran away. Then, the boat was found at the shore near U Shal Kya creek mouth, with the drugs on board.

Similarly, anti-narcotic drug squad No.22 from Muse seized 4,875 stimulant tablets during the raid on the house of Daw Nam Kham Tun in Winenar Village, Tain Lone Village-tract in Muse Township on the same day.

Police filed charges against the suspect under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Japan hands over third ship to Myanmar for Rakhine State

THE third ship for operating transport services on the coastal route in Rakhine State was handed over to the Ministry of Transport and Communications by the Japanese government during a ceremony yesterday in Yangon.

Kissapanadi-3 will operate between Sittway and Kyaukpyu along the coastal route.

The service on the new route will reduce travel time from the previous seven hours along the river to four hours along the coastal route.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony at the Rose Garden Hotel on Pansodan Street in Yangon, the Union Minister for Transport and Communications highlighted the need for modern ships which ensure safety of passengers while travelling on the rivers or along the coast as people are relying on waterways.

Kissapanadi-3 was built at a cost of 1 billion Japanese yen at the Sumidagawa Shipyard, under the Grand Aid for Economic and Social Development Programme 2016.



The ship named Kissapanadi-3 will operate between Sittway and Kyaukpyu along the coastal route in Rakhine State. **PHOTO : MNA**

The first ship, Kissapanadi-1, arrived in Kyaukpyu from Japan on 14 March, 2017. It has been operating along the Sittway-Myaybon-Kyaukpyu route since 10 April the same year.

Kissapanadi-2 arrived five months after the first ship, and has been plying the Sittway-Myaybon-Kyaukpyu route

since 1 September, 2017.

At the handing over ceremony yesterday, Mr. Masashi Adachi from Japan's Ministry of Land Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism presented a scale ship model to Union Minister U Than Sin Maung to mark the handing over of Kissapanadi-3, and the Union Minister present-

ed a gift to Mr. Lchiro Maruxama from the Japanese ministry.

The ceremony came to an end with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pyu presenting gifts to the Japanese Ambassador and the Union Minister. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Fifty-seven cyclone shelters under construction in Ayeyawady Region

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said U Than Soe, the Director of the Regional Department of Disaster Management.

"We hope to protect people from natural disasters by building more shelters. Permission to stay in the shelters will depend on the intensity of the disaster," he added.

Weather experts have predicted higher rainfall this year compared to previously, which may lead to floods.

"Disaster management teams are on standby. We want to request public collaboration, too. There will be rescue teams and fiber boats for emergency response, besides cyclone shelters. Rescue equipment, in proportion with the households, are being kept at the regional and district offices. Educational seminars on natural disasters and drills have been conducted," he said.

There are 57 cyclone shelters being built in Ayeyawady

region: 5 in Phyapon Township, 5 in Daydayal Township, 10 in Bogale Township, 2 in Latputar Township, 15 in Pyinsalu Township, 1 in Mawlamyine Kyun Township, 1 in Pathein Township, 1 in Ng Pu Taw Township, 6 in Hine Gyi Kyun Township, 2 in Thar Paung Township, 5 in Ye Kyi Township, 1 in Kyaut Kone Township, and 1 in Ingapu township.

"We welcome the construction of the shelters in our region. Unlike the time when Nargis

struck, there are now strong buildings to provide shelter, so losses will be lower. We have been in need of such buildings for a long time. I would like to suggest that they speed up the construction," said Daw Myint Myint Win from Ayeyar village of Bogale Township.

At present, there are 90 completed cyclone shelters. Normally, the School Cum Shelters are used as classrooms. —Thuzar Nwe

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Government increases reward for information on illegal trading

By Aye Yamone

Since their formation, the special task forces for preventing and controlling illegal trade have registered 594 cases and seized illegal goods with an estimated value of K10.37 billion, said Vice President U Myint Swe.

The government has increased the cash reward for those providing police with information on illegal trading, he added. Earlier, informers and those helping arrest smugglers were given 10 per cent of the value of seized goods was giv-

en to informers and those who helped arrest smugglers. Now, the reward has been increased to 20 per cent for informers and 30 per cent for those helping arrest smugglers. While the government kept 8 per cent of the total value of confiscated goods earlier, it has now increased it to 50 per cent.

At the 28th regular monthly meeting between the government and private businesspersons, Vice President U Myint Swe said the reward has been increased to motivate people to come forward and report illegal

trading. Illegal trade has been effectively controlled in some regions and states, and the new move is aimed at curbing smuggling, he said.

Union Commerce Minister Dr. Than Myint said prevention and control of smuggling is very important. "The illegal trade of goods affects not only consumers, but also the country's micro, small, and medium enterprises. The government has been making continuous efforts to prevent and control illegal trading. Cooperation is needed between the state and regional governments

and merchants," he said.

To control illegal trade, trade-related restrictions on official traders need to be lifted, and action needs to be taken against those who illegally import and sell goods, he added.

The government has set up special task forces headed by regional and state ministers to prevent and control illegal trading in the nine regions and states. As of June, 2019, the task forces have seized illegal goods worth K10.37 billion. ■

(Translation by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Yangon Region in talks with Yunnan, Shanghai to boost fishery exports

By Aye Yamone

NEGOTIATIONS are underway between the Yangon Region Government and the provincial governments of Yunnan and Shanghai for promoting fishery exports to China, said Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

To help increase the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at the soonest, fish farming and fishery export sectors need to be improved, he said.

"We are discussing improving fish farming and the fishery production sector with the Yunnan provincial government. We are also discussing the matter with the Shanghai provincial government. We are trying to create a Yangon-based fish market," said U Phyo Min Thein.

At present, the Yangon Region Government is negotiating with all the stakeholders in the supply chain, including the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and

inshore and offshore fishing businesses. He made the remarks at the 28th regular meeting of Vice President 1 with private entrepreneurs, held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry last Saturday. MFF Vice President Dr. Toe Nandar Tin said the federation has asked the government to tackle problems faced in export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

According to the MFF, integrated poultry and fish farming cannot ensure food safety, which is a requirement for export. Therefore, the federation has asked for the formulation of a law to restrict that kind of mixed farming. Fish farming must be conducted as a large-scale project to get access to Project Bank loans, according to the MFF. ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Workers harvest fish at a farm in Ayeyawady Delta. PHOTO: THAN HTIKE

Annual inflation highest in May at 7.82%

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index, was the highest in May at 7.82 per cent, according to a report released recently by the Central Statistical Organization, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The price of imported goods such as fuel oil and foreign exchange rose in the month of May. Myanmar citizens made donations, organized charitable events, and many of them undertook travel. Transportation costs surged on the back of soaring fuel oil prices, thereby pushing up commodity prices.

There was a remarkable increase in CPI in the food, non-food, household goods and

maintenance, transportation, other commodities, clothing, health, education services, recreation and culture groups, except telecommunications.

The average inflation rate has been rising gradually from 4.58 per cent in June, 2018, and touched its highest level in May this year.

