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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 2 July 2019

## MoU signed for \$215-mln grant for healthcare activities of MoHS



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe addresses the signing ceremony of grants to the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**T**HE Ministry of Health and Sports signed an MoU with the Access to Health Fund yesterday on funding for healthcare services in Myanmar. Under the MoU, the Access to Health Fund will provide US\$215 million grant for healthcare projects in Myanmar for a period of five years (2019-2023). The grants will be provided to the MoHS and international non-governmental organizations for projects in 144 townships of eight region and states.

Speaking at the signing ceremony at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said the MoU would be of great assistance in conducting healthcare activities in all parts of Myanmar. He then expressed his gratitude to the main donor countries — the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Switzerland — who have contributed to the Access to Health Fund.

With the signing of the MoU, the MoHS has received grants

for conducting healthcare activities for two years. The activities cover implementing the National Healthcare Project, fighting tuberculosis, AIDS, and drug abuse, preventing Hepatitis, and improving nutrition, maternal, newborn, and child health, and reproductive health. “It is important to draw up work plans to practically implement the projects on the ground with effective use of funds to meet the National Health Plan’s objectives, and to build the flow of funds capacity,

such as fund handover, receipt, and use of funds to carry out projects,” the Union Minister said.

He added that applied research has to be undertaken to effectively carry out the projects.

Through effective use of grants provided by donor organizations, the Ministry will implement projects that are suited to ground conditions and are relevant to the subject matter, in cooperation with partner organizations, the Union Minister said.

**SEE PAGE-5**

### Low pressure area over Bay of Bengal persists

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at 6:30 pm MST yesterday, the low pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining areas of Odisha coast (India) still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next (24) hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 02 July, 2019:** Rain or thunderstorms will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions, fairly widespread in Magway Region, Southern Shan and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls Rakhine state and isolated heavy falls in Ayeyawady Region, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Strong Monsoon. — GNLM

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## Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief's Office urges effective peace building works during ceasefire period

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief's Office issued an appeal yesterday to conduct effective peace building works during the ceasefire period.

The appeal issued stated that any organization or person should demand their wishes according to democratic methods when establishing a modern developed democratic nation desired by the entire ethnic nationals and the people. The Tatmadaw believed that finding solutions through discussions and negotiations is the only way to resolve the armed conflicts which have been caused by demanding through force of arm which was the opposite of pursuing the democratic path. Therefore to enable all participants of the peace building process

to conduct their works with a high level of trust, an unprecedented unilateral ceasefire for six-months was announced by the Tatmadaw on 21 December 2018 and 30 April 2019.

On 30 June 2019 a third announcement was made as per requirements to extend the ceasefire for two more months. During the first and second ceasefire period of six months ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and their representatives had conducted meetings and negotiations to find a solution and to strengthen and develop the peace building works, it has been found that the progress that the people had expected was not achieved. As the Tatmadaw had initiated the path of peace building works for EAOs

to systematically walk down towards multi-party democratic system, it would be necessary for the EAOs are to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as soon as possible and participate in the peace process by engaging in discussions and negotiations.

Therefore organizations and persons who were involved in the peace building works were urged to use the 2 months ceasefire period conceded by the Tatmadaw to walk down the democratic path in a correct, proper and beneficial manner so as to achieve modernization, development and socio-economic development of the people which was the desire of the entire ethnic nationals and the people, said the Tatmadaw statement. —MNA

## Myanmar begins repatriating 4<sup>th</sup> batch of migrant workers from Thailand



Thai government staff hand over Myanmar migrant workers to Myanmar officials. PHOTO: MNA

THE fourth batch of Myanmar migrant workers returning from Thailand on their own volition are being scrutinized and welcomed at the border gates from 1 to 3 July, according to a news release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With cooperation between the governments of Myanmar and Thailand, 151 Myanmar migrant workers from Nu Po refugee camp, 5 from Mae La refugee camp and 1 from Umpiem refugee camp were brought to the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (1) yesterday. They were warmly accepted by Myanmar officials and transported to Kyauk Lone Gyi camp in Myawady.

The repatriation process was overseen by the Myanmar Ambassador in Thailand, U Myo Myint Than, and embassy staff, the Kayin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs and members of the repatriation committees of Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regional governments.

The government officials arranged transportation for the returning Myanmar workers to reach their homes and provided humanitarian and financial assistance for the moment.

They will arrange for the workers' household registration form-10 and verify or issue NRC cards followingly.

In addition, relevant State and Region governments have arranged for the returning families to receive education and health-related assistance.

The repatriation process continues today with Myanmar migrant workers from Ban Nai Soi and Tham Hin refugee camps arranged to be accepted at Maese and Hteekhee gates respectively. And on the last day of repatriation tomorrow, migrant workers from Mae La, Umpiem and Mae La Oon refugee camps will be accepted at Kyauk Lone Gyi camp in Myawady. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 23/2019

14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nayon, 1381 ME  
(1 July 2019)

## Appointment of Region and State Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c) of the Union Government Law and Section 8 (g) of Region or State Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as Region and State Ministers of the Ministries of Immigration and Human Resources shown against each of their names.

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) U Phway Arr               | Chin State Government        |
| (2) U Kyaw Min (a) U Phoe Min | Taninthayi Region Government |

Sd/-  
(Win Myint)  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 25/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 29 June.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 29 June.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 3 July issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

## Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

UNION Supreme Court sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges to pass judgments on two special criminal appeal cases and three special civil appeal cases. It also heard five special civil appeal cases. — MNA

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## Nay Pyi Taw Council organizes natural disaster preparedness meeting



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and attendees pose for the documentary photo at the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Nay Pyi Taw Council organized a meeting with CSOs, humanitarian organizations and local residents to discuss early preventive measures for natural disasters yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun and Hluttaw representatives attended the meeting held at Zabuthiri Hall.

The Union Minister first delivered a speech where he said it is necessary for CSOs, relevant organizations and local residents to connect and collaborate together in safeguarding ourselves against natural disasters and threats from climate change.

He said National Disaster Management Committee provides continued support and views the investment in public safety as beneficially guaranteed to the people. He also urged everyone to start using the DAN mobile application to be up to date with news on natural disasters.

Next, U Aung Myin Tun also delivered a speech where he said Nay Pyi Taw has to be particularly diligent towards wind and fire related disasters. He said Paung Laung creek, Sin Thay creek and Nga Lite creek have been modified to make water flow smoother and retaining walls put up to guard against landslides.

Afterwards, the Head of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Disaster

Management Department explained about the DAN mobile application and a video introduction on the application was played to the audience.

Next, attendees gave suggestions to organize the one tree per person programme, proper enforcement of anti-littering rules, urging the ministry to conduct short trainings for local humanitarian networks to collaborate on, and hold regular meetings such as this.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and the Disaster Management Director-General responded to the suggestions and the Union Minister delivered the closing speech. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Sailors, families celebrate Seafarers Day

MYANMAR YMCA, Habitat for Humanity International, Asia-Pacific Office and Sailor's Society hosted the International Day of Seafarers at Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon last month.

Firstly, YMCA General-Secretary U Maung Maung Win spoke on ongoing seafarer supportive projects. Then, Ms Amelia Esterban, Regional Program Associate Director for Asia-Pacific Office, explained of Habitat's current tasks and their collaboration with Sailor's Society with a video.

Next, Captain Toe Toe of Htet Oo Institute explained how Seafarers Day came to be, U Lu Aung of Independent Federation of Myanmar Seafarers explained their contribution to

seafarers, and Power & Passion Co-founder Dr Phyo Thi lectured on gender equality in line with the international day's motto – 'I am on board with gender equality'.

