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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary celebrations of Kachin State Day

(10 January 2020)

Dear esteemed Kachin ethnic brothers and sisters,

On this day the 10th of January, the 72nd anniversary of Kachin State day, a day of great significance held in high regard by our ethnic brothers and sisters, I wish to send these good wishes to all Kachin racial groups and Kachin ethnic brothers and sisters living in Kachin State to be blessed with auspiciousness.

The British colonial imperialists governed us by dividing the hilly regions and the plains using a policy of divide and rule.

SEE PAGE-2

State Counsellor emphasizes peace in public meetings with Kachin locals

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, held meetings separately with local leaders of religious organizations, ethnic representatives, town elders and common people in Myitkyina, Kachin State, yesterday.

Her entourage included Union Ministers Lt Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu, Dr Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, U Thein Swe, and Dr Myint Htwe; Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt Gen Aung Win Oo and officials.

At the Myitkyina Airport, they were welcomed by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung, the Speaker of State Hluttaw, the Chief Judge State High Court, the Advocate General, the State Auditor General, Kachin government ministers, Hluttaw MPs, officials, town elders and local ethnic people.

The State Counsellor held talks with religious leaders, ethnic representatives and town elders at the Palm Spring Hotel.

At the meeting, she emphasized confidence for securing peace essential for the country.

U Paw Oo, the town elder, affirmed the loyalty of Kachin people to the country. Dr Tu Ja, another town elder, discussed possible return of internally displaced persons to their homes after the closure of IDP camps, migrant worker issues and holding of the 2020 General Election.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech during the meeting with local people in Myitkyina, Kachin State, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary celebrations of Kachin State Day

FROM PAGE-1

After the Second World War the AFPFL led by our national patriotic leader General Aung San demanded independence and the colonial imperialists tried to leave out the hilly regions in the process of giving independence. However, under the leadership of our national patriotic leader General Aung San, a meeting was held in Panglong in the Shan State with leaders of the hilly regions to reach agreement to demand independence for the whole country including the hilly regions. Kachin ethnic leaders also attended this meeting. At the Panglong Conference, because unity of all the national ethnic races was achieved, the whole country gained independence without any division between the heartland plains and the hilly regions.

After gaining independence in 1948, on 10th January, at the first meeting of the Kachin State Council, the Kachin State Government was formed and to honor this day, the 10th of January was designated as "Kachin State Day". From this time onwards, Kachin State Day celebrations have been held annually and now we have reached the 72nd anniversary.

Kachin State is the home of Kachin racial groups such as Jingpo, Rawang, Lisu, Lachik, Lawngwaw, Zaiwa; and Shan racial groups such as Tai Lay, Tai Lai, Tai Lon, Tai Sao, Tai Khanti; Bama ethnic racial groups, and other ethnic racial groups making up a population of 17,00,000 living together in close friendship.

Kachin State is rich in valuable natural mineral resources such as gold, jade, and amber; it also has very beautiful and good natural environments. It is also the source of the great Ayeyawady River which is the lifeblood of our country. Development projects could not be carried out effectively in such a beautiful and resource rich state because of the armed conflicts. Development projects can be carried out effectively and successfully only if there is stability and rule of law. I do believe that the ethnic national races living in this state would be truly yearning for peace and development at the soonest.

The political dialogues which our ethnic national brothers and sisters have demanded consistently, have now materialized, something which is a rare occurence in our long history. We are now conducting political dialogues and the Union Peace Conference – 21st century Panglong conference for the emergence of a genuine Democratic Federal Union; we have now successfully convened the Third session and have come up with (51) points of mutual agreement.

In accordance with the democratic and federal common agreements obtained from the Union Peace Conference – 21st century Panglong, I wish to urge all Union citizens to work together in unity based on Union spirit, to reach our goal of building the Democratic Federal Union successfully, imbued with the essence of justice, freedom, equality and self-determination. I thus send my Message of Greetings on this day of great significance with the above exhortations.

Sd/- Win Myint
President

Field trip team from Australian National University visits UAG office in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Dr Jonathan Liljeblad and his educational field trip team from Australian National University at UAG office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to the works of UAG Office, rule of law, capacity building programme for legal officers from various levels of law offices being carried out in cooperation with the international development partners, further cooperation on legal officers' capacity development between ANU and UAG Office and opportunities for studying of law.Also present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General, permanent secretary and director-general from Legislative Vetting and Advising Department.Dr Jonathan Liljeblad and field trip team looked around departments of UAG Office and officials explained the works of UAG Office. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Dr Jonathan Liljeblad from Australian National University at Union Attorney-General's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Labutta Children's Literary Festival concludes successfully

A student taking part in a game at Children's Literary Festival in Labutta yesterday.
PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

THE Labutta edition of the Children's Literary Festival was bustling with crowds of people during its last day yesterday.

The 2-day festival was jointly organized by the Ayeyawady Region government, Information and Public Relations Department, Basic Education Department, and Township Management Committee.

Of particular interest were the various sports competitions which involved students striking coconuts, picking up potatoes, balancing bamboo trays on their heads, sack racing, and hula hooping.

The closing ceremony of the festival, book fair and book sale was held at Ayeyawady Hall of B.E.H.S. 2 Labutta at 2 pm Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representative U Tun Hla and Labutta District Interim Administrator U Kyaw Htin delivered addresses and conferred rewards on children who won the poetry recital, ad-lib speaking and story-telling competitions.

Over 20,000 students from 82 wards and village-tracts within the township of Labutta visited the festival on both days with 47 students winning first, second and third places in all of its numerous competitions.—District IPRD

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

State Counsellor emphasizes peace in public meetings with Kachin locals

FROM PAGE-1

U La Ban Gam Aung, the Vice Chairman of Kachin National Consultancy Group, talked about anti-narcotic campaigns, loss of children and economic development.

U Ar Pue from the Lisu Literature and Culture Association asked to use the actual name of Lisu, and other dignitaries discussed development programmes.

Regarding the discussions, the State Counsellor gave remarks on the requirements of signing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement for genuine peace, the efforts of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on closures of IDP camps and other issues presented at the meeting.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor had a documentary photo taken together with the attendees.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a meeting with religious leaders, ethnic representatives and town elders in Myitkyina, Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

She also held a public meeting at the Myitkyina City Hall with local people.

In her opening remark, the State Counsellor said, "I am very grateful to all for the public meeting in Myitkyina. It is very important for us to have regular meetings with the public. It is also required to make frequent contact between the public and their government for the successful establishment of a democratic Union.

I believe most people would understand the common sense of democracy, while few might not realize it until now. Instead, such people interpret democracy as havingrights for impunity. It is not so. My late father spoke about this before the country regained independence. He also reminded that independence comes together with responsibility. In our time, we are frequently talking about the true sense of democracy that must be practiced withboth rights and responsibilities.

Therefore, it is a huge task for us to build up a genuine Union. Some countries are not Unions, and they do not need to establish a Union. For example, some countries have only an ethnic group. However, Myanmar has many national races. Kachin State is also a home to many ethnic groups. Such acountry has many challenges. It is more difficult for us to build up unity as the diversities of people have different ideologies, expectation and languages. Such differences are challenges to unity. If we could overcome these obstacles, we would enjoy greater unity.

It is not required to become a single ethnic group for a united country. The United States is the world's superpower. However, it is a land of people from diverse cultures. Despite diversity of races and faiths, the United States is a strong and powerful country. Our country can become such a superpower. The most fundamental requirement for it is to have a strong desire. Everybody should examine themselves if they have Union spirit. Everybody needs to consider themselves as a citizen of the Union, instead of focusing on racial identities such as Bamar, Shan and Kachin.

It is basically important for all the citizens to have Union spirit that is essential for developing a Union which must be entirely emphasized, comprising ethnic groups of different races, languages and faiths.

I'd like to visit Kachin state frequently because Kachin and Shan states are home to more different ethnic people than other states. Two objectives of peace and Union are in correlation with each other. While peace is crucial for a Union, lasting peace can only prevail in a strong Union. Peace depends on unity. It should not be interpreted that a united community has a single view. Unity depends on negotiation skills on different views. If we appreciate diverse views, we could surely establish a united community.

Even family members of a father, mother and their offspring will have different ideas. However, they can live happily having mutual understanding with each other. Without this, they could not establish a strong and happy family.

Our national people need to understand themselves as people of a Union. It is easy to keep in mind this word. I expect all the people love the Union and the sovereignty, as well as the status of a Union. Our country did not regain its independence very easily. Our national people took part in fighting for independence. For example, the Union Day is marked on the day of signing the Panglong Agreement. Some people accept that the origin of the Panglong Agreement is Kachin State. It is not wrong because discussions for this historic agreement started in this land. Therefore, our ethnic national people in Kachin State can be proud of it. They need to understand that Kachin State is the source of the Union, and they have a great responsibility for the country to maintain its significant role.

SEE PAGE-4

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo with ethnic people in Kachin State at the meeting in Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor emphasizes peace in public meetings with Kachin locals

FROM PAGE-3

Total peace has not prevailed in Kachin State. Some negotiations on disputes have not turned out good results. Views and ideas will vary. It is not required to turn them into a single format. Instead, we must develop negotiation skills of mutual understanding. We must handle disputes in a give-and-take spirit effectively and efficiently for the welfare of all parties.

Giving is something to be proud of. Rigid attitude is something not to be maintained. Both of these manners must be adjusted properly. Our own principles and beliefs are required for appropriate adjustment. If the real intention is for the establishment of a genuine Union, the belief must focus just on the give-and-take spirit. However, this spirit is not required for encountering sabotages of the Union. Therefore, the belief is very crucial for a give-and-take spirit.

People need to have confidence in the essence of a Union and be proud of it as it is composed of different national races and ideologies. All must appreciate their role for strengthening and development of the Union. Civil service personnel or government members cannot be automatically assumed that they are really serving for the country. If they failed to perform their duties, they are not working for the country. They might also be regarded that they are imposing risks on the nation. Therefore, performance is more meaningful than position.

Common people must not look down on their capacities for serving the country. Their performance is more important and powerful for the country. It must be properly used for the country. I held public meetings with local people during my official trips. Some of these meetings were conducted with good discipline. While some others failed to excise discipline. I hope every person has good discipline to maintain their dignity. Only the winners in drawing lots would get a chance for discussions in my public meetings. This rule should not be breached.

Our country is not a wealthy nation. However, it will become a prosperous land. Wealth should come along with right spirit. Therefore, people need to maintain this spirit. Every person has capacity for developing themselves. It can be done any time with genuine desire. So, all are advised to develop self-confidence. The value of a country depends on that of individuals. The power of a country must be calculated with the strength of the least powerful people. It must be not based on the most powerful persons. The value of the country must be measured with the attitudes of common people.

Therefore, I am meeting with the people as I value all. As per meeting agenda, I first extend greetings and then answered the submitted questions. I never reply personal questions. I respond to public issues. Questions on local matters are concerned with relevant departments. Some questions are answered by members of local governments, while some others are replied by the Union-level officials.

Only winners from drawing lots can raise questions of public affairs, instead of personal issues."

Next, Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Thein Swe and Dr Myint Htwe and local ministers responded to questions from the audience.

The questions included those made by U Bauk Naw from Tatkon Ward which focused on constructing a meeting room in B.E.H.S. (6) Tatkon, U Dain Shuu La Khaung from Naung Nan Village asking for a Dhamma School hostel for youths in his village, Daw Ywe Pa from Tatkon Ward asking for paving concrete and tar road along Htwe San Road in her ward, U Moe Kyaw Oo from Namti asking for a city hall, U Bran Mon asking for negotiating with Chinese government to export vegetables and crops from Kachin State to China, U Paw Oo asking to upgrade Kanpiketee border gate to an international gate and initiating business-based tourism, U La Jaung Aung of Tanai asking to upgrade Myitkyina-Namti-Tanai Lido road to concrete road, U La Kri Zaw Bauk asking to construct a children's hospital in Myitkyina, U Kyi Tun of Waingmaw asking to upgrade the 25-bed hospital in Waingmaw to 50-beds, U Kaw Bawm of Chiphwe asking to appoint doctors in station hospitals of Nuzongbawm village and Panwa, and U Tin Lin of Moegaung asking to include specialist departments in the Moegaung 50-bed hospital.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a photograph with Kachin ethnic elder woman during the meeting in Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Other questions include 5 people who won the lots out of 17 people from inside the hall. U Hu Yan of Sitapu Ward asked for systematic disposal of plastic waste in Myitkyina, paving train tracks from Myitkyina to Waingmaw and ensuring peace swiftly. U Kyaw Khaing Win of Mohnyin Metta Mon Humanitarian Group asked to quickly fix Mohnyin-Mandalay highway, securing land for Mohnyin Fire Department, and carrying the voice of the people to peace dialogues. Daw Bauk Jar of Hmawan Ward, Phakhant, asked to resolve bullying by the township administrator, land confiscation and forceful relocation to dig up drain. Daw Shwe Kyi of Phakhant asked to resolve corruption in Hpakhant Internal Revenue Department and their wrongful lawsuit filed against her. U Myo Myint of Mawhan Village, Mohnyin Township, asked to resolve the misuse of a land donated for constructing a hospital.

Outside the hall, three out of ten people won lots to ask questions. Daw Nyein Hla of Shwepyitar Ward asked to pave a road in Arsar Village and reclaiming confiscated land. U Zaw Zaw Toe of Rampu Ward asked for upgrading Myitkyina Hospital to the same level as the hospitals of Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, resolving tuition teaching in Myitkyina and supervising tax collection on communication operators. Maung Myo Htet Naing Lin of Myitkyina University asked to upgrade the university's library, acquiring education stipends, receiving an office for the university's student association, and increasing cleaning staff for the university.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with leaders and members from Kachin Baptist Church (KBC) outside the KBC headquarters in Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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State Counsellor emphasizes peace in public meetings with Kachin locals

FROM PAGE-4

The State Counsellor replied that systematic disposal of plastic waste needs participation from the people, Mohnyin-Mandalay Highway will be paved quickly, the State cabinet needs to inspect the land for Mohnyin Fire Services Department and submit a report, agreed to carry the voice of the people to peace dialogues, to quickly look into matters submitted related to Phakhant Township, to quickly make Arsar Village roads better, urged parents to participate in education matters, to prioritize upgrading the library of Myitkyina university, urging students to assist in keeping the university clean, and being delighted in meeting the people of Myitkyina like this.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor took a documentary photo with the students. She then arrived at Kachin Baptist Church (KBC) and met with Chairman Rev Dr Hkalam Samson and Secretary Rev Hpaw Yaung Too Mong and members and officials. During the meeting, the secretary explained KBC's objectives and processes and introduced the KBC members.