In the past 12 months, the year-on-year inflation rate was the highest at 9.63 per cent in May, while core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, was 6.58 per cent.

In May, Magway Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 11.94 per cent, followed by Mon State at 10.28 per cent, and Mandalay City at 10.21 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate fluctuated with a maxi-

mum rate of 14.87 per cent in Magway Region and a minimum rate of 4.33 per cent in Kachin State.

Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a survey conducted in 2006. The base year was later changed to 2012.

The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November, 2012.

To reduce the inflation rate, the concerned authorities have been making efforts on the basis of policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, in keeping with the second five-year National Development plan. — Htet Myat ■ (Translated by EMM)

4,000 acres converted to modern farms in Yangon Region

By Aye Yamone

THE Yangon Region government has upgraded 4,000 acres of farmland to establish modern farms, with an allocated spend of K8 billion for farm treatment, said Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

He made the remarks at the 28th regular meeting of Vice President 1 with private entrepreneurs at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, held last Saturday.

"Since the NLD government formally took office, 4,000 acres of farmland has been converted to modern farms. The government has spent K8 billion on farm repair and treatment. Therefore, we will make efforts to improve the farming sector and grab market share," said U Phyo Min Thein.

"Public-private partnership (PPP) plays a vital role in the development of agriculture and the agro market. The Yangon Region government itself will try to fulfil the needs of the private sector," he said.

To help Myanmar agricultural products penetrate more external markets, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) cer-

tificates are also being issued to growers, he added.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation issued GAP certificates to growers at the Yangon Region Hluttaw office on 27 June.

"Adopting the GAP system for farming would help gain trust in the foreign market. We need to systematically cultivate crops, starting from the sowing period," said U Phyo Min Thein.

The GAP system guides production systems towards sustainable agriculture in order to provide sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to consumers. It also covers food safety, environmental conservation, quality of crops, and occupational safety and health in the workplace.

When good agricultural practices are implemented, consideration must be given to the selection of land, crops, water supply, supplementary inputs such as fertilizers, agricultural machinery, and other chemicals, nurturing of seedlings, harvesting, logistics and warehouse matters, pest control, monitoring of GAP practices, working environment, and condition of workers have to be considered. ■

(Translated by EMM)

Mandalay to host real estate expo on 5-7 July

A real estate expo will be held from 5 to 7 July at the city hall in Mandalay, with organisers showcasing property projects from over 30 construction companies.

This will be the third time iMyanmarHouse.com, an online property trading website, has organised the expos in Mandalay.

During the three-day event, the participating compa-

nies will display a large number of flats, condominium apartments and detached houses for sale in Yangon, Mandalay, Pathin and Taunggyi, as well as in Bangkok.

The property displayed at the expo will be available at prices starting at over K10 million.

In addition, the expo will offer educational seminars with news about the current econo-

my and real estate, as well as information about applying for home loans.

U Nay Min Thu, managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com, said arrangements are being made to help house seekers apply for home loans during the exhibition, in partnership with YOMA Bank.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

There is potential for growth in the rattan production industry. However, we still cannot meet the demand and quality standards: Rattan wares producer

By Kyaw Zeya

Following is an interview with U Thaung Aye, the chair of Monsoon Village Rattan Furniture in Thanlyin

Q: Please tell us the impact of advanced technology on the traditional craft economy.

Ans: Countries with advanced technology are no longer executing traditional craft businesses. With the technology improving, businessmen in the Philippines, Thailand, and Taiwan are giving up on traditional crafts. Only CLMV — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam — are running craft businesses. Even art and craft businesses are at the risk of dying out in Viet Nam. But, we will keep traditional craft-based businesses alive as long as our country's technology does not improve to a certain extent. The majority of rural people in Myanmar have art and craft skills. We can get raw material at a cheap price as we have our own natural resources. However, poor management is causing a slew of challenges in the industry. Small rattans are primarily produced in Kachin State and Sagaing Region, while bigger ones are found in Gwa in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Region.

Q: How is the current furniture market climate?

Ans: We saw market growth prior to the Saffron revolution



U Thaung Aye

in 2017. There were 40-50 rattan companies back then. After the US and western countries imposed economic sanctions against Myanmar, the industry faced a crisis. Only five or six companies now survive.

Q: What are the prospects for this market?

Ans: There is potential for growth in the rattan production industry. However, we still cannot meet the demand and quality standards.

Q: How many countries have you grabbed a market share in? How are the external market conditions?

Ans: We have shipped our rattan furniture to New Zealand, South Africa, Belgium, the UK, and other countries. We have introduced our rattan furniture, linked up with international buyers, and tried to gain a market share through trade fairs such as the Singapore International

Furniture Fair, Shanghai International Furniture Fair, and Bangkok International Furniture Fair. Earlier, we had approached our Chinese trade partners. Now, we have met with our Vietnamese counterparts. Some foreign wholesalers have observed the market and have negotiated with us to get the cheapest price.

They have made bulk purchases by signing an MoU and have distributed the goods to international retailers. At present, even retailers are directly purchasing goods at trade fairs. So, we can make more profit from them. Participation in trade fairs, at an estimated cost of K20-30 million, cannot guarantee profits. Therefore, we have started launching sales websites to reach a wider retail network. It is also cost-effective digital marketing.

Q: Is there steady export volume?

Ans: We have regular orders for 20-foot container loads. We produce 12 containers per year.

Q: Which products do you distribute in the domestic market?

Ans: We provide hampers to City Mart holdings. We have to rely on the domestic market. Earlier, I was the only one who had secured a share of that market, with orders for 40,000 hampers per year. Now, I have competitors and am supplying about 20,000 hampers.



Workers make rattan furniture at the Monsoon Village Rattan Furniture in Thanlyin. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

Q: How many workers do you employ?

Ans: I have around 50 workers currently in my employ. Earlier, when this business was booming, we had 200 workers — 100 skilled workers, 50 semi-skilled workers, and 50 apprentices. I had ambitions to increase the labor force to 400-500 workers. However, unfortunately, a fire engulfed our factory after one year of operation.

Q: Have you faced any difficulty in seeking permits for raw materials?

Ans: We have to apply for a rattan licence. Extraction quota is granted to each township. However, some townships do not produce rattan, and changes in rules have led to red tape in obtaining permits.

Q: Please let us know the price of raw materials.

Ans: The price of rattan is positively related to commodity prices. We can get as much raw material as we need despite an increase in prices.

Q: What is the status of the border market for rattan?

Ans: There is a legitimate border channel for rattan trade between Myanmar and China. We export raw rattan through the Muse and Lweje border gates to China. Maritime trade will increase costs as finished rattan producers in Yangon cannot buy larger volumes of raw materials than border traders. Meanwhile, Chinese traders in border areas are purchasing even low-quality raw materials. Therefore, we are facing unfair market competition. After China's traders halt rattan purchase, we can purchase as much as we wish.

Q: How many factories do you run?

Ans: I have two factories for framing and webbing. We have our raw materials and finished products stockpiled in the factories for the export market.



