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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 243, 5th Waning of Nadaw 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 16 December 2019

10 aircrafts commissioned into service to mark 72nd anniversary of Air Force



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects a fighter at the 72nd anniversary of Air Force Day at the Flight Training Base in Meiktila yesterday.
PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES

THE Myanmar Air Force yesterday commissioned 10 new aircrafts into service to commemorate its 72nd founding anniversary.

The new aircrafts include two JF-17Bs, six Yak-130 fighters,

and two MI-35 P helicopters.

The ceremony was held at the Flight Training Base in Meiktila, with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, in attendance, wearing an Air

Force uniform in its honor.

Speaking at the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the inauguration of the new aircrafts would motivate officers and other ranks of the Air Force, or the Tatmadaw (Air), and

would promote the capability of the Tatmadaw.

“Nowadays, non-ordinary challenges such as armed attacks, arms smuggling, drugs trade, and illegal timber extraction are threatening the ad-

ministrative machinery of the government, transportation, and life and property of the people, and the peace and stability of the country,” he said.

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Nationally assessed workers receive proficiency certificates

THE National Skill Standards Authority (NSSA) held a ceremony to confer national-level proficiency certificates at Kanaung Hall of Mandalay's industrial zone (1) yesterday afternoon.

Firstly, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe delivered a speech, saying the NSSA has accredited 40 evaluation centers in Mandalay Region who have all reviewed 3,749 experienced workers from 18 different sectors combined. He said this is the age of globalization with new technological advancements made everyday.

This being the case, vocational skills are becoming just as important as academic education to develop human resources and keep up with modern innovations, said the Union Minister. He said the Ministry of Education, relevant ministries and private vocational training institutions have developed and implemented curricula based on NSSA's standards and equipped trainees with the expertise to operate modern machinery.

The Union Minister said his ministry endeavours to find people employment and employers with skilled workers to address their business' needs. He said they also provide proficiency certificates to experienced workers in order to support businesses with the most investment and address the highest category in demand on the job market.

Next, the Union Minister and officials conferred certificates of acknowledgment to 589 proficient workers of 12 different work sectors from Mandalay Region and Upper Myanmar who were evaluated between January to August 2019, and to 5 assessors.

Since its establishment in 2014 to November 2019, the NSSA has assessed workers from 23 job sectors and verified 13,240 workers of national proficiency level-1 and 1,049 of national proficiency level-2.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

New research training center opens in PyinOoLwin

THE Research Capacity Strengthening Training Center was formally opened at the PyinOoLwin branch of the Medical Research Department yesterday with Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivering a speech.

The Union Minister for Health and Sports said research activities are important for multi-sector development of the nation and this center will be crucially supportive to the national healthcare system. He said the Medical Research Department has signed 41 MoUs on research projects with international universities and has cooperated on 36 of them in 2018-2019.

The Union Minister said his ministry must reevaluate the 2017 National Health Research Policy and draft strategies and action plans that suit current needs. He expressed his wish for an office of research integrity unit to be opened soon. He said the new center will act as a platform of learning for staff and teachers of both the MoHS and the Ministry of Education.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi gave a speech where he said high research capacity is essential for implementing sustainable and coordinated development across all sectors of the nation. He said the nation has different advantages and shortcomings in each of its states and regions and proper research would help identify them more thoroughly so that the advantages may be further strengthened and the shortcomings resolved.

This was followed by Director-General Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun of the Medical Research Department and WHO Country Representative Dr Stephan Jost delivering separate addresses.

Next, the Union Ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Chairman Dr San Shwe Win, MoHS Permanent Secretary Prof Dr Thet Khine Win, and Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun cut ceremonial ribbons to officially open the Research Capacity Strengthening Training Center.

The Union Ministers and officials then observed the libraries, computer rooms, dormitories, lounge and cafeteria inside the building.

The Ministry of Health and Sports will announce calls for student applications on its website for interested persons from the MoHS and MoE.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi and officials open the PyinOoLwin branch of the Medical Research Department yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



14th PyinOoLwin Horticulture Festival opens

THE 14th PyinOoLwin flower festival began yesterday with more than 600,000 flowering plants worth K700 million on display at the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.

The month-long festival was formally opened by vice speaker of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw, Dr. Khin Maung Htay.

Apart from flowering plants from Myanmar, 65,000 flowering plants from the Netherlands, 90,000 lilies from Italy, 90,000 roses from the UK, and other floral decorations are being showcased at the festival.

The festival will be held through January next year.

The flowers displayed at the festival will be exchanged every week.

Music concerts by famous vocalists will also be staged during the festival.—Thet Naing (Pyin Oo Lwin) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

More than 600,000 flowering plants are being showcased at the 14th PyinOoLwin flower festival inside the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin. PHOTO: THET NAING (PYIN OO LWIN)

10 aircrafts commissioned into service to mark 72nd anniversary of Air Force



Myanmar Air Force commissions 10 new aircrafts into service to commemorate its 72nd founding anniversary yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the speech at the 72nd anniversary of Air Force. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

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“Natural disasters such as fires, storms, floods, thunderstorms, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, and drought are also threatening the people, and the Tatmadaw is ready to offer humanitarian assistance and disas-

ter relief as it has been formed systematically,” he added. The three main tasks of the Tatmadaw include carrying out public welfare activities. He said the constitution stated that the Tatmadaw would help the people when disasters strike the country.

He also acknowledged the skills of the Air Force, which has experience in relief, rescue, and rehabilitation efforts, and urged the Air Force to carry out joint disaster preparedness drills so it can carry out rescue efforts effectively when necessary. After his speech, Chief of

General Staff (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Aung announced the commissioning of the aircrafts. Afterwards, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Maung Kyaw presented miniature aircrafts to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as souvenirs to mark the celebrations.

Following the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his party released 72 birds and sprinkled scented water over the aircrafts, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by KZL)

Myanmar delegation leaves for Malaysia to observe edible oil production chain

A delegation comprised of representatives from the governmental departments and edible oil dealers left for Malaysia on 14 December to observe production chain of edible oil in Malaysia. The 53 members of the delegation are from representatives of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association led by Chairman U Myint Kyu, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Services Ltd (MITS) and Food Science and Technology Association (Myanmar). Myanmar’s annual edible oil consumption has risen to over 1 million tons, according to the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’

Association. Edible oil was imported mainly from Malaysia and Indonesia. However, the price of edible oil from Malaysia increased this year, and Myanmar imported oil from Indonesia, where the price is a bit cheaper than Malaysia. Myanmar has imported only cloud point 8 and IODING 58 quality edible oil with the permission of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). To allow local people to get healthy edible oil at a fair price, a Myanmar-Malaysia Edible Oil Network workshop was held on 8 November at the Sule Shangri La hotel in Yangon. The workshop was jointly organized by the Myanmar Edible Oil Entrepreneurs Association and the Malaysia Edible Oil Council. — GNLM



Deputy finance ministers, central bank governors meet at ASEAN+3



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win attends the ASEAN +3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies’ Meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Minister U Maung Maung Win attended the ASEAN+China, Japan, Korea (ASEAN+3) Deputy Finance Ministers and Deputy Central Bank Governors Meeting in Xiamen, China, from 12 to 13 December. In the first day of the meeting, IMF, ADB and AMRO explained the macroeconomic situation of the world and Asian region and future prospects, the effects the free trade agreement

of Asia might have on financial cooperation with ASEAN+3 nations and the deputy ministers and deputy central bank governors exchanged views. Next, discussions began on ASEAN+3 financial cooperation, AMRO’s current future plans, 2020 action plans, and budget and staff appointment. On the second day of the meeting, they discussed future processes of the Chiang Mai

Initiative, performing economic reviews on member states, methods for nations facing financial hardships to seek assistance, and developing Asia’s bond market. This meeting is held once every six months and is a sideline meeting to the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Printed 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.

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Rakhine State Day reaches 45th anniversary

MAUNGTAW District, Rakhine State, commemorated the 45th Rakhine State Day at Thiri Mingalar Hall yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Deputy District Administrator U Ye Htoo read the message from President U Win Myint commemorating the 45th anniversary of Rakhine State Day. The ceremony was attended by about 700 people, including District Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Aung Myint Htay, Hluttaw representatives, district/township-level department officials, teachers and students from Nan Thar Taung volunteer school, and students from youth development training school.