Next, the KBC Chairman explained the cooperation between KBC, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) and Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee (KHCC) to close temporary IDP camps and resettlement project, working towards the KIA and KIO to sign the ceasefire agreement for Kachin State peace, wish to implement the agreements made by Bogyoke Aung San in the Panglong Treaty in order to transform Myanmar into a democratic federal union, encouraging the State Counsellor's endeavour for peace, and requesting reevaluation of confiscation of Christian religious buildings. He then prayed for the State Counsellor and Myanmar's peace and development.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor talked about the importance of people living in IDP camps returning home, the importance of security in elevating public mental health, security being more important than prosperity, wish for people to develop both physically and mentally, how KBC adheres to peace and compassion, how they are viewed as primary performers of peace, how there are different religions in Myanmar, how she takes pride in that fact, how compassion is the basis of all religions, urging KBC to closely adhere to the admonishments of Christ, the Prince of Peace, wanting to explain why it is named the 21st Century Panglong Conferece while the opportunity presents itself, how the 1947 Panglong Conference was the 20th Century Panglong, how it is a new century now but the republic desired by all still hasn't been established, how greatly the world has changed in a century, how the need for new thinking and beliefs in the new era called for naming it 21st Century Panglong, how establishing the republic is not over yet, how inclusiveness is essential to the success of peace, imploring KBC to assist in bringing peace to the nation, instilling compassion deep in the hearts of youths, how peace attained through peaceful means is genuine, and asking KBC to attract everyone believing to participate in peace.

Next, the State Counsellor presented donations to the KBC, and took a documentary photo with the Union Ministers, State Ministers, officials, KBC Chairman, Secretary and members.—MNA *(Translated by Aung Khin/ Zaw Htet Oo)*

The Big Bad Wolf reopens 24-hr book sale in YGN

THE world's biggest book sale, The Big Bad Wolf, made its second return to Myanmar at Myanmar Expo Hall, Fortune Plaza, in Thaketa Township of Yangon yesterday.

At the opening ceremony, Ready 2 Read Myanmar's Director U Myo Aung, who are organizing the fair, Deputy Director-General Dr Aung Swe Tun of the Monitoring and Evaluation Team under the Ministry of Education, and officials from Save the Library delivered opening speeches.

They then cut ceremonial ribbons to officially open the fair and browsed through the book aisles inside.

People observe books at booths at the Big Bad Wolf, the world's biggest book sale in Thakayta Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

When asked about the book sale, U Myo Aung replied that books are the doors to knowledge and the foundation for elevating innovation, a requisite of the 21st century. He voiced his belief that visitors will be pleased with the large collection of new books on sale for rare discounted prices.

U Tun Tun Win of North Dagon Township said that a lot of young people visited the book sale, adding that it was a positive development for both the youths and the nation. He said the books in English language on sale there will help promote English proficiency and gain valuable knowledge. He wished for more private businesses to organize book sales like this in line with the Ministry of Information's facilitation of Children's Literature Festivals.

Widely known for its attractive discounts of 50% - 90% off recommended retail prices, the Book Sale will feature a diverse collection of books from different genres. The Book Sale opens to the public for 11 consecutive days from January 10th to 20th, from 9AM to 12 Midnight. Entrance to the sale is free.

The available genres range from bestseller titles, novels, science fiction, romance, literature, graphic novels, business books, self-help, architecture books, cookbooks and many more. Parents will also be able to find a wide offering of children's books for all ages such as storybooks, activity books, board books, coloring books, picture books, and interactive books. —Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Two IEDs explode in Taungup, Rakhine State, leave one injured

ONE man was injured after two improvised explosive devices were detonated in Taungup, Rakhine State, on 7th January.

Two mines, planted near Kinchay Village on An-Kyaukpyu Road in Taungup, exploded at 11:40 am when a truck, driven by U Aung Maung, 49, passed through the area.

The truck was returning to Pyay after transporting construction materials to Kyaukpyu.

Officials report that the force of the explosion destroyed the truck's windshield and U Myint Oo, the driver, sustained injuries near his right ear. The

police are investigating the incident under the Anti-terrorist law at the Mai Township Police Station, according to officials at the Myanmar Police Force. —MNA *(Translated by GNLM)*

Two men arrested on suspicion of making fake license for bus conductor

TWO men accused of making a fake license for a bus conductor at the office of the Road Transport Administration Department in Thingangyun have been detained by police.

The two men, identified as U Tun Oo and U Kyaw Naing, will be brought to the court, said police.

U Kyaw Naing, who is a broker, was reported by one U Tun Tun Naing, said police. U Tun Tun Naing had reportedly asked U Kyaw Naing to make a bus conductor license for K31,000 at the office on 27 December.

But U Tun Tun Naing suspected the license handed to him by U Kyaw Naing, so he asked officials at the office to check it on 2 January. The officials found that the license had not been registered at the office.

When questioned by officials about how he obtained the license, U Kyaw Naing confessed that he had bought it from another broker, U Tun Oo, for K10,000.

The two men have been detained at the Thinganyun Myoma Police Station. —MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

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Form D slips issued against de-registration of over 500 modified vehicles in 3 months

By Nyein Nyein

Rush-hour traffic seen in Yangon as authorities are sending modified vehicles to the traffic police for de-registration. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

FORM D slips have been issued to more than 500 persons who de-registered their modified vehicles between October and December, 2019, said U Lian Cin Mang (aka Ngam Khai Pa Pa), Director of the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD).

The RTAD has issued Form D slips to owners of more than 500 modified vehicles, including the de-registered vehicles kept at police stations, de-registered vehicles kept at RTAD, and newly identified vehicles, he added.

In accordance with Section 18 (e) of the 2015 Vehicle Law, the authorities are sending modified vehicles to the traffic police for de-registration. Up till now, the government has released some vehicles on sympathetic grounds, considering the hardship faced by the people, said U Lian Cin Mang.

"Vehicle modification is not allowed under the Vehicle Law. Modification means changing the body of the vehicle which is to be registered. Under the law, requests for registering such modified vehicles are rejected," he added.

Therefore, the RTAD, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, released announcements beginning from 1 October with respect to a permanent ban on vehicle modifications and the issuance of Form D slips to owners of modified vehicles so that they can import vehicles in place of the old, de-registered ones.

If vehicles are found with modifications in the body coach, Form D slips will be issued after they are de-registered, according to the RTAD. The RTAD has already informed the vehicle owners to contact the department. As of now, about 1.1 million vehicles are registered across the country, and more than 540,000 are registered in Yangon.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

About 276 fire outbreaks reported in Mandalay Region in 2019

ABOUT 276 fire outbreaks took place in Mandalay Region in 2019, with three persons dead and 26 injured, according to the report of Regional Fire Services Department.

A total of 89 cases were reported from Mandalay District, 35 cases from Pwin Oo Lwin District, 32 cases from Kyaukse district, 40 cases from Meiktila District, 33 cases from Myingyan District, 30 cases from NyaungU District, and 17 cases from Yamethin District.

The fire outbreaks destroyed 308 homes, two factories, and 11 warehouses, with total losses pegged at over K430 million, according to the Regional Fire Services Department.

The high number of fire outbreaks can be attributed to electric short-circuiting, negligence, improper usage of cooking stoves, forest fires, and arson, said officials.

There were more cases of fire in 2019 compared with the previous years.

In 2018, the fire department registered about 215 cases with damage to property estimated at over K430 million. Eight persons were killed and nine were injured in the fires.

In 2017, a total of 202 outbreaks of fire were reported in Mandalay region, with losses to property pegged at K300 million.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

671 killed in traffic accidents in Yangon Region in 2019

A total of 671 people died in road mishaps in Yangon Region in 2019, according to the No.2 Traffic Police.

The number of deaths were higher in 2019 compared with the previous three years, according to road accident reports.

In 2019, a total of 2,324 traffic accidents were reported in Yangon Region, which left 671 persons dead and 2,667 others injured.

A total of 85 persons were killed and 269 others injured in January, 53 people were killed and 174 others injured in February, 59 persons died and 282 were injured in March, 48 persons were killed and 239 injured in April, 89 persons died and 256 were injured in May, 55 persons were killed and 222 injured in June, 49 persons died and 201 were injured in July, 40 persons were reported dead and 228 injured in August, 45 persons were killed and 170 injured in September, 48 persons died and 176 were injured in October, 54 persons were killed and 206 injured in November, and 48 persons died and 244 were injured in December.

Of the total accidents in 2019, 586 mishaps involved motorbikes, whereas 1,738 mishaps involved cars.

Reckless driving, over-speeding, defective vehicles, and inclement weather were identified as the main causes of accidents on the country's roads and expressways.

Meanwhile, the highway authorities have deployed more road safety police and have been providing 24-hour service for travellers since 2012 to improve traffic safety on the highways.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release 1/2020
13th Waxing of Pyatho, 1381 ME
(7 January 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 4 January 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Kyi Khaing who lives in Kyobin Alae Village, Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 27 December 2019, police searched the house of Kyi Khaing, 41, son of U Tha Khaing, at Kyobin Alae Village in Pyinmana Township, and found Pyae Phyo Maung, 32, son of U Toe Maung, who lives in Aye Myint Thaya Village in Zeyathiri Township, together with heroin, while Kyi Khaing fled the house. A case has been opened against them with Ma Ma Sa (Pyinmana)Ma Ya(pa)19/2019 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Wadan Chone who lives in No.2 Ward, Shinbwayyan Township, Kachin State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 29 December 2019, police searched the house of Wadan Chone (a) Yan Shun, 40, son of U Chone Min, in No.2 Ward, Shinbwayyan Township, and arrested him together with low quality opium. A case has been opened against him with Ma Ma Sa (Shinbwayyan)Ma Ya(pa)3/2019 under Section 19(a) the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of distributing and selling illegal drugs near Chaung Sone Village, Phakhat Township in Kachin State.	On 31 December 2019, police raided the hut near Chaung Sone Village, Phakant Township in Kachin State, and arrested Tin Myo Oo, 47, son of U Bo Wa, who lives in Hmaw Pone Village, Khin Maung Si, 36, son of U Maung Si, who lives in Nga Pyaw Taw Ward, and Mar La, 22, son of U Chit Win, who lives in Ngo Pin Village. A case has been opened against them with Na Ma Sa (Lone Khinn) Ma Ya (Pa) 82/2019 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Tin Pe who lives in ThawunVillage in Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 December 2019, police searched the house of Tin Pe, 58, son of U Aung Tin, who lives in ThawunVillage in Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region, and arrested him together with opium. A case has been opened against him with Na Ma Sa (Mansigyi)MaYa(pa)47/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Kyaw Thu Win who lives in Myaynigone Village, Pinlebu Township in Sagaing Region distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 29 December 2019, police arrested Kyaw Thu Win (a) Shine Wunna, 29, son of U Win Maung, who lives in Myaynigone Village, Pinlebu Township, together with heroin in the forest near Tatgone Village in Pinlebu Township. A case has been opened against him with Ma Ma Sa (Pinlebu)MaYa(pa)91/2019 under Section 16(c)of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Kyaw Myint Naing who lives in ThetkelTaung Village, Homalin Township in Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 2 January 2020, police arrested Shine Naung, 26, son of U Aung Kan, together with heroin on Tayo road in Thetkaltaung Village in Homalin Township, and then arrested Kyaw Myint Naing, 40, son of U Tar Shwe, as Shine Naung said he has purchased the drugs from him. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Minekine)MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of distributing and selling illegal drugs in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Anawyatha streets in Aung Thukha Ward, Kawthoung Town, Taninthayi Region.	On 30 December 2019, acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Ye Min Oo (a) Khaung Khway, 29, son of U Than Zaw Oo, who lives in Chan Myae Tha (4) Street in Aung Thu Kha Ward in Kawthoung Town, and arrested him together with 17 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung)MaYa(pa)149/2019 under Section 16(c) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Tha Ye who lives in No.14 Ward in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 28-12-2019, police searched the house of Tha Ye (a) Myo Myint Aung, 24, son of U Tin Tun Myint in No.14 Ward, South Oakalapa Township, and arrested him and Aung Lin Oo, 19, son of U Nay Lin Zaw, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (South Okkalapa)MaYa(pa)39/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of Ma Than Than Htwe (a) Ma Thay Thay Ma who lives in Thadu Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 31 December 2019, police searched the house of Ma Than Than Htwe (a)Ma Thay Thay Ma, 22, daughter of U San Kyi, who lives in Thadu Ward, Kyimyindine Township, and arrested her together with marijuana. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Kyimyindine)MaYa(pa)25/2019 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Aung Htoo who lives in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 30 December 2019, police stopped and searched the motorcycle driven by Aung Htoo, 54, who lives in No.9 Ward, Hlinethaya Township, at the Kyun Htet Village junction in Kyaiklat Township and seized 'WY' stimulant tablets form him. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Yonedaung)MaYa(pa)1/2019 under section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of Myint Zaw Aung who lives in Taung Ni Village in Taunggyi Township, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 30 December 2019, police searched the house of Myint Zaw Aung, 25 son of U Yhaung Myint, who lives in Taung Ni Village in Taunggyi Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(Shwenyaung)MaYa(pa)81/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of distributing and selling illegal drugs in Phaya Phyu Ward, Taunggyi Town.	On 29 December 2019, police searched the house ofThura Aung (a) A Nge Lay, 18, son of U Eik Maung, who lives in Phaya Phyu Ward, Taunggyi Town, and arrested him and Aung Naing Kyaw,15, son of U Lauk Lu, Win Naing, 15, son of U Yauk Kwan, Thant Sin Aung, 18, son of U Aung Naing Oo, and Naing Lin Oo, 21, son of U Than Naing, together with WY stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa(Taunggyi)MaYa(pa)121/2019 under section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	Information received of La Min Htet who lives in No.4 Ward, Bogale Town, selling illegal drugs.	On 2-1-2020, police arrested La Min Htet, 25, son of U Thant Zin, who lives in No.4 Ward, Bogale Town, at No.4 Ward, between 15th and 16th Street in Bogale Town, and then searched the house of Naung Naung, 25, who sold drugs to La Min Htet, but he fled his house. A case has been opened against them with Ma Ma Sa (Bogale) MaYa (pa) 1/2020 under section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 929 cases have been filed as of 4 January 2020. A total of 1,432 people, including 1,197 men and 235 women had been arrested with 7172.4594 g of heroin, 1,347.32 g of ICE, 40,339.02166g of opium, 661.27g of low-quality opium, 53230.76g of speciosa powder, 12097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 454,289 stimulant tablets, 10,310.42 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 520.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 19 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contact:
Landline No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentofce.gov.mm

Grab golden opportunity to make history

2020 has augured well for Myanmar with the reaching of an eight-point agreement at the 8th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, held on 8 January in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the 8th JICM, both sides agreed to explore a framework agreement for NCA implementation, steps for the peace process beyond 2020, and step by step implementation.