Rattan furniture and wares are seen at the Monsoon Village Rattan Furniture in Thanlyin. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

(Translated by EMM)

EU leaders close in on top jobs compromise

Brussels — European leaders met in Brussels for the second round of emergency talks in ten days Sunday to hammer out a deal on the top jobs in their union.

Arriving at a summit that could go late into the night, France's President Emmanuel Macron said he was optimistic there would be a breakthrough.

But Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel was less hopeful, warning the debate would be far from easy to resolve.

The 28 leaders are aiming to agree candidates for president of the European Commission, president of their own Council and a foreign policy chief.

The European Parliament will then vote for its own speaker this week, and a new director for the European Central Bank will be chosen later.

Officials are preparing breakfast talks Monday if the summit goes late.

"The way things are present-

ed, they will not be very simple consultations, to put it mildly," Merkel, the bloc's most influential leader, said as she arrived for the talks.

Macron, however, told reporters he expected a "constructive accord".

"I'm not pushing this candidate or that one," he said. "You've never heard me say that I'm stuck on this or that candidate."

He nevertheless reiterated the names of Dutch socialist Frans Timmermans, Danish liberal Margrethe Vestager and French conservative Michel Barnier. Macron admitted he had been "hostile" to some candidates, a discreet reference to German conservative MEP Manfred Weber.

He stressed that the four candidates nominated by the leaders must include two women and someone from eastern Europe.

Party sources said Weber



France's President Emmanuel Macron speaks to the press as he arrives for an emergency EU leaders summit to hammer out a deal on the top jobs in the bloc. **PHOTO: AFP**

— once the candidate of Merkel to head the Commission — was ready to step aside, though his sidelining will further hurt the chancellor's fragile political standing at home.

This move however would set the stage for the leaders to

line up behind Timmermans, vice president of the outgoing Commission, for the top job.

Weber, a veteran MEP with no executive experience, could then count on broad support to be elected head of the parliament. The German lawmaker may an-

nounce this decision later Sunday, party officials said, breaking the logjam.

Merkel discussed this option at Saturday's G20 summit with Macron, Spanish Premier Pedro Sanchez and the Netherlands' Mark Rutte.—AFP ■

Cooler temps for parts of Europe as Germany, Italy bake some more

PARIS — A welcome temperature drop came to western parts of Europe on Sunday, bringing relief to areas that have sweltered through a widespread, deadly heatwave for almost a week.

But the reprieve was not universal, with Germany measuring a record high temperature for June and Spanish firefighters battling three major blazes with the help of more than 700 sol-

diers and water bombing planes.

In Rome, Pope Francis told pilgrims on Saint Peter's Square: "I pray for those who have suffered the most from the heat in recent days; the sick, the elderly, those who work outside, on construction sites ... let no one be abandoned or exploited."

Six days of intense heat fuelled huge blazes and spikes in pollution in many countries, and officially claimed four lives

in France, two in Italy and another two in Spain. The victims included a 17-year-old harvest worker, a 33-year-old roofer and a 72-year-old homeless man.

In northern and western France Sunday, hot-weather warnings were lifted days after the country posted successive record temperatures as it sizzled alongside Italy, Spain and some central European nations.

—AFP ■



Western parts of Europe welcomed a dip in temperatures after almost a week of stifling heat and spikes in pollution. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indonesia arrests Jemaah Islamiyah leader at large since 2003

JAKARTA — Indonesian counterterrorism police have arrested a leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian wing of international terrorism network al-Qaida, for allegedly preparing for terror attacks by producing weapons and building a fighting force, a police source said Sunday.

The source within the elite Detachment 88 unit told Kyodo News that Para Wijayanto, who had been at large since 2003, was arrested Saturday morning at a hotel in Bekasi in the suburbs of Jakarta.

The source did not give any further details, while National Police spokesman Muhammad Iqbal said he was unable to confirm the arrest.

Para, 54, emerged on police radar after he was found to have had extensive communication with some of the most notorious JI figures, including perpetrators of the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people.

An engineering graduate of Diponegoro University, a

well-known public university in Indonesia, Para is said to have taken part in short military training on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao in early 2000.

Para, who came to be known as the "crown prince of JI," was named the militant extremist group's amir, or leader, in 2008, owing largely to his good organizational skills, though his knowledge of Islam was limited, according to police.

Under his leadership, JI, which had earlier focused its attacks primarily on Western interests, has been building a clandestine paramilitary wing and recruiting new militants on campuses, according to the police and terrorism experts.

Terrorism researcher Mohamad Adhe Bhakti, who also confirmed Para's arrest, said the group, now known as neo-JI, was apparently preparing new terror attacks by "producing weapons," modifying air guns and replacing their bullets with iron ones.—Kyodo News ■

Industries for value-added food products

FOOD-BASED products from neighbouring countries are entering our domestic market, despite the abundance of rice, beans, corn, edible oil crops, vegetables, and fruits in Myanmar. Why? One reason is that although we are a food producer nation, we are weak in manufacturing finished food products.

At a time when we are focusing on rice cultivation and production alone, imported rice-based foodstuff, including instant porridge, noodles, powder, and cookies, have become popular among Myanmar consumers.

Likewise, the market share of our domestic edible oil, derived from groundnut or sesame, is much smaller when compared with

that of imported vegetable oil, sunflower oil, corn oil, and soybean oil. Those foreign brands are attracting more buyers as they are better in quality and packaging, and lower in price. What's more, they guarantee the safety of their products.

Myanmar has already set the goal of turning itself into an agro-based industrial country. We have huge swathes of vacant and fallow land, plenty of labour, and ready internal and external markets. Besides, 60 per cent of our domestic industries are involved in food-manufacturing. But, about 90 per cent of them are small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Domestic food producers, especially SMEs, cannot guarantee their products' safety, and the quality of their goods is much lower, because they have less capital and lag in technology. They are also weak in packaging.

So, their products do not meet the standards set for exports. Even if their products meet export standards, they do

not manufacture enough to meet the demand. All these disadvantages have originated in our weakness in turning agricultural raw materials into value-added goods. In other words, we need higher technology and larger investments in this sector.

Recently, a Myanmar business entity signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with its Japanese counterpart to set up a new industrial zone in Yangon, where quality food-based products will be manufactured.

The main raw material will come from domestic sources. The Japanese company will invest US\$150 million in the industrial zone. We hope that more such industrial zones are set up in the future as they can generate jobs for the young and ensure a steady raw material market for our farmers.

We can also set up foodstuff industrial zones in other major towns of the country, where infrastructure, electricity, water, and roads and bridges are available. We need to set them up in many places all over Myanmar as they can serve as a springboard for the robust economic development of our country.

■ ■ ■

Extreme sports: mountaineering and climbing

By Swe Myint Moh

Most sports tend to win or lose the competition; climbing sport does not get involved with the human competition, but it is a strange sport to overcome natural disasters.

THERE are many kinds of sports in the world, dividing mainly into three groups: the first group falls into social type in which Yoga, tai ji quan and aerobic exercises are included. The second category is termed as a competitive type, playing individually or in a team. In the second group, badminton, table tennis, track and field, short put, sepak takraw, basketball, volleyball and football are included. In third category, boxing, motor racing, motorcycle, ice skating, high jump and mountaineering are included.

