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Pyithu Hluttaw discuss education, health issues



Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 13th day meeting for 13th regular session of second Pyithu Hluttaw was convened yesterday.

U Tin Nu (a) U Tin Nu Aung asked to fix a specific rate of university enrollment for the students from fur flung areas to be able to narrow educational inequality between the remote states and the central regions.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied that the ministry has allocated

two per cent of enrollment for the students from the remote areas eligible for government subsidiaries as they enrolled at Yangon Education University and Sagaing Education University under the Higher Education Department; five percent for science major, arts and science major and arts major at Yangon Education University and Sagaing University; five per cent in education colleges respectively and with the min-

imum norms for enrollment.

Yezin Agricultural University under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has left 10 per cent of its total enrollments for the students from the remote areas eligible for subsidiaries if they get sufficient scores for respective academic years.

Medical universities and the related universities under the Department of Human Resources for Health allow

enrollment for those who won matriculation exams with science subjects in line with their ceiling rate for acceptance regardless of states and regions.

Proposals were made to allow the matriculated students from the six administered zones to enroll medical institutions in trying to generate medical experts who will serve for their respective areas.

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Tatmadaw evacuates foreigners trapped by fighting in N Shan State

THE Tatmadaw airlifted 28 members of the Go and Love Foundation, trapped by the armed conflict in Kutkai Township, back to Yangon on board military helicopters and aircrafts.

The foundation's team, led by Mrs Chou Wei Kuo, had arrived in Kutkai on 3 August for an education development program at a local basic education school. They had been stranded at the K K Guest House since 15 August, after the AA, TNLA, and MNDAA groups began attacking towns and villages in the vicinity and bombed roads and bridges.

The Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services reported that they successfully escorted the Go and Love Foundation's team from Kutkai to Lashio on a helicopter, and then to Yangon on a military plane. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discuss education, health issues

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With a special permission from the President Office, the medical universities allowed 3 per cent of enrollment with lower scores than the regular marks for the students who passed matriculation exams in the remote areas where they studied for three consecutive years up to 2016. As a result, 32 students in 2012, 44 students in 2013, 50 students in 2014, 53 students in 2015, 59 students in 2016 numbering average 6 per cent of total enrollments; 81 students in 2017, 72 students in 2018, totaling 391 students could attend medical universities in Magway and Taunggyi.

U Zaw Min Thein, MP of Laymyathna constituency, asked about construction works with standard qualities in education and health sectors; U Tha Aung, MP from Myothit constituency, asked about the completion of tendering process in time and specifying standard designs for constructions of school buildings by using Union funds in Myothit Township; U Min Thein, MP of Taungdwingyi constituency,



MP Dr San Shwe Win.
PHOTO: MNA

asked to put the literary works of prominent writers such as Sayagyi Min Thu Wun and Saya Zaw Gyi into the Myanmar textbooks of middle and high school level curricula.

The questions were answered by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

Dr U Than Aung Soe, MP of Minhla constituency, asked about the possible collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Sports and the private organizations on telemedicine and teleradiology which use online



MP Dr Daw Khin Sithu.
PHOTO: MNA

for consulting with the medical specialist and radiologists for getting medical treatments and laboratory results.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein replied that the National Health Laboratory is the only referred laboratory in Myanmar, and it is using online to send the findings to the related hospitals.

The National Health Laboratory is using online for the works from West Yangon General Hospital and East Yangon General Hospital beginning 3rd June 2019.



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.
PHOTO: MNA

The Ministry of Health and Sports is using the Laboratory Information Management System, but still need more skills in using infrastructures and software.

Dr Khin Sithu, MP from Loikaw constituency, asked about the measures to be taken for better healthcare systems of civil communities, ethnic organizations and private sectors under the National Health Project; U Par Htan, MP from Matupi constituency, asked about the time to set up the organizational structure at the 100-bed district people's

hospital in Matupi Township.

The questions were answered by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced receiving the Basic Education Bill sent back by the Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments, and he also invited the names of MP list who want to table the motion for amendments to this bill.

Dr San Shwe Win, MP of Yekyi constituency, tabled a motion to urge the government for collaboration of ministries in preventing non-communicable diseases, and the proposal was discussed by the MPs.

Dr Daw Khin Sithu, MP of Loikaw constituency, discussed the consequences of non-communicable diseases, the considerable costs for the families, impacts on human resources of the countries, the risks of tobaccos for these diseases, the requirements of law and bylaws to increase tax on tobaccos, legal actions, educative programmes and the needs of cooperation between media and related ministries.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw focuses on reservoirs, waterworks, safeguarding increased imports

THE Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management and the Department of Hydropower Implementation will analyse the reservoirs they have constructed in order to make any necessary changes to adapt to the changing climate and ensure their continued sustainability, said Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was replying to a question raised by U Tun Tun Oo, MP for Mandalay Region constituency 2, during the 13th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session.

The MP asked how the two aforementioned departments were maintaining their reservoirs and the Deputy Minister added that they had long and short term plans in place to address the matter with concerned regional administration departments. The Deputy Minister then replied to two more questions by other MPs.

Nantaleik Creek bridge will not be built

Next, MP U Min Naing of



Deputy Border Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut.
PHOTO: MNA

Sagaing Region constituency 12 raised a question on whether Nantaleik Creek bridge between Leshi and Lahe townships in Naga Self-Administered Zone would be built in the 2019-2020 FY.

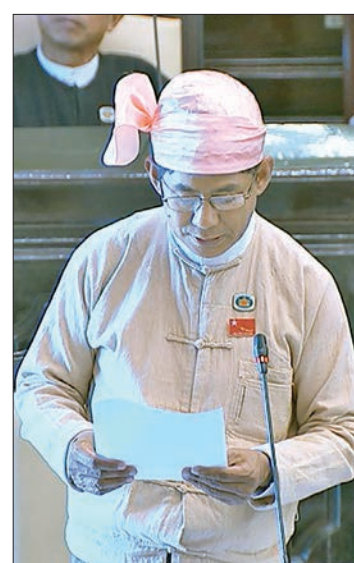
Deputy Border Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut replied that their ministry does not have the necessary technology to handle concrete bridges longer than 180 feet



MP U Aung Myo.
PHOTO: MNA

as Nantaleik Creek bridge is about 400 feet in length. The Deputy Minister then replied to two more questions by other MPs.

Following this, MP U San Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3 debated on the New Plant Variety Protection Bill 2019, approved by the Amyotha Hluttaw, and now sent back with amendments from the Pyithu Hluttaw.



MP Dr U Kwyal Kwyal.
PHOTO: MNA

Assembly approves import safeguard bill

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Soe Moe read their report on the Safeguard Bill on Increased Import. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then gathered the approval of the assembly for each section of the bill.

Deputy Commerce Minister U Aung Htoo moved for the amended bill to be passed and

U Ko Ko Naing, MP for Sagaing Region constituency 8, seconded the motion.

The Speaker gathered the deliberation of the Hluttaw, received no opposition, and announced the amended bill as approved.

MPs debate motion on improving rural waterworks

Afterwards, MPs discussed a motion tabled by MP U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2, which urged the Union Government to assist rural areas with digging up and maintaining rainwater tanks, drinking water tanks, mini reservoirs, building new ones and reinforcing embankments to ensure proper irrigation and protect the natural ecosystem.

MP U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2 said the Irrigation Law was passed in 2017 to ensure proper management of the nation's reservoirs and waterworks. He supported the motion saying it is an important matter.

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UEC Chair discusses electoral processes with British Amb

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received British Ambassador Mr Dan Chugg at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides openly discussed on making the 2020 General Elections free, fair and trustworthy, providing voter education to youths who will be voting for the first time, and Britain's assistance in the electoral process.

UEC members and officials from the UEC office also attended the meeting.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein (R) receives British Ambassador Mr Dan Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint receives British Ambassador

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received a delegation led by British Ambassador Mr Dan Chugg at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint receives British Ambassador Mr Dan Chugg and party in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

During the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters related to the two countries' media issues, effects of the new media on the society, and experiences on media management.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials were also present at the meeting.—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Press Release

Repatriation of Displaced Persons from Bangladesh did not occur as scheduled

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar was informed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh on 19 August 2019 that the Government of Bangladesh has undertaken all necessary measures to smoothly conduct the repatriation of displaced persons from Bangladesh, which is scheduled to start on 22 August 2019.

Based on this information, Myanmar side has made all the necessary preparations. Two Ministers of the Rakhine State Government, personnel of the respective Ministries; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Education, among others, waited at the Reception Centre in Taung Pyo Letwe.

They were joined by the personnel from ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the ASEAN ERAT Team since the morning of 22 August 2019. However, the promised repatriation failed to occur.

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan have been trying to facilitate the smooth repatriation of displaced persons from Bangladesh. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar was informed by China on 6 August 2019 that Bangladesh intends to start the repatriation on 22 August.