The families of the sailors in the 'Building Resiliency of Seafarers in Myanmar Project' then commented on the project and Project Director Daw Nwe Ni Hlaing expressed words of gratitude.

The project is a collaboration between Myanmar YMCA and Habitat for Humanity Myanmar to promote the living standards of sailors and their families in Yangon Region by providing various vocational training courses and repairing basic infrastructure. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Myanmar YMCA, Habitat for Humanity Myanmar provide vocational training courses. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Shan State Special Region 4 celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Mongla

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Special Region 4 was held at the peace square in Mongla, Shan State, on 30 June.

A Union Government delegation led by Peace Commission Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw, delegations from ethnic armed organizations, political parties, ethnic peoples and specially invited guests attended the event.

The opening ceremony commenced at 6 am with a parade of ethnic cultural troupes, regional groups, local students,

department personnel and ceremonial vehicles marching along.

The flag hoisting ceremony came next with the Union Flag, Shan State Flag and Special Region 4 Flag raised and saluted by the attendees as the marching band played the national anthem.

Afterwards, U Sai Lin, Chairman of the Peace and Solidarity Committee (PSC), gave welcoming remarks and U Thein Zaw read the State Counsellor's Message of Greet-

ings on the Special Region's anniversary. This was followed by other attendees and organizations reading messages to commemorate the anniversary.

Next, attendees released doves to signify peace and PSC formally thanked the attendees before concluding the ceremony.

Later at night, the guests were treated to traditional ethnic dances and songs. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Over 1,200 senior citizens in Kyaukpadaung get social pension

THE Mandalay Region government disbursed social pensions to the tune of K36.75 million to 1,225 citizens, aged 85 and older, in Kyaukpadaung Township in a door-to-door campaign on 28 June.

Officials with the government handed K30,000 each to senior citizens in the township. In addition, they provided cash support to 765 persons with disabilities (PWDs) residing in the township.

The Department of Social Welfare, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which is responsi-

ble for the care of the elderly, provides door-to-door delivery of pension every three months.

As part of efforts to improve services to the country's senior citizens, the government of Myanmar enacted the Myanmar Ageing Law in 2016 to protect the elderly people from neglect, abuse, or deprivation, and to improve their living conditions.

According to the 2014 census, the country has more than 230,000 citizens aged 85 and above.—Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

## Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung receives KOICA representative Ms Lee Youn Soo

UNION MINISTER for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung received Chief Representative of Korea International Cooperation Agency Myanmar Office Ms Lee Youn Soo and party at the ministry office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and discussed transportation sector develop-

ment projects in collaboration with the Republic of Korea in addition to making studies into constructing Monywa Jetty and dry port in Monywa, Sagaing Region, training programme for civil servants for developing human resources in train transportation sector. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung holds talks with KOICA representative Ms Lee Youn Soo in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## Alternative education programme students receive financial rewards for passing 2019 matriculation exams

THE Department of Alternative Education held a graduation ceremony for participants primary-level alternative education trainer course of Yangon education zone at B.E.H.S. 1 Kamayut on Sunday.

Firstly, course leader U Aung Soe commented on the course. Next, officials of the central course and from the Yangon Regional Education Office handed over prizes to course participants. Officials then conferred cash prizes from the Myanmar Learning Resource Centre (MLRC) to students who passed the 2019 matriculation exams through alternative education and basic education schools.

Chairman Dr Than Oo con-

ferred prizes to Ma Thet Ngon Phoo from Mingaladon Township and handed over cash prizes for the remaining 10 students to regional supervisor U Soe Myint.

Daw Thida San from Pyay Township then spoke words of gratitude on behalf of the trainees. MLRC Vice Chairman Dr Tin Nyo gave a speech and the trainees sang 'Kalay-myar-atwat d-nhe' before concluding the ceremony.

Similar zone graduation ceremonies were held in Mandalay and Mawlamyine yesterday as 249 trainees received cash prizes for passing the matriculation exams through alternative learning programmes. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Chairman Dr Than Oo confers cash prize from Myanmar Learning Resource Centre to Ma Thet Ngon Phoo of Mingaladon Township for passing the 2019 matriculation exam through alternative education programmes. PHOTO: MLRC

## Union Minister Dr Than Myint receives Thailand Ambassador



Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint meets with Thailand Ambassador Mrs Suphatra Srimaitrephithak in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION MINISTER for Commerce Dr Than Myint received Thailand Ambassador Mrs Suphatra Srimaitrephithak and party at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they discussed opportunities

for promoting Myanmar-Thailand bilateral trade and investments, closely collaborating of the two governments, peoples and businesses for strengthening and longstanding friendship between the two countries, promoting bor-

der trade, exporting and producing value-added products, and competing in global market by collaborating among regional countries. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

## Exports of animal products up by over \$190 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR earned US\$306.9 million from the export of animal products from 1 October and 21 June, registering an increase in value of over \$190 million from the corresponding period last 2017-2018 fiscal year, according to the weekly trade report of the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, public sector exports of animal products stood at just \$0.238 million, while private sector exports were valued at over

\$300 million. From this time last FY, the private sector solely conducted the export of animal products with a value of \$115 million.

Myanmar exports animal products mainly to neighboring China, India, and Thailand.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), the exports of animal products were pegged at \$178 million, with the public sector accounting for \$2.8 million, and the private sector \$175 million.

According to statistical report issued by the Ministry, the country exported animal products worth \$60 million in the 2017-2018FY, \$10 million in the 2016-2017FY, \$8 million in the 2015-2016FY, \$8.3 million in the 2014-2015FY, \$15 million in the 2013-2014FY, \$32 million in the 2012-2013FY, and \$90 million in the 2011-2012FY.— Shwe Khine

Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin

## Ministry of Border Affairs conducts capacity building course for development projects



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of border area development project capacity building course in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN opening ceremony of border area development project capacity building course was held at Ministry of Border Affairs Assembly Hall yesterday morning.

In his speech at the opening ceremony Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung said the aims of the course were from skillfully conducting surveys to implementing the projects, approach and conduct regional development work from the angles of all round development, understand and conduct prevention and eradication of the danger of drug, understand the development of drug replacement technology and conduct it effectively, connect and cooperate with relevant ministerial departments and organizations and to become

capable personnel.

The motto of the ministry was to conduct development of border region ethnic nationals so as there is no difference between states and regions and was implemented through the four policies of stability of border regions, development of border regions, socio-economic development of people living in the border region and human resources development of youth in border region.

In conducting the main duties and responsibilities of the Ministry of Border Affairs, the ministry conducts short, mid and long term projects according to the policy of the Union, guidelines of the Union leaders, the aim of the ministry, pledges and requests of the Hluttaw and representa-

tives, actual requirement of the people in the region, financially appropriateness and in accordance with Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

Development and technology changes are quick and personnel needs to develop at the same pace. Courses were being conducted for this and course attendees are to systematically learn the subjects taught and successful conduct project works in places they were assigned said the Union Minister. The opening ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut, Permanent Secretary, directors general, ministry personnel and course attendees. — MNA(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Meiktila mountaineering team ascends 6020ft high Elephant Mountain

An 80-member mountaineering team from Meiktila successfully reached the peak of the 6020 feet high Elephant Mountain on 30 June.

The team started their climb from Myindike Village at 5 am, and reached the mountain's peak at 11 am. The oldest member of the team was aged

71 and the youngest 15.

During the climb, a team led by U Nay Oo, the head of the Meiktila Red Cross Society, offered courses which involved group activities to improve climbing discipline, said Dr. Myat Min, in charge of the Meiktila mountaineering team. The team donated K200,000 for development activities in Myindike Village and K100,000 for the Myittar Yaykyi clinic.