Facing natural disasters

Most sports tend to win or lose competition; climbing sport does not get involved with human competition, but rather it is

ygen, vomiting and headache, exhaustion and sleeplessness. Staying on an ice field for a long time tends to have frostbites of limbs and toes, nose and ears and skin bruises; sometime these body parts dropped off due to the frostbites.

Practice in advance depending on the types of mountains. When a mountaineering expedition is arranged, prior rigorous exercises must be taken depending on the types of mountains. Day-trip mountaineering includes Myinmathi Mountain, Hsin Mountain, East and West Mountain, Mene Mountain and Yazatri Mountain. One or two nights spent on the mountains include Victoria Mountain. 14-15 days of return-trips include camping over 10000ft high mountains: Hponkan



Climbing has always been a dangerous endeavour.

Day-trip mountaineering includes Myinmathi Mountain, Hsin Mountain, East and West Mountain, Mene Mountain and Yazatri Mountain.

a strange sport to overcome natural disasters. Climbing earth and rock mountains will have to suffer from wind, rain, and tiredness; exhaustive ascent and decent will be experienced but without risking one's life. If one tries to an ice mountain over 10 000 ft high, that mountain, that mountain has rarely been inhabited by humans in its great wilderness, mountain ranges and spurs.

Crossing ice streams with strong currents, trembling with extreme cold due to heavy rainfall throughout the day, biting leeches, small and land leeches and sand flies make you itchy and swollen and scarcity of drinking water. Reaching over 10,000 ft of the mountains makes one breathless and tired due to lack of ox-

Razi, Phangran Razi, Madoi Razi and Mount Saramati and so on.

Intending to climb these mountains, exercises must be done again and again.

Daily exercises are good for mountaineers; but mainly on Sat and Sun, at about 5 pm you have to walk carrying around 20-pounds to and fro for 12 miles with a time limit of 3 hours. This exercise must go on by setting on a weekly basis. Depending on a mountaineering expedition, you have to practice except Sat and Sun from three months to a year.

During the intervals except Saturday and Sunday, exercises could be done individually or in groups as needed. Exercises for ascents

and descents of hills or short trips to overcome obstacles could be carried out. Climbing requirements and medicines need to be heeded.

While trying to climb an ice mountain, walking sticks, ice skates and ski goggles are needed. Climbers have to abide by disciplines prescribed by the club; local customs need to be heeded by climbers.

Do's and don'ts must be abided by from the beginning and ending of the expedition. These things need to be reminded daily.

Choose the safest route

While climbers are crossing the streams with strong currents, they have to use the strong robes to avoid drifting along the strong currents. They have to use strong robes only on ascents and descents in climbing a canyon of 80-90 degrees steep and mountain walls.

Normally climbers have to seek a safety route around the mountain with rare use of robes. Climbers are divided into three groups to start climbing a mountain. First and third groups are

comprised of local guides who are experienced with physical strengths. Middle group members are not only allowed to overtake the first group but also not follow the third group. Climbers who are left behind for various reasons must be guarded by the third group. While walking on an ice field, a long line of individuals headed by local experienced climber whose footprints must be treaded by other members. Missteps and loss of routes must be carefully taken into consideration. Estimating thin or thick ice is impossible, walking unstable or sinking into the snow must be heeded carefully. Even if all members reach the summit, the expedition is not finished; they have returned to the rallying place, the expedition is successfully over.

Many more climbing activities to the ice mountains

In the past, members of mountaineering expeditions, schoolchildren and tourists interested in Adventure Tour took up the task of climbing.

Nowadays, due to incredible advancement of communication equipment and fine cameras; wide knowledge and smooth transport lead to numerous trips by groups and members with the same hobbies. Many mountaineers from around the world keep climbing world-highest mountains.

Mountaineering involves taking a risk and those who want to become adventurers. It would bring a success of pure delight after overcoming various hazards, not only for themselves but also for representation of their race, region and country, they succumb to world's highest mountains.

The number of fatalities from 1921 to 2018 while climbing Mount

Everest is 293 with 11 climbers in 2019. There are other fatalities in climbing other mountains in the world. In other type of sport—boxing—the number of fatalities is about 500 with yearly average of ten. Skating, an exciting sport, involves an annual fatality rate of 20-50; motor-racing of Formula One from 1952 to 2014 suffered 14 British fatalities and 10 American fatalities from 1953 to 1975.

Taking a vow to all athletes from the sporting fields who dare to do at the risk of their own lives.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July, 2019, during the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, from 4 am to a completion of the ceremony.

While roads are closed, bypass routes will be used passing through West Shwegondine Road to the Link Junction, Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road junction, Dhammazedi Road and U Wisara Junction, West Shwegondaing Road and U Wisara Junction.

Arzarni Road, the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the western archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed on that day.

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Announcement on closure of Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road on Martyrs' Day

For the convenience of visitors to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum on the Martyrs' Day which falls on 19 July, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed on that day starting at 5 am until the closing time. Road users are advised to use other routes while the road temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

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“ Coops 4 Decent Work ”

“အလုပ်အကိုင်အခွင့်အလမ်းတိုးတက်ဖို့ သမဝါယမအသင်းများဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

“ရာသီတုပ်ကွေးဧရာဝါ မိမိကစ၍ ကာကွယ်ပါ။”

- Coughing/ sneezing into a cloth handkerchief
- Wash your hands often.
- Keep your distance.

Take to a nearby hospital or clinic.

လက်တုပ်ကွေးရာသီတုပ်ကွေးဧရာဝါ မိမိကစ၍ ကာကွယ်ပါ။ (ရန်ကုန်၊ ၂၀၁၉)

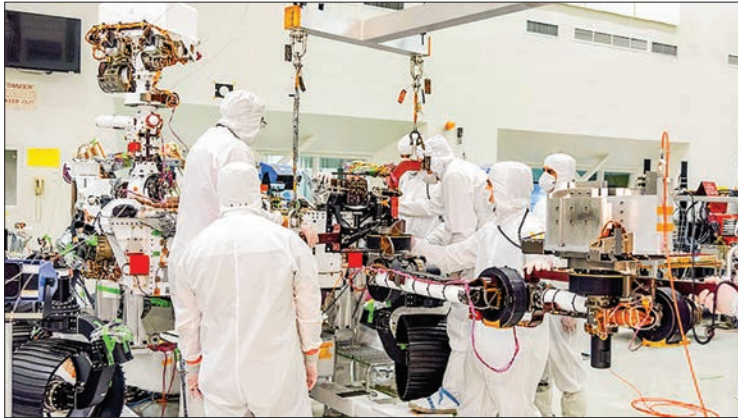
NASA engineers install robotic arm on Mars 2020 rover

PASADENA — Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, have installed the main robotic arm on the Mars 2020 rover, according to a recent JPL release.