—Thet Lwin Soe (IPRD)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The 45th anniversary of the Rakhine State Day being convened in Maungtaw yesterday.
PHOTO: THET LWIN SOE (IPRD)



Rice distributed to IDPs in Buthidaung

THE Maungtaw District Management Department yesterday donated about 788 bags of rice to displaced persons in Buthidaung.

More than 5,400 people from 1,179 households, displaced by the current armed conflict, are sheltering at the four camps.

Staff from the department distributed rice bags in four IDP camps set up at two monasteries and two villages.

The rice distributed yesterday would last each person two weeks, said officials. —*Thet Lwin Soe (IPRD)*

YCDC plans to install kiosks to sell bus prepaid cards

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is planning to set up booths for bus prepaid cards, said U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Mayor.

“The YCDC will set up kiosks near the bus-stop to enable smooth transportation of commuters. Sim-cards, top-up cards, and bus prepaid cards

will be available at the kiosks. As the trial run of the card payment system is going to be launched, kiosks are needed,” he said.

“Despite the fact that some members of the Yangon Region Parliament opposed the construction of 5 square feet booths near popular bus-stops amid the clearing of street vendors, the move has been clearly explained. So, we will install

booths near the bus-stops,” said U Maung Maung Soe.

This YCDC move aims to support YBS’s card payment system for better transportation, said the Yangon Mayor.

About 1,500 buses will get e-ticketing machines in the initial stage of the implementation of the card system by end-December, according to the Yangon Region Transport Authority

(YRTA).

The prepaid card booths cost K2 million and 15 of them have been built, said U Lin Khaing, head of the YCDC’s Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges).

At present, there are more than 1,800 bus stops in the commercial hub of Yangon, according to the YCDC. *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Narcotic drugs confiscated in five townships

POLICE from Bamauk Township seized 9.88kg of raw heroin while they searched the motorcycle driven by Win Moe on Sae Gyi Hill on Bamauk-Mansigyi road near Hinpinkha Village, Hinpinkha Village-tract in Bamauk Township on 14 December.

Similarly, a combined team including police from Mandalay Region Police Force confiscated 1,975 stim-

ulant tablets and a mobile phone from Wai Hlyan Phyoo who was on a stopped motorcycle at the corner of 59th Street and Theik Pan Street in Mahaangmyae Town in Mandalay.

Police from Dagon Myothit (North) confiscated 2,215 stimulant tablet while they searched the house of Man Chin Paung (a) Joseph in Thukha Street in Ward No.28,

Dagon Myothit (North).

Police from Lashio stopped the car driven by Tan Gun and Lun Kaung, Ma Gi Gar Ein, Ma Bauk Sai Mai and Htain Lin Aung on board near Pon Htun Village in Lashio Township, and seized 2.893 kg of heroin, a KBZ bank book, K 250,000 cash and four mobile phones.

On the same day, police from Namhkam Township

seized 220g of heroin and a mobile phone from the motorcycle driven by Sai Maung Hla on Namhkam-MantWaint road near KunLon Village in Namhkam Township.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Onions export to Bangladesh plunge to 366 tons in last week of Nov



Workers carrying sacks of onion towards the truck parked near a warehouse in Yangon. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MYANMAR exported 366 tons of onions, worth US\$262,400, to neighboring Bangladesh through the Sittway border gate between 23 and 29 November, according to news released online by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar’s onion exports to Bangladesh were lower in the week ended 29 November compared to the previous week.

The local market has witnessed a huge increase in onion prices owing to strong demand from Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh suspended purchase of Myanmar onions in October-end as the price rose dramatically in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, 210.455 tons of rohu worth \$194,514.6 was exported to Bangladesh through

the Sittway border gate, an increase from 138.2 tons registered in the previous week.

During the period, dried plums, chickpeas, garlic, onions, fresh ginger, and fish worth an estimated \$562,985.77 were sent out of Sittway gate to Bangladesh. Meanwhile, T-shirts worth \$2,700 were imported by Bangladesh.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with Bangladesh through the Sittway and Maungtau gates.

Between 1 October and 6 December in the current fiscal year, border trade stood at \$5.83 million at Sittway and \$3.18 million at Maungtau, totaling \$8.993 million.—GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Strong demand from China, EU drives up green gram price to K1.4 mln

ON account of steady demand from China and European Union markets, the price of Myanmar’s green grams is ranging between K1.1 million and K1.4 million per ton, depending on the quality, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Sesame Seeds and Merchants Association.

The FOB green gram prices were above K1.2 million per ton for FAQ (fair and average quality), and K1.3-1.5 million for the ShweWah variety.

Myanmar primarily exports mung beans, pigeon peas, and green grams to foreign markets. India accounts for 70 per cent of Myanmar’s mung bean exports and 95 per cent of pigeon peas exports. Meanwhile, China accounts for 60 per cent of Myanmar’s green gram exports, according to the

Commerce Ministry.

Countries in the European Union also purchase green grams. The export volume of green grams to India is lower compared to other countries, said an official from the Commerce Ministry.

Meanwhile, mung bean prices dropped to around K970,000 per ton from a peak of K1.3 million as the price is lower in India’s market, according to the association. In the first month of the current fiscal year, more than 80,000 tons of various pulses and beans were exported. The volume declined 30,000 tons compared with the corresponding period of last year. Myanmar’s green grams exports were registered at over 330,000 tons in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, over 400,000 tons in the

2016-2017FY, and over 350,000 tons in the 2017-2018FY. Green grams are mostly exported to China through the border trade channels. Of various pulses exports, green gram exports were over 26 per cent in the 2015-2016 FY, over 28 per cent in the 2016-2017 FY, and over 26 per cent in the 2017-2018 FY.

According to green gram plantation data, about 1 million tons of green grams are produced from over 300,000 acres of plantations. They are primarily produced in Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and Kayin states.

China produces value-added snack and beverages from green grams. The by-products are utilized as feedstuff.—GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Sugar mill operators expected to delay sugarcane purchase

MYANMAR’S sugar mill operators are expected to delay buying sugarcane during the December-April season, according to the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Products Merchants and Manufacturers Association.

“There are 23 sugar factories in the local market. Only two mills — Great Wall and Nawaday — have started to purchase sugarcane. Nawaday Sugar Mill offered K45,000 per ton, while Great Wall bought a ton of sugarcane at K41,500. Sugar mills are ready to run, but old stocks remain in the mills, so operators are delaying the purchase of sugarcane,” according to the association.

With China banning sugar imports, within a year, sugar stockpiled in mills and traders’ warehouses, causing prices to drop below K900 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms). The sugarcane market is likely to raise its head again only after China’s ban on sugar imports is lifted. Most of the millers are preparing

to buy sugarcane in the second and third week of December. The delayed purchase might hurt the quality and yield rate in the following year, and growers.

“Following the drop in price, sugarcane acreage might decrease next year,” said an official from the association.

Myanmar produced about 450,000 tons of sugar from 440,000 acres of sugarcane plantations in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, over 390,000 tons from 390,000 acres in the 2015-2016FY, over 370,000 tons from 400,000 acres in the 2016-2017FY, over 500,000 tons from 400,000 acres in the 2017-2018FY, and 500,000 tons from 500,000 acres in the 2018-2019FY.

Sugarcane prices were pegged at over K50,000 per ton in the 2015-2016FY, K45,000 in the 2016-2017FY, K41,500 in the 2017-2018FY, and K38,000-40,000 in the 2018-2019FY, according to news released online by the Ministry of Commerce.—GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May.

09251022355,09974424848

Chin State tangerines fetch good price despite low yield

ORGANIC tangerines produced in Chin State are fetching a high price during the harvest season.

The price of tangerines is ranging from K200-500 per fruit, depending on the size.

In Kalay market, the price stands at K2,000 for ten small tangerines. For the larger tangerines, the price is ranging between K3,000 and K5,000.