Twenty members of the mountaineering team continued on to the Myin Ma Hti Mountain yesterday, and they will participate in a climbing expedition to Ma Dwe and Phonkanrazi mountains. — Chan Thar (Meiktila)■



Members of Meiktila mountaineering team poses for a photo on Mt. Elephant in Thazi. **PHOTO: CHANTHA (MEIKTILA)**

(Translated by La Wonn)

## MoU signed for \$215-million grant for healthcare activities of MoHS

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Afterwards, Dr. Thar Tun Kyaw, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Sports, and Mr. Oren Ginzburg, the Fund Director of the Access to Health Fund, signed seven MoUs on provision of funding to the MoHS, in the presence of the Union Minister.

Then, on behalf of donor organizations, Ms. Rebecca Rich-

ards, the acting Head of Office of the Department for International Development UK, and Mr. Giacomo Solari, the Deputy Head of the Mission of Swiss Embassy in Myanmar, delivered speeches.

After the signing of the MoU, a workshop on drawing up work plans and building capacity of employees for flow of funds producers was launched. The workshop will conclude on 3 July. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win meets with Thailand Ambassador Mrs Suphatra Srimaitrephithak. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister for Planning & Finance receives Thailand Ambassador

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win received Ambassador of Thailand Mrs Suphatra Srimaitrephithak at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to cooperation in Myanmar-Thailand bilateral investments,

boosting cooperation in banking sector, promoting bilateral border trade, and constructing of two-lane tarred road from Kanchanaburi, the border town of Thailand, to the Dawei Special Economic Zone for developing the SEZ. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)



Child abuse is a crime.  
It deserves a 20-year jail sentence.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.



PHOTO: KO HTEIN (NGATHAYAUK)

## Veterinary University students visit ancient Bagan

FIFTH year students from the University of Veterinary Science started their Bagan-NyaungU excursion yesterday, said its Deputy Rector Dr Saw Po Po. The excursion group first arrived at Bagan-NyaungU cultural heritage zone in the morning and visited prominent pagodas there. One of the students, Ma Phyto Eindra Kyaw from Mogaung, Kachin State, expressed her forlorn feelings for seeing the ancient city in

ruins. She said she will always value Bagan's integrity and thanks the teachers for organizing this trip.

Ma Phyto Thet Khine, another student, from Nay Pyi Taw said this is not her first time to the cultural zone and she always takes any available chance to visit Bagan. On behalf of all the students, she expressed their wish for Bagan to enter the UNESCO heritage list. —Ko Htein (Ngathayauk) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Sagaing improves value chains of climate friendly agribusinesses

A PROJECT to improve value chains in the climate friendly agribusiness sector was inaugurated yesterday in Sagaing Region.

"The project aims to improve infrastructure in the climate friendly agribusiness value chain. The project will increase climate resilience and aims to adopt climate friendly practices and eco-friendly technologies," said U Aye Ko Ko, project director.

The project is planned to be implemented jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce, and will be funded by the Asian Development Bank and Global Agriculture Food Se-

curity Program (GAFSP).

"The project will cover some inputs through ten farms owned by the Agriculture Department. Preparations are underway to provide basic infrastructure such as irrigation water and a 300-meter-long road for transportation. The Agriculture Department and the Consumer Affairs Department will upgrade laboratories for pesticide and food analysis. An irrigation water management course will also be offered," he said. The seven-year project was signed on 6 November, 2018, and will end in September, 2025. — Myo Win Tun (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



PHOTO: MYO MIN TUN

## Work on foundation of Yangon-Dala bridge begins

DRILLING WORK for installing bored piles on the Dala side of the Yangon-Dala bridge across the Yangon River was started on 28 June. The bridge is expected to be completed by December, 2022, according to the Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction.

The bridge will connect Bo Min Yaung street in Dala Township with Phone Gyi street in Lanmadaw Township. Currently, drilling work for installing bored piles has begun on Dala side. The department plans to construct 14 piles.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, the South Korean Ambassador to Myanmar, Hluttaw representatives, and officials from the Bridge Department inspected the project area on the first day of drilling.

"Today is the first day of bridge foundation implementation. We will build the bridge step by step. The construction is being done with the use of Korean technology. We began implementing the project in May, 2019. We expect to complete construction by Decem-

ber, 2022. Once completed, the bridge will contribute to the socio-economic development of local people residing on both sides," said U Thet Wai Aung, Assistant Director (Civil), Bridge Department.

Myanmar has obtained US\$ 137.833 Million, a 40-year loan, from South Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund at an interest of 0.01 per cent. The main contractor of the bridge is GS Engineering Group from Korea.

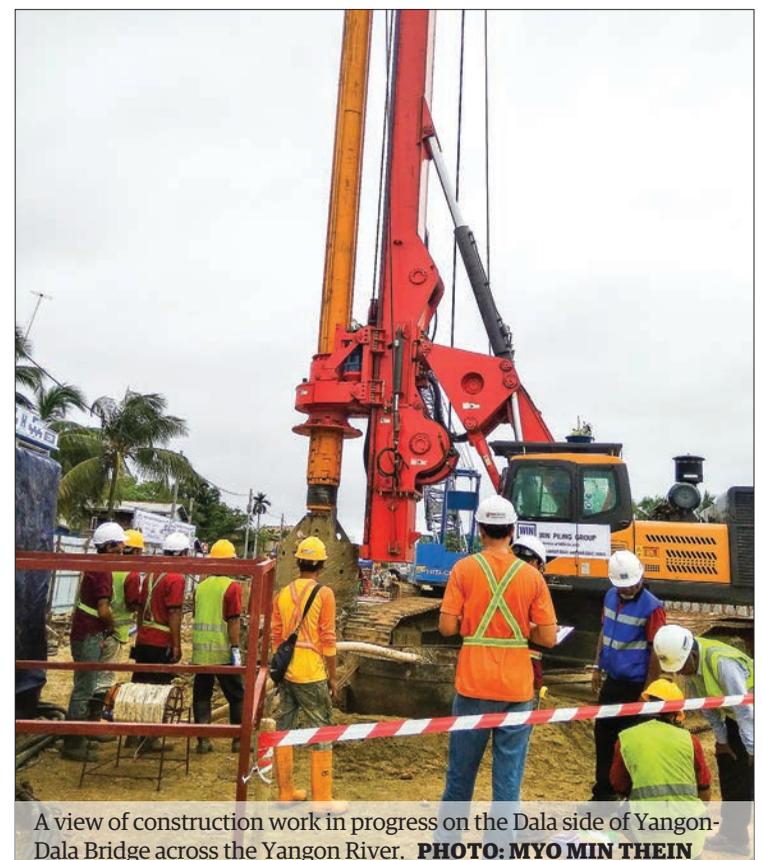
In the second phase of the project, an approach road will be built from Phone Gyi street by the Shwe Taung construction company. The third phase will involve the construction of two towers in the middle of the river and a cable suspension bridge. The phase will be implemented by CCEC, a Chinese company.

The Yangon-Dala bridge will measure 6,144 feet in length, including the 690-meter main bridge, the 577-meter approach road from Dala side, and the 601-meter approach road from Yangon side. The bridge will be 370 m long and clearance of the of 49 m high. The bridge will

have a four-lane road, with each lane measuring 4 m in width.