The leaders also decided to hold the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong in the first four months of 2020.

> All the people of Myanmar cherish a dream of a federal Union and we share the same goal with our hearts and souls.

For the people of Myanmar, who have borne the brunt of the more than 70 years long internal armed conflict, peace is, without a doubt, the greatest desire.

The 8th JICM can be regarded as an important milestone in our peace process because all stakeholders met again a year after the suspension of the official peace meetings.

Besides, the 8th JICM can be regarded as an important precursor for the successful convening of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong, with deep political ramifications.

It is very important for us this year to lay down priorities and action plans acceptable to all participants on ways to continue the implementation of the NCA and the peace process.

In her opening speech at the meeting, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said: "As you all know, the NCA belongs to all of us. It is necessary for all stakeholders who have signed the agreement to share responsibility and accountability. I wish to remind all of you in great seriousness that we should refrain from adopting what we like and rejecting what we don't like, from implementing what pleases us most and failing to implement what doesn't please us. If one group picks and chooses what it likes and ignores what it doesn't like, this could cause obstacles to all the other groups, resulting in a series of difficulties for the peace process. Your signature stands for your solemn promise, your unshakeable integrity, and your firm sincerity."

To reach our destination, we should first know where we are going.

All the people of Myanmar cherish a dream of a federal Union and we share the same goal with our hearts and souls.

We all must set our sights on this goal, a "golden opportunity" for Myanmar.

Let's make history, with a sense of trust and confidence, by grabbing the opportunity while it presents itself.

■ ■ ■

"We reevaluate labour laws that are no longer relevant and work to amend them according to International Labour Organization standards."

U Kyaw Htwe, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Immigration and Local and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee

By Shin Min; Photo: Kay Kay

Amyotha Hluttaw Immigration and Local and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee members on a field trip to the Workers Hospital in Tamwe Township, Yangon Region.

Initially formed as the Local and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee, the Amyotha Hluttaw committee was reformed with the addition of 'Immigration' after Notification No. (8/2019) from the Amyotha Hluttaw on 1 March, 2019.

U Kyaw Htwe, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Immigration and Local and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee.

THE committee is formed with 14 members including the chairperson and includes a representative from each state and region. U Kyaw Htwe is the chairman of the committee and Amyotha Hluttaw MP for Yangon Region constituency 8. The following is an interview with the committee chairman.

Q: Could you first explain the duties of the committee?

A: The committee is tasked with assisting citizenship verification process in line with the 1982 Citizenship Law. We coordinate to make issuing NRCs for citizens born from two ethnic parents easier. We also assist with uncovering illegal immigrants and following legal procedures in response.

We assist in administering expatriates working and living in our country and also with evaluating domestic and foreign population data to assist designating national population policies.

The committee also assists in facilitating good trilateral communication between the government, employers and employees, ensuring a stable and peaceful working environment and the full rights entitled in labour laws.

Our other duties include ensuring workplace safety, reducing accidents in the workplace, and in international and regional labour affairs. Then there's social security insurance, social protection and healthcare under the social security project implementation, ensuring the rights of migrant workers in the country they are working in, and smooth remittance of wages back to their homes. We help with all these aspects.

We also work with relevant ministry departments to assist people who have gone to work overseas through legal channels if their employment agency is not upholding the terms of the contract binding them.

In addition, we reevaluate labour laws that are no longer relevant and work to amend them according to International Labour Organization standards. Sometimes employers and employees enter a disagreement and cannot resolve their issues. So, they bring the matter to us and, with permission from the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, we attempt to negotiate for solutions between them.

Q: What rights or authority does your committee possess to carry out these duties?

A: We are entrusted with seven areas of authority legally. Firstly, we can invite officials from domestic and foreign labour organizations, employer groups or other accountable officials for questioning or discussion.

Our committee can form smaller groups or team up with other individuals to conduct observation activities. We need to submit the agenda to the Amyotha Hluttaw office first.

We also have the right to question relevant ministries relating to monitoring labour unions and their access to labour rights. Our committee's findings can be used by the Union government or state/regional governments in reporting to the Hluttaw Speaker.

Our committee can meet freely with local and overseas labour groups and ask on the requirements and challenges workers are facing. We can then provide suggestions accordance with the law.

If local or overseas labour groups contact our committee then we can hold meetings with them after receiving permission from the Hluttaw Speaker. We have to file a report concerning these meetings to the Speaker afterwards.

Q: Can you tell us immigration or labour law matters you are currently undertaking.

A: We currently don't have any legal amendment processes concerning immigration. We are evaluating the ministry's handling of NRC issuance, immigration, and household census matters, in addition to related laws, bylaws and directives.

Furthermore, we are evaluating the situation for drafting a law concerning expatriates working in the country. We have submitted a bill to amend the 2013 Minimum Wage Law to the Speaker and we can table it in future Hluttaw meetings if it is approved.

We are also working on a household helper bill to submit to the Hluttaw. We are the stage where we have discussed it thoroughly within the committee and are meeting with relevant ministry departments to negotiate on existing laws. We will also discuss this matter with civil society organizations and representatives of employers and employees.

The other matter is that of migrant workers. After we submit the household helper bill to the Hluttaw, the committee will work on amending the 1999 Law Relating to Overseas Employment.

Q: We hear that your committee is working to draft a new version of the foreign worker law. What's the status of that so far?

A: We would first need a comprehensive list of all foreign workers in Myanmar. They will need to register legally and we must give them legal protection as well. We must also protect the job security of our own citizens too.

We must also consider a number of other things such as whether we receive taxes from foreign workers in our countries, how that revenue can be used to develop the nation, how their labour benefits the nation, how much of our money streams out of the nation, whether the type of work they are allowed to pursue should be restricted, and other matters.

Q: How will the household helper law assist our citizens going to work as helpers abroad?

A: Currently, a lot of helpers go through illegal channels to work abroad. That is why they don't receive as much help as they need. While we can't send domestic helpers through legal means yet, even underage children are being sent as helpers illegally.

Meanwhile, domestic helpers are being mistreated in the local context as well. These incidents are being handled through the human rights perspective instead. We want to classify domestic helpers in the same category as other working professions and enable them their rights, put age restrictions, and provide them with the same labour rights as other workers. We have plans to form committees from the family level to the state/regional levels.

Q: Can you explain the role of overseas employment agencies connected to this?

A: Our committee hasn't been able to effectively handle this from a legal perspective. We are still at the monitoring stage. There is an association for overseas employment services and there are licensed companies in it. Relevant ministries have the duty to ensure all relevant laws are followed when sending domestic workers abroad.

For example, there is a ministry imposed rate for commission fees in sending workers abroad but people are charging above the imposed rate. Then when our people arrive abroad for work they may find that they are not in the same place or same job they were promised. They may be denied their wages or forced to work overtime. Even workers who have gone through MoU channels suffering from this. We need better management.

When we receive complaints of this nature then we contact the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, relevant state/regional government, anti-trafficking of persons group and Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation.

But there are many names under which they work and if one company closes they may continue their activities under a different name. That is why people should not be satisfied with just receiving compensation. I want to advise people to take legal action and ensure nothing like this befalls on others to come.

Q: Is there anything else you want to tell the readers?

A: We are working hard towards a zero payment system for out own citizens seeking employment services in the following year. Some of the factories in Thailand and Malaysia are operating on that system for our citizens working there. It's not that the system isn't allowed to run, it's that some agencies which can do it are extorting payment from workers to fuel their greed.

And that's not all, the factories from the other side also ask for payment. This tarnishes nation's image and belittles the agencies that are actually working honestly.

I urge everyone to contact our committee if they face any difficulties in working abroad or from local agencies. We are ready to assist in any form.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 9th January, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 10th January, 2020: Light rain will be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, 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 (4 – 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Shan and Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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loading-unloading machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; mobile cranes and parts and attachments thereof; industrial fishing machines and instruments and parts and attachments thereof; chemical processing machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; textile machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; lumbering, woodworking, or veneer or plywood making machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; pulp making, papermaking or paper-working machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; printing or bookbinding machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; agricultural machines and agricultural implements,other than hand-operated; machines and apparatus for use in forestry and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; painting machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; packaging or wrapping machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; plastic processing machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; stone working machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; non-electric prime movers, not for land vehicles and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; parts of non-electric prime movers and attachments thereof; pneumatic or hydraulic machines and instruments and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; repairing or fixing machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; food mixing machines for commercial use; lawnmowers; waste compacting machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; waste crushing machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; machine elements, not for land vehicles; starters for motors and engines; AC motors and DC motors [not including those for land vehicles but including parts for any AC motors and DC motors]; AC generators [alternators]; DC generators; oil coolers for motors and engines; air condensers; rubber tracks for use with crawlers on mining machinery; mining machines and apparatus; belt conveyors; belts for conveyors; rubber tracks for use with crawlers on civil engineering machinery; rubber tracks for use with crawlers on construction machinery; rubber tracks for use with crawlers on loading-unloading machinery; construction machines and apparatus; loading-unloading machines and apparatus; rubber tracks for use with crawlers on agricultural machinery; agricultural machines and agricultural implements, other than hand-operated; rubber pads to be attached to shoe plates of metal crawlers; machines and apparatus for manufacturing rubber goods; non-electric prime movers, not for land vehicles; engine mounts; parts of non-electric prime movers; devices for seismic isolation used in buildings; fuel dispensing machines; hose washing machines; shaft couplings or connectors, machine elements not for land vehicles; bearings, machine elements not for land vehicles; shock absorbers, machine elements not for land vehicles; springs, machine elements not for land vehicles; rubber springs for suspension systems, not for land vehicles; pneumatic holders for gripping, reeling and transporting devices; hydraulic hoses, not of metal, for use in machines, non-metallic hoses for transferring hydraulic power in machines, non-metallic hoses for use in hydraulic systems in machines, hydraulic quick release couplings for high pressure hoses used in machines, plastics pipes [fitted parts of machines], hydraulic connectors [pipes] being parts of machines, parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods; resin hoses for hydrogen station; air springs [parts of machines]; transmission belts (not for land vehicles); brakes (for machines); rubber tracks being parts of snow ploughs; crimping machines for use in swaging hoses and metal couplings, apparatus, parts, and attachments thereof; hose cutting machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; hose cleaning machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof; metal hardware inserting machines and apparatus and parts and attachments thereof for use in the assembly of industrial hose fittings; metal hardware engraving machines for industrial hose fittings; jigs for extending springs of swaging machines for use in the assembly of industrial hoses; jigs for marking the length for inserting metal hardware for use in the assembly of industrial hose fittings; electric pumps; dies; pneumatic chucks; pneumatic holders for take-up rollers; hydraulic hoses and other fluid hoses, not of metal, for metalworking machines, mining machines, construction machines, loading-unloading machines, industrial fishing machines, chemical processing machines, textile machines, food processing machines, beverage processing machines, lumbering machines, woodworking machines, veneer and plywood machines, pulp making machines, papermaking machines, paper-working machines, printing machines, bookbinding machines, agricultural machines, shoe making machines, leather tanning machines, cigarette machines, glassware manufacturing machines, painting machines, packing machines, plastic processing machines, semiconductor manufacturing machines, rubber manufacturing machines, stone working machines, non-electric prime movers, pneumatic or hydraulic machines, repairing or fixing machines, mechanical parking systems, vehicle washing machines, power sprayers for disinfecting, insecticides and deodorants, lawnmowers, curtain drawing devices electrically operated, waste compacting machines and waste crushing machines; non-metal hoses for fluid force transfer for metalworking machines, mining machines, construction machines, loading-unloading machines, industrial fishing machines, chemical processing machines, textile machines, food processing machines, beverage processing machines, lumbering machines, woodworking machines, veneer and plywood machines, pulp making machines, papermaking machines, paper-working machines, printing machines, bookbinding machines, agricultural machines, shoe making machines, leather tanning machines, cigarette machines, glassware manufacturing machines, painting machines, packing machines, plastic processing machines, semiconductor manufacturing machines, rubber manufacturing machines, stone working machines, non-electric prime movers, pneumatic or hydraulic machines, repairing or fixing machines, mechanical parking systems, vehicle washing machines, power sprayers for disinfecting, insecticides and deodorants, lawnmowers, curtain drawing devices electrically operated, waste compacting machines and waste crushing machines; non-metal hoses for hydraulic system for metalworking machines, mining machines, construction machines, loading-unloading machines, industrial fishing machines, chemical processing machines, textile machines, food processing machines, beverage processing machines, lumbering machines, woodworking machines, veneer and plywood machines, pulp making machines, papermaking machines, paper-working machines, printing machines, bookbinding machines, agricultural machines, shoe making machines, leather tanning machines, cigarette machines, glassware manufacturing machines, painting machines, packing machines, plastic processing machines, semiconductor manufacturing machines, rubber manufacturing machines, stone working machines, non-electric prime movers, pneumatic or hydraulic machines, repairing or fixing machines, mechanical parking systems, vehicle washing machines, power sprayers for disinfecting, insecticides and deodorants, lawnmowers, curtain drawing devices electrically operated, waste compacting machines and waste crushing machines; easy removable hydraulic couplings and other fluid couplings for high-pressure hoses used for machines, not for land vehicles; plastic pipes for metalworking machines, mining machines, construction machines, loading-unloading machines, industrial fishing machines, chemical processing machines, textile machines, food processing machines, beverage processing machines, lumbering machines, woodworking machines, veneer and plywood machines, pulp making machines, papermaking machines, paper-working machines, printing machines, bookbinding machines, agricultural machines, shoe making machines, leather tanning machines, cigarette machines, glassware manufacturing machines, painting machines, packing machines, plastic processing machines, semiconductor manufacturing machines, rubber manufacturing machines, stone working machines, non-electric prime movers, pneumatic or hydraulic machines, repairing or fixing machines, mechanical parking systems, vehicle washing machines, power sprayers for disinfecting, insecticides and deodorants, lawnmowers, curtain drawing devices electrically operated, waste compacting machines and waste crushing machines; couplings for hydraulic hoses, hydraulic connecting tubes, other fluid hoses and tubes for metalworking machines, mining machines, construction machines, loading-unloading machines, industrial fishing machines, chemical processing machines, textile machines, food processing machines, beverage processing machines, lumbering machines, woodworking machines, veneer and plywood machines, pulp making machines, papermaking machines, paper-working machines, printing machines, bookbinding machines, agricultural machines, shoe making machines, leather tanning machines, cigarette machines, glassware manufacturing machines, painting machines, packing machines, plastic processing machines, semiconductor manufacturing machines, rubber manufacturing machines, stone working machines, non-electric prime movers, pneumatic or hydraulic machines, repairing or fixing machines, mechanical parking systems, vehicle washing machines, power sprayers for disinfecting, insecticides and deodorants, lawnmowers, curtain drawing devices electrically operated, waste compacting machines and waste crushing machines; tires for scrapers; tires for motor graders; tires for shovel loaders; tires for tire rollers; tires for wheel cranes; tires for cranes; tires for snow ploughs; tires for mining machines; arc welding machines; electric metal cutting machines; electric welding machines; gasoline station equipment" in **Class 7**; "Electronic machines and apparatus, and their parts and accessories; electronic machines, apparatus and their parts for remote monitoring systems; wireless remote control systems and devices for vehicles; telecommunication machines and apparatus, and their parts and accessories; computer software and computer hardware; computer programs; computer programs for data processing; computer programs for repair or maintenance of metalworking machines and apparatus, construction machines and apparatus, loading-unloading machines and apparatus, mining machines and apparatus, agricultural machines and implements, forest machines and apparatus; computer programs for managing position and battery, operational status and maintenance information of metalworking machines and apparatus, construction machines and apparatus, loading-unloading machines and apparatus, mining machines and apparatus, agricultural machines and implements, forest machines and apparatus; tablet computers, and their parts and accessories; tablet computers to measure the operation status of machine tools and to collect the operation data of machine tools by installing to the machine tools, and their parts and accessories; computer programs for vehicles with autonomous driving functions or autonomous driving assistance functions; computer programs for vehicles with automated driving functions or automated driving assistance functions; electrical control, testing and monitoring apparatus, and their parts and accessories; batteries and cells; battery boxes; capacitors; accumulators [batteries]; battery terminal; vehicle batteries; battery chargers for battery vehicles, and their parts and accessories; measuring or testing machines and instruments, and their parts and accessories; surveying machines and instruments, and their parts and accessories; power distribution or control machines and apparatus; LCD monitors; computer monitors; touchscreen monitors; tablet monitors; electroluminescent display panels; computer display monitors; electronic numeric displays; electrical controlling devices; electrical charge controllers; electronic power controllers; electronic speed controllers; pressure sensors; condensers; capacitance boxes; software recorded with computer programs; connectors [electricity]; electronic connectors; electric wires and cables; cables, electric; sensors [measurement apparatus], other than for medical use; optical sensors; humanoid robots with artificial intelligence; remote control telemetering machines and instruments for industrial robots; rotary converters; phase modifiers; electric or magnetic meters and testers; electric buzzers; electrodes, other than welding electrodes or medical electrodes; magnetic cores; resistance wires; laboratory apparatus and instruments; optical machines and apparatus; photographic machines and apparatus; cinematographic machines and apparatus; anti-theft warning apparatus; protective helmets; simulators for the steering and control of vehicles; sports training simulators; tire pressure and tire temperature monitoring and measuring machines and instruments; bicycle speedometers; terminal devices for collecting information which have saving data measured by remote monitoring and transmitting saved data on demand functions; data transmitting devices for telecommunication; electronic machines and apparatus for measuring, monitoring and transmitting tire pressure and tire temperature; computer programs for managing information regarding tires and vehicles; computer programs for managing information regarding belts for conveyors; computer programs for vehicle drive information, vehicle kinetic information and tire pressure information; computer programs relating to visualization tools for solution effectiveness, such as improvement of productivity, optimization of inventory and improvement of efficiency, by various combinations of products and services; protective eyewear for cycling; bicycle helmets; computers for vehicles with autonomous driving functions or autonomous driving assistance functions; computers for vehicles with automated driving functions or automated driving assistance functions; autonomous driving or automated driving devices for automobiles comprised of telecommunication machines and apparatus, electrical and electronic control apparatus and instruments, remote control apparatus, photographic machines and apparatus, and automatic adjusting/regulating machines and instruments including radar apparatus, scanners [data processing equipment], cameras, video cameras, sensors [measurement apparatus], other than for medical use, and alarms, for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; telecommunication machines and apparatus for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; electrical and electronic control apparatus and instruments for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; remote control apparatus for

autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; photographic machines and apparatus for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; autonomous parking or automated parking devices for automobiles comprised of telecommunication machines and apparatus, electrical and electronic control apparatus and instruments, remote control apparatus, photographic machines and apparatus, and automatic adjusting/regulating machines and instruments including radar apparatus, scanners [data processing equipment], cameras, video cameras, sensors [measurement apparatus], other than for medical use, and alarms, for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; telecommunication machines and apparatus for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; electrical and electronic control apparatus and instruments for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; remote control apparatus for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; photographic machines and apparatus for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; radar apparatus, scanners [data processing equipment], cameras, video cameras, sensors [measurement apparatus] other than for medical use, alarms and automatic adjusting/regulating machines and instruments for automobiles comprised thereof; rollers, namely transfer rollers, toner rollers, toner supply rollers and development rollers all being parts of printers, facsimile and copying machines; thread gauges; apparatus and instruments for testing hydraulic resistance of industrial hoses; hydraulic pressure measuring apparatus and instruments; pressure measuring apparatus; instruments for measuring length; slide calipers; downloadable computer software for remote monitoring and analyzing; navigational apparatus for automobiles" in **Class 9**; "Desiccating apparatus; recuperators; steamers; evaporators; distillation apparatus; heat exchangers; industrial furnaces; forage drying apparatus; boilers, other than parts of non-electric prime movers or engines; feed water heaters [for industrial purposes]; air conditioners; air dehumidifiers; freezing machines and apparatus; waste water treatment tanks for industrial purposes; solar water heaters; water purifying apparatus for industrial purposes; tap water faucets; level controlling valves for tanks; pipe line cocks; bath fittings; water heaters; heaters; apparatus and installations for cooling; temperature regulators; drain pipes for bath tub, bathroom sinks and kitchen; water-pipes for sanitary installations; water-pipes of synthetic resin; water-pipes, not of metal; valves of synthetic resin for water-pipes; plumbing fittings in the form of hose for water heaters; tap water valves; prefabricated bathrooms sold as a unit; bath tubs; bath tubs for prefabricated bathrooms sold as a unit; bicycle lights; lighting apparatus and installations for bicycles" in **Class 11**; "Vessels and their parts and fittings; aircraft and their parts and fittings; railway rolling stock and their parts and fittings; automobiles and their parts and fittings; carts; carts [Riyakah]; car dampers; car pushers; car pullers; traction engine; non-electric prime movers for land vehicles, not including their parts; anti-theft alarms for vehicles; machine elements for land vehicles; AC motors or DC motors for land vehicles, not including their parts; self-driving cars; camera drones; civilian drones; dump trucks; fork lift trucks; shaft couplings or connectors, machine elements for land vehicles; bearings, machine elements for land vehicles; vehicle suspension components; shock absorbers, machine elements for land vehicles; springs, machine elements for land vehicles; non-pneumatic tires for wheelchairs; fenders for vessels [boat side protectors]; tires for wheels of aircraft; retreaded tires for wheels of aircraft; non-pneumatic tires for aircraft; inner tubes for aircraft tires; tread rubbers for retreading tires for aircraft; tires for railway cars; retreaded tires for railway cars; non-pneumatic tires for railway cars; inner tubes for railway car tires; wheels for railway cars; wheels for railway cars; tread rubbers for retreading tires for railway cars; tires for Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) vehicles; non-pneumatic tires for Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) vehicles; retreaded tires for Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) vehicles; inner tubes of tires for Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) vehicles; wheels for Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) vehicles; tread rubbers for retreading tires for Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) vehicles; Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) vehicles and their parts and fittings; tires for magnetic levitation trains; non-pneumatic tires for magnetic levitation trains; retreaded tires for magnetic levitation trains; inner tubes for magnetic levitation train tires; wheels for magnetic levitation trains; tread rubbers for retreading tires for magnetic levitation trains; magnetic levitation trains and their parts and fittings; tires for monorail vehicles; non-pneumatic tires for monorail vehicles; retreaded tires for monorail vehicles; inner tubes for monorail vehicle tires; wheels for monorail vehicles; tread rubbers for retreading tires for monorail vehicles; monorail vehicles and their parts and fittings; tires for Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles; non-pneumatic tires for Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles; retreaded tires for Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles; inner tubes for Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicle tires; wheels for Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles; tread rubbers for retreading tires for Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles; Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles and their parts and fittings; tires for new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual mode vehicle [DMV]; non-pneumatic tires for new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual mode vehicle [DMV]; retreaded tires for new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual mode vehicle [DMV]; inner tubes of tires for new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual mode vehicle [DMV]; wheels for new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual mode vehicle [DMV]; tread rubbers for retreading tires for new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual mode vehicle [DMV]; new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual mode vehicle [DMV] , and their parts and fittings; autonomous cars; automated cars; driver assisting vehicles being loaded with automatic driving device; tires for automobiles; tires for vehicles; retreaded tires for automobiles; retreaded tires for vehicles; non-pneumatic tires for small electric cars; non-pneumatic tires for automobiles; inner tubes for automobile tires; inner tubes for vehicle tires; tread rubbers for retreading tires for automobiles; wheels for automobiles; wheels for vehicles; anti-vibration rubbers for automobiles; treads for vehicles [tractor type]; seat cushions for vehicles; hydraulic hoses for vehicles, not of metal; non-pneumatic tires for electric carts for seniors; non-pneumatic tires for golf carts; non-pneumatic tires for electric carts; non-pneumatic tires for all-terrain vehicles; tires for two-wheeled motor vehicles; retreaded tires for two-wheeled motor vehicles; non-pneumatic tires for two-wheeled motor vehicles; inner tubes for motorcycle tires; wheels for two-wheeled motor vehicles; tires for bicycles; retreaded tires for bicycles; non-pneumatic tires for bicycles; inner tubes for bicycle tires; wheels for bicycles; tread rubbers for retreading tires for two-wheeled motor vehicles and bicycles; electric bicycles; two-wheeled motor vehicles, bicycles and their parts and fittings; wheel rims and wheel covers for aircraft, railway cars, automobiles, two-wheeled motor vehicles and bicycles; wheel rims and wheel covers for Automated Guideway Transit [AGT] vehicles, magnetic levitation trains, monorail vehicles, Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles and new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual Mode Vehicle [DMV]; valves for tires of aircraft, railway cars, automobiles, two-wheeled motor vehicles and bicycles; valves for tires of Automated Guideway Transit [AGT] vehicles, magnetic levitation trains, monorail vehicles, Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles and new transportation system vehicles such as Automated Guideway Transit [AGT], Dual Mode Bus [DMB], Bus Rapid Transit [BRT] and Dual Mode Vehicle [DMV]; adhesive rubber patches for repairing tubes or tires; seat pads for vehicles; air springs for railway cars; air springs; air suspensions; engine mounts; vibration isolating rubber [for land vehicles]; anti-vibration rubbers for railway cars; car seats; automobile seat cushions; rubber tracks for snowmobiles; rubber tracks for all-terrain vehicles; rubber tracks for automobiles; rubber pads for attaching shoe plates of iron crawlers for agricultural tractors" in **Class 12**; "Seals; hydraulic hoses and other hoses for fluids, not included in other classes; valves of rubber or vulcanized fiber, not including machine elements; gaskets; pipe joints of synthetic resin; non-metal pipe couplings and joints; urethane foams; sound absorbing sponges for automobile tires; plastic semi-worked products; foam rubber, semi-finished products; sound absorbing materials for automobile tires; sound absorbing plates for automobile tires; rubber materials for retreading and repairing tires; rubber materials for repairing tubes; rubber materials for recapping tires; rubber; packing [cushioning, stuffing] materials of rubber or plastics; washers of rubber or vulcanized fibre; resin pipes; plastic pipes and tubes; high-pressure rubber hoses; rubber hoses for industrial use; polymer films; polymer sheets; flexible tubes, not of metal; hose fittings, not of metal; anti-vibration rubbers; anti-vibration rubbers for industrial purposes; thermoplastic elastomers for use as raw materials of seals; thermoplastic elastomers for use as raw materials of packings; insulating materials" in **Class 17**; "Providing information concerning commercial sales; providing information concerning sales of used automobiles, used constructing machines including crane trucks and power shovels, used loading-unloading machines and apparatus, used mining machines and apparatus, used waste compacting machines and apparatus, used waste crushing machines, used metalworking machines and tools, and used apparatus and instruments for use in forestry; marketing research or analysis; marketing research concerning used automobiles, used constructing machines including crane trucks and power shovels, used loading-unloading machines and apparatus, used mining machines and apparatus, used waste compacting machines and apparatus, used waste crushing machines, used metalworking machines and tools, and used apparatus and instruments for use in forestry; commercial intermediation services; intermediation services for the purchase and sale of used automobiles, used constructing machines including crane trucks and power shovels, used loading-unloading machines and apparatus, used mining machines and apparatus, used waste compacting machines and apparatus, used waste crushing machines, used metalworking machines and tools, and used apparatus and instruments for use in forestry; retail services or wholesale services for used automobiles and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for construction machines and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for loading-unloading machines and apparatus and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for mining machines and apparatus and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for waste compacting machines and apparatus and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for waste crushing machines and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for metalworking machines and tools and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for apparatus and instruments for use in forestry and their parts and fittings; business management analysis or business consultancy; business management of hotels; collection, management and analysis concerning big data; collection of market research information; collection and analysis of information on vehicles; management, including management of inventory and sales incentives, for retail stores and wholesale stores; retail services or wholesale services for automobiles; retail services or wholesale services for two-wheeled motor vehicles; retail services or wholesale services for bicycles; retail services or wholesale services for electrical machinery and apparatuses; retail services or wholesale services for agricultural machines, implements and supplies; retail services or wholesale services for automobiles and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services in relation to agricultural equipment and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for shock absorbers, springs, valves, and hoses made of rubber, and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for pipes made of resin, couplings of resin for pipes, and their parts and fittings; retail services or wholesale services for seismic isolation rubbers, and their parts and fittings; research and consultancy regarding computer-assisted business information; providing information and advice on the selection of tires and driving techniques and practices; providing commercial information and advice related to tire management, namely the selection, maintenance, repair, retreading, replacement and pressure measuring of vehicle tires; business management and organization consultancy in particular for professionals in the pneumatic tire and automobile industries; business management and organization consultancy; arranging and conducting of marketing analysis; input, processing, systemization and compilation into computer databases of information and data relating to vehicle and tire management, arrangement and location determination of vehicles, and routes of the roads; commercial information and advice related to arrangement and location determination of vehicles; consultancy relating to management, strategy, organization management of businesses and of its employees; provision of advice and information of business administration linked to employment development and professional and social integration; compilation and provision of business information; business analysis, business advice and business consultancy; professional business consultancy; collection, management and analysis of customer information; providing internet-based information concerning sales of tires; sales management, inventory management, logistics services, customer service management of tires and wheels, and providing information relating thereto; retail services or wholesale services for hoses made of rubber, hydraulic hoses, high-pressure rubber hoses, hoses of synthetic resins, fastening fittings of hoses, and hose fittings of metal; electronic order and stock management services" in **Class 35**; "Repair or maintenance of metalworking machines and tools; providing location information regarding metalworking machines and tools; providing operational status information regarding metalworking machines and tools; providing information regarding maintenance of metalworking machines and tools; providing information regarding location and operational status of metalworking machines and apparatus for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of metalworking machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of construction machines and apparatus; providing location information regarding construction machines and apparatus; providing operational status information regarding construction machines and apparatus; providing information regarding maintenance of construction machines and apparatus; providing information regarding location and operational status of construction machines and apparatus for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of construction machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of loading-unloading machines and apparatus; providing location information regarding loading-unloading machines and apparatus; providing operational status information regarding loading-unloading machines and apparatus; providing information regarding maintenance of loading-unloading machines and apparatus; providing information regarding location and operational status of loading-unloading machines and apparatus for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of loading-unloading machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of civil engineering machines and apparatus; providing location information regarding civil engineering machines and apparatus; providing operational status information regarding civil engineering machines and apparatus; providing information regarding maintenance of civil engineering machines and apparatus; providing information regarding location and operational status of civil engineering machines and apparatus for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of civil engineering machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of mining machines and apparatus; providing location information regarding mining machines and apparatus; providing operational status information regarding mining machines and apparatus; providing information regarding maintenance of mining machines and apparatus; providing information regarding location and operational status of mining