The main arm includes five electrical motors and five joints, known as the shoulder azimuth joint, shoulder elevation joint, elbow joint, wrist joint and turret joint.

Measuring 2.1 meters long, the arm will allow the rover to work as a human geologist by holding and using science tools with its turret, according to JPL.

"You have to give a hand to our rover arm installation team," said Ryan van Schilfgaarde, a support engineer at JPL for Mars 2020 assembly. "They made an extremely intricate operation look easy. We're looking forward



On 21 June, 2019, engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory install the main robotic arm on the Mars 2020 rover. **PHOTO: AFP**

to more of the same when the arm will receive its turret in the next few weeks."

The rover's turret will include high-definition cameras, science instruments, and a percussive drill and coring mechanism. Those tools will be used to analyze and collect samples

of Martian rock and soil, which will be cached on the surface for return to Earth by a future mission, said JPL.

Mars 2020 is scheduled to launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida in July 2020, and land at Jezero Crater on Mars on 18 Feb, 2021. — AFP ■

Israel, US develop AI-based method to help crops cope with climate changes

JERUSALEM — Israeli and U.S. researchers have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) method that can help crops cope with climate changes, the Ben Gurion University (BGU) reported Sunday.

In the study published in the journal of Communications Biology, researchers at BGU and the University of California developed a method to identify metabolic pathways which are chemical reactions in the cell, allowing it to grow and multiply.

"The world is facing the loss of crop yields because of climate changes, insects, and more. The identification of metabolic path-

ways that helps the plant deal with such problems will allow farmers to grow significantly stronger crops," the study said.

The researchers used machine learning techniques, in which systems learn to identify patterns and make decisions in conjunction with correlation-based network analysis.

This analysis illustrates the connection between the molecular components and the knowledge gained in basic chemistry. Thus, the researchers collected data on known metabolic pathways from public databases and built correlation-based networks of tomato metabolites. — Xinhua ■

New Zealand's Rocket Lab to lead in number of launches

WELLINGTON — New Zealand's Rocket Lab founder and CEO Peter Beck said after Saturday's launch of the seventh Electron mission that the company is really leading the whole industry globally with its small launch vehicle in Electron.

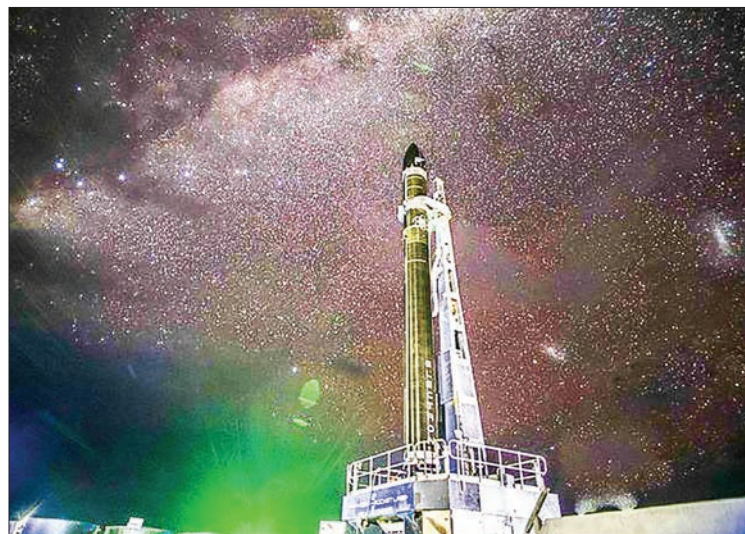
"At the moment we are launching nearly once a month. If we can increase that to once every two weeks or even once a week, we'll be leading the world with respect to the number of launches and payloads," Beck said after Rocket Lab deployed the seventh Electron mission satellites to orbit.

The mission, which was Rocket Lab's third launch for 2019, took the total number of satellites deployed by the US-

New Zealand company to 35 and continued the company's record of 100 percent mission success for its customers, said a company release.

"It's a privilege to provide tailored and reliable access to space for small satellites like these, giving each one a smooth ride to orbit and precise deployment, even in a rideshare arrangement," Beck said.

Rocket Lab's next mission is yet to be announced, but is scheduled for lift-off from Launch Complex 1 in the coming weeks. Rocket Lab's manifest is booked with monthly launches for the remainder of 2019, scaling to a launch every two weeks in 2020, according to the release. — Xinhua ■



Rocket Lab's Electron rocket on the company's launch site in Mahia, New Zealand, earlier this year. **PHOTO: AFP**

'10 steps ahead': Kenya's tech war on wildlife poachers

OLPEJETA (Kenya) — Every morning, at the far perimeter of the wildlife reserve capped by Mount Kenya, a khaki-clad ranger meticulously sweeps the earth of animal footprints, covering their tracks from any poachers.

It's an antiquated approach to outsmarting would-be hunters, but this ranger is not alone. High on a mast nearby, a new camera scans around the clock for intrusions, relaying real-time images to armed guards at park headquarters.

It is among the latest technology deployed to combat poaching at OlPejeta, a private conservancy on Kenya's Laikipia plateau that shelters the only two northern white rhinos left on earth, among other endangered giants.

A handful of surveillance cameras may not seem very sophisticated for a sanctuary which is also home to the largest population of critically endangered black rhinos anywhere in East Africa.

But it's just the tip of the spear. Last month, OlPejeta launched what it calls the world's first wildlife tech lab — a research hub at the heart of the sanctuary dedicated to bringing conservation management into the information age.

Inside a retrofitted shipping container, computer engineers

are testing the next generation of animal tracking chips and developing remote sensors that could one day monitor everything from ranger health to river levels.

"We are very much in our infancy when it comes to this kind of stuff. It is pretty cutting-edge from a conservation perspective," Richard Vigne, the chief executive of OlPejeta, told AFP.

Among other projects, researchers are working towards a chip small enough to fit in a rhino horn, but capable of live transmission of the animals' ex-

act location and core vitals.

"No one else in the conservation space in Kenya is testing this... For me, that was very exciting," said Damian Otieno, a Kenyan IT engineer who left an office job for a career in conservation tech, and now leads the OlPejeta initiative.

Tech advocates say advances in data collection and smart applications on game reserves could prove revolutionary, and upend decades-old approaches to conservation across the world. — AFP ■



The sanctuary houses the world's last two northern white rhinos, Najin and her daughter Fatu, seen in their enclosure in the private conservancy of Ol-Pejeta in Nanyuki. **PHOTO: AFP**

G-20 leaders leave out pledge to fight protectionism for 2nd year

OSAKA — Leaders of the Group of 20 economies ended their two-day summit on Saturday without a pledge to fight protectionism for the second year running and exhibited a rift over climate change.

At a time when a further escalation of trade friction between the United States and China is feared to lead to a global economic slowdown, the G-20 chiefs acknowledged that is one of the major downside risks and vowed to use “all policy tools” to realize sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

“Trade and geopolitical tensions have intensified,” the G-20 leaders said in a joint statement issued after their meeting in Osaka, western Japan, just as a much-hyped meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping ended.