The bridge will shorten the time taken to travel from Yangon to Ayeyawady region. It will also lower the transportation cost for locals commuting between the regions. The project is expect-

ed to benefit residents of Dala, Twantay, Kungyangon, and Kawhmu townships of Yangon region and locals living in Maubin, Kyaiklat, Dedaye, Pyapon, and Bogale townships of Ayeyawady Region.—Myo Min Thein (Translated by Hay Mar)



A view of construction work in progress on the Dala side of Yangon-Dala Bridge across the Yangon River. PHOTO: MYO MIN THEIN

## Salted plum businesses reaping profits in Ngathayauk Township



Woman workers sift through salted plums in Ngathayauk, NyaungU. PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)

BUSINESSES producing value-added salted plums in Ngathayauk Town of NyaungU District are doing well financially, said U Thein Swe, a salted plum business owner.

“Our family has been running a salted plum business for 40 years. Ripe plums are picked between December and March, and sour plums are processed into salted plums. Plum trees are found growing naturally in the tropical regions of Myanmar, and there is no plum cultivation in the central regions of

the country. The residents here mostly depend on crop cultivation as the main source of livelihood. The plums collecting is good side jobs for extra income and the plums are sold for K,3000 per basket,” said U Soe Naing, a farmer from Sintharmhway Village.

“There are three steps involved in processing raw plums to make value-added salted plums. First, plums are sun dried because well dried plums can be stored for a long time. Then, plum seeds are grounded

into powder. Finally, the plum powder is mixed with palm sugar, salt, and other fruit powders. After processing, packets of value-added salted plums are mainly distributed to Hpa-an, Mawlamyine, Thaton, and Mogok towns,” said a salted plum business owner.

Salted plum products can be regarded as the regional products of the central region of Myanmar, and business owners are earning well on a manageable scale. — Ko Htain (Ngathayauk)  
(Translated by La Wonn)

## Agro exports up \$268.4 mln

MYANMAR’S agricultural exports crossed US\$2.5 billion in the period from 1 October to 21 June in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$268.4 million from \$2.24 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The agriculture industry has performed the best along with the natural gas sector in terms of exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses, corn, and rubber. Myanmar also ships fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products to other countries.

The country mainly exports agro products to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Howev-

er, the export market remains uncertain with unsteady global demand.

Myanmar is facing slower market information access, which sometimes poses obstacles in the market. Moreover, the country has poor logistics and warehouse infrastructure, which affects the quality of fruits, said an official from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

U Ye Min Aung, the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation, said that quality control and food safety are key to export promotion. Therefore, good agriculture practices are needed to be fostered and developed, he said.

In addition, the country requires an export-specific plan for each agro product as they are currently being sent to ex-

ternal markets based on supply and demand. A contract farming system which involves the regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups is required in order to meet the production target, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

Myanmar’s agricultural exports have not seen a remarkable increase in terms of trade value owing to China’s tight confiscation on some agro products, including rice, since the second week of October.

The Commerce Ministry has been working to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Border trade up by \$1.17 bln in current FY

DURING the period from 1 October to 21 June in the current fiscal year, the value of border trade increased by US\$1.17 billion compared with the same period in the 2017-2018FY to reach \$7.6 billion, according to data from the Commerce Ministry. Exports rose by \$1.08 billion and imports by \$93 million.

The value of exports was registered at \$5.36 billion and imports at \$2.27 billion. In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, Myanmar’s border trade was pegged at \$6.47 billion.

Myanmar mainly carries out border trade with neighboring China through Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete, and Kengtung checkpoints, and with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung, and

Maese gates.

Myanmar conducts border trade with Bangladesh through Sittway and Maungtau, and with India through the Tamu, Reed, and Thantlang border gates.

Among the 16 border trade camps, Muse recorded the highest trade value of \$3.64 billion in the current FY, followed by Hteekhee at \$1.86 billion, and Myawady at \$683 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural, animal, fisheries, and forest products along with minerals, and it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumer goods.

Currently, around 80 per cent of the country’s external trade is carried out via sea routes. — Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Lower imports drag maritime trade value down to \$17.7 bln

THE value of Myanmar’s maritime trade for the period between 1 October, 2018 and 21 June, 2019 in the current fiscal year stood at US\$17.7 billion, a decrease of \$893.9 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the past eight months, maritime exports reached \$6.7 billion. Meanwhile, imports were registered at \$10.96 billion, a sharp decline of \$1 billion from the year-ago period.

The value of trade through the border gates exceeded \$7.64 billion, an increase of \$1.17 billion amid tight confiscation and trade suspension by Myanmar’s main trade partner China, as cross-border trade with Thailand

doubled compared with the year-ago period.

During the period, the country’s total external trade crossed \$25.35 billion. In the previous FY, the figure stood at \$25 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar’s maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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# Leader who shaped our history

**T**HOSE who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Only when we study the past can we know what we must take pride in, what we must conserve, what we must abandon, what we must take lessons from, and what we must avoid so mistakes are not repeated. Knowing our own history or the history of our culture is important because it helps us to know who we are and it helps us mould our future. The wisdom that we acquire from learning history gives us the ability not only to learn from past mistakes, but also successes.

Taking matters into our own hands without an understanding of the past has caused uncountable grievances and losses in our history. In the modern history of Myanmar, the role of Bogyoke Aung San is very important. He was a national leader and martyr who started a revolution as a student leader to gain our independence from colonial rule. Deciding to stage an armed struggle against the colonialists, he founded the Tatmadaw. To fight colonial rule through dialogue, he entered politics as a leader of the Anti-Fascist Peoples' Freedom League. His prestigious place in our history was shaped by his commitment to the cause of independence from colonial rule. He displayed loyalty to his cause by working hard. Once he decided to work for independence, he resigned from the post of chairman of the Rangoon University's Students' Union and started his political movement as Thakhin (Master) Aung San. A look into his life shows he never wavered in his struggle for independence. After he made up his mind to take up arms against colonial rule, he became Bo Teza and General Aung San. After the Fascist revolution, he quit the Tatmadaw and continued his struggle for independence as a politician. It was evident that people would support him even if he continued as General Aung San in the political struggle for independence. But, he adhered to his principle and became the leader of the AFPFL. His stance reflects his dedication to working for the people as a politician. However, as fate would have it, our young leader was assassinated while the country was still on the path to independence. Thanks to his dutiful work and his farsightedness, the country regained its freedom, and his name has become irrevocably tied to Myanmar's history.

# Crops that need a stable market

By Shin Min

**M**YANMAR has 12.25 million hectares of sown acreage, and the agriculture sector contributes 24 per cent to the nation's GDP and 30 per cent to the exports. Despite the government's all-out efforts for the improvement of the lives of the farmers of the agro-based country, there is no steady crop market yet.

### Interest of farmers

"The government is providing loans and technology for farmers, and the farmers are working hard. But there is a market problem, and the need for price instability. So there should be a firm market for farmers," said peasant U Win Bo of Minbu Township, Magway Region.

The voice of farmers reached the parliament. At the 12<sup>th</sup> regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw, U Win Win of Minbu constituency tabled a motion, saying, "List of crops with firm market should be announced season-wise or annually. There must be harmonious cooperation between the government and the people for producing marketable crops." The proposal of U Win Win was supported by seven MPs, and later approved by the Hluttaw.

### A stable market

In his discussion in support

of the motion, U Than Lin Lin of Maese Constituency said, We are an agro-based country with suitable weather and soil for many kinds of crops species. But sadly, farmers are facing an unreliable market. So the government should find local and foreign crop markets for them.