machines and apparatus for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of mining machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of machines and apparatus for use in forestry; providing location information regarding machines and apparatus for use in forestry; providing operational status information regarding machines and apparatus for use in forestry; providing information regarding maintenance of machines and apparatus for use in forestry; providing information regarding location and operational status of machines and apparatus for use in forestry for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of machines and apparatus for use in forestry for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated; providing location information regarding agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated; providing operational status information regarding agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated; providing information regarding maintenance of agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated; providing information regarding location and operational status of agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of waste compacting machines and apparatus; providing location information regarding waste compacting machines and apparatus; providing operational status information regarding waste compacting machines and apparatus; providing information regarding maintenance of waste compacting machines and apparatus; providing information regarding location and operational status of waste compacting machines and apparatus for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of waste compacting machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of waste crushing machines and apparatus; providing location information regarding waste crushing machines and apparatus; providing operational status information regarding waste crushing machines and apparatus; providing information regarding maintenance of waste crushing machines and apparatus; providing information regarding location and operational status of waste crushing machines and apparatus for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of waste crushing machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of waste and trash separator machines; providing location information regarding waste and trash separator machines; providing operational status information regarding waste and trash separator machines; providing information regarding maintenance of waste and trash separator machines; providing information regarding location and operational status of waste and trash separator machines for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of waste and trash separator machines for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of snow ploughs; providing location information regarding snow ploughs; providing operational status information regarding snow ploughs; providing information regarding maintenance of snow ploughs; providing information regarding location and operational status of snow ploughs for snow removal; providing information regarding location and operational status of snow ploughs for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of measuring or testing machines and instruments; providing location information regarding measuring or testing machines and instruments; providing operational status information regarding measuring or testing machines and instruments; providing information regarding maintenance of measuring or testing machines and instruments; providing information regarding location and operational status of measuring or testing machines and instruments for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of automobiles; providing location information regarding automobiles; providing operational status information regarding automobiles; providing information regarding maintenance of automobiles; providing information regarding location and operational status of automobiles for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of automobiles for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of industrial robots; providing location information regarding industrial robots; providing operational status information regarding industrial robots; providing information regarding maintenance of industrial robots; providing information regarding location and operational status of industrial robots for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of industrial robots for repair and maintenance; construction and providing information relating thereto; construction by intelligent computerised construction technology via computer communications and providing information relating thereto; construction planning services; consulting services regarding constructions to execute optimal constructions; construction consultancy; construction supervision; supervision of building construction, civil engineering structures and underground structures; operation and maintenance of building equipment and providing information relating thereto; mining and providing advice and information relating thereto; snow removal and providing advice and information relating thereto; repair and maintenance of automobiles and their parts and fittings or inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; repair and maintenance of mining, construction, loading-unloading and agricultural machinery, and their parts and fittings or inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; repair and maintenance of shock absorbers, springs, valves, rubber hose and their parts and fittings or inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; repair and maintenance of pipes made of resin, couplings of resin for pipes, and their parts and fittings or inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; repair and maintenance of seismic isolation rubber and their parts and fittings or inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; information services on maintenance of automobile tires, by telecommunication, relating to tire pressure and tire temperature; inspection, consultancy and information services relating to retreading of tires; repair and maintenance of motor vehicles and their parts; repair and maintenance of tires for motor vehicles; retreading of tires; repair and maintenance of two-wheeled motor vehicles and their parts; repair and maintenance of tires for two-wheeled motor vehicles; repair and maintenance of bicycles and their parts; repair and maintenance of tires for bicycles; repair and maintenance of aircraft and tires for aircraft; vehicle washing; providing information related to building work and piping work; giving advice related to building work and piping work; repair, maintenance, installation, and changing of aircraft including tires and wheels, and consultancy and information services relating thereto; repair and maintenance of rubber bearings for seismic isolation of buildings and their parts and fittings, and inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; caulking services for rubber hose, hydraulic hose, high pressure rubber hose, and synthetic resin hose; repair and maintenance of rubber hose, hydraulic hose, high pressure rubber hose, synthetic resin hose, metal hose clamps, metal couplings for hoses, and their parts and fittings, and inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; repair and maintenance of conveyer belts and their parts and fittings, and inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; repair and maintenance of rubber tracks and their parts and fittings, and inspection, consultancy and information services relating thereto; inspection services for detection of leaks in plumbing" **Class 37**; "Providing information regarding operational control and operational status of cars and dump trucks; providing information regarding dynamic control of cars and dump trucks; providing information regarding the location of cars and dump trucks; transport of cars and dump trucks and providing information relating thereto; consultancy relating to planning of operational control of cars and dump trucks in transport; providing information regarding the operational control and operational status of the land vehicles; providing information regarding the operating location of land vehicles; physical storage of electronic media containing data, drawings, texts, digital photographs, music, images, video and electronic data; warehousing services; advisory services relating to the storage and transportation of goods, freight or cargo; freighting services; rental of warehouse space; rental of land vehicles; advisory, consultancy and information services relating to transportation; providing information relating to vessels; providing information relating to operation status of aircraft; providing information relating to operation status of railway cars; providing information relating to operation status of Automated Guideway Transit [AGT] vehicles; providing information relating to operation status of magnetic levitation trains; providing information relating to operation status of monorail vehicles; providing information relating to operation status of next-generation streetcars such as light rail vehicles; providing information relating to operation status of new transportation system vehicles such as automated guideway transit [AGT], dual mode bus [DMB], bus rapid transit [BRT] and Dual Mode Vehicle [DMV]; providing information relating to operation status of autonomous cars or automated cars; providing information relating to operation status of vehicles with driving assistance functions; providing information relating to operation status of automobiles; providing information relating to operation status of small electric cars; providing information relating to operation status of treads for vehicles [tractor type]; providing information relating to operation status of mobility scooters; providing information relating to operation status of golf carts; providing information relating to operation status of electric carts; providing information relating to operation status of all-terrain vehicles; providing information relating to operation status of two-wheeled motor vehicles; providing information relating to operation status of bicycles; providing information relating to vehicle operation status; providing road and traffic information; providing information relating to computers for vehicles with autonomous driving functions or autonomous driving assistance functions; providing information relating to computers for vehicles with automated driving functions or automated driving assistance functions; providing information relating to computer programs for vehicles with autonomous driving functions or autonomous driving assistance functions; providing information relating to computer programs for vehicles with automated driving functions or automated driving assistance functions; providing information relating to autonomous driving or automated driving devices for automobiles comprised of telecommunication machines and apparatus, electrical and electronic control apparatus and instruments, remote control apparatus, photographic machines and apparatus, and automatic adjusting/regulating machines and instruments including radar apparatus, scanners [data processing equipment], cameras, video cameras, sensors [measurement apparatus], other than for medical use, and alarms, for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; providing information relating to telecommunication machines and apparatus for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; providing information relating to electrical and electronic control apparatus and instruments for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; providing information relating to remote control apparatus for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; providing information relating to photographic machines and apparatus for autonomous driving or automated driving of automobiles; providing information relating to autonomous parking or automated parking devices for automobiles comprised of telecommunication machines and apparatus, electrical and electronic control apparatus and instruments, remote control apparatus, photographic machines and apparatus, and automatic adjusting/regulating machines and instruments including radar apparatus, scanners [data processing equipment], cameras, video cameras, sensors [measurement apparatus], other than for medical use, and alarms, for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; providing information relating to telecommunication machines and apparatus for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; providing information relating to electrical and electronic control apparatus and instruments for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; providing information relating to remote control apparatus for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; providing information relating to photographic machines and apparatus for autonomous parking or automated parking of automobiles; providing information relating to radar apparatus, scanners [data processing equipment], cameras, video cameras, sensors [measurement apparatus] other than for medical use, alarms and automatic adjusting/regulating machines and instruments for automobiles comprised thereof; vehicle-driving services; battery charging services for electric vehicles; providing information relating to towing and transportation of vehicle breakdown" in **Class 39** and "Computer software design, computer programming and maintenance of computer software; design and development of operating software for accessing and using a cloud computing network; computer programming for information management; providing computer programs; cloud computing; rental of operating software for accessing and using cloud computing network; electronic data storage and data back-up services; electronic storage of data, drawings, texts, digital photographs, music, images, video and electronic data by cloud computing; computer data processing; technical data analysis; surveying and engineering services; testing, data-analysing and measuring regarding civil engineering and building construction; drafting of building construction, civil engineering structures and underground structures and consultancy relating thereto; technical project planning; testing and research services relating to machines, apparatus and instruments; designing of machines, apparatus, instruments [including their parts] or systems composed of such machines, apparatus and instruments; design and development of computer hardware, software and databases; technical advice relating to operation of machines; technical advice relating to operation of computer programs; technological advice relating to computers, automobiles and industrial machines; analysis and consultancy of consumed fuel, fuel level and operating data of metalworking machines and tools, construction machines and apparatus, loading-unloading machines and apparatus, mining machines and apparatus, machines and apparatus for use in forestry, agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated, waste compacting machines and apparatus, waste crushing machines and apparatus, waste and trash separator machines, snow ploughs, measuring or testing machines and instruments, automobiles, and industrial robots; analysis and consultancy of consumed power, charge level and operating data of metalworking machines and tools, construction machines and apparatus, loading-unloading machines and apparatus, mining machines and apparatus, machines and apparatus for use in forestry, agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated, waste compacting machines and apparatus, waste crushing machines and apparatus, waste and trash separator machines, snow ploughs, measuring or testing machines and instruments, automobiles, and industrial robots; energy auditing; consultancy in the field of energy efficiency; consultancy in the field of energy-saving; designing of tires, other than for advertising purposes; designing, programming or maintenance of computer programs for managing information of belts for conveyors; designing, programming or maintenance of computer programs for simulation relating to tires and road surface condition; designing, programming or maintenance of computer programs relating to visualization tools for solution effectiveness, such as improvement of productivity, optimization of inventory and improvement of efficiency, by various combinations of products and services; technical advice relating to specialized knowledge as to tires and methods to check up on tires; technical analysis and consulting services related to the selection, condition, maintenance, retreading or replacement of tires; technical analysis and consulting services related to the selection, condition, maintenance and replacement of vehicle component parts, spare parts and accessories; technical analysis and consulting services related to the selection and maintenance of automobiles and their parts and fittings; technical analysis and consulting services related to the selection and maintenance of mining, construction, loading-unloading and agricultural machinery, and their parts and fittings; technical analysis and consulting services related to the selection and maintenance of shock absorbers, springs, valves, and hoses made of rubber, and their parts and fittings; technical analysis and consulting relating to services including