The statement is set to be scrutinized after the G-20 leaders’ pledge to fight protectionism was also dropped at the previous summit in Buenos Aires. Without using the word protectionism, the leaders said,

“We strive to realize a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment, and to keep our markets open.” International trade and investment are “important engines of growth, productivity, innovation, job creation and development,” it said. The gathering of the G-20, which represents about 80 per cent of the world’s economy, came as the leaders face an uphill battle to keep the group relevant as multilateral arrangements have come under attack by Trump.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, hosting the summit, had called on other leaders to send out a powerful message, particularly on free trade, and maintain a rules-based multilateral trading system. On the 2015 Paris climate change accord from which the United States has decided to withdraw, the remaining members pledged to work toward its full implementation.

The United States reiterated its position to pull out of the deal, saying it “disadvantages American workers and



Group of 20 leaders attend the second-day session of their two-day summit in Osaka on 29 June, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

taxpayers.”

European leaders had stepped up pressure on their G-20 peers. Before the summit, French President Emmanuel Macron indicated he would not agree on a joint statement that does not mention the accord and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker also called for a “strong statement.”

Despite the lack of unity over the climate change accord, the G-20 members agreed to end the discharge of marine plastic waste into the oceans by 2050 and included the goal

as the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision. They were on the same page over the need for updating and enhancing the functions of the World Trade Organization, created in 1995, according to the joint statement.

As making economic growth inclusive and sustainable is one of the top priorities for the G-20, Abe stressed the need to distribute economic benefits brought by technological innovation, together with globalization, more broadly and address rising worries that they could exacerbate inequality.—Kyodo News ■

5G to contribute \$ 900 bln to Asian economy in next 15 years: GSMA report

SHANGHAI — 5G will contribute almost 900 billion US dollars to Asia’s economy over the next 15 years, said the Global System for Mobile Communications Alliance (GSMA) during the Mobile World Congress (MWC) held from 26 to 28 June in Shanghai.

The report, Asia Pacific edition of the GSMA’s Mobile

Economy series published at MWC, said Asia’s mobile operators are set to invest 370 billion US dollars, which is two-thirds of their overall investment in new networks, in building new 5G networks between 2018 and 2025.

“Although 4G still has plenty of headroom for growth

across Asia, operators in the region are now investing billions of dollars in building advanced 5G networks that are providing an array of new services to consumers, improving industry and manufacturing, and driving economic growth,” said Mats Granryd, director general of the GSMA.

As a result, by 2025, around 18 per cent of mobile connections will be running on 5G networks. Meanwhile, 4G mobile technology will account for more than two-thirds of connections in Asia by 2025, increasing from 52 per cent of that in 2018.

Regarded as a leader in rolling out 5G applications, China is forecast to invest 184 billion US dollars in 5G by 2025, said the report.

China is currently testing 5G across all major cities and provincial regions, including Shanghai, ahead of commercial launches next year. It is forecast that 28 per cent of China’s mobile connections will be running on 5G networks by 2025, accounting for about a third of all 5G connections globally.

The development of mobile technologies will drive the region’s economy. GSMA predicted that mobile technologies and services in the Asia-Pacific region will generate 1.9 trillion US dollars by 2023, increasing from 1.6 trillion US dollars, which was 5.3 per cent of the region’s GDP, in 2018.—Xinhua ■



5G-related revenue of equipment and handset makers, including heavyweights like Huawei, are forecast to total 17.5 trillion yuan from 2020 to 2030. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

China announces further easing of foreign investment restrictions

BEIJING — China on Sunday announced a loosening of restrictions on the entry of foreign capital in an apparent bid to highlight its willingness to open up its markets.

The latest “negative list” for foreign investment reduces the number of restrictive measures from 48 in the previous version to 40.

The new list loosens restrictions on foreign investment in fields including oil and natural gas exploration and services.

Specifically, joint ventures and cooperation with Chinese companies are no longer required for oil and gas exploration and development. Amid an ongoing trade standoff between China and the United States, Beijing is under pressure from the international community to open up its markets to global investors.—Kyodo News ■

Bangladesh to hike gas prices by 32.8 pct

DHAKA — Bangladesh has decided to hike retail gas prices in the country by 32.8 per cent on 1 July.

The increases were approved by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission and decision was announced by its chairman Monowar Islam Sunday in capital Dhaka on Sunday.

The prices for single burner from 1 July will be 925 taka and 975 taka for double burners, as against the current prices of 750 taka and 800 taka, respectively.

The commission raised the average gas tariff hiked by 22.7 per cent in February 2017.

Experts said the markup in the main utility prices would push up the nation’s inflation rate. Bangladesh’s overall inflation rose to 5.63 per cent in May due to soaring non-food costs, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The Bangladeshi government Sunday passed a record 5.23 trillion-taka (about 62 billion US dollars) national budget, targeting an economic growth of 8.2 per cent and average annual inflation rate of 5.5 per cent for the next 2019-20 fiscal year starting in July. (1 US dollar equals to about 84 taka)—Xinhua ■

Trump, Moon agree to implement 2018 U.S.-N. Korea agreement

SEOUL—U.S. President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae In agreed Sunday to proceed simultaneously with both the denuclearization process and normalization of U.S.-North Korea ties spelled out in a 2018 U.S.-North Korea agreement.

Moon announced the result of his summit talks with Trump in Seoul before both headed for a historic meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the Demilitarized Zone on the border of the two Koreas.

“President Trump



Combined file photo shows U.S. President Donald Trump (l) and South Korean President Moon Jae In. **PHOTO: KYODO**

and I were on the same page that it is very im-

portant to implement the U.S.-North Korea agree-

ment in Singapore, where they promised to achieve

peace through complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and normalization of U.S.-North Korea's relations,” said Moon at a news conference with Trump.

Among the major outcomes of the historic first summit between Trump and Kim in the city-state on June 12, 2018, was that the United States would provide security guarantees to North Korea in return for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Announcing that Trump and Kim are meeting at the DMZ later in the

day, Moon called Trump a “peacemaker of the Korean Peninsula.” “I hope today's meeting with Chairman Kim Jong Un at (the border village of) Panmunjeom will provide hope for both the South and North Korean people and mark a milestone in human history toward peace,” Moon added.

Trump said at the news conference, “We are in a much different place than we were two and a half years ago.” He added that he hopes the denuclearization process would proceed in the right direction.—Kyodo ■

Abe did not broach Khashoggi killing in talks with Saudi crown prince

OSAKA—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe did not bring up the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in a meeting Sunday with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry.

The crown prince has been dogged by questions about Khashoggi's death at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October. A U.N. report called it a “premeditated extrajudicial execution” and said there is “credible evidence” suggesting the crown prince's involvement.

In a two-hour meeting in Osaka following a Group of 20 summit, the two leaders exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East amid heightened tensions surrounding Iran, a ministry official said.

Saudi Arabia, a U.S. ally and Iran's main rival in the region, has accused Tehran of being responsible for attacks in mid-June on two oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz.