The MP told the Lower House about the experiences of farmers of his constituency. He said, "After rice Maese farmers grow garlic. Thailand was the main buyer of garlic till 2014. So the garlic business was brisk then. But the demand dropped during the period between 2015 and 2019. Now there is no garlic market at all for local farmers. The main crops of hill regions including northern and central parts of Shan State were watermelon and maize since a decade ago. Neighbouring China is the main importer. Farmers were happy to see their thriving large watermelon fields, expecting huge profits from the exports of the fruits. Unfortunately, there were a lot of watermelon trucks at the Muse border gate, and they had nowhere to go as there was no alternate market. The main buyer was paying the price which was too low. Farmers are regularly facing this kind of trend for a long time. In fact, it is the bad outcome of an unreliable market," said U Sai Maung Pwint of Tangyan Constituency.



U Win Win (Minbu Constituency).



U Than Lin Lin (Maese Constituency).



U Sia Oo Hkam (Hsenwi Constituency).

### Supplier-oriented market

The Ministry of Commerce is implementing a market that is favourable for the sellers. In October 2017 General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of China issued an announcement on the legal permission of the export of certain kinds of fruits from Myanmar through maritime routes or border points. The Myanmar Embassy in China has been instructed to consult with General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) for the legal export of crops to the giant neighbour.

Up to March in fiscal year 2018-2019, Myanmar exported over US\$ 1.7 billion worth of agro-prod-

ucts, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The ministry is boosting national economic growth through export promotion. The government has also laid down a policy to triple the volume of exports.

### Value-added exports

The Ministry of Commerce has adopted the National level Strategic Development Plan, while reducing formalities, and encouraging the private businesses for export promotion.

"I have heard that the Ministry of Commerce has adopted the National Strategic Development Plan, while reducing formalities, and encouraging the private busi-

nesses for export promotion. Adversely, all those measures are producing backward trend as there are farmers facing hardships in their life. During Thingyan holidays, I visited residents of rural areas. According to their presentation, their main problem was that China was not buying all their

pulse exports. When India made restrictions on Myanmar beans and pulses exports in August 2017, farmers faced losses.

Farmers stopped growing pigeon pea, when there was a sharp drop in the prices. So, there was no pigeon pea for export, amidst the rising prices this year, said U Win Myint Aung of Debayin Constituency, in supporting the motion tabled by U Win Win.

The MP also pointed out the importance of harmonious cooperation between the government and the people for producing quality crops that had ready markets in accordance with the motion.

The Agriculture Department announced the points of good agriculture practice (GAP) for 15 crops including rice, corn, groundnut, beans and pulses, mango, cucumber, watermelon, avocado, chili, union and coffee.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is conducting lab test on the crops to give recommendation.

The socioeconomic condition of people in rural areas, who make up 70 per cent of the nation's population, must be improved through introducing quality crops and identifying stable markets.

maize. Tons of maize remained unsold in my constituency. They wanted to know how the problem would be solved," said U Sia Oo Hkam, in explaining the situation of his Hsenwi Constituency in support of the motion.

The parliamentary session also suggested the relevant ministry to invite foreign investments, open buying centres at the suitable towns, encourage farmers to grow marketable crops, and facilitate the harmonious cooperation between the government and the people for progress of the agriculture sector.

### Plight of bean farmers

Myanmar is also a beans and pulses exporter. So farmers want a steady market for the crops. India, China, Indonesia, Japan and European countries are buying beans and pulses from Myanmar. But 80 per cent of Myanmar beans and pulses go to India. So Myanmar is relying on India for its beans and

### National Export Strategy

The Ministry of Commerce adopted the National Export Strategy for fetching reasonable prices for crops in the international market and ensuring a stable internal and external market

"The volume of the work of producing marketable crops on national scale is enormous. Phase by phase develop of the work is required. But there still remain gaps," said Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw in clarifying the topic.

"Transparent plans in connection with growing marketable crops should be made public for enabling farmers to choose the suitable crops," suggested U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu Constituency.

The socioeconomic condition of people in rural areas, who make up 70 per cent of the nation's population, must be improved through introducing quality crops and identifying stable markets.

(Translated by TMT)



PHOTO: BANRO HTAN (IPRD)

## Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

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

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

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

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

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## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). - Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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## New Zealand bans single-use plastic bags

WELLINGTON (New Zealand)— New Zealand officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags Monday, introducing hefty fines for businesses that continue to provide them.

Plastic pollution has become a growing global concern, with a million birds and more than 100,000 marine mammals injured or killed every year by becoming entangled in packaging or ingesting it through the food chain.

Companies that break New Zealand's ban will face heavy penalties, including fines of up to NZ\$100,000 (\$67,000).

"New Zealanders are proud of our country's clean, green reputation and want to help ensure we live up to it," environment minister Eugenie Sage said.

"Ending the use of single-use plastic shopping bags helps do that."

Under the new rules, thin plastic single-use shopping bags can no longer be supplied — but the law allows reusable carriers to continue being provided.

The legislation — which was announced in August last year and came into force on Monday — will have little practical effect, as New Zealand's major supermarkets have already voluntarily banned the bags.

However, Sage said it was putting the issue of recycling on the agenda.

"(The ban) doesn't go far enough, but what is really great is it's started the conversation," she told Radio New Zealand.

"People are now talking about single-use plastics and



Companies that break New Zealand's plastic bag ban will face heavy penalties. **PHOTO: AFP**

how we can phase them out."

Britain's Royal Statistical Society estimates 90.5 per cent of all plastic waste — some 6,300 million metric tons — has never been recycled and is either in landfill or accumulating in the natural environment.

If current production and waste management trends continue, the ocean of plastic waste is estimated to almost double to 12,000 million metric tons by 2050. More than 80 countries have already introduced bag bans similar to New Zealand's, according to the UN Environment Programme.

While it praised such initiatives, it said more needed to be done to minimise other sources of plastic waste including microbeads and single-use items such as straws.

Canada last month announced plans to ban disposable plastic items such as straws, cutlery and stir sticks from 2021.

The Pacific nation of Vanu-

atu will implement a ban in December on disposable diapers, which not only have non-biodegradable plastic linings but also use chemical absorbents which leach into the environment.

Sage said the New Zealand government was committing NZ\$40 million (\$27 million) to find ways to reuse plastic waste instead of sending it to landfill overseas. "We have been sending our waste offshore for too long," she said. "China and other countries refusing to take our waste is the wake-up call we need."

The issue of wealthy developed nations using poorer countries as trash dumps was highlighted this week when Canada had to accept back tonnes of rubbish it shipped to the Philippines years ago.

For years, China received the bulk of scrap plastic from around the world, but closed its doors to foreign refuse last year in an effort to clean up its environment. — AFP ■

## Monsoon rains soak India's financial capital

MUMBAI (India) — Heavy rains flooded parts of India's financial capital of Mumbai on Monday, as the country's four-month summer monsoon swung into full force.

Children were seen wading through waist-high waters as they made their way to school, while some motorists were forced to get out and push their vehicles through low-lying streets.

Trains on Mumbai's colonial-era rail network, a lifeline for the city's 20 million residents, were delayed due to waterlogged tracks, and traffic moved even more slowly than usual.

Mumbai's streets regularly flood during the monsoon, which runs from June until September or October, and which provides India with most of its annual rainfall.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said 91 millimetres (3.6 inches) of rain fell in Mumbai in the 24 hours up to 08:30 am (0300 GMT) on Monday.

In 2005, 950 millimetres (37 inches) of rain fell on the coastal

metropolis in just 24 hours, killing more than 500 people.

In August 2017, intense rainfall brought the commercial hub to a virtual standstill for two days and left at least 10 people dead.

Activists say Mumbai's susceptibility to floods has worsened in recent years due to a construction boom that is trying to keep up with the city's swelling population.