Tonzang and Tiddim townships are the main producers

of tangerines in Chin State. Tangerines from the townships are sent to the Myanmar-India border market - Tamu - and the Kalay-Monywa market. Buyers prefer organic tangerines to those cultivated using chemical fertilizers. “I have more than 400 tangerine trees in my farm. The yield is not good every year. This year, the yield drop is attributed to high rainfall and some pest danger. Last year, 25,000-30,000

tangerines were produced on my farm. This year, the yield drastically plummeted to 5,000,” said a tangerine farm owner from Tongzang Township.

“Chin State’s tangerine farms are a traditional business, lacking advanced technology and chemical treatment. We use only natural fertilizers for cultivation. It gives us an advantage in the market,” he added.—Zo Hay Hsar

(Translated by EMM)



Second day of Youth All-Round Development Festival continues



Students attending the literary talks at the Youth All-Round Development Festival in Magway University yesterday. **PHOTO: WAIN YAN, YE MOE**

The second day of youth all-round development festival (Magway) was held at the campus of the Magway University yesterday.

In the morning, roundtable talks were conducted at the Y Building in the campus. Daw Htay Yin Win, Ma Kyu Kyu Khiang, Ma Mon Su Hmay, Ko Ye Lin Aung and Ko Ye Yint Tun discussed the title of “Youths and future career choice,” while U Khant Thiha, Dr Nyi Nyi, Ko Aung Myo Thu, Ko Zwe Htet and Ma Su Su Htar discussed

the title of “Youths and All-Round Development.”

The Association for Prevention, Care and Protection of Abandoned Children held a public talk titled, “Fundamental Reproductive Health,” and young actors Sithu Win and Wai Lar Yi discussed also the title of “The youths who are interested in arts” at the Theatre Hall of the university .

Sports activities including the competitions of volleyball, Sepak takraw, Htoke See Toe, Tug of War, football, basketball and pillow fight were also organized inside and outside of the sports stadium in the campus. Inside the convocation hall of the university, artists from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed the traditional cultural dances, students from universities, degree colleges and basic education schools entertained with Myanmar traditional cultural musical performances and traditional ethnic dances, and youth athletes from Sports and Physical Education Department demonstrated Wushu sport.

Outside the convocation hall, Myanmar traditional dances were taught, and artists were drawing still life paintings, portraits and caricatures. Sculptures and flower vases were also displayed outside the hall.

Over 100 booths including departmental booths and the booths from universities, basic education high schools and social organizations were also displayed along the road to the convocation hall, together with over 40 book stalls, the stalls selling local products and foods, traditional medicines and souvenirs.

Famous singers including Bo Bo Han, Khin Maung Htoo, Tetkatho Lae Lae and winners of Peace Music Festival also entertained the attendees in front of the three-storey building in the campus.

The third day of the festival will be held today, and anyone interested can join free of charge. — Lin Han Zay (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun) ■

Second day of Magway youth festival a roaring success

THE second day of the Youth All-Round Development Festival in Magway yesterday saw teachers and students from schools and universities of 25 townships in Magway Region filling up the scene along with curious local residents.

Attendees had the choice to browse through informative exhibits, participate in discussions, English proficiency and poem contests, view artistic movements, and even take part in drawing portraits and sculpting. Visitors also took pictures with colorful flower boards and signs in front of the Convocation Hall and observed history books on display and the freestyle poems and traditional ethnic dances performed inside.

A first-year biology student from Magway University, Ma Thin Thin Swe told reporters the festival gave her the wonderful opportunity to reunite with old friends and become more familiar with their teachers. She showed interest in the nursing exhibition by the Ministry of Health and Sports and after looking around the festival for two days, she gained new education perspectives. She said the practical experiments from the technical university is inspirational for young people and wished for more festivals of this kind to be organized.

Another guest at the festival, Daw Hnin Yu Lwin, a high school teacher escorting students from Chauk Township said she brought them here so that they may absorb civilized thoughts and literary knowledge. She said it was a positive feeling to see the festival crowded more than expected and students



Students observing the paintings and drawings created by artists at the Youth All-Round Development Festival in Magway University. **PHOTO: HEIN MIN SOE**

filling the display booths. The festival is opened from morning to evening and visitors can freely peruse books at stalls before purchasing, enjoy performances from famous artistes, and participate in the sport competitions held in the university’s campus.

—Min Htet Aung (Mahn Sub-printing House) ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Youths competing in the Myanmar language contest. **PHOTO: HEIN MIN SOE**



Youths competing in the Sepak takraw competition. **PHOTO: HEIN MIN SOE**

Study shows these Alzheimer’s drug candidates reverse broader ageing

WASHINGTON — A new study suggests that the Alzheimer’s drug candidates CMS121 and J147 may be useful for treating a broader array of conditions and points out a new pathway that links normal ageing to Alzheimer’s disease.

The research was published in the journal eLife. According to Pamela Maher, a senior staff scientist at Salk and a co-corresponding author of the new paper, “This study further validated these two compounds CMS121 and J147, not only as Alzheimer’s drug candidates but also as potentially more widely useful for their anti-ageing effects,”

Old age is the biggest risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease – above the age of 65, a person’s risk of developing the disease doubles about every five years. However, at a molecular level,

scientists aren’t sure what occurs in the brain with ageing that contributes to Alzheimer’s.

“The contribution of old age-associated detrimental processes to the disease has been largely neglected in Alzheimer’s disease drug discovery,” says Antonio Currais, a Salk staff scientist and first author of the new paper.

Maher and David Schubert, the head of Salk’s Cellular Neurobiology Lab, previously developed CMS121 and J147, variants of plant compounds with medicinal properties.

Both compounds tested positive for their ability to keep neurons alive when exposed to cellular forms of stress related to ageing and Alzheimer’s disease. Since then, the researchers have used the drug candidates to treat Alzheimer’s in animal models of



FILE PHOTO: Virtual reality could also help clinical trials of future drugs aimed at slowing down, or even halting, progression of Alzheimer’s disease, the researchers said. PHOTO: AFP

the disease.

But experiments revealing exactly how the compounds work suggested that they were targeting molecular pathways also known to be important in longevity and ageing.

“The bottom line was that these two compounds prevent molecular changes that are associated with ageing,” says Maher.—ANI ■

Smog forces schools shut in Iran



An Iranian woman wearing a breathing mask walks down a street as a blanket of smog covers Tehran. PHOTO: AFP

TEHRAN — Air pollution forced schools to close on Sunday in parts of Iran including Tehran, as the capital lay under a thick cloud of smog considered hazardous to health.

The pollution level in the capital was “unhealthy for sensitive groups” and officials warned the young, elderly and people with respiratory illnesses to stay indoors, with sporting activities suspended.

The decision to shut schools in the capital was announced late Saturday by deputy governor

Mohammad Taghizadeh, after a meeting of an emergency committee on air pollution.

“All of (Tehran) province’s schools except for Firuzkuh and Damavand counties are closed for Sunday,” he said, quoted by state news agency IRNA.

Schools in the capital will close on Monday, the third day of the Iranian working week, he added later in a state TV interview.

An “odd-even” traffic scheme based on vehicles’ registration numbers was imposed

to restrict traffic in the capital, IRNA reported.

Trucks were banned outright in Tehran province.

Taghizadeh added that all activities at Tehran province’s numerous sand quarries would also be halted.

Schools were also closed in the northern province of Alborz and in the central cities of Qom and Arak, IRNA reported.

“We are forced to live with and tolerate this situation,” a Tehrani dentist, giving her name as Iran, told AFP.

“I think no one does their job properly in this country, be it the authorities or the people,” she added, fumbling with a white mask, worn commonly on the capital’s polluted days.

- Grey cloud -

A grey cloud hung over Tehran on Sunday, obstructing the view of the mountains overlooking the city to the north.

Average airborne concentration of the finest and most hazardous particles (PM2.5) was at 145 microgrammes per cubic metre for the 24 hours until Sunday noon, according to government website air.tehran.ir.—AFP ■

Cholera kills over 27,000 pigs in Indonesia

JAKARTA — More than 27,000 pigs have died in a hog-cholera epidemic that has struck Indonesia, with thousands more at risk, an animal welfare official said.