regarding location and operational status of waste crushing machines and apparatus for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of waste and trash separator machines; providing location information regarding waste and trash separator machines; providing operational status information regarding waste and trash separator machines; providing information regarding maintenance of waste and trash separator machines; providing information regarding location and operational status of waste and trash separator machines for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of waste and trash separator machines for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of snow ploughs; providing location information regarding snow ploughs; providing operational status information regarding snow ploughs; providing information regarding maintenance of snow ploughs; providing information regarding location and operational status of snow ploughs for snow removal; providing information regarding location and operational status of snow ploughs for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of measuring or testing machines and instruments; providing location information regarding measuring or testing machines and instruments; providing operational status information regarding measuring or testing machines and instruments; providing information regarding maintenance of measuring or testing machines and instruments; providing information regarding location and operational status of measuring or testing machines and instruments for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of automobiles; providing location information regarding automobiles; providing operational status information regarding automobiles; providing information regarding maintenance of automobiles; providing information regarding location and operational status of automobiles for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of automobiles for repair and maintenance; repair or maintenance of industrial robots; providing location information regarding industrial robots; providing operational status information regarding industrial robots; providing information regarding maintenance of industrial robots; providing information regarding location and operational status of industrial robots for construction; providing information regarding location and operational status of industrial robots for repair and maintenance; construction and providing information relating thereto; construction by intelligent computerised construction technology via computer communications and providing information relating thereto; construction planning services; consulting services regarding constructions to execute optimal constructions; construction consultancy; construction supervision; supervision of building construction, civil engineering structures and underground structures; operation and maintenance of building equipment and providing information relating thereto; mining and providing advice and information relating thereto; snow removal and providing advice and information relating thereto" in **Class 37**; "Providing information regarding operational control and operational status of cars and dump trucks; providing information regarding dynamic control of cars and dump trucks; providing information regarding the location of cars and dump trucks; transport of cars and dump trucks and providing information relating thereto; consultancy relating to planning of operational control of cars and dump trucks in transport; providing information regarding the operational control and operational status of the land vehicles; providing information regarding the operating location of land vehicles; physical storage of electronic media containing data, drawings, texts, digital photographs, music, images, video and electronic data; warehousing services; advisory services relating to the storage and transportation of goods, freight or cargo; freighting services; rental of warehouse space; rental of land vehicles" in **Class 39** and "Computer software design, computer programming and maintenance of computer software; design and development of operating software for accessing and using a cloud computing network; computer programming for information management; providing computer programs; cloud computing; rental of operating software for accessing and using cloud computing network; electronic data storage and data back-up services; electronic storage of data, drawings, texts, digital photographs, music, images, video and electronic data by cloud computing; computer data processing; technical data analysis; surveying and engineering services; testing, data-analysing and measuring regarding civil engineering and building construction; drafting of building construction, civil engineering structures and underground structures and consultancy relating thereto; technical project planning; testing and research services relating to machines, apparatus and instruments; designing of machines, apparatus, instruments [including their parts] or systems composed of such machines, apparatus and instruments; design and development of computer hardware, software and databases; technical advice relating to operation of machines; technical advice relating to operation of computer programs; technological advice relating to computers, automobiles and industrial machines; analysis and consultancy of consumed fuel, fuel level and operating data of metalworking machines and tools, construction machines and apparatus, loading-unloading machines and apparatus, mining machines and apparatus, machines and apparatus for use in forestry, agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated, waste compacting machines and apparatus, waste crushing machines and apparatus, waste and trash separator machines, snow ploughs, measuring or testing machines and instruments, automobiles, and industrial robots; analysis and consultancy of consumed power, charge level and operating data of metalworking machines and tools, construction machines and apparatus, loading-unloading machines and apparatus, mining machines and apparatus, machines and apparatus for use in forestry, agricultural machines and agricultural implements other than hand-operated, waste compacting machines and apparatus, waste crushing machines and apparatus, waste and trash separator machines, snow ploughs, measuring or testing machines and instruments, automobiles, and industrial robots; energy auditing; consultancy in the field of energy efficiency; consultancy in the field of energy-saving" in **Class 42**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourableimitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May,*H.G.P*
For **KOMATSU LTD.,** C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road, BotahtaungTsp, Yangon,**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.**
Dated **10th January 2020**
lmm@kcyangon.com

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0021-635 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0021-635 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO TAI VOY.NO. (021 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO TAI VOY. NO. (021 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ARISTOS II

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARISTOS II VOY.NO. (1901) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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 WILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Watermelons fetch high prices in Muse market

WITH the Chinese New Year approaching, watermelons are high in demand and they are fetching a higher price this year than last year, said traders.

"Watermelon prices are ranging from 15,000 to 44,000 Yuan per 15 tons, depending on the quality. Muskmelons are priced at 3.5-5.5 Yuan per kilo," according to the market.

"Strengthening of the Kyat in the forex market hurts exporters. Despite the high price of watermelons, the depreciation of the Yuan is a challenge for traders. Otherwise, it can be seen Kyat appreciation. But, the commodity prices have still not been affected. Muse traders need to consider a possible large supply against demand," said the owner of Khwarnyo Trading Co. Ltd.

On 8 January, 264 trucks loaded with watermelons, 60 trucks carrying muskmelons, and one corn truck entered the Muse market.

Trucks laden with watermelons wait for inspection to enter China. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN**

China's watermelon production is below self-sufficiency levels, prompting its traders to import Myanmar's watermelons. The quality, size, skin, and water content are crucial in watermelon trade, said traders.

"During the rainy season last year, watermelon traders incurred some losses due to flaws and poor fruit quality. Trade did not cover the high input costs," said U Aung Saw from ChaungU Township in Sagaing Region.

"As the Chinese New Year is drawing nearer, watermelon is witnessing strong trade. Earlier, traders were making losses. For now, watermelon is fetching a good price. The price mainly depends on quality. Having said that, the stakeholders in the supply chain, especially growers and freight forwarders, play a pivotal role in trade. China prefers watermelons of the same size and quality," said the owner of Shweminthar depot.

A truck driver shared his concerns about security along the trade channel in light of previous security threats. "Now, transportation and security maters are not that bad. Fruits of good quality are bought quickly," he said.

Watermelons and muskmelons top the list of fruits exported to China, and the export volume has been increasing significantly year over year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar currently exports around 800,000 tons of watermelons per year.

The volume of watermelon exports was estimated at 500,000 tons in the 2014-2015 financial year, over 560,000 tons in the 2015-2016FY, and over 170,000 tons in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September).

Watermelons and muskmelons are primarily grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Shan State. Myanmar's watermelons and muskmelons have grabbed a large market share in China. — Thant Zin/ Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic oil prices rise on global cues, despite dip in dollar against Kyat

DOMESTIC oil prices have been on the rise and have hit a fresh peak in spite of the Kyat gaining against the US dollar, according to traders.

Global oil prices are highly volatile at present due to tensions between the US and Iran. Brent crude oil fluctuated around US$63-68 per barrel levels over the last two days in the global oil markets.

At present, Octane 92 is pegged at K905, Octane 95 at K995-1,000, diesel at K985, and premium diesel at K995-1,000 per liter, according to the domestic oil market. Oil prices have jumped by K30 within a month, said traders.

On 10 October, 2018, due to an increase in global crude oil prices and the weakening of the Kyat against the US dollar, oil prices had touched a high of K1,065 per liter for Octane 92, K1,115 for Octane 95, K1,085 for diesel, and K1,105 for premium diesel.

On 1 January, domestic fuel oil prices touched a low of K695 for Octane 92, K760 for Octane 95, K870 for diesel, and K875 for premium diesel.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally.

Myanmar has imported about one million tons of diesel and petrol worth nearly US$600 million over the past two months of the current financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imports fuel oil primarily from Singapore, with monthly volumes touching 200,000 tons for gasoline and 400,000 tons for diesel. There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar.—Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports shoot up $1.19 bln in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S exports between 1 October and 27 December in the 2019-2020 financial year rose sharply to US$4.56 billion from $3.36 billion registered in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The figure reflects an increase of $1.197 billion compared with the year-ago period. Of the seven export groups, agriculture, fisheries, finished industrial goods, and minerals have shown an increase in exports. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products, and other goods have declined.

Export values were registered at $875.6 million for agro products, $46.6 million for livestock, $252.9 million for fishery products, $764 million for minerals, $42.7 million for forest products, $2.49 billion for manufactured goods, and $85.7 million for other goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion in order to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Two CNG stations to get new compressors in current fiscal: MOGE

By Nyein Nyein

NEW compressors will be installed at CNG filling stations in Dagon Seikkan and Danyingon areas to replace old and inefficient machines, said U Hla Win Htay, General Manager of the Natural Gas Vehicle Division (CNG) under Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE).

"Two machines have been allotted in the 2019-2020 financial year. Now, the purchasing process is under way," said U Hla Win Htay.

The two new compressors will be installed in the current financial year, and will help reduce queues outside stations, he added.

"After the new machines are installed, I can guarantee the long queues will reduce," said U Hla Win Htay.

"Out of the 41 CNG filling stations in Yangon Region, some have been found using old machines brought from China in 2004 and 2005. They have been found to be poor in terms of efficiency, leading to long queues. Therefore, the machines are being replaced with new ones each financial year," he said.

"As per international standards, CNG compressors can be run for just 14 hours. Yet, Myanmar operates L and ZQ types from China for up to 20 hours due to low efficiency," said U Hla Win Htay.

"Three new machines were allotted in the 2018-2019 financial year. They were to be installed at Gas Station 007 on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township, Gas Station 025 on Kyansitthar Road near Dagon University, East Dagon, and Shwepyitha Gas Station No.2," according to MOGE.

As per data provided by the CNG Division of the MOGE, Yangon Region has over 6,500 CNG buses, but only 4,000 buses come to fill gas at the stations. The daily CNG consumption in Yangon is 24.14 million cubic feet, and YBS buses account for 13.41 million cubic feet of the total consumption.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Air pollution exposure in childhood linked to schizophrenia risk, finds study

WASHINGTON — Air pollution affects physical health, and research results now conclude that it also affects our psychological health. Children who are exposed to higher levels of air pollution while growing up have an increased risk of developing schizophrenia, a study has found.

The study combined genetic data from iPSYCH with air pollution data from the Department of Environmental Science to show that the higher the level of air pollution, the higher the risk of schizophrenia. For each 10 mg/m3 (concentration of air pollution per cubic metre) increase in the daily average, the risk of schizophrenia increases by approximately twenty percent. "Children who are exposed to an average daily level above 25 mg/m3 have an approx. sixty percent greater risk of developing schizophrenia compared to those who are exposed to less than 10 mg/m3," explained Senior Researcher Henriette Thisted Horsdal, who is behind the study.

The results of the study have been published in the scientific journal JAMA Network Open.—ANI ■

Children who have been exposed to high levels of air pollution may be at greater risk to chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease later in life. **PHOTO: AFP**

Genetic differences distinguish Children's type 1 diabetes from Adults' type 1.5

FILE PHOTO: A man tests Qatari child Tamim Abdelmoniem Allafi's blood during the 19th International Al Bawasil Children with diabetes camp, in Doha, on January 3. **PHOTO : AFP**

PHILADELPHIA — Researchers from Philadelphia have discovered a genetic signature that could be helpful in distinguishing pediatric-onset T1d from the adult-onset form of diabetes sharing type1 diabetes (T1d).

This discovery which was published in the journal - Diabetes Care - has opened the door to straightforward diagnostic tests for the adult condition and for improving responses by ensuring that patients receive appropriate treatment. "This is our first insight into genetic differences between latent autoimmune diabetes in adults and T1D in children that may be diagnostically useful. We have found a genetic means of discriminating between the two conditions without expensive and cumbersome anti-autobody screening," said the lead researcher Struan Grant.

Latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA) is often also known as 'type 1.5 diabetes' as it consists of characteristics of both T1D and type 2 diabetes (T2D). LADA produces auto-antibodies that attack the insulin-producing beta cells present in the pancreas.

Patients with LADA get diagnosed with the same during adulthood and do not require insulin at the time of diagnosis. This is why LADA is often misdiagnosed as T2D. According to certain studies, up to 10% of T2D diagnoses are, in fact, LADA, and this is why patients do not respond to the commonly inappropriate treatments prescribed to them.— AFP ■

Eight deaths in Germany blamed on shrew-borne disease

PARIS — Eight cases of the Borna virus, transmitted by shrews, have been identified in encephalitis patients who died between 1999 and 2019, researchers said Wednesday.

All eight cases occurred in southern Germany, mostly among people living in rural or semi-rural areas and in regular contact with animals, they reported in The Lancet, a medical journal.

Carried by the bicoloured white-toothed shrew, the virus triggers an inflammation of the brain, and is known to affect horses and sheep.

The researchers speculated that it could be transmitted by house cats that had come into contact with infected shrews.

Symptoms start with fever, headaches and confusion, and progress to memory loss, convulsions and loss of consciousness. There is no known treatment for the disease, which gets its name from a town in Germany and was first described in the late 18th century.

In the eight newly identified cases, patients fell into a coma and died 16 to 57 days after hospital admission.

"Our findings indicate that Borna disease virus infection has to be considered a severe and potentially lethal human disease transmitted from a wildlife reservoir," said co-author Barbara Schmidt from Regensburg University Hospital.

"It appears to have occurred unnoticed in humans for at least decades, and may have caused other unexplained cases of encephalitis in regions where the virus is endemic in the host shrew population." The scientists recommended testing for Borna virus in patients who suffer rapid deterioration of their nervous systems in order to establish the scale of infection among humans.—AFP ■

Researchers speculated the disease could be transmitted by house cats that come into contact with infected shrews. **PHOTO : AFP**

China's farmers reap rich harvest through video-sharing apps

BEIJING — "Do you want a piece?" beekeeper Ma Gongzuo says, looking into the camera of a friend's smartphone before biting into the dripping comb of amber-coloured honey.

The clip goes out to his 737,000 followers on Douyin, the Chinese version of popular video sharing app TikTok that has 400 million users in the country and has turned Ma into something of a celebrity.

Creating videos has become a popular sales tactic for Chinese farmers: the clips show increasingly discerning consumers the origins of the product and provide a window into rural life that captures audience imagination.

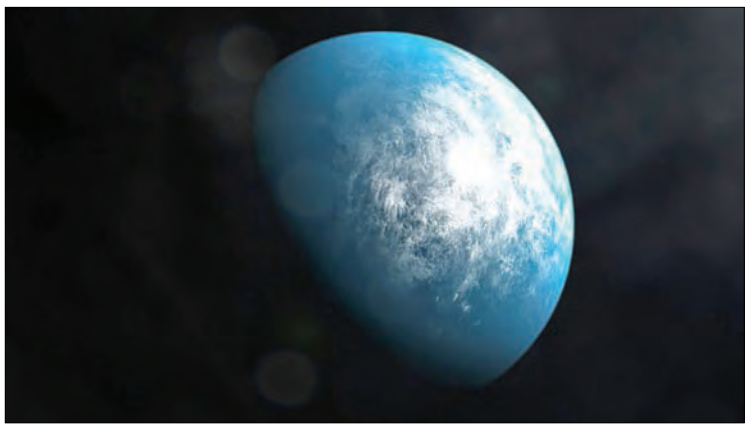
For some it has helped them find a way out of poverty, which the ruling Communist party hopes to eradicate by 2020.