Much of Mumbai's mangrove cover, which is extremely effective in helping to drain water, has been destroyed over the past decade to make way for glitzy high-rises.

According to various studies, anywhere between 40 to 50 per cent of the city's population live in slums, which become a sea of blue tarpaulin every monsoon as residents try to keep out the rain.

The downpour follows a period in which large parts of the country endured weeks of sweltering heat — with temperatures rising above 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in the desert state of Rajasthan. — AFP ■



Many streets in India's financial hub of Mumbai were flooded by the monsoon downpour. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Paris bans old diesel vehicles to tackle pollution

PARIS (France) — Paris on Monday banned all diesel vehicles aged 13 years or over from the city centre, the latest move in a campaign to tackle pollution on the city's streets.

Diesel vehicles over 18 years old and petrol vehicles over 21 years old are already banned in Paris — a measure that was extended Monday to a new "low-emissions" belt surrounding the city.

Central Paris meanwhile went further by also banning diesel cars, trucks and motorbikes aged 13 years and over — a move aimed at cleaning up the air in a city that is regularly shrouded in smog.

Motorists who flout the traffic restrictions in central Paris,

which were trialled during last week's heatwave, face a 68-euro (\$77) fine, rising to 135 euros for trucks and buses.

A Greenpeace report listed Paris as the worst western European capital for small particle air pollution in 2018, with levels higher than cities such as the Philippines capital Manila or the Colombian capital Bogota.

Beyond the city's boundaries, the authorities are also clamping down on polluters in the 47 districts that ring the central Paris region, which are home to around 5.5 million people.

Unlike in central Paris, however, offenders in the suburbs, where car dependency is greater, face no punishment for the first two years of the ban.

The government agreed to a two-year punishment-free "learning period" after resistance from some mayors who feared that the

ban could rekindle the "yellow vest" protests, which erupted late last year among motorists furious over fuel price hikes.

The protests quickly escalated into an anti-government revolt, marked by weekly demonstrations in cities around France that have regularly turned violent. Reflecting on the lessons learnt, a senior official for the greater Paris area, Patrick Ollier, told reporters last week: "We don't want to force the environment on people, but rather that it be accepted as the outcome of dialogue." The subject of air quality has become a burning issue for governments across the EU, where green parties made strong gains in May's elections to the European Parliament. In November, Madrid followed a handful of other European cities that have restricted traffic in their centres. — AFP ■



Activists stage a "die-in" on 4 June 2019 to denounce the air quality outside the French National Assembly in Paris. **PHOTO: AFP**

# EU leaders adjourn summit to break jobs stalemate

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — Sleep-deprived European Union leaders adjourned marathon talks until Tuesday amid stalemate over filling the bloc's top jobs in the wake of May elections that have fragmented the EU political landscape.

The 28 EU leaders are trying to agree on who will steer the bloc over the coming years through the looming challenges of Brexit and the rise of populist parties in Europe.

Despite more than 18 hours of talks since Sunday, they needed more time to debate new proposals to overcome opposition to a Franco-German compromise on who will be the new chief of the European Commission, the bloc's executive arm. "We are giving an image of Europe that is not serious," French President Emmanuel Macron told journalists after the leaders adjourned until 11 am (0900 GMT) on Tuesday.

With challenges from climate change to illiberal democracy, the EU must reform the way it takes decisions and avoid becoming "hostage" to small groups, Macron said. After the talks adjourned, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she still "hoped that with good will a compromise will be feasible".

The compromise Merkel and Macron forged on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan on Saturday called for Dutch Social Democrat Frans Timmermans to head the commission, rather than his conservative rival German Manfred Weber. Weber would instead be put forward for election as speaker of the European Parliament, where he leads the largest political bloc. A liberal candidate would succeed Tusk as president of the European Council of national leaders.

But when Merkel put this to fellow centre-right leaders in the European People's Party (EPP) several rebelled, and the summit was thrown into crisis as heads of government shuttled between side meetings late into Monday morning.

## 'Strong consensus'

The EPP is still the biggest bloc in the European Parliament, but no longer the dominant force it was before the May elections.

The liberals, which include Macron supporters, and Greens are increasingly assertive trying to choose the top jobs after they made huge gains in those elections.

Even though the Social Democrat bloc also lost ground,

Timmermans, the commission's current vice president, emerged as a compromise candidate to head the powerful commission.

"There is a strong consensus for Timmermans but the situation is very volatile. I'm more optimistic than I was three hours ago," another European source said. The latest idea is to have Timmermans head the commission, and the EPP's Kristalina Georgieva, a Bulgarian, heading the European Council, several European sources told AFP.

They also want a liberal as the diplomatic chief to replace outgoing commissioner Federica Mogherini of Italy. That could either be Belgian prime minister Charles Michel or Danish politician Margrethe Vestager, who currently oversees anti-trust policy on the commission.

But Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov later told his country's news media in Brussels that Georgieva was no longer in the race for the council.

## 'Historical mistake'

The stalemate has already lasted for weeks. An EU summit on 20-21 June failed to resolve differences over candidates.

Timmermans, as vice-president of the commission for the



Even a working dinner to get talks underway did not go to plan, starting several hours late. PHOTO: AFP

past five years, has made enemies in the east of the EU, but it is not clear whether they have enough support to block his nomination. Timmermans spearheaded EU efforts to impose its vision of the rule of law on authoritarian-leaning eastern members and is firmly opposed by Hungary and Poland.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, in a letter to EPP leader Joseph Daul, said appointing Timmermans would be a "serious or even historical mistake".

Polish Premier Mateusz Morawiecki said: "Frans Timmermans is a candidate who deeply divides Europe and he certainly doesn't understand Central Eu-

rope." Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May is attending her last EU summit. A spokesman said she would play a "constructive role" and would not abstain from any vote.

For a nominee to go forward, he or she must secure the backing of 21 of the 28 EU leaders, representing 65 per cent of the bloc's population. The European Parliament is due to decide on its new speaker in its inaugural session on Wednesday, whatever the outcome at the Brussels summit.

If the EU leaders settle on a Commission candidate before then, the European Parliament could debate the issue during a session in mid-July. —AFP ■

## OPEC moves towards output cap extension as meeting kicks off

VIENNA (Austria)— OPEC and its oil-producing allies shifted Monday towards extending their daily output caps, sending oil prices racing higher before the outcome of the cartel's official gathering.

Ministers from the 14-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) met in Vienna to discuss output, before gathering a day later for OPEC+ — which is a grouping of 24 oil-producing countries that includes Russia and together accounts for almost half of global crude.

The enlarged crude producing club had already decided in December to remove 1.2 million barrels per day from the market to bolster prices and soak up excess supplies.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Arabia agreed on Saturday to extend the deal by between six and nine months, but the move provoked consternation from some quarters.

The news nevertheless fired New York oil prices above \$60 per barrel, with sentiment boosted



OPEC and its oil-producer allies decided in December to trim daily crude output by 1.2 million barrels. PHOTO: AFP

also by the China-US trade truce agreed at the G20 in Osaka.

"Everyone supported the proposition to extend for nine months the limits agreed in December," said Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak ahead of the cartel's main meeting.

Saudi Arabia's energy minister Khalid al-Falih was meanwhile swift to deflect criticism from archfoe Iran that OPEC could "die" in the face of Riyadh and Moscow's Osaka deal.

## Reports of OPEC death 'greatly exaggerated'

Falih told reporters before OPEC's main meeting: "I think OPEC is more vibrant than ever. As Mark Twain said once, the reports of OPEC's death have been repeated many times, and every time it was ... greatly exaggerated.