Thousands of pigs have died in more than a dozen regencies across North Sumatra over the past three months, and the pace of deaths is increasing, authorities said.

“Every day, between 1,000 and 2,000 pigs are dying. It’s quite a high figure,” said Agustia, the veterinary office chief in Medan who goes by one name, on Friday.

Still, he added that the current death toll was a small fraction of the 1.2 million hogs in North Sumatra, a part of Muslim-majority Indonesia that is

predominantly Christian and where pork is an important part of local fare.

Last month, more than 1,000 cholera-stricken pigs were buried in the province after their decaying carcasses were plucked from local waterways, as police searched for suspects who discarded them.

Previously, lab tests found that the animals died of hog cholera but officials said they are also testing to see if any were infected with African swine fever. Neither are believed to pose a risk to humans.

In 2017, a hog cholera outbreak in Indonesia’s East Nusa Tenggara province killed more than 10,000 pigs, causing severe financial losses for local farmers.—AFP ■



Thousands of pigs have died in more than a dozen regencies across North Sumatra over the past three months, and the pace of deaths is increasing. PHOTO: AFP

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4th Industrial Revolution – nurturing the next generation

THE current progressive trend in the world is being described as the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The First Industrial Revolution saw the rise of steam engines and boilers, the second focused on electricity and automats, and the third ushered in electronic technology and the world wide web.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution will be a continuation and advancement of the third and shall focus on artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, 3D tech, biotech, self-driving vehicles, and other technological advancements.

Only highly-skilled human resources would be able to help establish a developed, modern nation founded on the principles of a democratic federal republic desired by the people.

A third of our nation's population is young. Citizens aged 15 to 35 years make up 33.8 per cent of Myanmar's demographics. The Union Government has been organizing Youth All-Round Development festivals with the aim of building our human resource pool to equip our youths with the necessary skills, knowledge, perspectives, and values to establish a resilient and wise society.

It is our opinion that the current generation must keep pace with change and help pass on the necessary skills and values to the next generation as they take the reins of our country in the future.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution looks set to make rapid and expansive changes, but there is a likelihood that it will destroy existing jobs by replacing people with machines. This calls for young people to be prepared for the approaching change and think ahead.

President U Win Myint spoke along these lines recently at the Youth All-Round Development Festival in Magway, where he urged everyone to raise youths, who are all born with talent, to adapt to the changing times, be resilient in face of challenges, and skilled in relevant sectors, while learning to love their people and their nation. He also said we must instill a sense of duty among youth so they voluntarily assist in national development.

Only highly-skilled human resources would be able to help establish a developed, modern nation founded on the principles of a democratic federal republic desired by the people.

Accreditation of Vocational Training Centres

By Lokethar

IN MYANMAR, since the advent of the Union Governments following the Multi-Party Democratic Elections starting 2010, there has been an increase in the establishment by the private sector, of technical education and vocational training institutions/ centres/ schools. Setting up of Vocational Training Centres by the Private sector is welcome as more and more Technicians and Skilled workers will be needed to support Myanmar's transition to an Agro-based Industrial Economy with an expanded Service Sector.

Vocational Training Institutions, in general, require bigger investments to establish compared with academic institutions and schools of the same size. The obvious reasons are that the buildings, machines and equipment needed for systematic training, including up to date technical training aids calls for heavy investment. The running expenses incurred for adequate quantities of consumables required for effective practical training can be high as well depending on the number of areas in which training is offered. As for the teaching staff, qualified and competent instructors can be hard to come by and the salaries and wages demanded may be high. Quality of TVET Centres/ Schools also depends on how well they are run and the standards they follow.

Although the National Edu-



Vocational trainees learning welding techniques during vocational training course in Maungdaw. PHOTO: YAMANYA

cation Law of 2014/2015 includes provisions relating to establishment of private TVET Institutions, a specific TVET law including coverage of private sector TVET Institutions is still in the making. As of now "registration" or "permission" to establish private vocational training centres/ schools, have been made by various authorities according to relevant existing laws.

Some of the private Vocational Training Centres are "affiliated" to one or the other Institution in a foreign country and so follow the curriculum standards of the

Not all "Registered" TVET Centres would of course, seek or be eligible for "Accreditation". However those TEVET Centres seeking "Accreditation" must meet the requirements of the Accreditation process conducted by the Accreditation Authority under the law, to be issued a Certificate of Accreditation.

foreign entity concerned. Many of the local private vocational training centres have their own curriculum drawn up by local vocational education teachers and instructors, probably with-

out recourse to any "training standards".

Laws on TVET normally require "Registration" of Private Vocational Training Centres/ Institutions. Registration means "Recording; inserting in an official register", in other words, an official recognition of existence. Registration may involve issuing of a document by the registering authority "permitting" the establishment of the Centre. The conditions/ requirements for registration, of course, have to be met.

However, "Accreditation" of TVET Centres/Schools would

more likely ensure the emergence of Quality TVET Centres/ Schools. "Accreditation" means "the process of officially recognising the Centre/School as being qualified to conduct quality assured TVET programs or courses in accordance with prescribed standards." Institutional Accreditation is a process in which many factors are scrutinized by a competent Accrediting Authority. The scrutiny would normally include the competency standards or the learning outcomes to be attained by the trainees, the adequacy and suitability of the physical facilities used in respect of the stated number of trainees or students to be trained per program/course, the education and training delivery system including use of IT techniques, the qualifications of personnel involved in the utilization of the delivery system, the assessment for certification system and the "assessors" responsible for implementing it and so on. Accreditation, if not for the Institution as a whole, can also be for specific programs or courses offered by the Institution.

Not all "Registered" TVET Centres would of course, seek or be eligible for "Accreditation". However those TEVET Centres seeking "Accreditation" must meet the requirements of the Accreditation process conducted by the Accreditation Authority under the law, to be issued a Certificate of Accreditation.

■ ■ ■

To be a genuine democracy, it is not enough to be a "government of the people, by the people, for the people". The government must uplift the economic standard of our people to the point where there is equality of opportunity for all. Then only can we go forward towards genuine democracy.

(Extract from the speech given by General Aung San at the Jubilee Hall First Preparatory Conference held on 19 May 1947)

ကဏ္ဍတိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရအဖွဲ့၏ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုနှင့် လွှဲပြောင်းထူထောင်မှုဦးစီးဌာန၊ အခြေခံပညာဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် မြို့နယ်စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာနမှတစ်ဆင့် ပူးပေါင်းစီမံကွပ်ကဲသော

ကလေးစာပေပွဲတော်

စာအုပ်စာပေပြပွဲ နှင့် စာအုပ်ငါးမျိုးပွဲ (ဒေးဒရိုမြို့)

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ကရင်ကိရိန်းမ : အ.ထ.က(၁)၊ ဒေးဒရိုမြို့။

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 15th December, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 16th December, 2019: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts and about (3-5) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th December, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th December, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th December, 2019: Generally fair weather.

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Freedom of

- Between 1 April and 31 December 2018, 300 NVC holders received temporary travel authorization with Form 4 to travel from Rakhine State to Yangon. Between January and end of August 2019, 506 NVC holders received travel permits.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- The construction of 100 houses for the relocation of Taung Paw IDP camp in Myay Pon was 100% completed on 24 December 2018 and the relocation has been completed. Altogether 300 houses have been provided for relocation and the construction of 100 additional houses for the financial year 2018-2019 has been 50% completed.
- To facilitate transportation during the rainy season in the relocated Taung Paw IDP low-cost housing in Myay Pon Town, a 7722-foot-long and 8-foot-wide earth road is under construction.
- The third workshop on the draft national strategy for the closure of IDP camps was held at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 April 2019.

Humanitarian Assistance



Cash Support Being Provided to Self-Help Pre-Schools, Nurseries and Mother Circle in Taunggok and Ma-Ei Towns



Social Pension Being Provided to the Elderly of 85 Years and Above

- During the reporting period, 18,110 elderly persons 85 years of age and above in Rakhine State were provided with a monthly social pension of Kyat 10,000 each, totalling Kyat 539.00 million.
- During the reporting period, 126,735 pregnant women and infants up to 2 years of age were monthly provided with a maternal and child cash transfer program of Kyat 15,000 each, totalling Kyat 9717.845 million.
- For remote areas that are not served by any nurseries and pre-schools, 62 mother circle for young children of 6 months to 3 years of age were provided with a total of Kyat 44.88 million.