"Everyone said I was good for nothing when they saw I'd come back," the 31 year-old says of his return to his village after a failed attempt at running an online clothing business.

"They tell us that we can only get out of poverty if we study and get a job in a city," he adds.

Today, Ma drives an expensive car and has already earned enough to buy property and help his parents and fellow villagers with their homes and businesses.— AFP ■

Douyin, the Chinese version of popular video sharing app TikTok that has 400 million users in the country and has turned beekeeper Ma Gongzuo into something of a celebrity. **PHOTO: AFP**



Planet TOI 700 d (shown in an artist's illustration) is the first Earth-sized habitable-zone world discovered by NASA's planet hunter satellite. **PHOTO: AFP**

Study suggests 'goldilocks stars' are best places to look for life

WASHINGTON — Astronomers are looking for planets in the habitable zone of stars which is often called 'goldilocks zone' where temperatures are favourable for liquid water to exist on the surface of a planet.

The idea which has emerged is that there are stars called the 'goldilocks stars' which are not too hot, not too cool and most of all, not too violent to house life-friendly planets. Stars that are slightly cooler and less luminous than the Sun are classified as K dwarfs, are the 'Goldilocks stars', said researcher Edward Guinan.

"K-dwarf stars are in the 'sweet spot,' with properties intermediate between the rarer, more luminous, but shorter-lived solar-type stars (G stars) and the more numerous red dwarf stars (M stars). The K stars, especially the warmer ones, have the best of all worlds. If you are looking for planets with habitability, the abundance of K stars pump up your chances of finding life," added Guina.

There are three times as many K dwarfs present in our galaxy as stars like the Sun. Around 1000 K Stars are present within 100 light-years of Milky Way Galaxy's Sun as the prime candidates for exploration.

These orange dwarves live from 15 billion to 45 billion years. Contrastingly, our Sun, is already halfway through its lifetime which lasts for only 10 billion years.

The comparatively rapid rate that it has of stellar evolution will leave Earth largely uninhabitable within another one or two billion years. — ANI ■

Study investigates how microplastics harm organisms in coastal areas

WASHINGTON — Microplastics or particles of plastic smaller than five millimeters have plagued salt and freshwater environments with their sheer abundance.

In a research paper published in the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography's journal Limnology & Oceanography Letters, researchers demonstrated how microplastics transfer through the food chain between microscopic prey and larval fish that inhabit the coastal ecosystem. The study also revealed that microplastic ingestion impedes the normal growth of fish larvae. The investigators, in addition, looked at the effects of a common pollutant (the pesticide DDT) that attaches to microparticles in coastal waters.

Organisms were not able to detect or discriminate against ingesting microparticles with high levels of DDT.

"Our findings indicate that trophic transfer may be an important route for microplastic exposure in estuarine food webs and that even short exposure to high levels of microplastics can impair growth of an important prey fish," said lead author Samantha Athey, of the University of Toronto. — ANI ■

A volunteer of the NGO 'Canarias Libre de Plasticos' (Canary Islands free of plastics) carries out a collection of microplastics and mesoplastic debris to clean the Almaciga Beach, on the north coast of the Canary Island of Tenerife, on 14 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Map of Milky Way Galaxy reveals presence of stellar nurseries wave

WASHINGTON — Astronomers from Harvard University have found the presence of a wave-shaped gaseous structure named 'Radcliffe Wave' in the Milky Way Galaxy.

According to the research which has been published in the journal - Nature - the wave structure is the largest ever seen in the galaxy and is made up of interconnected stellar nurseries. This discovery by the university transforms the 150-year-old vision of the nearby stellar nurseries as an expanding ring in one featuring a star-forming filament that reached trillions of miles below and above the galactic disk.

The study was enabled through a relatively new analysis of data from the European Space Agency's Gaia spacecraft which was launched in 2013 along with the mission of precisely measuring the distance, position, and motion of the stars.

The researchers combined the data from Gaia which was super-accurate, with other measurements for constructing a detailed, 3D map of interstellar matter in the Milky Way, and noticed an unexpected pattern in the spiral arm which is closest to the Earth.— ANI ■

New method helps monitor aircrafts in extreme temperatures

BEIJING — Chinese researchers have developed a new measuring method for aircraft working in extremely high temperatures, according to its developer.

Developed by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, the optical measurement technology could help monitor the structural deformation of aircraft working in temperatures between 800 and 1,300 degrees Celsius, marking a major breakthrough in China's ability to measure aircraft conditions in extreme environments.

When flying at a high speed in the air, an aircraft may face a complex thermal environment, and it is crucial to test whether it can withstand the high temperatures. —Xinhua ■

Pope slams leaders on 'weak' response to climate change

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis accused world leaders on Thursday of failing to listen to the concerns of youngsters pushing for global action against climate change.

In his annual speech to Vatican diplomats, the pontiff said climate change was a "concern of everyone," despite a tepid response from the international community.

"Many young people have become active in calling the attention of political leaders to the issue of climate change. Care for our common home ought to be a concern of everyone," he said.

"Sadly, the urgency of this ecological conversion seems not to have been grasped by international politics, where the response to the problems raised by global issues such as climate change remains very weak and a source of grave concern."

Since his papacy began in 2013, the Argentine pontiff has often argued for better protection of the environment. In April, he met teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, who launched the Fridays for Future youth moment against climate change.—AFP ■

Pope Francis met Swedish teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg at the Vatican in April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

China reports new type of coronavirus identified

BEIJING — A new type of coronavirus has been confirmed following an investigation into a viral pneumonia illness that has sickened dozens of people in central China, Chinese state-run media reported Thursday.

Coronaviruses usually cause common cold symptoms, infecting the nose, sinuses or upper throat, and are spread through sneezing, coughing or direct contact.

However, some types lead to more serious, sometimes deadly respiratory diseases, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome and Middle East respiratory syndrome, commonly known as SARS and MERS, respectively.

"The coronavirus is different from those that have been previously identified," CCTV reported.

As of Sunday, 59 people were diagnosed with the respiratory disease with seven in critical condition, according to officials in Central China's Wuhan city. — Kyodo News ■

Medical workers wait for disinfection after medical aid on "suspected case" during anti-MERS drill at Qingdao Port on 18 June, 2015 in Qingdao, Shandong province of China. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Fire-hit Australian farmers vow to rise from the ashes

BATLOW — Steve Bellchambers is digging pits to bury the carcasses of livestock killed by bushfires which swept through his farm in Batlow, New South Wales.

He is one of several dozen residents who remained in the southeastern Australian town to protect his animals as authorities urged everyone to leave last week, calling the place "undefendable".

Bellchambers lost his home and many of his animals -- some he was forced to shoot to end their suffering from burns.

He did manage to save some horses, however. "The smell is ingrained in your memory," he told AFP.

Australia's months-long bushfire disaster has scorched more than eight million hectares (80,000 square kilometres/30,000 square miles) of land -- an area about the size of Ireland or South Carolina.

The fires are another blow for farmers already reeling from a crippling drought that has turned agricultural land bone dry.

Across the country, tens of thousands of livestock are thought to have perished.

Bellchambers, a 45-year-old father-of-four, said the 1,000-strong local community in Batlow had vowed to pull together.

"Just because people aren't crying, doesn't mean they are not bleeding inside," he said.

"A lot of people are running on adrenalin. They have to keep moving because once they stop, it will hit them."

Stephenie Bailey watched in horror from afar as massive firestorms destroyed parts of her orchard. She returned to find her home reduced to twisted metal and charred remains.—AFP ■

Brother and sisters Jesse and Kiahan Bellchambers stand in front of the charred ruins of their home in Batlow, in Australia's New South Wales state. **PHOTO: AFP**

Climate change threatens Afghanistan's crumbling heritage

KABUL — After bearing the brunt of jihadist dynamite and looting by thieves, the archaeological treasures of Afghanistan's Bamiyan province are facing a new and possibly more daunting threat: climate change.

Nestled in the heart of the Hindu Kush mountains, the Bamiyan valley's picturesque cliffs -- where centuries-old Buddha statues were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001 — still contain a network of caves housing temples, monasteries, and Buddhist paintings.

The valley is also home to the silk-road era Shahr-e Gholghola fortress and the Shar-e Zohak citadel to the east.

Experts say that a pattern of dry spells followed by heavy rain, and larger than usual spring snowmelts is putting this historic art and architecture at risk of destruction.

Afghan officials warned in a 2016 United Nations report that the structures "may collapse and suffer from severe erosion"- due to conditions directly linked to climate change.

"The erosion processes are much faster, the rains more devastating and the wind erosion stronger, which has an extremely harsh impact on the sites," Philippe Marquis, the director of the French Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan, told AFP.

Marquis — who has explored and worked in the region for decades — explains that Afghanistan "is very fragile geologically, especially as vegetation cover has greatly diminished" due to deforestation.

French imaging company Iconem concurred, saying Shar-e Zohak is "very fragile" due to erosion that has increased considerably over the last 30 years.—AFP ■

Philippines lifts restrictions on importing Fukushima food

MANILA — Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin said Thursday his country has lifted restrictions on Japanese food imports imposed following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster due to a lower risk of radioactive contamination.

Locsin said during a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi in Manila that the Philippines had eliminated the need for radiation test results for shipments of some types of seafood and agricultural products from Fukushima and surrounding areas on Wednesday.

"I look forward to safe Japanese food reaching many of the people of the Philippines," Motegi told a joint press briefing after the meeting.

Safety check: Onahama Port employees preparing seafood for radiation tests in Iwaki. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Southeast Asian country had required radiation testing of beef and vegetables from Fukushima and Ibaraki, as well as fishery products from the two prefectures along with Tochigi and Gunma following the March 2011 triple meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, triggered by a powerful earthquake and tsunami.

A total of 54 countries and regions took such measures following the crisis. The announcement by the Philippines means the number has fallen to 20, with the United States, China and South Korea among countries maintaining restrictions of some kind, according to the farm ministry.—Kyodo News ■

British Airways-owner switches pilot as CEO quits

LONDON — Global airline titan IAG on Thursday said its chief executive Willie Walsh had quit, after a long stint that saw him oversee the group's creation and rapid expansion, and would be replaced by Luis Gallego, head of Spanish division Iberia.

Walsh stands down on March 26 ahead of retirement, the owner of British Airways said in a statement.

The announcement brings down the curtain on Walsh's 15-year career with BA and IAG. Starting as BA chief executive, he went on to oversee the 2011 merger of British Airways and Iberia.

Willie Walsh helped build the International Airlines Group (IAG) with the 2011 merger of British Airways and Iberia. **PHOTO: AFP**

IAG has since expanded to include Aer Lingus, Level and Vueling. The Irishman also spearheaded a cost-cutting drive to compete with budget airlines, despite criticism from some quarters that this cheapened the brand of BA — which once called itself the world's favourite airline.

Walsh, 58, was originally a pilot at Ireland's Aer Lingus but rose to become chief executive, before taking up the same role at BA in 2005.

'Unique' leadership

"Willie has led the merger and successful integration of British Airways and Iberia," IAG chairman Antonio Vazquez said in Thursday's statement.

"Under Willie's leadership IAG has become one of the leading global airline groups."

But British Airways suffered major disruption in September when for the first time in its 100-year history pilots employed by the airline went on strike in a long-running pay dispute.

"It has been a privilege to have been instrumental in the creation and development of IAG," Walsh said in the statement.

"I have had the pleasure of working with many exceptional people over the past 15 years at British Airways and at IAG. — AFP ■

Chile is ready to grow adventure tourism

People move in a chairlift in the ski center El Colorado, in the Andes mountains, northeast of Santiago, capital of Chile, on 7 July, 2015. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SANTIAGO — Chile launched an international ad campaign on Wednesday to promote the country as an adventure travel destination.

The move followed a dip in foreign visitors driven away by more than two months of sporadic violent anti-government protests.

At a ceremony in Santiago's Metropolitan Park, officials and Chilean sports personalities gathered to tout the campaign, which aims to position Chile as "the best field" for adventure and rugged sports. "Many tourists who visit Chile say they do sports in our country's outdoors, because through our sports figures they have gotten to know the marvels of northern, central and southern Chile," Sports Minister Cecilia Perez said. Some 30 per cent of foreign visitors to Chile say they take part in a sport during their stay, and up to 60 percent say they come for the nature and wildlife, according to Chile's Federation of Tourism Businesses (Fedetur).

The campaign, called "Welcome to Adventure Tourism," will target several countries in a bid to boost tourism.—Xinhua ■

NEWS In BRIEF

'Sex tech' aims to rise above negative image

LAS VEGAS — Sex toys are for relaxation. For education. For healing after childbirth. For long-term or long-distance relationships. For women's emancipation.

And also... for pleasure.

But manufacturers aiming for respectability tend to save this argument for last.

"Sex toys have an extremely negative connotation," said Jerome Bensimon, president of Satisfyer. "So we've rebranded ourselves as a 'sexual wellbeing company.'"

The company has gained attention for its pressure wave technology used for clitoral stimulation, and has plans to launch a smart phone app for controlling sex toys, in particular by using voice commands. At its booth at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, vibrators and Ben Wa balls sit alongside mini vibrators shaped like ice cream cones. After some ups and downs, "sex tech" is testing the waters this year. As recently as last year the display likely would have been banned.— AFP ■

Lebanese prosecutors impose travel ban on ex-Nissan boss Ghosn

BEIRUT — Lebanese prosecutors imposed a travel ban Thursday on fugitive former Nissan Motor Co. boss Carlos Ghosn and questioned him following an Interpol warrant requested by Japan over his alleged financial misconduct, a prosecution official said.

The interrogation came a day after Ghosn strongly denied all allegations in a press conference in Beirut, during which he also railed against Japan's "inhumane" justice system and suggested his arrest by Tokyo prosecutors more than a year ago was politically motivated.

Ghosn fled to Lebanon last week from Tokyo, where he had been awaiting trial on charges of underreporting his remuneration for years in Nissan's financial reports and misusing the automaker's funds.