Accordingly, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar received the Ambassador of

Bangladesh on 9 August 2019 and asked for confirmation and also requested the list of the people to be repatriated as soon as possible. While the confirmation was given on 19 August 2019, no list was provided.

On 20 August 2019, the news media of Bangladesh was quoted the Bangladesh Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. AK Abdul Momen that both Bangladesh and Myanmar are fully ready to resume the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland but some Rohingya leaders and NGOs are reportedly discouraging them to return. It is learnt that members of ARSA have been using threats and intimidation to prevent the inhabitants of the Camps in Cox's Bazar from taking part in the repatriation process.

The Myanmar side had re-

peatedly requested the Bangladesh side to follow the procedures set out in the bilateral agreement. This would require the agreed Verification Forms to be distributed to the inhabitants of the Camps so that the people, who agreed to return voluntarily, can sign the Forms which would then be forwarded to the Myanmar side. This procedure was not adhered to.

The list provided to Myanmar does not follow this accepted procedure. Despite this, the Myanmar side had verified the list of 3450 people. The list of these verified persons has been sent to Bangladesh authorities in seven batches since January 2019. However, it was found out that UNHCR was able to start interviews only on 20 August 2019, just two days before the stipulated date for repatriation.

Another important point is the request by Myanmar side to allow the repatriation of 444 people of Hindu faith who have expressed their desire to return to Myanmar through the Hindu elders and the Indian Embassy in Yangon. Myanmar side had informed Bangladesh its willingness to expedite the repatriation of the 444 people since 23 November 2017. There has been repeated request by Myanmar for the early repatriation of the 444 people. All these requests were ignored.

Smooth repatriation for the displaced persons would require the adherence to the bilateral agreement that the two countries have signed.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
22 August 2019

Aid provided to people displaced by armed conflicts in Rakhine State



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye hands over aid to Chief Minister U Nyi Pu in Sittway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FOR fulfilling the necessities of IDPs and locals displaced by armed conflicts in Rakhine State, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a ceremony to hand over aid to Rakhine State Government in Sittway yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister for the Office of State Counsellor, U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and officials.

At the event, Dr Win Myat

Aye handed over rice money of K156.582 million to Chief Minister U Nyi Pu for the IDPs.

The aid started in the third week of December, 2018, and this was the 6th time. For 76039 people 1.414 billion kyats worth of rescue equipment has been given so far.

About 80% of the IDPs camp construction has been finish. These camps will be used as temporary shelter for Rakhine IDPs and locals.

It was reported that in case of necessity for the IDPs Ministry's emergency 24 helpline, 067-340466, 067-3404777 can be contacted. —MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Myanmar ready for repatriation, but no returnees yet

MYANMAR has made preparations to receive displaced persons from Rakhine, who are currently residing in Bangladesh, as part of a bilateral agreement with the neighbouring country, but, there have been no returnees yet.

On 21 August, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, U Thein Swe, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Chairman of the Committee on Repatriation and Resettlement of Displaced People, Dr Win Myat Aye, the Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Khin Maung Tin, and officials held a meeting with Rakhine State authorities in Sittway, Rakhine State on the repatriation and resettlement of displaced people.

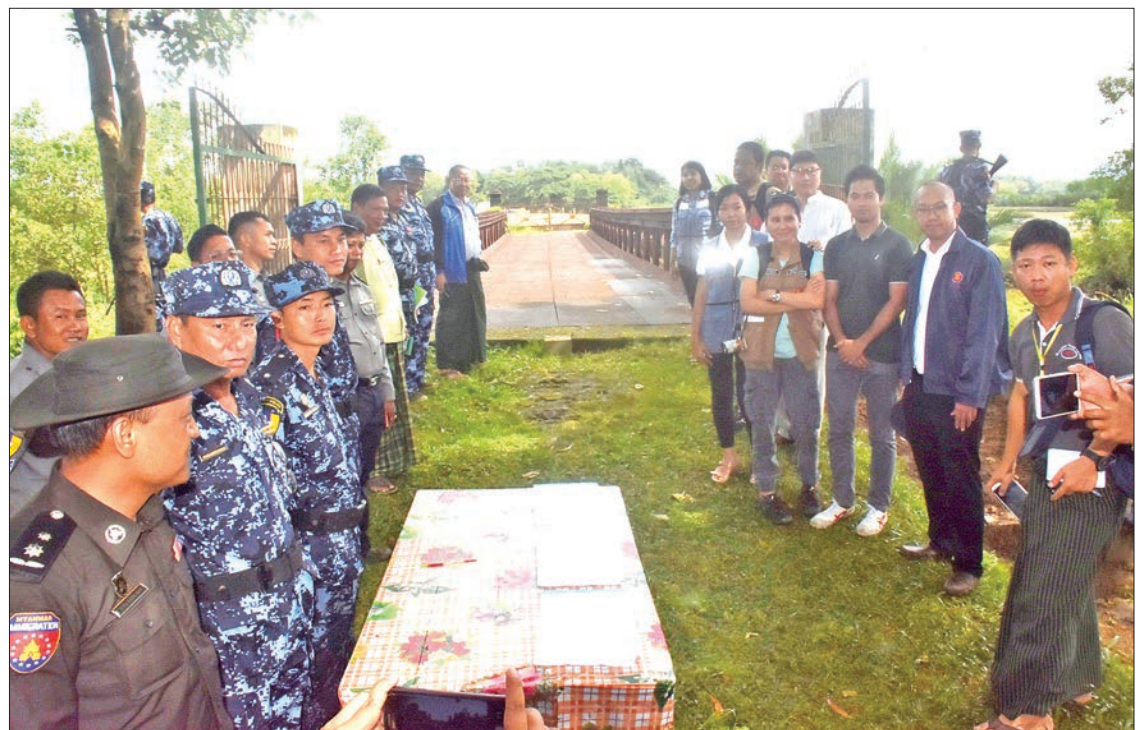
The meeting was also attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, members of the Rakhine State Cabinet, and departmental officials.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said Myanmar has made preparations to keep everything in readiness for repatriation, in accordance with the agreement with Bangladesh.

He said the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) have promised to cooperate in promoting capacity building at the Reception centres and Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre, for disseminating information, and providing basic services to returnees.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Thein Swe reiterated Myanmar's readiness to accept the returnees, in accordance with the MoU between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Officials with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Popu-



Officials from ministries are in a state of readiness for repatriation. **PHOTO: MNA**

lation have been stationed at the Taung Pyo Letwe and Nga Khu Ya Reception centres to carry out the most important task of the re-

patriation process — scrutinizing the returnees to check whether they had been living in Myanmar or not, he added. Later, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, and officials reported on the arrangements for the repatriation of returnees.

After the Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh accepted Myanmar's proposal for the repatriation of displaced people from 22 August, Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport U Aung Kyaw Zan and officials had been in a state of readiness at the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre along with officials of the AHA Centre and ASEAN-ERAT. But, no displaced persons returned from Bangladesh yesterday.

Under the bilateral agreement with Bangladesh, Myan-

mar has been making preparations for repatriation since 23 January, 2018.

On 15 November, 2018, a delegation comprised of Union Minister U Thein Swe, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu and U Soe Aung, Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister, and Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport had gone to the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre, and Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre to welcome returnees as the Bangladeshi side had informed Myanmar that it would send displaced persons to Myanmar. But there were no returnees at that time, too. —MNA



Officials from ministries are in a state of readiness for repatriation. **PHOTO: MNA**

C-in-C of Defence Services holds talks with Chinese Ambassador

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai in Bayinnaung Guest Hall, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

According to news released from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the two sides discussed how China rejects international pressure on Myanmar from alleged human rights violations in Rakhine State,

the recent attacks that occurred in PyinOoLwin and Northern Shan State, how China strongly condemns these violent attacks and its current stance, how China provides assistance in Myanmar's peace progress, and how to improve peace talks. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**



First batch for judicial training leaves for India

FORTY Judges and judicial officers from various district and township level courts departed from Yangon a judicial training course at the National Judiciary Academy in India, from 23 to 29 August.

The five-day course in the first implemented by the MoU signed between the Union Supreme Court and India's academy to send Myanmar's judicial officers to India for training and capacity building.

The MoU agrees to send 400 judges and judicial officers from Myanmar over the course of 5 years at the rate of two 40-person delegations per year. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The Myanmar judicial delegation seen at the Yangon International Airport before departs for India. **PHOTO: MNA**

GPS to be installed on trucks for tracking cargo: YRTA

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority is planning to get GPS tracking devices installed on cargo trucks to monitor container transportation and freight forwarding services, said U Aye Aung, a member of the transport authority at a recent press meet.

"The GPS tracking system will be installed on registered trucks operating in Yangon Region and a control center will be designated to monitor cargo transportation. We will check whether trucks engaged in freight forwarding services are following the set time and route. GPS tracking will also help in traffic law enforcement," he said.