Anger, relief but no joy as UN climate talks limp to an end

MADRID — A marathon UN summit wrapped up Sunday with little to show, squeezing hard-earned compromises from countries over a global warming battle plan that fell well short of what science says is needed to tackle the climate crisis.

The COP25 deal “expresses the urgent need” for new carbon cutting commitments to close the gap between current emissions and the Paris treaty goal of capping temperature at below two degrees, host country Spain said in a statement.

“Today the citizens of the world are asking for us to move ahead faster and better,

in financing, adaptation, mitigation,” Carolina Schmidt, Chilean environment minister and President of COP25, told the closing plenary.

Following a year of deadly extreme weather and weekly strikes by millions of young people demanding action, negotiations in Madrid were under pressure to send a clear signal that governments were willing to double down.

The summit — moved at the last minute from Chile due to unrest — at times teetered on the brink of collapse as rich polluters, emerging powerhouses and climate-vulnerable nations groped for common



The Paris treaty goals of capping global warmingThe COP25 deal “expresses the urgent need” for new carbon cutting commitments to close the gap between current emissions and ng at below two degrees. **PHOTO: AFP**

ground in the face of competing national interests.

“Based on the adopted text,

there is a glimmer of hope that the heart of the Paris Agreement is still beating,” said Mo-

hamed Adow, Director of Power Shift, referring the treaty inked in the French capital.— **AFP** ■

Five years of thirst: S.Africa's Eastern Cape battles brutal drought

ADELAIDE — South African farmer Steve Bothma heaved a sigh of relief when the weatherman finally predicted rain.

His excitement was short-lived. Just a few days later, the forecast changed. It was back to cloudless sunshine.

In South Africa's Eastern Cape province, no one can remember the last proper downpour. Some say it was five years ago, others six.

“This is a disaster,” said Bothma, 51, who in his three decades working the land has never seen such dry weather.

“Older people who are 70 or 80 years old would tell you exactly the same thing,” he added.

Southern Africa is grappling with one of the worst droughts in decades -- the outcome of years of absent or

erratic rainfall, and temperatures that have reached record highs.

Millions are facing hunger due to poor harvests and dwindling livestock.

“It is usually beautifully green at this time of the year,” said Bothma, as a hot gust of wind swept through his sheep pen.

“But now even the pine trees are dying.”

South Africa is one of the world's driest countries at the best of times.

Rapid urbanisation and growing water consumption have placed a strain on water reserves and caused the coastal city of Cape Town to almost run dry in 2018.

But the ongoing drought has compounded the situation.— **AFP** ■

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon up by more than double: data

RIO DE JANEIRO — Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon in November surged by 104 per cent compared to the same month in 2018, according to official data released Saturday.

The 563 square kilometers (217 square miles) deforested that month is also the highest number for any November since 2015, according to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), which provides official data on deforestation. That is considered a significant increase, particularly during the rainy season, when deforestation generally slows.

For the first 11 months of the year — also the first months in office of Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right leader who has eased restrictions on exploiting the Amazon's vast riches — deforestation totaled 8,974.3 square kilometers.

That is nearly twice the



FILE PHOTO: Arara indigenous chief Tatji Arara (left), 41, patrols with a rifle near the stump of an illegally logged tree on Arara indigenous land, in Para state, Brazil, on March 13, 2019.

4,878.7 square kilometers reported for the first 11 months of 2018.

The data was collected by the satellite-based DETER system, which monitors deforestation in real time.

Another satellite-based system used by the INPE known as

PRODES, considered more reliable but slower to compile data, reported in late November that in the 12 months beginning August 2018, deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon had passed the 10,000 square kilometer threshold for the first time since 2008.— **AFP** ■

Macao's moon, planetary lab to boost China's deep space exploration

MACAO — Macao's first space exploration satellite was named Macao Science 1, the special administrative region (SAR)'s Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Tam Chon Weng announced Sunday at an opening ceremony of an aerospace exhibition.

During the opening ceremony, Vice Administrator of China National Space Administration (CNSA) Wu Yanhua also announced that the CNSA would

set up Macao Space Exploration and Science Center to assist deep space exploration cooperation between China and international society, and help such institutions in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to work with each other.

The satellite, which will be launched in 2021, is the first of its kind to probe the South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA), a region of reduced magnetic intensity where the inner radiation belt

is at its lowest altitude.

Geophysicists believe the study of SAA can help them find the reason of Earth's weakening magnetic field.

The satellite program is operated by China's State Key Laboratory of Lunar and Planetary Science, which was approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology and established on Oct. 8, 2018 in Macao University of Science and Technology (MUST).— **Xinhua** ■



The dry lands: An aerial view of the dam floor. **PHOTO:AFP**

US to announce 4,000-troop drawdown from Afghanistan: media

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration will announce as early as this week plans to withdraw around 4,000 troops from Afghanistan, US media reported.

Talks between the United States and the Taliban resumed a week ago as the parties sought a path to reduce violence or even reach a ceasefire.

They were paused by Washington on Thursday, however, after an attack by the militant group near a key US air base north of Kabul that left two civilians dead and dozens injured.

There are 13,000 US troops currently in Afghanistan.

NBC on Saturday cited three current and former US officials as saying the Trump administration intends to announce the drawdown of 4,000 troops from Afghanistan.

Two of those said some of the



A photo taken on June 6, 2019, shows US soldiers in Afghanistan's Wardak province. **PHOTO: AFP**

troops would be redeploying early, while others would not be replaced when they end their term.

CNN cited one official in the Trump administration as saying the announcement on a drawdown could happen this week, but

that the “timing remains in flux.”

The State Department did not reply to an AFP request to comment on Sunday, and the Pentagon referred questions to the White House, which had no immediate comment.— AFP ■

Libya's GNA says Qatar confirmed its support amid fresh assault on Tripoli

TRIPOLI — The Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) of Fayeze Sarraj said on Saturday that Qatar has confirmed its support for GNA and restated its position against the operation of the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar.

GNA press service said that Sarraj on Saturday held talks with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani in Doha.

The meeting came as Haftar on Thursday announced the start of the final offensive to take Tripoli.

Libyan media reported that clashes between GNA and Haftar's forces were taking place in several areas around

the capital.

“During the meeting, the Qatari minister reiterated that Qatar is against aggression on the capital city of Tripoli, and restated support for the legitimate Government of National Accord. The parties agreed on the importance of intensifying relations in vital areas in the interests of the two friendly states,” the GNA press service said.

Libya has been facing unrest since 2011, when its long-time leader, Muammar Gaddafi, was overthrown and killed.

The two rival governments, the UN-recognized Tripoli-based GNA and the eastern-based LNA, have split the country in half. — ANI ■

San Franciscans turn in hundreds of weapons on gun buyback day for violence reduction

SAN FRANCISCO — San Franciscans handed in 318 various weapons at a gun buyback event Saturday that was aimed at reducing violence and building a safer city, local police said.

“It's now 318 items turned in, thanks to a last minute drop-off at @up4life,” the police department said, referring to United Playaz, a local violence prevention and youth development organization, after the end of the program.

“The purpose of the gun buyback is to get guns out of people's homes. We give an opportunity for people who have guns in their homes who don't know how to get rid of them,” said Timothy

Falvey, captain of Southern Station at the San Francisco Police Department, which hosted the event in partnership with United Playaz. The idea is to reduce crime because sometimes these guns are stolen, he said.

Rudy Corpuz Jr., founder and executive director of United Playaz, said it's been the seventh year that the program has been conducted to remove guns from streets and prevent people from being killed by “senseless gun violence.”

“Probably over 3,000 guns have been surrendered over the past seven years, and many of them are assault rifles,” he said.



FILE PHOTO: Gun safety advocates rally in front of the US Supreme Court. **PHOTO: AFP**

Anyone who turns in a handgun can get a cash bonus of 100 US dollars and 200 dollars for a

semi-automatic weapon, according to the organization.