"We believe that oil as a commodity is unique. It's the blood of the global economy. Ideally every producer should be around the

table with us today."

He added: "Saudi Arabia and Russia are the largest producers, we are delivering the largest cuts, we (...) agree first and then discuss our agreement with our colleagues from other countries."

Iran had earlier slammed the Osaka move, arguing that OPEC did not simply exist to rubber-stamp a decision made outside of the cartel, but has however voiced its support for the extension. The Islamic republic, with production severely hit by US sanctions, is however exempt from the December cuts agreement along with crisis-stricken pair Venezuela and Libya.

United Arab Emirates Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei predicted that OPEC would agree to the plan amid the brighter post-G20 demand outlook. "We in the United Arab Emirates see that nine months would be more appropriate and we look forward to a healthier demand in the second half of the year after the good results from the G20 meeting," Mazrouei said.—AFP ■

## German military helicopter crash kills at least one

BERLIN — A German military helicopter crashed on Monday in Lower Saxony, killing at least one person, according to local media.

The Bild newspaper reported that the helicopter crashed early afternoon in Aerzen. The person killed in the accident was the pilot. Another person has been seriously injured. The cause of the accident is still unclear. The crash site is located near a forest area, said a spokesman for the community Aerzen. There were fires broke out and the fire department is in action.

The International Helicopter Training Center in Bueckeburg is about 30 kilometers from the crash site. According to the information of the German Press Agency (DPA), the area around the crashed helicopter was cordoned off. The crash came after two German air force Eurofighters collided with each other in the air last week during exercises above the state of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.—Xinhua ■

# Global stocks rally on Trump-Xi breakthrough

LONDON (United Kingdom)— Stock markets surged Monday after US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping agreed on the sidelines of the G20 summit to restart trade talks, reviving hopes of an end to their tariff war.

Trump's historic visit to North Korea also at the weekend, where he met leader Kim Jong Un, further soothed geopolitical concerns and propelled the dollar, as investors shunned havens, notably gold. Oil prices also rose after OPEC and its oil producing allies appeared firmly on course to extend their oil output caps.

"European markets are uniformly higher, particularly the heavily China-exposed DAX" index in Frankfurt, noted Fiona Cincotta, a senior market analyst at City Index trading group.



Donald Trump and Xi Jinping's agreement to resume trade talks has fanned a rally in equities and sent gold prices lower. PHOTO: AFP

## 'Nicely higher'

German stocks were supported also by official data showing unemployment in Germany held steady in June. US stocks were also higher, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average up around 125 points in

the late New York morning having, however, given up about half of its opening gains. The broader S&P index even set a new record high at the opening.

However Wall Street optimism may take a hit after fresh data on Monday showed that US manufac-

turing activity last month fell to its lowest level in nearly three years.

"US stocks are nicely higher in early action to begin the third quarter, with global markets rallying on the weekend's G-20 summit in Japan that delivered a trade truce between the US

and China that agreed to hold off on implementing further tariffs," analysts at Charles Schwab said.

Trump said negotiations to resolve the standoff between the US and China — the world's two biggest economies — were "back on track", adding that he would hold off imposing threatened new levies on Chinese goods.

Trump also signalled a softer position on Chinese telecom giant Huawei, a major bone of contention in the row, by saying US companies could sell equipment "where there's no great national security problem". China meanwhile pledged to buy more US agricultural machinery.

## 'Exhausted sigh of relief'

"Investors heaved a massive, but exhausted, sigh of relief that both the US and China opted to

push the reset button and restart trade negotiations amidst other pleasantries — now we'll have to see whether it all sticks," said Stephen Innes at Vanguard Markets.

Elsewhere on Monday, the WTI oil price jumped back above \$60 per barrel for the first time in a month after OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia and non-cartel producer Russia said they would extend caps on crude output. "Everyone supported the proposition to extend for nine months the limits agreed in December," Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak told reporters after a gathering of oil ministers and before the cartel's main meeting later Monday. Oil prices gave up some of their gains, however, as analysts suspected OPEC and its allies couldn't put to rest all of the worries hanging over the oil market.—AFP ■

## Viet Nam and EU sign free trade agreement

HANOI (Viet Nam)—The European Union and Viet Nam on Sunday signed a long-awaited free trade deal that will slash duties on almost all goods as fears grow over mounting global protectionism.

The signing comes amid worldwide trade turmoil, with a dragging US-China row and Britain's impending exit from the European Union casting a dark cloud over global growth.

The deal was hailed by EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom as "an important milestone" between the trading partners.

"We want to make sure that EU trade in this region has a positive impact so we have enshrined high standards in the deal," she said at the signing ceremony Sunday. The deal will come into force only once it is ratified, which could come by the end of the year.

It comes on the heels of a landmark agreement on Friday between the EU and South American trade bloc Mercosur that will link 800 million people in what will be one the world's largest regional commercial accords. Vietnam's export-led economy has largely been buoyed by free trade, and

open access to the European market is expected to boost its main deliveries to the bloc, namely textiles, shoes, smartphones and computer parts.

European countries are also eager to tap into Viet Nam's market of 95 million people and its fast-mushrooming consumer class. Viet Nam has seen some short-term gains from the trade spat as some companies shift from China into friendlier markets. But analysts warn that a weaker China or US could ultimately dent economies like Viet Nam that largely rely on

exports to the world's two biggest economies. With exports from Viet Nam to US soaring amid the trade spat, US President Donald Trump last week threatened to slap tariffs on the manufacturing hub, calling it "the single worst abuser of everybody".

The EU-Viet Nam free trade pact will eventually see duties slashed on 99 per cent of Europe's imports from Viet Nam. Billed as a so-called high quality deal, it also includes rules around labour rights and environmental and intellectual property protections.—AFP ■

## Abe, Erdogan agree to step up negotiations on Japan-Turkey trade pact

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan agreed Monday to accelerate negotiations on an economic partnership agreement between their countries.

In a meeting in Tokyo, the two leaders also ex-

changed views on the situation in the Middle East as tensions flare between the United States and Iran over Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry. Abe said in the meeting, their first since December last year, that there is "great poten-

tial for cooperation with Turkey, a major regional power," citing education, disaster prevention and energy as areas to explore.

Erdogan earlier in the day said he wants to conclude an EPA with Japan "at an early date in 2019." Meeting with sen-

ior officials of the Japan Business Federation, the country's most powerful business lobby known as Keidanren, he stressed the importance of enhancing bilateral economic ties as Turkey hopes to boost agricultural exports to Japan.—Kyodo News ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V LE LI

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LE LI VOY. NO. (151) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of T.M.I.T-1 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 COSCO SHIPPING  
SPECIALIZED CARRIERS CO., LTD

Phone No: 2301928

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V VENTO GRECALE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V VENTO GRECALE VOY. NO. (05/19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-7-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING  
PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

# Trump returns to critics after historic N.Korea stop

WASHINGTON (United States)— US President Donald Trump has returned from a historic, impromptu stop on North Korean soil to a skeptical Washington, with critics saying he is normalizing a nuclear-armed Pyongyang. In the sort of made-for-television, down-to-the-wire diplomacy relished by the former reality television host, Trump walked a few paces across the Demilitarized Zone on Sunday to greet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a day after the US leader proposed a meeting over Twitter.

Trump, the first sitting US president to enter North Korea, said it was an “honor” to step across the 66-year-old military divide, while Pyongyang’s state media lauded the day as “amazing.”