"Some container trucks are reportedly being overloaded, causing damage to Yangon roads. The trucks will soon be in accordance with ASEAN highway standards and meet the criteria for highway roads. The compliance of truck drivers can also help mitigate the damage to roads. Yangon's busy roads are experiencing traffic congestion, and surprise checks on roads worsen traffic problems. Therefore, we will try to control freight forwarders using GPS tracking. The related department is working on it. A technical team has been formed, and it has forwarded the result of its study to the government. We will try to ensure there is no burden and error in the installation of the GPS tracking devices. The process is still under way," said U Aye Aung.

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Foreigners who trapped in armed conflicts in northern Shan State arrive Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

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Kanbawzathadi Palace to become historical park

THE Bago Region Government has invited Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for a project to transform the Kanbawzathadi Palace into a historical park.

The project aims to preserve history and culture, create a new recreational destination, improve the livelihood of residents, and boost the tourism sector, said Daw Nyunt Nyunt Htay, the Bago Region Minister for Social Affairs, at a meeting held on 21 August to discuss the project.

To draw foreign and local visitors, the Bago Region government is planning to upgrade the Kanbawzathadi palace and turn it into a historical park to showcase art, sculpture, and handicrafts. At the meeting on Wednesday, U Phyo Lin Aung, the Managing Director of Emerald Lake, discussed detailed



Bago Region government is planning to upgrade the Kanbawzathadi Palace and turn it into a historical park to showcase art, sculpture, and handicrafts. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)**

plans for the historical park project, Daw Ngu War Aung and the director of the company

explained the budget management plans, and other attendees discussed the project. Bago is sit-

uated about 50 miles northeast of Yangon. — Tin Soe (Bago) ■
(Translated by La Wonn)

First Myanmar-Korea Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition opens



A Korean artist is seen together with his bird-shaped outdoor sculpture. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

AN exhibition featuring outdoor sculptures, a collaborative effort

between Myanmar and Korean painting and sculpture experts,

opened yesterday in Yangon.

The theme for the sculptures and artworks is 'outside the house and office'. The opening ceremony for the exhibition was held at the New Treasure Art Gallery located on Shwe Taung Gyar road in Yangon.

"We have been making a cooperative effort under a program for exchange of art and sculpture styles between Myanmar artists and sculptors and our Korean counterparts since 2015.

This year, Myanmar and Korean artists and sculptors went to Indein Village in Inle from 11 to 17 August. They organized themselves into two groups and made outdoor sculp-

tures. They have used bamboo, trees, and grass. Such an art creation is called an artwork," said U Min Wai Aung, an artist.

A total of 18 Korean and nine Myanmar artists and sculptors visited Indein Village in Inle Lake to create the outdoor sculptures. They recorded the making of the outdoor sculptures through photographs, which are also being displayed at the New Treasure Art Gallery. The exhibition is showcasing 15 artworks.

In the evening yesterday, the Myanmar and Korean artists held a panel discussion. The exhibition will continue till 29 August.—Myint Maung Soe ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Oil refineries turn to firewood as power rates climb

DUE to the increase in electricity charges, most oil refineries in Kyaukka, Monywa are switching to firewood, according to the owner of an oil refining kiln.

"Earlier, the electricity bill was only over K300,000. However, we will have to pay around K700,000 for electricity beginning this month. When we compared the difference in the power charges for refining purposes, we found using firewood would cost much less," said an owner of a private refinery.

According to the refineries, an oil refinery using a burner system requires seven barrels of fuel oil, and one barrel of fuel oil costs K100,000.

For a fuel-fired burner system, an oil refinery would have to spend K1 million, including the cost of fuel oil and electricity, they said. Due to a significant increase in electricity rates and the price of fuel oil, most oil refineries are now turning to firewood.

"The price of firewood has increased in the rainy season as usual. Previously, one 12-wheel vehicle load of firewood cost K900,000. Now, we have to purchase this volume at a cost of K950,000," said the owner of an oil refining kiln.

Currently, 60 per cent of Kyaukka oil refineries are using the burner system. "The refineries can be operated using both



Sixty per cent of Kyaukka oil refineries in Monywa are using the burner system. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

the burner system and firewood. When there is a power outage, we use firewood," said the owner

of an oil refining kiln.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 400 apartments to be sold through draw of lots

THE Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development Department has begun announcing the names of successful applicants out of the 4,874 who applied for low-cost and affordable housing units. The list of successful applicants will be released in batches from 20 August to 19 September.

The successful applicants will be permitted to purchase the apartments with JICA ODA loans, according to the department. The department is planning to sell 413 apartments.

“Under the programme, applicants will be permitted to purchase low-cost and affordable apartments by availing JICA ODA loans at an annual interest of 8.5 per cent. The housing projects are being implemented by the Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction,” said U Khin Zaw, the Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development Department.

“The affordable apartment buildings are adjacent to playgrounds and car parking lots. Although the low-cost housing projects don’t have private car parking, there are many public parking spots near the apartment buildings,” he said.

“The low-cost and afforda-



The low-cost housing apartments will be sold through a draw of lots at the end of September. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

ble housing apartments will be sold through a draw of lots at the end of September. Those who make an outright purchase would receive the keys right away, while those who opt for JICA ODA loans will receive their keys only in January, 2020,” said U Khin Zaw.

Currently, the Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development Department and four

Yangon Region District General Administration Departments have announced the first list of successful applicants who have been permitted to purchase the low-cost and affordable housing units. Those who are on the list can choose the flats and purchase them at the Yangon City Gallery, located on the ground floor of the Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development

Department on Bogoyoke Aung San Road.

The drawing lots will be conducted at the end of September.

Those, who have been permitted to purchase the flats in the third, submitted their applications in February, 2018.

The 413 units being sold by the department include 298 low-cost apartments in

Yuzana Housing Phase-1 and Kanaung Housing in Dagon Seikkan Township, Shwe Lin Pan Housing Phases 1 and 3 in Hlaing Thaya Township, and Shwe Paukkan-14 Housing in North Okkalapa Township. The units measure 468-494 square feet, depending on the price.

The remaining 115 units belong to affordable housing projects in Htee Hlaing Shin Housing, Dagon Myothit (South) 62 Ward, Inwa housing, and Shop House near Shwe Lin Pan industry zone in Hlinethaya Township. The flats measure 740-1,175 square feet, depending on the price.

Applicants with a monthly family income of less than K500,000 can purchase low-cost housing units, while those who earn more than K500,000 can purchase affordable housing units.

Initially, buyers will have to deposit at least K3 to 7 million, depending on the value of the apartment, with the Construction, Housing, and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID Bank). Thereafter, to repay the loan, they will have to deposit 30 per cent of their income with the bank under the 15-year instalment plan. —Myint Maung Soe
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 1,200 tons of rubber exported through border from 3 to 9 Aug

MYANMAR exported 1,200 tons of rubber, worth US\$1.47 million, to neighbouring China and Thailand through the border checkpoints between 3 and 9 August, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Compared with the pre-

vious week, rubber exports to China and Thailand showed an increase of 400 tons.

Over 870 tons of various varieties of rubber were sent to China through the Muse 105-mile gate, 240 tons of ribbed smoke sheet rubber RSS3 was

delivered through the Chinshwehaw gate to China; and 150 tons of rubber was exported to Thailand through the Tachilek gate.

Between 4 and 10 August, 1,460 tons of rubber worth \$2 million was shipped to Malaysia, India, Japan, China, and South Korea through the sea routes.

The total volume of rubber exports through the border and maritime routes reached 2,700 tons during the one-week period.

Myanmar exports synthetic rubber, ribbed smoked sheet RSS 1,3,5, Myanmar Standard Rubber MSR-20, Technically Specified Rubber TSR-20, and Crepe Rubber. Despite the increase in rubber exports, the price is stable in the global market. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A worker hangs rubber sheets to dry. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar-India border trade up \$60.7 mln in current fiscal year

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India for the period between 1 October and 8 August in the current financial year totalled US\$176 million, an increase of \$60.7 million from the same period in the previous fiscal, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

During the period, Myanmar’s exports to India were valued at \$155.27 million, while imports stood at \$20.8 million.

Myanmar exports areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves, and other fruits and vegetables, fishery products, and forest products to India, and it

primarily imports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel, and other construction materials from India.

The two countries conduct border trade mainly through the Tamu and Reed checkpoints.

Thirty India-listed enterprises have been permitted to invest in the country so far, with an estimated capital of \$768.56 million.

The two countries are also working to open more border markets. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Ramp up battle against TB

SOUTH East Asia is the region most affected by tuberculosis in the world, and there are serious social, political, and economic repercussions from the high incidence of the life-threatening disease.

The number of TB cases in 2017-2018 halved compared with 2009-2010, which was a significant reduction.

The Health and Sports Ministry's war on TB has been successful to a certain extent, but TB remains a public health problem in our country.