— Xinhua ■

Venezuelan lawmaker says expect progress in political dialogue

CARACAS — Despite various challenges facing Venezuela's political and economic landscape, there is hope that ongoing conciliation talks between the government and opposition groups will make progress, a lawmaker of the South American country told Xinhua.

“The principal new development in the political arena during 2019 is that a democratic opposition has emerged that has come to the table for dialogue, which is making progress in terms of reaching agreements,” Francisco Torrealba, deputy of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela in the National Assembly, told Xinhua.— Xinhua ■

Thousands rally in Bangkok to protest against dissolution of opposition party

BANGKOK — Thousands of people took to streets in Bangkok in a show of major protest after authorities moved to ban a party that has rallied opposition to the government of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha.

Saturday's rally took place just days after Thailand's Election Commission voted to disband the Future Forward Party (FFP), ruling that it had violated the electoral law by accepting loans from its leader, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, a 41-year-old billionaire, Al Jazeera re-

ported. The case is now with the country's Constitutional Court.

Founded in 2018, the FFP stunned observers by coming third in March's controversial election, which saw Prayuth Chan-Ocha, a former military ruler, return to power as civilian prime minister. FFP supporters had then alleged that the election was “rigged” and a “sham”.

“Today is a show of strength so that in the future others may come,” Thanathorn, a critic of Prayuth, told the crowd.

“This is just the beginning,”

the leader said, pledging more protests in the future. “We're here first as a test run. Prayuth, don't be too afraid. The real thing is next month,” he added.

Held under light police presence, the rally is believed to be the biggest since a 2014 military coup first brought Prayuth to power.

Some demonstrators held up signs calling for a change of government while others shouted slogans such as “Dictatorship Out! Let Democracy Live!”— ANI ■



Thai Future Forward Party's leader Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit addressing his supporters during an unauthorised flash mob rally in downtown Bangkok yesterday. It revived memories of the street protests that have roiled Bangkok periodically over the past two decades of turbulent politics. **PHOTO: AFP**

Behind the glitz, Nigerian entertainers struggle to cash in

LAGOS—Fake eyelashes fluttered, bespoke suits were on display and slick music videos played at the inaugural edition of The Entertainment Fair and Festival in Nigeria’s economic hub Lagos in late November. But behind the glitter, the reality of the film and music sectors in Africa’s most populous nation can often be far less glamorous: wages are low, there are no social protections and copyright law is rarely enforced. That comes despite the country boasting the second most productive film industry in the world and some of Africa’s biggest pop stars.

Hits by singers like Burna Boy, Wizkid and Davido play non-stop on stations across the continent and Nollywood churns out some 2,500 movies each year. Despite the successes, revenues from Nigeria’s entertainment and media sector in 2018 lagged well behind that of the continent’s other leading economic powerhouse South Africa at \$4.5 billion compared to \$9.1 billion, PwC said. —AFP ■



Nigeria has a thriving entertainment industry, but many of its stars and workers struggle to earn money. PHOTO: AFP

China exports AI surveillance tech to over 60 countries: report

TOKYO—Chinese companies have exported artificial intelligence surveillance technology to more than 60 countries including Iran, Myanmar, Venezuela, Zimbabwe and others with dismal human rights records, according to a report by a U.S. think tank. With the technology involving facial recognition systems that the Communist Party uses to crack down on Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in China’s far western Xinjiang region, the report calls Beijing a global driver of “authoritarian tech.”

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace released the report amid concerns that authoritarian regimes would use the technology to boost their power and data could be sent back to China. —AFP ■

This little piggy went to court:
German piglets ‘sue over castration’



PETA argues that under German law, animals cannot be harmed without reasonable explanation. PHOTO: AFP

BERLIN—Little piggies go to market, but in Germany they also go to court.

In a legal first, animal rights activists have asked Germany’s top court to ban the practice of castrating young male pigs without

anaesthetic—with the piglets themselves listed as the plaintiffs. The painful procedure has become increasingly controversial in Europe and has been banned in Sweden, Norway and Switzerland.

Farmers argue that the castration of piglets a few days after birth is necessary to prevent “boar taint”, the occasional occurrence of a foul smell when cooking pork from male pigs past puberty.

The German parliament outlawed castration without pain relief in 2013 but it offered farmers a five-year transition period to help them adapt to the change -- a timeline that was extended last year until 2021. Outraged by the inaction, the PETA campaign group filed a lawsuit with Germany’s Constitutional Court in November on behalf of the baby pigs.

The group wants judges to recognise that pigs have rights similar to human rights and that these are being violated by the “cruel act” of castration without pain relief.

“Non-human entities like companies and associations have legal personhood. So why not animals too?” said lawyer Cornelia Ziehm, who is supporting PETA in representing the piglets in court. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (948S/950N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY. NO. (948S/950N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-2019 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE., LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1113S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1113S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (639 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (639 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-2019 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY. NO. (001N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGKOK VOY. NO. (001N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-2019 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1034 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1034 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-2019 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

US, China mini-deal offers ‘breathing space’ for Chinese economy

BEIJING—A truce in the US-China trade war offers Xi Jinping breathing space as he faces a slowing economy and political trouble in Hong Kong, but experts warn 2020 will be another tough year for the Chinese president. The pared-down “phase one” deal announced Friday includes a reduction in US tariffs on China, in exchange for an increase in Chinese purchases of US goods and better protections for intellectual property.

But tussles over the most controversial Chinese trade practices – including steep state subsidies – have been left to future talks. The trade war launched nearly two years ago by President Donald Trump isn’t over, analysts say, as there’s always the risk of Beijing not upholding its



The pared-down ‘phase one’ deal announced Friday includes a reduction in US tariffs on China. **PHOTO: AFP**

end of the bargain and the mercurial US leader throwing more tariff bombs. The mini-deal is a “delay tactic to buy the Chinese Communist Party breathing space and allow it to stay in the game against overwhelming odds,” said

Larry Ong, senior analyst with risk consultancy SinoInsider. Growth of the Chinese economy slowed to six percent in the third quarter – its most sluggish rate in nearly three decades – as demand for exports cooled and Chinese

consumers tightened their belts. In November exports fell 1.1 percent from a year earlier, the fourth straight fall, and exports to the US nosedived 23 percent as the trade war disrupted supply chains and left investors on edge.—AFP ■

Cambodia sees 34 pct rise in rice export to China in 11 months

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia exported 205,358 tons of milled rice to China during the first 11 months of 2019, up 34 percent over the same period last year, said an official report Sunday.

China is still the top buyer of Cambodian rice during the January-November period this year, said the report of the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export.

Export to China accounted for 40 percent of Cambodia’s total rice export, it said.

Song Saran, president of the Cambodia Rice Federation, said China is a key market for Cambodian rice and the kingdom is expected to export a total of 250,000 tons to China this year.

Meanwhile, the Southeast Asian nation shipped 174,397 tons of rice to the European market during the period, down 26 percent, the report said.—Xinhua ■

Israel eyes Dubai expo as ‘portal’ to Arab world

JERUSALEM—With the world’s largest trade fair opening in an Arab country for the first time next year, Israel is stepping up preparations, hoping to boost nascent ties with regional neighbours.

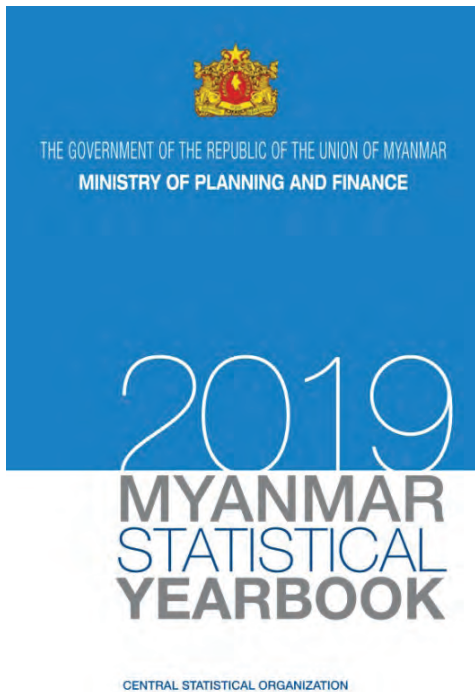
The Dubai Expo 2020 trade fair will gather nearly 200 countries vying for the attention of a projected 25 million visitors over nearly six months from October.