While Japan is also a U.S. ally, it has

traditionally maintained friendly ties with Iran and views it as an important source of oil.

The tanker attacks happened just as Abe was visiting Iran in an effort to mediate between Washington and Tehran.

In their meeting, Abe and the crown prince also welcomed the strengthening of economic ties between their countries.

Touching on Saudi Arabia's efforts to diversify from its reliance on oil, Abe pledged the “full support” of Japan's public and private sectors. The crown prince said he was happy that a number of projects were seeing progress.

Under the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 economic cooperation framework, the two countries are exploring setting up special economic zones to invite more investment by Japanese companies into the Middle Eastern country. Abe, the chair of this year's G-20 summit, thanked the crown prince for his support and pledged to support Saudi Arabia's presidency next year.—Kyodo ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP). The IDA No of the financing agreement is No-5727MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the Contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Item No	Reference No	Description	Quantity	Units
1	C2-G.34	Dos and Don'ts Vinyl for Community Awareness	10,000	Nos

Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION by e-mail. Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 (revised July 2014).

Please submit Sealed Quotations to: U Maung Win, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(36), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 0673418635, 0673418636 / Email: drdnp.procurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFQ will be send.



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MANDALAY REGION GOVERNMENT MANDALAY CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MANDALAY URBAN SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Invitation for Bids

Request for Expressions of Interest No: MYWS/20.0

Contract No: MYWS/20.0

Contract Title: NRW Reduction Programme and capacity building for MCDC – Performance Related Management Contract

1. Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), as part of Mandalay Urban Services Improvement Project, intends to implement a NRW Reduction Programme and capacity building for MCDC – Performance Related Management Contract under financing from Agence Française de Développement (AFD).
2. Mandalay City Development Committee now invites applicants to submit sealed Expressions of Interest documents for NRW Reduction Programme and capacity building for MCDC – Performance Related Management Contract to be performed in Mandalay.
3. Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures as specified in the AFD Procurement Guidelines. The bidding documents shall be addressed only to the short-listed eligible firms following the evaluation result of the Expressions of Interest.
4. Interested firms may obtain the Request for Expressions of Interest documents from Project Manager, at the address given in Item 6 below, during office hours 9:30 to 16:30 hr, starting from 1st July 2019; they also may obtain the said documents from AFD tender publication website <https://tenders-afd.dgmarket.com>.
5. Application for Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below on or before local time 15:00hr, 26th July 2019. Electronic application of Expressions of Interest will not be permitted. Late application may be rejected.
6. The address referred to above paragraph 4 and 5 is:

Attention:

Project Manager
MUSIP Project Management Office,
PMO office: 1st Floor, 3 storey building
Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC)
26th Street, Between 71st and 72nd Streets
Chan Aye Thazan Township
Mandalay

Country:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone:

+95-2-4061631;

Email address:

pmomusip.ext@gmail.com

Trump, Kim hold sudden talks at DMZ, agree to restart nuclear talks



U.S. President Donald Trump meets with Kim Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom on June 30, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

SEOUL —U.S. President Donald Trump held talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sunday at the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas, where they agreed to restart denuclearization talks within weeks and invited each other to visit their capital cities. During the landmark trip to the DMZ, Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to set foot in North Korea.

Trump indicated he will meet with Kim again, depending on the outcome of the working-level negotiations, raising hopes that the nuclear talks, which have been stalled following the rupture of their February summit, may move forward.

“We’ve agreed that we’re each going to designate a team. The teams will try to work out some details,” he said, adding that the U.S. team would

be led by U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun.

“Speed is not the object, we want to see if we can do a really comprehensive, good deal,” Trump told reporters after the unexpected 50-minute meeting with Kim.

Trump gave no indication whether the United States will ease or lift sanctions against North Korea anytime soon. But he suggested Washington will do so in the course of their renewed talks, saying, “At some point during the negotiation, things can happen.”

Trump and Kim initially shook hands standing on either side of a concrete barrier marking the military demarcation line. Then the U.S. leader strode across into the North Korean side and the two men shook hands again and briefly chatted in

their third face-to-face contact. Washington and Seoul remain in a technical state of war with Pyongyang as the 1950-1953 Korean War ended in a cease-fire.

“Good to see you again,” Kim said to Trump, adding that he “never expected” to meet the U.S. president “at this place.”

“Stepping across that line was a great honor,” Trump told Kim after walking across the border. Some analysts lambasted Trump over the visit, saying he only put on a “political show” as part of his campaign to win re-election next year.

Kim and Trump then together walked over to the South Korean side of the border and South Korean President Moon Jae In joined them. The U.S. and North Korean leaders then held a meeting inside a South Korean facility. — Kyodo ■

Abe rapped for calling elevator installation at Osaka Castle “mistake”

TOKYO—A remark made by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a Group of 20 dinner that the installation of elevators at Osaka Castle was a “big mistake” has been criticized as lacking consideration for disabled people and especially inappropriate ahead of the Tokyo Paralympics next year.

“Although Osaka Castle was mostly destroyed by fire due to chaos caused by the Meiji Restoration 150 years ago, the tenshukaku (the tallest tower) was faithfully restored about 90 years ago to how it was in the 16th century,” Abe said at the dinner he hosted Friday as chairman of the G-20 summit in Osaka. “But they made only one big mistake—they went so far as to install elevators.” Author Hirotada Ototake, who was born without limbs, said in a Twitter post that the remark made him “feel very sad.” He has been calling on public facilities to become barrier-free.

Others also wrote on social media

that the prime minister’s use of the word “mistake” clearly showed his lack of understanding of a barrier-free society. “Elderly people cannot climb up the staircase,” one post read. The leaders of opposition parties also criticized Abe’s remark, as official campaigning for the House of Councillors election is slated to begin on Thursday.

“It is imperative to promote barrier-free access in this day and age. (Abe’s remark) suggests that he does not look after disabled people,” Yukio Edano, leader of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, said at a party rally for the coming upper house election on July 21.

Yuichiro Tamaki, head of the Democratic Party for the People, told reporters that the remark was inappropriate and he should have been more careful about the wording, as Japan is gaining more international attention ahead of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics next year. —Kyodo ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
Invitation to Bid for purchasing of 1040 MW from
Gas Engine Power Plant/ Power Barge/ Power Ship on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own Basis

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity 1040 MW from the Gas Engine Power Plant/Power Barge/Power Ship on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own (IPP/BOO) basis as follow.