The Ministry of Health and Sports cannot fight TB alone. It will take the combined strength of the concerned ministries and departments, international non-governmental organizations, local NGOs, and civil society organizations to rid the country of this contagious disease.

In fact, the increase in the number of drug-resistant TB cases is also posing a problem for the healthcare sector in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has adopted a five-year national strategy for fighting TB, as part of efforts towards the World Health Organization's 'End TB Strategy', which seeks to eliminate TB by 2035.

In 2018, the Ministry of Health and Sports provided treatment to over 135,000 TB patients, and recorded an 87 per cent rate of success in nationwide medical care. The ministry's mobile medical teams carried out field trips to diagnose and treat TB patients, reaching areas which were difficult to access, along with factories and prisons.

The Ministry of Health and Sports cannot fight TB alone. It will take the combined strength of the concerned ministries and departments, international non-governmental organizations, local NGOs, and civil society organizations to rid the country of this contagious disease.

It is also important for people to be able to spot early symptoms, report them to the nearest health department, and take the prescribed medications.

Our country is still among the 30 countries most affected by TB, according to the Global TB Report.

As per the 2018 report, 358 of every 100,000 people in Myanmar are infected with TB, and about 9.3 per cent of new TB patients are also HIV carriers, while about 5 per cent have drug-resistant TB.

To be excluded from the list, we must step up our current efforts in fighting TB and make more efforts for identifying TB patients and providing treatment to them, even in far-flung areas.

Findings and advice from a team of international and local TB experts, who have concluded a survey in the country, would be helpful for our commitment to ridding the country of TB.

Based on the findings of 16 international experts and 21 local experts during their field trip from 11 to 21 August in regions and state, tasks need to be laid down to fight tuberculosis.

BASED on Theravada Buddhism, the Rakhine culture, literature, music and fine arts have flourished. The Rakhine oil-lamp choral dancing is famous; so are the traditional slash-and-burn dancing by Thet ethnic people, plate dancing by ethnic Maramargrees, bottle-dancing on the head by Dainet ethnic people and horn-dancing by ethnic Mros famous in their own ways in the Rakhine State.

Oh---Mahamuni Bagawah, Oh---Munimaha Bagawah, Oh---Munimaha Bagawah Buddam Seranam Gacchami, Dhamman Saraman Gacchami, Sangham Saraman Gacchamin.

Hymns

The above-mentioned parts of the sacred song belong to the Rakhine ethnic people; the name of the whole song is the Buddha Pujaniya. With the combination of that song with Rakhine traditional dance becomes the Buddha Pujaniya choral dancing. The song

The song was composed by U Batha in 1965. He ordered the musical notes to make them compatible with the worshipping of the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sanghas.



The performer's hands are always upturned to retain the oil. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA

Rakhine Buddha Pujaniya oil-lamp choral dancing

By Aung Kyi Moe (Sittway)



The Rakhine people incorporate the oil-lamp dance in many of their traditional dances, mostly devotional to the Buddha. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA

was composed by U Batha in 1965. His invention of musical notes was made in order to be compatible with worshipping to Buddha, Dhamma and Sanghas. The song itself was meant for worshipping the Lord Buddha.

Rakhine traditional Buddha pujaniya oil-lamp choral dancing is in accordance with Theravada Buddhism. The styles of dancing represent the three

Gems of Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha. In 1966 on the 19th Union Day celebrations, the Rakhine Dance troupe presented the Buddha Pujaniya oil-lamp choral dancing on a variety show on behalf of the State. It became popular and have presented the dancing on every Union Day celebration since then, becoming a historic milestone for the Rakhine nationals.

Now in the State, oil-lamp choral dancing is unavoidably included in all student festivals, respect-paying ceremonies and other festivals. Songs give pleasure and evil to listeners; let them sing alone. But they should be sung with the inclusions of the Three Venerables: Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

Sculptured stone inscriptions

In the Shaithoung Stupa in Mrauk-U Township, the pave paths are covered with the styles of sculptured stone inscriptions of worshipping flowers, oil lamps and choral dancing. From Mrauk-U Era to the present periods, the Rakhine musical instruments - flutes and drums - were played by the accompaniment of choral

dancing for worshipping the Lord Buddha.

To worship oil-lamp choral dancing for the Lord Buddha, kerosene is poured into lamps together with a small pieces of cloth from Rakhine looms; the lamps are lit on the either side of the palm for dancing. Dancing with oil lamps starts firstly by kneeling down with uniform open palms. By lifting oil lamps

one arm over the head and other arm putting in an armpit with open palms. The arms raising over the head circle once and the palm in the armpit circle back slowly in motion over the head again. While doing the choral dancing, the dancers move their heads, waists and arms without putting out oil lamps and without spilling over the oil.

Dancing slowly by bending the waist and bringing the head down to their knees, you enjoy the Rakhine choral dancing and it regarded as a Rakhine historic style of dancing. Nowadays, oil-lamp dancing is replaced with ready-made electric lights.

Buddha Pujaniya song, composed by U Batha, was Myanmarised into "Dream" song series and became more and more popular. Nowadays, Buddha pujaniya song and Rakhine traditional oil-lamp choral dancing are performed in beer pubs, bars and restaurants, making the Rakhine people feel offended for their literature, ethnic nationals and culture. The Rakhine Literature and Culture (Yangon) has requested the restaurants and bars not to use oil-lamp choral dancing as these songs are religiously sacred and should not be assessed in terms of money.

In conclusion, starting oh---munibagawah, Oh---Munibagawah, the Rakhine traditional oil-lamp dancing is a sacred song for the Buddhists as well as a

Rakhine Literature and Culture (Yangon) has asked restaurants and bars to stop choral dances with oil lamps as the songs featured in the performances are religiously sacred and must not be used for pecuniary gain.

on the palms and separating slowly the arms by lowering the palms up and down; their bodies sway from left to right and right to left.

Dancing in circles

They dance in circles by bending their waists, raising

classic in the hearts of ethnic Rakhine people. The oil-lamp choral dancing will keep on flowing to be inscribed for the presentation.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)

U Myo Tint presents Credentials to President of the Argentine Republic

U Myo Tint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Argentine Republic, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Mauricio Macri, President of the Argentine Republic, on 20 August 2019, in Buenos Aires.—MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Thursday 22nd August, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 23rd August, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Eastern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)mph Sea will be moderate to rough elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9 -11) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (6 - 9) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd August, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd August, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd August, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Pyithu Hluttaw discuss education, health issues

FROM PAGE-2

Daw Khin Sandi, MP from Longlon constituency, discussed the use of registered pesticides, regular inspections to agricultural input item shops, the role of FDA to publicize the prohibited foods, publications through the state-owned media platforms, and budget allocation of Ministry of Planning and Finance for

these campaigns. Major Win Min Tun, Representative of Military Personnel, discussed the needs of relevant departments, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and social organizations to prevent non-communicable diseases.

Then, the discussion was also taken part by U Khin Maung Yi from Hinthada constituency,

U Myint Lwin from Twantay constituency, Dr Daw Shwe Pon from Bago constituency, Dr Daw Than Ngwe from Taunggyi constituency, Dr Myint Thein from Nyaunglebin constituency, Dr Daw Khin Nyo from Dedaye constituency, U Myint Oo from Thantabin constituency, Dr Sein Mya Aye from Dala constituency, U Ye Lwin from Ahlon constituency, Dr U Than Aung Soe from Min-

hla constituency, Dr Khin Soe Soe Kyi from Pyay constituency, U Maung Maung from Htigyaing constituency, Dr U Aung Khin from PyinOoLwin constituency, Daw Wint Wha Tun from Shadaw constituency, U Yan Linn from Kyaiklat constituency and Dr U Win Aung from KhinU constituency.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein agreed the discussions.

Speaker of Pyithu HLuttaw U T Khun Myat announced the approval of this proposal in accordance with the request of MP who tabled the motion and no objection against it.

The 13th regular sessions for Second Pyithu Hluttaw will continue its 14th day meeting on 27th August.—Aye Aye Thant ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Amyotha Hluttaw focuses on reservoirs, waterworks, ...

FROM PAGE-2

MP Dr U Kwyal Kwyal of Mandalay Region constituency 6 also supported the motion. He said the motion will not put a strain on the national budget as it promotes small facilities. He suggested adapting to the systems implemented in the community-based projects jointly organized by the Department

of Rural Development and the World Bank as it will ensure low expenditures with high beneficial results.

The motion was further debated by five MPs before the meeting concluded. The 14th-day meeting of the current Amyotha Hluttaw session will take place on 27 August.—Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

GPS to be installed on trucks...

FROM PAGE-5

As there are industrial zones and large markets in Yangon city, its roads are often packed with cargo trucks. Therefore, heavy trucks are now allowed to run between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. During the day, they are allowed to travel during specified times. A team comprising members of the YRTA, traffic police, Yangon City Development Committee, Myanmar Port Authority, Myanmar Container Trucks Association, and Myanmar Highway Freight Transportation Services Association is also conducting surprise checks to ensure container trucks are following traffic laws.