Like most Arab countries, the United Arab Emirates has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

But the Jewish state has been quietly

moving closer to Gulf Arab countries on the basis of shared security interests and a common enemy—Iran. An Israeli pavilion at an Arab-hosted expo presents a unique opportunity to speed up the “normalisation” of relations and reach out to Arab peoples, officials say.

“To us, the added value is in the Arab and Muslim visitor,” said Elazar Cohen, the Israeli foreign ministry’s pointman for the expo, which is organised by the Paris-based Bureau International des Expositions (BIE).—AFP ■



Myanmar Statistical Yearbook 2019 has been published by Central Statistical Organization as international statistical bulletins. It is mentioned the methodology sheets on statistical sources, a glossary and an analytical index. It can take the better response to the information scope and depth of user needs. It was available Hard copy as well as CD-Rom two-volume prices at (22,000/-)kyats, if you buy a single CD-Rom (12,000/-)kyats will be sold out. It is available for the purchase at Central Statistical Organization, Office No(32), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Central Statistical Organization Yangon Branch, No(4/6), 3rd Floor (Right), Byamaso Road, Corner of Thila Street, Su Paung Office Compound, Ward (4), South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Eastern District, Yangon Region, and SarPayBeikMan Store (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon).
Phone : +95 673 406325, 673 406329, 673 406468, 01-8500887

စီမံကိန်း၊ ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှင့် စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန မြန်မာ့ဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်း

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(၄) Methanol	၁,၉၈၀ ဂါလန်
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KAYIN State, south-east of Myanmar, is a hilly region where Kayin ethnics, the majority of people in Kayin State, are residing. Zwegabin Hill is one of the symbols of Kayin State. After opening the border trade camp in Myawady, improvement of road and bridge facilities helps increase number of travellers leading to Kayin State.

Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State

Hpa-an, located on eastern bank of Thanlwin River, was just a small village with some 200 houses over 100 years ago. The small village was residence for Kayin, Shan and Taungthu ethnics as well as Thai citizens. The edge of rock at Thanlwin River was called Hpa Am in Shan Language. Later, the name of the village was changed to Hpa-an from Hpa Am.

Hpa-an became a station village under management of Zathabyin station in 1855 due to increasing number of houses and it was under Hpa-kat in 1866. The town Hpa-an managed by the assistant town administrator in 1892 became the capital of Kayin State on 1 June 1954.

At present, Hpa-an Township with 41 miles from the east to the west and 76 miles from the north to the south shares border with Hlaingbwe Township in the east, Mawlamyine Township in the south, Bilin and Paung townships in the west and Bilin and Papun townships in the north.



Buddha Statues in Kawgun Cave in Hpa-an. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

Three significant caves in Hpa-an

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)



Buddha Statute Stucco on the wall of Kawgun Cave. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

Hpa-an Township, at an altitude of 53 feet, is plentiful of hills. Among them, 2,727 feet high Zwegabin Hill, nine miles from Hpa-an, is the most significant. Thanlwin River, Gyaing River, Donthami Creek and Zathabyin Creek are flowing across the township. Before improvement of motor roads, vessels from

Inland Water Transport gave transport services to local people along Thanlwin River from Hpa-an to Mawlamyine, Shwegun, Kamamoung, Kyondoe and Kya-in-Seikkyi.

According to the statistics announced in March 2017, a total of 396,707 people resided in Hpa-an Township which was formed

with nine wards and 477 villages in 99 village-tracts.

Natural caves

Among natural caves at the hillsides, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum has been conserving Kawgun Cave and Yatheybyan Cave in Hpa-an Township and Khayon Cave in Kyaikmaraw Township of Mon State.

In the past, some caves were habitats for wildlife while some were residences of members of the Sangha and hermits. Among the caves in Kayin State, Bayinyi, Sadan, Yatheybyan, Kawgun and Webyan caves are the most significant in attracting travellers.

Kawgun Cave

Located 28 miles from Mawlamyine, eight miles from Hpa-an and two miles from Hpa-kat Village on western bank of Thanlwin River, Kawgun Cave can be seen from far distance with displaying Buddha images and wall votive

tablets on its walls.

Naturally-existed Kawgun Cave, 130 feet long, 70 feet wide and 25 feet high, is located at the foot of limestone mountain range, east to Thanlwin River, west to Yatheybyan Village and south to Hpa-kat Village. Kawgun Cave's limestone mountain range formed with five hills in a series stretches 6,000 feet long from the northeast to the southwest.

The majority of Buddha images are seen on the wall of the one closed end Kawgun Cave and entrance. Stalagmites mushroom inside the cave. There is a small hole on either side at the end of cave. The cave facing the east with sufficient heat from sunray reduces wetness inside area. The mouth of the cave located under the rocky hillside is free from impacts of climatic conditions.

In fact, firm evidences related to Kawgun Cave have not been found yet. But, an oral history of local people mentioned that Mottama queen who escaped from troop of King Anawrahta



who took King Manuha after conquering Thaton hid herself in Kawgun Cave and that she carved pagodas, Buddha images and reliefs while in cave. Moreover, those who visited Kawgun Cave also made Buddha images and votive tablets on the walls.

Historians and archaeologists have been conducting researches in Kawgun Cave since early 19th century AD. According to the records of field trips, British diplomat John Crawford conducted surveys on 27 January 1827 and researcher Richard Temple in 1835. So also, Myanmar experts such as U Taw Sein Kho, U Lu Pe Win, U Po Latt and Major Ba Shin performed surveys in the cave.

Visitors can see sitting, standing and reclining Buddha images, earthen votive tablets, stone reliefs, stone inscriptions and ink inscriptions in the cave. Votive tablets were made on the rocky hill, walls and roof. Sitting and standing Buddha images were made in couples and in groups of three to ten images.

Myanmar Encyclopaedia Year Book (2011) mentioned that two of three stone reliefs in the cave are related to Buddhism and one, Hinduism. The first one may be Bodhisatta flanked by left and eight Aggasavakas and the second bore body alone without head, hands and lower parts of knees. Reliefs of Hindu gods were carved on the stone relief related to Hinduism but inscriptions were damaged. Some said the inscriptions on the cloth of stone

relief might be Mon language.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum is preserving Kawgun Cave where there remain a large number of Buddhism cultural heritages.

Yathebyan Cave

The naturally rocky cave, located near Yathebyan Village of Hpa-an Township, west of Thanlwin River, was named Yathebyan Cave, based on the title of village. Three to five feet high Buddha images inside the cave can be seen in original colours due to lesser impacts of direct sunray.

Heads of Buddha images in the cave were created with the shape of flaming up. Stone inscriptions in Myanmar and English languages of the cave mentioned that some Buddha images were made in 13th century AD. The Department of Archaeology and National Museum started

conservation of the caves in 1975.

Lighting enters inside the cave through a large hole on the roof. People said a hermit who meditated in the cave levitated there through the large hole mystically. So, the cave was named Yathebyin Cave. Laterite works from laterite culture of Mottama and Inwa eras can be observed at a wall of the cave.

Although 116 feet high Yathebyan Cave stores many votive tablets but number of such tablets is less than those of Kawgun Cave.

Sadan Cave

Sadan Cave, the significant two-end open one, has the largest mouth and longest route one among other caves in Kayin State. Sadan Cave means the cave near the lake where Kant-eik plants thrive.

Sadan Cave is located in

season, travellers may go along the motor road in the west of Zwekabin mountain range. They then proceeded to the cave by boat from Kawthaloh Village, 10 miles from Hpa-an.

Two 12 feet high white elephant statues at the foot of brick ladder to the cave were inaugurated on full moon day of Tabaung, 1339 ME, (23March 1978). Two signboards bear the scripts “These caves are part of our national heritages. So conserve them” in Myanmar and English languages, describing advantages of limestone ecosystem and limestone hills and root courses of degrading limestone hills together with colour photos.