		Location	Size(MW)	Remark
Lot 1	Package-1	Kyun Chaung	20	Gas (Pass Through basis)
	Package-2	Ahlone	120	
		Location	Size(MW)	
Lot-2	Package-3	Kyauk Phyu	150	LNG to Power
	Package-4	Thanlyin	350	
	Package-5	Tharketa	400	

2. The concession period shall be 5 years (five) years from commercial operation date (COD).
3. The Tender Form for each package can be purchased at Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar within office hour from the tender announced date. The Tender Form fees for each package is as follow;
- Package -1 Myanmar Kyat 300,000/- (Myanmar Kyat three hundred thousand only)
- Package -2 and 3 Myanmar Kyat 400,000/- (Myanmar Kyat four hundred thousand only)
- Package - 4 and 5 Myanmar Kyat 500,000/- (Myanmar Kyat five hundred thousand only)
4. Site Visit will be conducted for package 2,3,4 and 5. The tentative date for site visit is July 6 and 7, 2019.
5. The bid submission date is 29th July, 2019 at [14:00] hr. Myanmar Standard Time.
6. The bidders shall make the proposals in accordance with the Invitation for Bid and Supplemental Request for Proposal (SRFP). Bidder's Proposals must be submitted at the address on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
7. The necessary information of this tender can be inquired within office hour.
Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Ph +95 67 8104282

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDTIGER VOY. NO. (925S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NORDTIGER VOY. NO. (925S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-07-2019 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (623 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (623 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE
LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1026 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1026 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-07-2019 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185



Foreign visitors to **Mandalay** Region on the rise

By Kyaw Htike Soe



THE number of foreign visitors to Mandalay Region totaled 241,559 in the first four months of this year, with China being the biggest source of visitors, according to the statistics from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (DOHT) under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The total number of international travellers rose more than 65,000 when compared to the previous year. 173,664 tourists visited Mandalay Region during the period from January to April 2018. Mandalay Region welcomed 241,599 foreigners in the same period, up by 67,935 tourists than the previous year. Majority of tourists travelled to Mandalay Region by flights, said U San Yu, Assistant Director from the DOHT. "Arrival of Europeans to Mandalay Region declined slightly when compared to last year. But the number of Chinese visitors and travellers from some countries that Myanmar has given visa free entry saw a boost," he said.

"Arrival of Chinese tourists is up by more than 30 per cent than the previous year. About 20 international airlines expanded operations in Mandalay Region with new routes. In the past, only five Chinese airlines operated commercial flights between Myanmar and China. Now the number of Chinese airlines operating in Mandalay Region has increased to 11. In addition, other domestic airlines expanded their flight operations in Mandalay Region. So the number of foreign visitors to Mandalay Region via TadaU International Airport grew by 102 percent when compared to the same period of previous year," he added.

The regional government is trying its utmost to attract more tourists to the area by organizing international invitational sports events and showcasing cultural heritages and traditional food. At the same

time, the local government has been creating new destinations and ecotourism for globetrotters as well as conducting language proficiency courses and basic tour guide training courses for human resource development. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been making appropriate arrangements for international visitors to come to Myanmar in a safe and secure manner. The ministry also organized some travel itineraries for tourists who enter the country through border checkpoints.

Some globetrotters enter the country by car or motorbike or bicycle in either groups or crossing alone through border checkpoints to visit significant tourist attraction sites in the country. Tourists are very interested in the river cruise tours along Ayeyawady and Chindwin Rivers to enjoy the natural scenery of riverbed villages, visit elephant camps and observe living style of marine workers and traditional pottery industry. Some tourists travel to the Southeast Asian country through border checkpoints to enjoy its natural landscapes, visit attractive spots and observe a diverse range of cultures and traditions of ethnic tribes. Most tourists entered Myanmar by air, waterways as well as land with the majority entering the country by air.

385,031 globetrotters toured Mandalay Region in 2016, 483,784 foreigners travelled to the region in 2017 and 492,097 tourists visited the region in 2018. The local government set an ambitious target to receive more than 500,000 tourists this year. With the prevalence of peace and stability coupled with a variety of scenic beauties, ancient cultural heritages, and pagodas, tourist arrivals in Mandalay Region is expected to rise this year.





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 Yan-

gon. 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.



Professor Dr. Thazin Lwin presents the first prize to the winner of the men's bodybuilding contest at the Aung San Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:AR KAR SOE**

Physique, bodybuilding contest held in Yangon

A physique and bodybuilding contest was held at the Aung San Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday morning, under the supervision of the Myanmar Sports Media Federation.

The contest was held to commemorate Olympic Day, said officials.

More than 60 athletes participated in the contest, which featured men's bodybuilding events in different weight classes and a women's physique event.

After the contest, an awards ceremony was held for the winners, first runners-up, and second

runners-up of the events.

Professor Dr. Thazin Lwin, the Head of the Chemistry Department at the Yangon University of Distance Education (YUDE), presented prizes to the winners.—A Kay Lin (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

AFC Futsal Club Championship 2019: Myanmar's VUC placed in Group C

THE Victoria University College (VUC) Futsal Club, which is representing Myanmar in the AFC Futsal Club Championship 2019, has been placed in Group C for the tourney that is scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand from 7 to 17 August.

Lebanon's Bank of Beirut, who finished third last year, Indonesia's Vamos F.C., and debutants Soro Company from Ta-

jikistan have been placed in Group C with VUC F.C.

Group A has host Thailand's Port Futsal Club, Kyrgyz Republic's F.C. Erem, newcomers Shenzhen Nanling Tielang of China PR, and Korea Republic's Star FS Seoul.

Group D has championship title holders Mes Sungun Varzaghan, who became the fourth Iranian club to win the tournament in 2018, three-time champi-

ons Nagoya Oceans from Japan, United Arab Emirates' Al-Dhafra Sports and Cultural Club, and Kazma SC of Kuwait. Last year's runners-up, Vietnam's Thai Son Nam F.C. will be making their sixth appearance in the annual tournament in Group B with Iraq's Naft Al Wasat, who finished fourth in Yogyakarta, Al Rayyan of Qatar, and Uzbekistan's AGMK F.C.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Runners up of the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2019, the Victoria University College Futsal Club. **PHOTO:VUC F.C.**

Shan United takes first home win by beating Sagaing United

SHAN United earned their first victory in Week 14 of the Myanmar National League at their home stadium in Taunggyi by beating Sagaing United 2-0 yesterday.

The two goals for Shan United were scored by Maximimum and William in the first half.

Shan United forced

the play from the start with speedy attacks. Both teams put up a strong fight from the kick-off.

Shan United scored the opening goal at 26 minutes from a corner kick assist. The goal was finished by a header from Shan United expat player Maximimum.

Charged by the goal,

Shan United changed their opening attack style, and 10 minutes later, William directed a header, off a corner kick assist, into the goal, taking the score to 2-0. The first half finished with Shan United leading by two goals. Sagaing United made some substitutions, bringing in striker Friday and Aung Haliang Win, and

made more efforts to score in the second half.

With the speedy support and playing style of Friday, the attacking side of Sagaing United was made more stronger and they managed to create goal opportunities. With the home fans cheering them on at the Taunggyi Stadium, Shan United attacked

Sagaing United back, giving viewers a thrilling spectacle. Sagaing United launched all-out attacks, but failed to breach Shan United's defense till the final whistle. The match ended with a victory for Shan United.

Speaking about the win, Shan United player Nanda Kyaw said he was

pleased about the team's first victory on home turf in the second round of the MNL. He expressed his gratitude to fans for their support "under rain or sun in Taunggyi". With the win, Shan United is now second in the standing table after Yangon United, with a difference of just one point.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



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