In addition, the team has forwarded necessary suggestions to the concerned organizations, said U Aye Aung.

“With the number of trucks on the rise, truck drivers are being trained by the Road and Transport Administration Department (RTAD) in Nay Pyi Taw. On completing the training program, they are being issued a certificate and licence. Yangon RTAD is also trying to provide training courses to produce skilled drivers,” he added.

There are 58,000 cargo trucks registered in Yangon Region, including trucks registered in towns outside Yangon.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Discover China: Let the dying never die - China's efforts to preserve ancient grottoes



Tourists visit the Mogao Grottoes, a world cultural heritage, in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province, 13 April, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

LANZHOU — Summer is the busiest season for staff at the Mogao Grottoes, as more than a third of the annual visitors to the over 1,650-year-old UNESCO World Heritage site come during summer vacation.

Last year, the tourist attraction welcomed almost 2 million visitors.

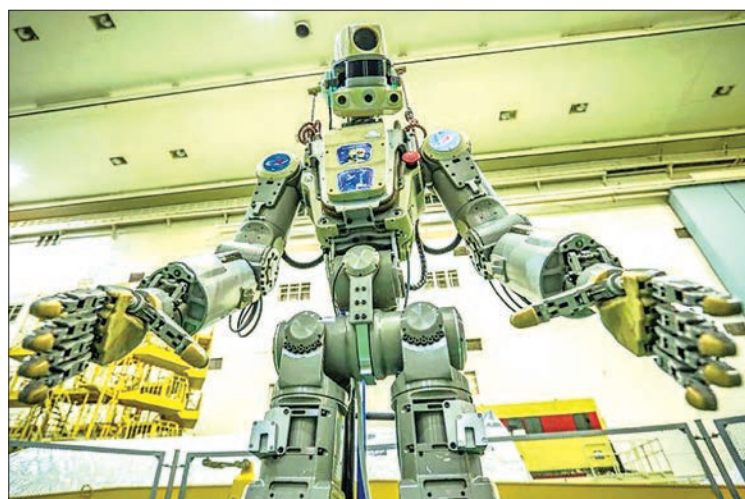
Sitting in Dunhuang, northwestern China's Gansu Province, the Mogao Grottoes are home to a priceless collection of Buddhist

artwork — more than 2,000 colored sculptures and 45,000 square meters of murals — in 735 caves carved along a cliff by ancient worshippers.

But only about 110 caves are suitable for visiting. “Too many visitors will affect the temperature, humidity and concentration of carbon dioxide in the cave. This will lead to repeated dissolution and crystallization of salt in the cave, causing the murals to decay,” said Su Bomin, vice

president of Dunhuang Academy China, which manages the grottoes.

Multiple measures have therefore been taken to preserve the works. In 2014, it took the lead to open ticket reservations and curb the number of daily visitors. This summer, it set a cap on the number of visitors every hour between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. where no more than 12,000 visitors that did not book tickets in advance are allowed to enter.—Xinhua ■



Named Fedor, for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research with identification number Skybot F850, the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia sends its first humanoid robot Fedor into space

MOSCOW — Russia on Thursday launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot that will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station.

Named Fedor, short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia.

Fedor blasted off in a Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft at 6:38 am Moscow time (0338 GMT) from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome

in Kazakhstan. The Soyuz is set to dock with the space station on Saturday and stay till September 7.

Soyuz ships are normally manned on such trips, but on Thursday no humans are travelling in order to test a new emergency rescue system.

Instead of cosmonauts, Fedor, also known as Skybot F850, was strapped into a specially adapted pilot's seat, with a small Russian flag in hand.

“Let's go. Let's go,” the

robot was heard saying during launch, repeating the famous phrase used by first man in space Yuri Gagarin.

The silvery anthropomorphic robot stands 1.80 metres (5 foot 11 inches) tall and weighs 160 kilogrammes (353 pounds).

Fedor has Instagram and Twitter accounts with posts saying it is learning new skills such as opening a bottle of water. In the station, it will trial those manual skills in very low gravity.—AFP ■

Scores missing after SW China hit by mudslides

BEIJING — Nine people have died and 35 are still missing after a series of mudslides in an autonomous region of China's southwestern Sichuan province, local authorities said Thursday.

A 33-year-old firefighter was among those killed by a flash flood that tipped over an emergency response vehicle as they went to help people affected by a mudslide in Wenchuan county, according to local officials.

State news agency Xinhua said another firefighter was receiving emergency treatment, citing Sichuan fire and rescue authorities. Six more people have been reported injured and more than 100,000 people have been

evacuated from Wenchuan in the mountainous Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture.

The mudslides and torrential rainfall cut off water and power supplies to thousands of homes, as well as damaging bridges and blocking roads linking local towns with Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan. Local authorities said they had also sent 20 buses and two helicopters to evacuate tourists from the popular holiday region.

Xinhua said that one mudslide had damaged a waterworks and flooded the plant connected to a local hydroelectric dam and that search and rescue efforts are still underway.—AFP ■



This photo taken on 21 August, 2019 shows the aftermath of a mudslide caused by heavy rainfall in Wenchuan county, in China's southwestern Sichuan province. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tel Aviv beaches fall foul in Israel's passion for plastic

TEL AVIV — In the early morning, when the only sound on Tel Aviv beach is the waves, Yosef Salman and his team pick up plastic debris left by bathers or cast up by the sea.

Working in heat and humidity with large rakes, they scoop plastic cups, cigarette ends, empty sunscreen tubes and soiled babies' nappies.

Also present, but impossi-

ble to separate from the sand, are microplastics, tiny particles of plastic debris that have been broken down by sun and salt.

"When it rains... you can see tonnes of plastic in the sand," says Ariel Shay, of the Plastic Free Israel movement, which organises volunteer beach clean-ups.

Despite the activities of environmental groups, Israel remains hooked on plastic.

A June report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) ranked Tel Aviv's coastline as the third most polluted by plastic waste in the Mediterranean, behind Barcelona and southern Turkey.

Valencia, Alexandria, Algiers and Marseille were listed in fourth to seventh places. With around four million inhabitants, Tel Aviv is Israel's most populous metropolitan area.

"Every time I go to the beach

now, I spend my time cleaning — it's horrible!" complains Shani Zylbersztejn, with an eye on her nine-month-old daughter, who plays with a plastic fork freshly dug from the sand.

In the upper-crust town of Herzliya, just north of Tel Aviv, Limor Gorelik, of the environmental protection NGO Zalul, patrols the sands, offering beachgoers bamboo cups and reusable bags in a bid to wean them from single-use plastics.

Bad habits

Gorelik blames Israel's passion for plastic on a lack of education and on deeply ingrained habits, such as using disposable tableware for family picnics.

Observant Jews who want a beachfront lunch on Saturdays are forbidden from washing the dishes afterwards, because their faith bans them from working on the Sabbath. —AFP ■



Limor Gorelik (l), of the environmental protection NGO Zalul, offers bamboo cups and reusable bags as an alternative to plastics.

PHOTO: AFP

Pressure mounting on EU to end ivory trade

PARIS — Amid growing calls for an outright ban, the European Union is coming under increasing pressure to help protect African elephants by ending the trade of ivory within its borders.

Poaching has decimated the world elephant population, which slumped in Africa from several million at the turn of the 19th Century to around 400,000 in 2015.

According to conservation group WWF, as much as 60% of all elephant deaths can be blamed on poaching.

The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, which campaigns against the ivory trade, says that from 2007-2014, 144,000 elephants were killed across Africa — the equivalent of one death every 15 minutes. The international trade of ivory was officially banned in 1989. The United States outlawed domestic trade in 2016, with China following suit a year later.

But several other markets, including the EU and Japan, have no such internal bans. Ivory and the plight of African elephants is a hot-button issue this week at the Cites conference on trade in endangered species, featuring representatives from more than 180 nations in Geneva. Nine countries — Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Syria — issued a proposal to the conference calling for all nations to close "all remaining domestic ivory markets as a matter of urgency".—AFP ■

Wildlife meeting backs more protection for giraffes

GENEVA — Wildlife-supporting countries on Thursday backed regulating international trade in giraffes in a bid to offer more protection to the gentle giants, feared to be facing a "silent extinction".

The vote in Geneva by parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) recognises for the first time that international trade is part of the threat facing giraffes.

The decision, which passed with 106 votes in favour to 21 votes opposed and seven abstaining, took place in committee and still needs a stamp of approval by the full CITES conference before it wraps up on 28 August.

The African giraffe population as a whole has shrunk by an estimated 40 per cent over the past three decades, to just under 100,000 animals, according to the best figures available to the International Union for Conservation

of Nature (IUCN).