The mouth of the cave is 100 feet wide and its height from the floor to the roof, 70-100 feet. As the cave faces the east, sunray helps the cave be dry and clean.

Small motive tablets can be

lions of bats. As such, Sadan Cave is habitats of seven species of bats and 13 species of non-vertebrate animals. A four-furlong concrete pavement is stretching from the entrance to the west outlet inside the cave. Water drops from the roof near the west outlet fall on the rocky floor, causing pits there.

Travellers must pass water surface at the outlet via a 200 feet high, 150 feet long and 30 feet deep Htuntuntphan tunnel. The tunnel is filled with water. In the rainy season, water level reaches near the roof of tunnel.

Religious images were carved in the natural caves. Later, these works became natural heritages as well as historical and cultural heritages. Conservation of natural rocky caves including three significant caves in Kayin, Mon and Shan states can contribute towards geological conditions



Stone reliefs in kawgun cave. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



Khayon Cave. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



Sadan Cave entrance. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

Kawwahsu Village of Kawmuta Village-tract, south of Zwekabin mountain range, 20 miles from Hpa-an. The cave at the foot of the hill is rounded by water in monsoon.

Travellers may visit the cave from Shwepyitawkin junction by passing through Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge or along Hpa-an-Donyin motor road. In the rainy

seen on the right wall. Two places on the walls are vacant due to falling of votive tablets. The upper place is about six feet long and the lower one, about eight feet long. Vacant places are expected to be placement of thousands of 2.5 inches high sized votive tables.

Natural limestone hills in Kayin State are habitats for mil-

of Myanmar.
Translated by Than Tun Aung
Reference:
Myanmar Encyclopaedia Year Book (2011)
Sadan Cave (Mahn Thint Naung, Kawkareik)
Ancient cultural heritages in Kawgun Cave (Maung Maung Nann Nwe)



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Asleep in Jesus
Rev. Dr. Waldo Thein
(Age. 82 years)

Rev. Dr. Waldo Thein, Pastor of Thamaing Karen Baptist Church, President of the Kayin Baptist Home Mission Churches Association, Father of Dr. Saw Marldo Thein and Naw Tammy, Saya Saw Cheldo Thein and Naw Nilar Win, Tharamu Neilta Thein and Saw Hsar Lwe Htoo, grandfather of Naw Cheni Thein, Naw Marty Thein, Saw Taldo Thein, Saw Nieldo Thein, Saw Neil Orion Htoo and Naw Jane Carina Htoo, was called to His Heavenly Home on the 13th of December 2019, at 00:15 am. Funeral Service will be held at 9:00 am, on the 17th December 2019, at the Thamaing Karen Baptist Church. Entombment will be held at the Cemetery of the Kayin Baptist Home Mission Churches Associates, Htain Bin.

4th Inter-School Sailing Championship begins in Yangon

THE 4th Myanmar Inter-School Sailing Championship 2019 opened yesterday at the Yangon Sailing Club in Yangon.

The championship is being supervised by the Myanmar Yachting Federation and sponsored by Toshiba Carrier Myanmar and Vicee Vitamin-C.

The seven-day competition will be held from 15 to 21 December. The opening ceremony was attended by offi-

cials of the Myanmar Yachting Federation, led by U Maung Win, vice chairman of the federation, officials from the Sports and Physical Education Institute, and teachers from the Teacher Training College.

At the opening ceremony, U Maung Win delivered the opening address. The sailing team head coach, U Saing Pyae Sone, said the aim of the championship was to help schoolchildren get in touch



Children participate in a sailing event at the 4th Myanmar Inter-School Sailing Championship 2019. **PHOTO: MYF**

with sailing as a sport and to support their creative mindset and health.

Schoolchildren from Yangon Region will be participating in the tourney, and the

champions will be given prizes, according to the Yangon Sailing Club.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Shan United sign defender Nyein Chan for 3 years

SHAN UNITED, the defending champions of the Myanmar National League, recently signed a three-year contract with former Rakhine United player Nyein Chan, according to an official statement from the football club.

Speaking about his joining the club, the 25-year-old defender said: “I miss and am really thankful to Rakhine United for whom I played for 6 years. During my contract period with Rakhine United, I played for Nay Pyi Taw for only half a season on loan. Now, I’ve joined a new team and I feel really excited about this.”

“I signed with this club because I want to enjoy success,” he added.

Nyein Chan started his professional career with the Rakhine United junior team in 2014,



Defender Nyein Chan (L) receives his contract with Shan United.

PHOTO: SUFC

and he moved to Nay Pyi Taw FC for half a season on loan in 2015. Then, he moved back to Rakhine United and played for the team till this year.

The year 2019 was the most successful in his career as Nye-

in Chan was selected on the Myanmar national football team for the first time.

He was a part of team Myanmar during the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers, held in November.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Rooney confident he could still thrive in Premier League

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Wayne Rooney believes he could still make an impact in the Premier League as the former Manchester United star targets a return to the top-flight with Derby.

Rooney will resume his career in England next month after joining second-tier Derby as player-coach from MLS side DC United.

The 34-year-old striker will work as an assistant to Rams boss Phillip Coco, with promotion back to the top flight the aim as he tries to prove he can still compete with the sport’s elite even in the twilight of his career.

“I still felt I could do it when I was at Everton, but other people made their decisions on that,” Rooney was quoted as saying in the British media on Sunday.

“Now my ambition is to get Derby back in the Premier League and hopefully play my part there for them.

“Ryan Giggs was able to play into his late thirties in the Premier League and Gareth Barry says he wants to do it at 40.

“It’s important to understand football. It is not all about running round, it is about using your head to play the game.

“Sometimes that gets lost, because you don’t score as many goals or whatever. Given the right team around me, then I could still play in the Premier League.

“The two teams I played for in the Premier League were Manchester United and Everton. I am at Derby now, and hopefully we can get there with them.” — AFP ■

3rd Myanmar martial arts course to open at Yangon University

UNDER the supervision of Myanmar’s traditional royal martial arts master U Thein Aye, the third Myanmar traditional royal martial art course will be launched in Yangon University, according to the Sports Committee of the University of Yangon Student’s Union.

The martial arts course will be conducted on the upper floor of the University’s RC hall, starting 4 pm on 19 December.

The course will run twice a week — every Thursday and Friday — between 4:30

pm and 5:30 pm, according to the Sports Committee.

The martial arts course is mainly aimed at students from Yangon University. During the course, Myanmar’s martial arts will be taught step by step, theoretically and practically, in the traditional way from the beginning stage of the martial art.

The fees for the course has been set at K10,000, and interested university students can contact the following numbers: 09-43054922, 09-457395522, and 09-427867400.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Morelos fires Rangers before latest red card

GLASGOW (United Kingdom) — Alfredo Morelos clinched Rangers’ 2-0 win at Motherwell before the volatile striker endured more red card misery on Sunday.

Morelos followed Nikola Katic’s first-half opener with his 27th goal of the season midway through the second half as Rangers ended a run of three games without a victory.

But the Colombian star, who was sent off five times last season, let his emotions get the better of him as he aimed an inflammatory gesture at the home supporters during his

celebrations and was punished with a second yellow card.

Rangers temporarily moved to the top of the table — with Celtic able to reclaim pole position later on Sunday — but Morelos will be banned for Friday’s trip to Hibernian following his latest red card.

Rangers manager Steven Gerrard has been keen to praise Morelos’ new-found self-control this term, but the Ibrox boss will now have to turn to Jermain Defoe for the Easter Road clash.

“It’s the first setback Alfredo’s had after huge, huge improvements so we’ll reset

that but we certainly have no complaints,” Gerrard said of referee Don Robertson’s decision.

“As I said, we have no complaints about the red card but I felt he was desperate to give out a red card today. I had that feeling from the side, which is unfortunate because our player does get that type of abuse.

“Alfredo was unplayable. It is a setback today, he knows that, we know that. I’m sure he hates getting punished in the pocket so hopefully he will get back on the horse and continue to improve in that area.” — AFP