The possibility of authorities in Lebanon handing Ghosn over to Japan appears to be low, as there is no extradition treaty between the two countries.—Kyodo News ■

Philippine Catholics swarm Christ icon hoping for miracle

MANILA — Swarms of barefoot believers thronged a revered icon of Jesus Christ on Thursday in Manila for a lumbering and raucous procession considered one of the world's largest shows of Catholic fervour.

As the tropical sun beat down on the capital, hundreds of thousands of faithful were packed along the route for the procession of the so-called Black Nazarene, which they believe grants miracles.

Devotees clad in maroon and yellow risked injury clambering over one another to touch the life-size statue, wipe a white towel on it or lay a hand on the fat ropes used to pull its metal float.

"We believe that if you pull the carriage, the Lord will cure all your diseases," 50-year-old vendor Boyet Lara told AFP. "Nothing is impossible if we believe."

Local officials' estimate put the number of participants at roughly two million, though AFP could not verify that figure.

The crush of humanity causes scores of injuries every year, and as the procession neared its final stretch authorities reported some 200 among the barefoot faithful had suffered sprains, scrapes or heat exhaustion.

"In 2016, the rope pulling the statue wrapped around my head and I nearly choked to death. But I managed to survive," said devotee Crisostomo Belarmino, 52.

"I cried that time and said 'Thank you Nazarene for giving me another life,'" he added.

There were no immediate reports of deaths, which have periodically plagued the event in prior years, often due to heat or pre-existing health problems.

The statue is named for its charred appearance and is accompanied by many difficult to prove stories, including that it survived a fire while en route to the Philippines in the 17th century.—AFP

Hundreds of thousands of faithful were packed along the route for the procession of the so-called Black Nazarene, which they believe grants miracles. **PHOTO: AFP**

N China province lifts 240,000 out of poverty in 2019

TAIYUAN — A total of 239,000 people in north China's Shanxi Province shook off poverty in 2019, according to local authorities.

The provincial poverty alleviation and development office said the poverty headcount ratio of the province has fallen to 0.1 per cent.

The per capita disposable income for rural residents in the province's impoverished areas is estimated to grow 12 per cent to 9,240 yuan (about 1,330 US dollars).

In 2014, there were about 3.29 million impoverished people and 7,993 villages were rated as poor in Shanxi, and the poverty headcount ratio was 13.6 per cent.

The province made great efforts to fight against poverty last year, including taking targeted poverty relief measures, reducing poverty through industries and poverty relocation projects.

So far, the number of people in poverty in the province has dropped to 21,000. China has vowed to eradicate absolute poverty by 2020.—Xinhua

Aerial photo taken on 5 July, 2018 shows a photovoltaic power plant in Ruicheng County of Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Sri Lanka says 2,500 acres available for investments in tourism

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka has over 2,500 acres of land ready for investment in tourism, local media reports, quoting State Minister of Tourism Promotion, Arundika Fernando said here Thursday.

Minister Fernando said land with clear title was available for both local and foreign investors to lease for a period of 30 years, adding that cabinet approval could be sought for longer lease periods according to state-owned Daily News.

"A proper project proposal should be present when requesting for land, and eco-friendly and environmental and practices should be maintained," the state minister said.

Lands are available in the north-western town of Kalpitiya, the southern town of Dedduwa, and the north-eastern town of Kuchavelli as well as other areas.

Fernando noted that the government would continue to develop transport infrastructure, including domestic airport and railways stations, in order to provide better facilities for tourists.

New domestic flight routes would link popular tourists destinations in the northern, southern and eastern parts of the island, while apps would be developed to streamline railway booking systems. Sri Lanka attracted 1.9 million tourists in 2019. —Xinhua ■

A plane taxis on the runway of the Jaffna International Airport in Sri Lanka, 17 October, 2019. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena opened the country's third international airport in Jaffna in the north, in a bid to boost tourism and development in the former war-torn province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Indonesian rights body finds police committed abuses amid protests

JAKARTA — Indonesian security forces violated human rights during last year's student-led protests against a new law apparently intended to weaken the country's anti-graft agency, a government-sanctioned rights body said Thursday.

Revealing its findings, the National Commission on Human Rights said that among the rights allegedly violated amid the weeklong protests in late September were the right to life, the right to health, the right to justice and the right to a sense of security.

The rights body's commissioner Hariansyah noted that three university students died in police custody in Jakarta, while two were shot dead in the Southeast Sulawesi provincial capital of Kendari.

"Of the five death cases, only one case in Kendari has so far been investigated and settled by police," he told a press conference, while urging that all five cases be properly dealt with. Six policemen in Kendari received some sanctions for disobeying their commander's instruction not to use live ammunition in suppressing the student protests.— Kyodo News ■

UK royals 'hurt' after Harry and Meghan quit front-line roles

Newspaper headlines included The Sun's "Megxit", saying the couple had sparked civil war at the palace. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

LONDON — Prince Harry and his celebrity wife Meghan's bombshell resignation from front-line royal duties rocked the British monarchy on Thursday, with reports suggesting Queen Elizabeth II had not been informed in advance.

The couple said they would now "balance" their time between Britain and North America and rip up long-established relations with the press, in a surprise statement Wednesday that appeared to catch Buckingham Palace off guard.

In a short, terse response a short time later, a palace statement said discussions with Harry and Meghan were "at an early stage".

"We understand their desire to take a different approach, but these are complicated issues that will take time to work through," the palace said.

Media reports said the couple made their shock statement -- released on their Instagram account, own website and through Buckingham Palace's email communications system — without notifying either Harry's grandmother, the monarch, or father, the future king Prince Charles.

The mood in the palace was understood to be one of disappointment and even "hurt", according the the BBC, while Thursday's newspapers were full of reports of a family "split" and the queen's "dismay".

The decision follows a turbulent year for the pair, who have admitted to struggling in the spotlight and growing apart from Harry's brother Prince William.

They have also complained of negative news coverage and taken several papers to court, another unusual move.

"We intend to step back as 'senior' members of the royal family and work to become financially independent, while continuing to fully support Her Majesty The Queen," they said.

"We have chosen to make a transition this year in starting to carve out a progressive new role within this institution."— AFP ■

Iraq set for conflict, even if US and Iran de-escalate

BAGHDAD — Arch-foes Tehran and Washington may be temporarily calling it even after Iranian missiles targeted US forces in Iraq, but analysts predict violent instability will keep blighting Baghdad.

"Iraq will remain a zone of conflict," said Randa Slim of the Washington based Middle East Institute.

Early Wednesday, Iran launched 22 ballistic missiles at bases in Iraq hosting American and other foreign troops, in a calibrated response to the killing of a top Iranian general in a US air strike last week.

Iran warned Iraq about the raids shortly before they happened and in their immediate aftermath, foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tehran had concluded its "proportionate" retaliation.

US President Donald Trump, too, said Iran "appears to be standing down" and even suggested Tehran and Washington could work towards a nuclear deal while cooperating against jihadists. That hinted at a common desire to contain the fallout, but analysts say it would not be enough to spare Iraq.

"Both sides are so mobilised in Iraq, which has become such symbolic terrain for hitting out at the other," said Erica Gaston of the New America Foundation.

Indeed, US troops and even the embassy in Baghdad had been hit by more than a dozen rocket attacks in recent months, which have killed one Iraqi soldier and an American contractor.

The attacks went unclaimed but the US blamed hardline elements of the Hashed al-Shaabi, an Iraqi military network incorporated into the state but linked to Tehran. The strike that killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani outside Baghdad international airport on Friday also killed his top Iraqi aid and Hashed deputy chief Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. — AFP ■

Iraqis in Basra turn out to mourn the body of Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the slain chief of Hashed al-Shaabi, an Iraqi paramilitary force with close ties to Iran on 7 January. **PHOTO: AFP**

The statue designed by artist Tomaz Schlegl was put up last summer. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trump 'statue of liberty' burned in Slovenian town

LJUBLJANA — Suspected vandals on Thursday burned a wooden statue of US President Donald Trump built last year by a group of villagers to criticise populist politics, local authorities said.

The eight-metre-high (26 feet) statue of Trump complete with his trademark mane, blue suit, white shirt and red tie was built last August. It was named "statue of liberty" by architect Tomaz Schlegl who wanted it to serve as a criticism of populist politics.

Initially installed in the Sela pri Kamniku village, 30 kilometres (20 miles) north of the capital Ljubljana, the statue was moved in December to the nearby town of Moravce after protests by villagers annoyed at the increase of tourists wanting to see it.

But shortly after its arrival to Moravce, vandals damaged the statue by drawing a moustache on its face in a clear reference to Adolf Hitler. Early Thursday, firefighters rushed to extinguish the blaze that completely destroyed the statue. Police are expected to launch an investigation, according to Moravce mayor Milan Balazic.

"This is an attack against art and tolerance ... against Europe's fundamental values," Balazic told AFP, adding many tourists had come to see the statue since it was installed last month.

Balazic had paid 1,500 euros ($1,700) for moving the statue to Moravce, seeing it as an opportunity to promote his small town.

Architect Schlegl said he saw the suspected arson as an act against Trump given recent escalation of tensions after the US ordered a deadly strike against an Iranian general.

"I believe these attacks are understandable bearing in mind what's happening in the world," Schlegl told AFP. Slovenia, a member of NATO since 2004, announced Wednesday that it was evacuating its six soldiers deployed in Iraq as part of the alliance's training mission following Iran's retaliatory attacks against US troops.— AFP ■

Iran says Ukrainian plane turned back before crashing

TEHRAN — Iranian authorities have said a Ukrainian airliner, which crashed outside Tehran with the loss of all 176 people on board, had turned back after suffering a problem, as Ukrainian experts joined the investigation Thursday.

Both Canada and the United States called for a full investigation to determine the cause of Wednesday's crash, which came shortly after Tehran launched missiles at US forces in Iraq in response to the killing of a top Iranian general in a US drone strike in Baghdad. There was no immediate indication that foul play may have caused the Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) plane to go down soon after take-off, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned against speculating on the crash causes.

"The plane, which was initially headed west to leave the airport zone, turned right following a problem and was headed back to the airport at the moment of the crash," the Iranian Civil Aviation Organisation said on its website late Wednesday. — AFP ■

Yangon United bid farewell to defender Pyae Phyo Aung

YANGON United, the defending champions of the General Aung San Shield 2020, bid farewell on Wednesday to defender Pyae Phyo Aung, whose contract with the team expired, with a farewell ceremony, according to the team's website.

Pyae Phyo Aung has played for Yangon United F.C. since 2007, when the club was known as Air Bagan F.C. He was still playing for the club when it changed its name in 2009, which was around the same time the Myanmar National League began.

Pyae Phyo Aung gave his best to Yangon United and helped the team win the Myanmar National League five times. The team lifted the knockout cup thrice and the opening match cup three times.

On the day of the farewell, a friendly match was organized in which Yangon United officials and former players, including Pyae Phyo Aung, participated, according to the football club.

On Pyae Phyo Aung's departure from the team, Yangon United's U Yarzar Htwe said: "Today is the farewell day for Pyae Phyo Aung who helped Yangon United since the team was named Air Bagan F.C. All of us from Yangon Untied will remember that kind of player. We wish him the best and success in the future."—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Yangon United defender Pyae Phyo Aung (L) holding his jersey with team chairman Pyae Phyo Tayza (R). **PHOTO: YUFC**

Arsenal boss Arteta not expecting 'big things' in transfer window

LONDON — Mikel Arteta has warned Arsenal supporters not to expect "big things" in the January transfer window, with the club unlikely to make permanent signings after a hefty outlay in the summer.

Arsenal broke their club transfer record to recruit Nicolas Pepe as well as completing moves for David Luiz, Gabriel Martinelli, Kieran Tierney and William Saliba at a total cost of around £130 million ($170 million). "I don't know, I'm not expecting big things," Arteta said when asked on Thursday about potential transfer business.

"I'm expecting big things from the players I have at the moment, the players that are recovering from injuries. That's the biggest expectations from my side.

"If we can find something to help us go through the season in a more balanced way in certain areas, and which is helpful, we'll look at the options."

Arteta, who joined the club last month, has overseen victories in his past two games, a 2-0 Premier League win over Manchester United before a hard-fought FA Cup third-round success against Leeds on Monday.

Arsenal travel to face Crystal Palace on Saturday in 10th place in the Premier League, nine points behind fourth-placed Chelsea.

Ahead of the tie with Leeds, forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang used his column in the club's match programme to say speculation he was angling for a move away from the Emirates Stadium was wide of the mark.

"People like making up stories and they should focus on what's happening on the pitch," he wrote. "They talk too much and it does my head in.—AFP ■

Arsenal's head coach Mikel Arteta. **PHOTO : AFP**

Myanmar, Thailand lethwei challenge event to be held in Mandalay

A lethwei challenge between Myanmar and Thai fighters will begin at 6 pm on 28 February at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, according to the Myanmar Lethwei Fights organizers.

The lethwei challenge will include seven main bouts, according to lethwei officials.

Byat Kha of Myanmar will fight against Sam Khon of Thailand.

Tun Lin Khant of Myanmar will take on Ginnok of Thailand, and Kyarr Thwe of Myanmar will fight with Phit of Thailand.

Fight Kay of Myanmar will be pitted against Yot Maw Khon of Thailand.

Meanwhile, Bwoi Kar of Myanmar will meet with Martula of Thailand, and Zwe Naing of Myanmar will take on Banlunt of Thailand.

Ngwe Nan Taw of Myanmar will fight with Pharathtayt of Thailand.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Entry free for MNL opening match in Mandalay

ENTRY for the opening match of the Myanmar National League between Shan United F.C. and Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) F.C. at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay today will be free of charge, according to a statement issued yesterday by MNL.

The decision to offer free entry for the opening match was made by officials of the Myanmar National League during the coordination meeting held yesterday at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium.

The officials' decision is aimed at encouraging more spectaculars to come for the opening match of the Myanmar National League.

The match promises to be an exciting one as Shan United are the defending champions of the Myanmar National League and ISPE F.C. are newcomers in the MNL from National League II.

Shan United comprises national football team players and experienced foreign players, while ISPE F.C. has talented local football players.

ISPE F.C. will be led by head coach U Nay Win and Shan United will be guided by head coach U Aung Naing.

The match will start at 3:30 pm today.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)