And yet Thursday's vote, which implies listing all giraffes under CITES Appendix II and thus requiring tracking and regulation of all trade in the species, was highly controversial.

The proposal to list the giraffe came from a range of countries in western, central and eastern Africa, where giraffe populations have been particularly hard hit.

Chad's representative ar-

gued that "illegal cross-border trade (poses) a significant threat to the survival of giraffes."

But they met harsh resistance from southern African countries where the populations have traditionally been better protected and are healthier.

Countries, including South Africa, Botswana and Tanzania, maintained there was little evidence that international trade is contributing to the decline of the giraffe.—AFP ■

S Korea's chip, display panel, machinery to be hit hard by Japan's export curbs

SEOUL — Japan's export curbs would hit South Korea's semiconductor, display panel and machinery industries hard, a central bank report said Thursday.

Japan's worsening export restrictions would negatively affect the chip, flat screen and machinery sectors, according to report that the Bank of Korea (BOK) submitted to the parliamentary economic committee.

Japan removed South Korea earlier this month from its whitelist of trusted trading partners, after tightening control last month on its export to South Korea, including



The South Korean tech giant is the world's top maker of smartphones and memory chips. **PHOTO: AFP**

three materials crucial for the production of memory chips and display panels. In response, Seoul dropped Tokyo off its whitelist of

trusted export partners.

The BOK said Japan's export curbs had a limited impact on the South Korean economy until now,

but it noted that if the situations aggravate and the supply of parts and materials are disrupted, it could have a greater impact than the tariff hike.

The bank warned that if Japan's export restrictions are prolonged, the development of new growth engines such as non-memory chips and environmentally-friendly cars could be delayed.

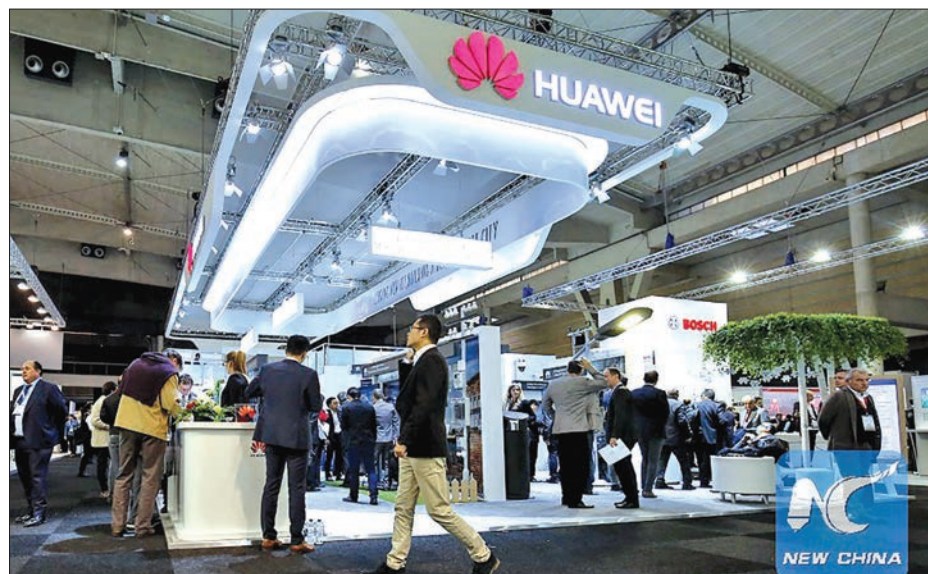
It added to the existing global economic uncertainties such as the global trade dispute and the possible British exit from the European Union (EU) without a deal, the BOK added.—Xinhua ■

Huawei peaks list of China's top 500 private firms

XINING — China on Thursday unveiled its latest rankings for 500 largest private enterprises, with tech giant Huawei atop the list amid sound development of the country's private business.

The list by the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC) came at the China Top 500 Private Enterprises Summit 2019 held in Xining, the capital of northwest China's Qinghai Province.

Huawei peaked the list with a revenue of 721.2 billion yuan (102 billion U.S. dollars) in 2018. Top companies also include HNA Group, Suning, Amer International, Evergrande, JD.com, Country Garden,



People pass by the Huawei stand during the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, 15 November, 2016. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Hengli Group, Legend Holdings and Gome Holdings. To be listed, an enterprise needed to have

revenues exceeding 18.59 billion yuan last year.

A total of 20 of China's private firms were also

on the list of the world's top 500 companies, three more than last year.—Xinhua ■

Taiwan firm to sue hacked parent Bitpoint Japan for overbilling

TOKYO — A Taiwanese firm will file a 1 billion yen (\$9.4 million) damages suit against Bitpoint Japan Co., saying it has been overbilled by the Tokyo-based parent embroiled in a recent hacking incident, its lawyer said Thursday.

According to a prepared lawsuit and other sources, Bitpoint Taiwan, which is in the cryptocur-

rency business using the parent's brand and trading system, discovered that total funds it has pooled from local customers have been short by some 500 million yen due to overbilling by the parent company.

Bitpoint Taiwan found the shortage of funds after reviewing past billings by the Japanese parent following the hacking inci-

dent in July, in which digital currencies worth 3.02 billion yen were stolen in Japan and an additional 250 million yen at overseas exchanges that use its trading system such as Bitpoint Taiwan.

Bitpoint Taiwan transmits funds collected from its local clients to Bitpoint Japan based on bills from the parent.

"It is clear that (Bitpoint Japan) had billed us based on erroneous numbers," Bitpoint Taiwan said in the prepared lawsuit.

The Taiwanese company will file the lawsuit with the Tokyo District Court and the total amount of damages will include a loss it suffered because of the hacking.—Kyodo News ■

Malaysia's int'l reserves fall to 103.1 bln USD

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's central bank said Thursday that its international reserves stood at 103.1 billion US dollars as at 15 August.

The reserves were 0.8 per cent lower when compared with 103.9 billion US dollars as of 31 July.

The central bank said in a statement that the reserves position is sufficient to finance 7.6 months of retained imports and is

1.1 time total short-term external debt.

The international reserves consisted of 96.8 billion US dollars in foreign currency reserves, 1.2 billion US dollars in International Monetary Fund Reserves Position, 1.1 billion US dollars in Special Drawing Rights, 1.8 billion US dollars in gold and 2.2 billion US dollars in other reserves assets.—Xinhua ■

Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.30 feet to 21.72 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 29th to September 4th, 2019. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (013W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (013W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Ex-operator of Zaif platform to close down cryptocurrency business

OSAKA — Tech Bureau Corp., which operated the Zaif cryptocurrency platform until it was hit by a massive hack, said Thursday it will close down its virtual currency exchange business once it has completed refunding customers.

The Osaka-based company, which saw some 7 billion yen (\$65 million) worth of cryptocurrency stolen as the result of unauthorized access in September last year, has been repeatedly ordered by the Japanese Financial Services Agency to improve its business operations due to a lack of security and internal control measures.

This marks the first time a cryptocurrency exchange operator registered with the agency will shut down its operations. Following the heist, Tech Bureau transferred operations of the Zaif platform to Fisco Cryptocurrency Exchange Inc., a subsidiary of the financial services group Fisco Ltd., in November last year.

Tech Bureau said it will refund clients in Japanese yen between 2 September and 30 November providing they have not moved their accounts to Fisco.

The hacking incident at Tech Bureau, which followed a similar heist at Coincheck Inc. in January 2018, has renewed debate over the safety of using such cryptocurrency platforms. More recently, Bitpoint Japan Co. said in July digital currencies worth 3.02 billion yen were stolen in Japan and an additional 250 million yen at overseas exchanges that use its trading system. —Kyodo News ■

NOTICE

NO. DUBA/ Cons/434/MR/19-(103) DATED: 20/06/2019
MR. **DINESH SAPALIGA**
S/O **BASAPPA SAPALIGA**
RESIDENT OF **2-143 BANDASALE HOUSE BALKUNJE MANGALORE 574172**
PRESENT ADDRESS **P.O.BOX 54052, DUBAI, UAE**
AND MISS **SWE ZIN OO**
DAUGHTER OF **U TUN AUNG**
RESIDENT OF **SHWE HTEE HOUSING, THAMINE TOWNSHIP, YANGON**
PRESENT ADDRESS **P.O.BOX 54052, DUBAI, UAE**

MR. **DINESH SAPALIGA** INDIAN NATIONAL AND MS. **SWE ZIN OO** MYANMAR NATIONAL PRESENTLY RESIDING IN UAE HAVE GIVEN NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE BETWEEN THEM UNDER THE FOREIGN MARRIAGES ACT, 1969. IF ANY ONE HAS ANY OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE HE/SHE SHOULD FILE THE SAME WITH THE UNDERSIGNED ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURE LAID DOWN UNDER THE ACT/RULES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

I, Mr. Aye Zaw Win, in my capacity as the authorised signatory of International Dimensions Limited, had personally made a financial commitment of JPY. 36,330,436 (Japanese Yen Thirty Six Million Three Hundred and Thirty Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Six only) by means of loan agreement No. LA-1/97 dated 5th February 1997, for the usage of Sea-Me-We-3 Submarine Cable System by Myanmar Post and Telecom, Ministry of Transport and Communications, as part of the agreement between Myanmar Government and International Dimensions Limited, of No. 73, Trans Street #03-02, Singapore 079012.

Recently, Myanmar Ministry of Transport and Communications has intended to reimburse the loan I have made. Although the loan was made as a component of agreement between Myanmar Government and IDL, since the said amount was paid by me personally, I have the sole right to reclaim it. I have been trying to contact and communicate with IDL to inform the matter but to no avail. This announcement is made to inform IDL that from now on, any further inquiries, financial or functional, for IDL's involvement with Myanmar Post and Telecom shall be made to me personally. If I receive no notifications within ten working days, I would go ahead and reclaim the loan I have made that the Myanmar authorities has intended to reimburse.

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Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by Annong Group Co., Ltd., are transferring from Advance Agriculture Solution Company Limited to Naing Toe Aung (Myanmar) Agro Group Co., Ltd. So, any objection regarding to this transfer can notify to this address: Co-Secretary, Pesticides Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Gyogone (West), Insein for the following Pesticide within (14) days from this announcement.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	ANG Spider 700 WP	Buprofezin 450g/kg + Tebufenprad 250g/kg	Provisional	P2018-2556
2.	Annongvin 50 SC	Hexaconazole 50g/l	Provisional	P2018-2576

Address: Advance Agriculture Solution Company Limited
02-219 Building (B), Swe Daw City, Mingalardon Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

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All in respect of "Financial and insurance services including servicing of automated teller machines, including cash replacement, deposit pick-up and maintenance; processing, counting and wrapping coin; processing and counting paper currency; administrative services; payroll preparation services, sale of performance tickets and lottery tickets; servicing change-giving machines, cheque account services, cashing cheques, deposit verification, night bag processing, check encoding, consolidation of individual bank monies, commercial and branch change orders, cash logistic services, virtual vaults, handling proceeds from conventions, exhibits, and performances, food ticket/stamp distribution, transportation insurance, insurance related services, customs brokerage, counting inventory, other accounting services, services related to protecting the privacy of banking information; including the installation and training of all the personnel involved in this management, research and development and all other services related to the foregoing" in **International Class 36**; "Transportation and warehousing services including armored car services for the transportation of currency, diamonds and jewelry, precious metals and other valuables and securities; providing various vaulting services; providing international freight forwarding services for valuables (including customs clearance), providing ground support for air courier services; import and export of materials and device linked to port and airport guarding and security; warehousing and storage of valuables, garaging, packaging of goods, air courier services, marine transportation services, transportation of goods by air or land; including the installation and training of all the personnel involved in this management, research and development and all other services related to the foregoing" in **International Class 39**; and "Miscellaneous services including home security and residential alarm services, including Communication of emergencies to police, fire and medical services, by means of electronic, television, telephone, computer, satellite, radio, internet, cable, wireless and other means; guarding and monitoring services; security guarding for facilities; setting-up, the maintenance and the servicing of equipment for port and airport guarding and security; the management of security and guarding systems for ports and airports; installation and maintenance of security systems, rental and monitoring of security apparatus and of fire, burglar and medical emergency alarms; consultancy related to security and monitoring, security services, monitoring signals from computer intrusion detection systems; secure document destruction services; storage and destruction of confidential corporate files, data tapes and other sensitive media; including the installation and training of all the personnel involved in this management, research and development and all other services related to the foregoing" in **International Class 45**. Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

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Dated 23rd August 2019

Archbishop stands by disgraced Pell after sex-case appeal lost



Pell was convicted of sexually abusing the two choirboys in 1996 and 1997 after Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral when he was Archbishop of Melbourne. **PHOTO: AFP**

SYDNEY — A senior Australian Archbishop said Thursday he still believed disgraced Cardinal George Pell was innocent despite a court rejecting his appeal against child sex abuse convictions.

Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli said while he accepted the testimony of the victim that

convicted Pell, he believed his colleague was the victim of mistaken identity.

"I believe in what he said to me on many occasions — that he's innocent" Comensoli told 3AW radio, stressing that he accepted the witness was indeed abused, but by someone else.

He did not offer any evidence

to support the claim. Pell and his supporters look set to fight on after the former Vatican treasurer on Wednesday lost his appeal against five convictions for sexually assaulting two 13-year-old choirboys at a Melbourne cathedral in the 1990s.

University of Melbourne law professor Jeremy Gans said it was highly likely that Pell would now take his case to the country's final court of appeal.

"He's got absolutely nothing to lose, and his odds are long. But if he wins, it's big for him, so why on earth wouldn't he do it?" Gans told AFP.

Pell, 78, who once helped elect Popes, is serving a six-year sentence for the offences, which came to light after one of the victims went to police when the other died of a drug overdose in 2014.

Wednesday's landmark decision at the Court of Appeal was a 2-1 verdict.—AFP ■

Kosovo MPs dissolve parliament, paving way for snap poll



Kosovo's former Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj stepped down in July after he was summoned to a special court in the Hague. **PHOTO: AFP**

PRISTINA — Kosovo's former Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj stepped down in July after he was summoned to a special court in the Hague. More Kosovo MPs voted on Thursday to dissolve parliament and trigger early elections, a move that will add new delays to the deadlocked dialogue with former foe Serbia.

The vote comes after outgoing premier Ramush Haradinaj, a former commander of ethnic Albanian rebels who battled Serbia in the late 1990s, stepped down in July after he was summoned to a special court in The Hague, which is investigating crimes from that era. Since his resignation, parties have agitated for a snap poll, with some already kicking off unofficial campaigning and talking about possible alliances.

After 89 lawmakers in the

120-member assembly voted in favour of the motion, Haradinaj hailed it has a "signal of a high degree of maturity and democracy".

He also stressed that the dialogue with Serbia "is one of the important topics."

"I think we should discuss this topic after the elections," he told reporters. Kosovo has for months been at an impasse with Serbia, which still rejects the former province's independence declaration in 2008.

While most of the Western world recognises Kosovo, Belgrade and its allies China and Russia do not, effectively shutting it out of the UN.

New elections — which must be held within 45 days — will put the stalling EU-led talks on hold for longer, with a planned summit in September likely to be postponed. After Kosovo's last parliamentary election in 2017, it took several months to form a government.

A new government could, however, offer an opening if it were to revoke the 100 percent tariff on Serbian goods that Haradinaj put in place last November. That move enraged Belgrade and brought the talks to a grinding halt. Haradinaj has refused to bend to heavy pressure from the EU and US to lift the trade barrier, which Serbia says is a requisite for returning to the table.—AFP ■

Four IS militants, two soldiers killed in clashes in eastern Iraq

BAGHDAD — Four Islamic State (IS) militants and two Iraqi soldiers were killed on Thursday when the Iraqi army repelled an attack on its position in the eastern province of Diyala, a local official said.

The extremist militants

carried out an attack at dawn against an Iraqi army post in east of the town of Qara-Tappa, some 175 km northeast of Baghdad, but the soldiers fought back and killed four of the extremist militants, one of them was a suicide bomber, Wasfi al-Tami-

mi, mayor of Qara-Tappa, told Xinhua. Two soldiers were also killed and three others wounded in the clash, said al-Tamimi, adding that the attackers fled the scene as reinforcement troops arrived and the situation is under control.—Xinhua ■

Greenland row is Trump positioning for Arctic battle: Expert

COPENHAGEN — The diplomatic row that has erupted between Washington and Copenhagen over Greenland is just one part of a broader strategic battle

being waged over control of the Arctic, according to one expert.

US President Donald Trump has cancelled a trip to Denmark and launched a war of words with

his Danish counterpart, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, after she rejected his idea of the US buying Greenland as "absurd". Mikaa Mered, professor of po-

lar geopolitics at Paris' ILERI institute of international relations said Trump's unsolicited advances on the autonomous territory were a way to indicate US interest in the resource-rich Arctic and to distract from domestic issues.

Is the US sending a message?

Mered said Trump's offer to buy Greenland was a signal to Arctic nations and China, which has shown interest in the region, which is crucial for the control of new shipping routes opening up as ice sheets melt because of global warming.

"When it comes to the Russians, (Trump's) logic is to say: 'You won't always be the main power in the Arctic even if you

are the chair of the Arctic Council in 2021'. 'And when it comes to the Chinese, the idea is ... 'We won't let you get a foothold in Greenland', " Mered said.

He said the US has already increased its presence by re-establishing a consulate in Greenland's capital Nuuk, and helping to finance new airports, education and social programmes.

"The end goal is not to acquire Greenland per se but at least some new territory, some new pieces of land," he said.

Washington could be angling to buy the Gronnedal naval base in southern Greenland, "which the Danes ultimately decided not to sell in late 2017 because the only interested buyers were Chinese" he added.—AFP ■



Icebergs float behind the town of Kulusuk in Greenland on 16 August 2019. **PHOTO:AFP**

Pakistan facilitates US-Taliban talks but deal elusive: ex-diplomat



In this handout photo released by Afghanistan's Government Media and Information Centre on 11 February, 2019 acting Pentagon chief Patrick Shanahan (centre left) takes part in a meeting with Afghan National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib (right), next to General Scott Miller (centre right), commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, and US Ambassador to Afghanistan John Bass (left) in Kabul. Mr. Shanahan arrived in Afghanistan on an unannounced visit 11 February, 2019 as the US leads a push for peace talks with the Taliban. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISLAMABAD — A former Pakistani diplomat said Wednesday that Pakistan has been facilitating talks between the United States and Afghanistan's Taliban

militants, though an agreement between them remains elusive.

"We have brought the horse to the water, (but) will the horse drink the water?" former For-

eign Secretary Riaz Khokhar, who also served as ambassador to Washington, told a seminar on US-Pakistan relations at the Islamabad Policy Research Insti-

tute. Khokhar said Pakistan has been asked by the United States to help persuade the Taliban to agree to a cease-fire and to talk with the Afghan government, which it considers a puppet regime.

But he said Pakistan has insufficient influence over the Taliban to force them to do so, nor would it be in the country's own interest to get involved in the nitty-gritty of the negotiations.

The former diplomat was of the view that even if a settlement of the 40-year-long Afghan quagmire is reached, "it will not be possible for Afghanistan to settle down."

He cited a recent suicide bomb attack on a wedding party in Kabul in which dozens of people were killed and for which Islamic State has claimed responsibility. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, he noted, has accused Pakistan of harboring Islamic State fighters, just like in the past it has been accused of harboring Taliban and Haqqani militants. —Kyodo News ■

S Korea decides to terminate intelligence-sharing pact with Japan

SEOUL — South Korea said Thursday it will pull out of a military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan that helps the neighboring countries counter threats such as North Korean missiles, amid an intensifying spat between them.

The government said Japan's actions on trade, namely its tightening of export controls on some materials crucial to South Korea's technology industry, have changed the whole security situation, making it inappropriate to share sensitive information such as military intelligence.

The termination of the General Security of Military Information Agreement, or GSOMIA, is the latest product of deepening enmity between South Korea and Japan over wartime history and trade issues.

"We could not but reconsider the utility of the accord, given the fact that Japan has turned history issues of the past into security issues," a government official said, emphasizing that the decision, made at a National Security Council meeting, stemmed from Japan's recent measures.

"If Japan takes back its unfair retaliatory moves and the two countries recover their friendliness, (the government) could possibly reconsider many measures including GSOMIA," the official added.

A Japanese government source called the decision "extremely regrettable." Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said after a meeting earlier in the week in Beijing with his South Korean counterpart Kang Kyung Wha that the agreement was an important component of their



In this 7 August, 2019, photo, South Korean protesters hold signs during a rally demanding the abolition of the General Security of Military Information Agreement, or GSOMIA, an intelligence-sharing agreement. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

countries' security cooperation and should be maintained.

Signed in November 2016, the pact was facing a deadline on Saturday for either side to

give written notification of their intent to pull out. Without such notification, it would have been automatically extended for another year. —Kyodo News ■

13 IS militants surrender in eastern Afghan province

ASADABAD — Thirteen militants of the Islamic State (IS) surrendered in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province on Thursday, said the provincial governor.

"A total of 13 Daesh (IS) fighters joined the government-initiated peace and reconciliation process after they recognized the present war and fighting is against the national

interest," governor Abdul Satar Mirzakwal told Xinhua.

They also handed over weapons to provincial security officials, said the governor.

The mountainous province,

180 km east of Kabul, has been the scene of clashes between security forces and IS militants since the emergence of the terror group in eastern Afghan region in early 2015. —Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hong Kong students to boycott new term as protests continue

HONG KONG — Hong Kong student leaders on Thursday announced a two-week boycott of lectures from the upcoming start of term, as they seek to keep protesters on the streets and pressure on the government.

The financial hub has been rocked by three months of unrest, with students making up a large number of the pro-democracy protesters taking to the streets almost daily.

Student leaders representing most of the city's major universities said students will miss lectures between 2 September — the planned start of the new term — and 13 September.

They threatened further action if the government does not adequately respond to the protesters' five demands, which include spiking a controversial extradition bill, universal suffrage and an independent inquiry into alleged police abuses during the protests. —AFP ■

Traveling exhibition to recognize British settlement's impact on indigenous Australians

CANBERRA — The Australian government has launched an initiative to commemorate Captain James Cook's arrival in the country and its impact on indigenous peoples.

Ken Wyatt, minister for indigenous affairs, announced the Encounter 2020 program on Thursday, saying it would commemorate the 250th anniversary of Cook's arrival while also acknowledging the lasting impact it had on the country's First Peoples.

Cook's arrival in 1770 is considered by many indigenous Australians to be the beginning of the invasion of the continent by white Europeans.

Wyatt, the first indigenous Australian to serve as minister for indigenous affairs, told reporters at the Australian National Maritime Museum, which is in charge of Encounter 2020, that "Cook's visit in 1770s is not viewed by all Australians in the same way." —Xinhua ■

14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship: Myanmar wins bronze



Team Myanmar compete in the 1,000-meter mixed race yesterday at the 14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship in Pattaya, Thailand. **PHOTO: KYAW KHAING (ISPE)**

TEAM Myanmar won a bronze medal yesterday at the ongoing 14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship, which is being held at Pattaya, Thailand.

Myanmar secured the bronze medal in the final of the mixed men and women (22 row-

ers) 1,000-meter Standard Boat event, against Indonesia, United States, Canada, China, and host Thailand.

Myanmar secured the bronze medal with total time of 3 minutes and 58.608 seconds, while Indonesia won the gold medal with total time of 3 min-

utes and 55.485 seconds, and the United States took the silver medal with total time of 3 minutes and 56.704 seconds.

Myanmar participated in one event yesterday. The championship will end on 25 August. So far, Myanmar has secured two gold medals, one silver med-

al, and two bronze medals.

Team Myanmar still have twelve more events remaining, scheduled on 23, 24, and 25 August, according to the Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation.— Ar Kar Soe ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Henry's desire to succeed as manager undimmed by Monaco misery

LONDON — France football legend Thierry Henry is keen for another chance to prove he can be a successful manager despite his unhappy brief tenure at Ligue 1 side Monaco.

The 42-year-old -- Arsenal's record goalscorer -- told the Daily Telegraph that although his phone did not ring for four months following his sacking, things have picked up since then and he has received five offers.

Henry's dream return last October to manage Monaco, the club where he established his reputation as a top class striker, turned into a nightmare.

Having been part of Belgium manager Roberto Martinez's backroom team at the World Cup — where they reached the semi-finals — he lasted just over 100 days after only four league wins.—AFP■

Myanmar U-23 to test with Thai clubs next month



The Myanmar U-23 men's football team players sing their national anthem during the friendly match against Viet Nam on 7 June. **PHOTO:MNA**

The Myanmar U-23 men's national football team will play two friendly matches against local football clubs of Thailand in September to prepare for the upcoming edition of the Southeast

Asian (SEA) Games, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar National League has been suspended for a month to allow national

football teams to play international matches, according to the federation.

Led by head coach Velizar Emilov Popov, the 36 players selected for the U-23 team start-

ed training from 19 August in Yangon.

The Myanmar U-23 men's team will play a friendly match against the Singha Chiangrai United Football Club on 5 September at the Singha Chiangrai United's stadium in Chiangrai, Thailand.

On 8 September, the team will play their second friendly match against the Chiangmai Football Club at the Singha Chiangrai United's stadium in Chiangrai.

The friendly matches will help the team prepare for the 2019 SEA Games, which are scheduled to be held from 30 November to 11 December in major cities in the Philippines, and will mainly be hosted in Manila.

Myanmar is aiming for a gold medal in the football event of the SEA Games. The defending champions are team Thailand who won the 2017 edition of the SEA Games.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Brazil-born history-maker vows to take China to World Cup

GUANGZHOU — Brazilian-born striker Elkeson said he wants to fire China to the World Cup after he became the first footballer without Chinese ancestry to be named in the national squad.

The recently naturalised 30-year-old will make more history when — as widely expected — he lines up for Marcello Lippi's side in a 2022 World Cup qualifier away at the Maldives on September 10. Lippi has long complained about a dearth of attackers and on Wednesday moved to plug the gap with Elkeson, who will use the Chinese name Ai Kesen and take up a Chinese passport.—AFP■