In practical terms, Trump said that he and Kim agreed to start working-level talks on a denuclearization deal, ending a standstill in place since the two leaders’ second summit, in Hanoi in late February, ended without an agreement.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters as he flew back that

the talks will start “probably around the middle of the month.”

US officials say they want to lay more groundwork before another full-fledged summit, although they acknowledge that mid-level North Korean officials have little room to negotiate on Kim’s cherished nuclear program.

The New York Times, which did not identify its sources, said the Trump administration was considering an accord that would freeze but not dismantle North Korea’s nuclear program, effectively accepting it as a nuclear state and acknowledging that it will not budge further.

Such a deal would be at odds with the “final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea” that Pompeo has insisted upon — and far less than the nuclear deal former president Barack Obama reached with Iran, from which Trump pulled out, calling it “terrible.” John Bolton, Trump’s national security adviser, denied the report and said that he and his staff had never heard of the idea of settling for a nuclear freeze.

“This was a reprehensible attempt by

someone to box in the President. There should be consequences,” Bolton tweeted.

## ‘Not a photo-op’

But critics said that Trump was already spending precious diplomatic capital by meeting Kim on his own terms and inviting him to the White House.

Rights group say that the North Korean regime holds tens of thousands of political prisoners in labor camps, with many locked up for even minor acts seen as disrespecting Kim. “Let’s be clear. Trump isn’t negotiating with North Korea. He is normalizing North Korea,” said Senator Chris Murphy, a Democrat. Several Democratic presidential candidates hoping to defeat Trump next year also harshly criticized his diplomatic skills.

“Our President shouldn’t be squandering American influence on photo-ops and exchanging love letters with a ruthless dictator,” said Senator Elizabeth Warren, referring to correspondence including a birthday card over which Trump voiced delight.

—AFP ■



US President Donald Trump and North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un talk before a meeting in the Demilitarized Zone. PHOTO: AFP



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



**Invitation for Bids**

Request for Expressions of Interest No: MYWS/20.0

Contract No: MYWS/20.0

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

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

Attention: Project Manager  
**MUSIP Project Management Office,  
PMO office: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 3 storey building  
Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC)  
26<sup>th</sup> Street, Between 71<sup>st</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets  
Chan Aye Thazan Township  
Mandalay**  
Country: Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Telephone: +95-2-4061631;  
Email address: pmomusip.ext@gmail.com

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE  
Invitation to Bid for purchasing of 1040 MW from**

**Gas Engine Power Plant/ Power Barge/ Power Ship on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own Basis**

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

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

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

## Protesters ransack Hong Kong parliament on China handover anniversary

HONG KONG (China)—Hundreds of protesters stormed Hong Kong's parliament late Monday as the territory marked its China handover anniversary, ransacking the building and daubing its walls with graffiti as the city plunged into unprecedented depths of political chaos.

The financial hub has been rocked by three weeks of record-breaking demonstrations against a hugely unpopular bill that would allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

Tens of thousands of democracy activists staged another peaceful march on Monday afternoon, calling for the city's pro-Beijing leader to step down and reverse what they see as years of sliding freedoms.

But that rally was overshadowed by small groups of mainly young, masked protesters who managed to breach the legislature after clashes with riot police, ending two weeks of relative calm.

Once inside they tore down portraits of the city's leaders, hoisted a British colonial era flag in the main chamber and sprayed the city crest with black

paint.

"There are no violent protesters, just tyranny," one banner that was hoisted above the podium read.

Riot police appeared to have abandoned the building, which had been on lockdown.

Anti-government demonstrators breached the complex after hours of attempting to smash into the building, using a metal cart as a battering ram and wielding steel poles to prize open gaps in the reinforced windows.

Many of those protesting said they felt compelled to take the action because the city's pro-Beijing leaders had ignored public sentiment following marches against the loathed extradition law.

"We have marched, staged sit-ins... but the government has remained unmoved," Joey, a 26-year-old protester, told AFP as he walked over shattered glass inside the building. "We have to show the government that we won't just sit here and do nothing."

A protester surnamed Cheung, 24, added: "We know that

this is breaking the law, but we have no choice".

### Years of fears

The past three weeks of rallies are the latest expression of growing fears that China is stamping down on the city's freedoms and culture with the help of the finance hub's pro-Beijing leaders.

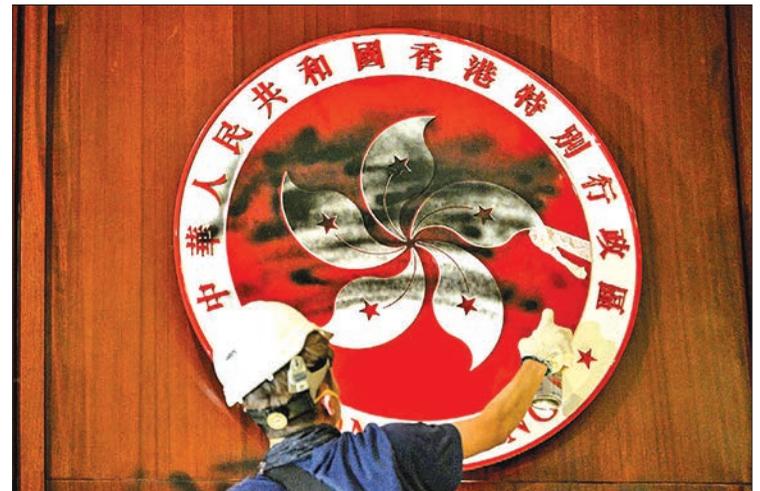
But the increasingly hard-line tactics from some protesters have alienated some, with a large counter-rally in support of the police taking place on Sunday.

Although Hong Kong returned from British to Chinese rule on 1 July, 1997, it is still administered separately under an arrangement known as "one country, two systems".

The city enjoys rights and liberties unseen on the autocratic mainland, but many residents fear Beijing is already reneging on that deal.

Activists have organised a march every handover anniversary, calling for greater democratic freedoms — such as the right to elect the city's leader.

They have mustered large



The Hong Kong emblem was spray painted with black ink by protesters inside the chamber. **PHOTO: AFP**

crowds in recent years — including a two-month occupation of parts of the city centre in 2014 — but have failed to win any concessions from Beijing.

"When I heard that there are clashes outside (parliament), I was very worried," Amy Siu, a 37-year-old accountant taking part in the rally, told AFP. "I'm worried about the youngsters' safety. I hope they can be rational."

This year's rally is framed by unprecedented anti-government protests of the past three weeks that have drawn millions,

with the public angry over police use of tear gas and rubber bullets.

The spark for the current wave of protests was an attempt by chief executive Carrie Lam to pass the Beijing-backed extradition law, which she has now postponed following the public backlash. But she has resisted calls to permanently shelve the law or step down.

As a result the demonstrations have morphed into a wider movement against her administration and Beijing.

—AFP ■

## Japan fisherman catch first whales as commercial hunts resume

KUSHIRO (Japan)—Japanese whalers brought ashore their first catches Monday as they resumed commercial hunting after a three-decade hiatus, brushing aside criticism from activists who say the practice is cruel and outdated.

Five vessels set sail under grey morning skies from northern Japan's Kushiro with their horns blaring and grey tarps thrown over their harpoons. By Monday afternoon they were back with their catch: two grey minke whales.

The hunts come after Japan decided to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission, a move slammed by activists and anti-whaling countries but welcomed by Japanese whaling communities.

"Today is the best day," said Yoshifumi Kai, head of the Japan Small-Type Whaling Association, as the ocean giants were hauled ashore.

"It was worth waiting for 31 years," he said with a smile.

One of the whales, more



Japanese whalers caught two minke off the northern shores of the country as the first commercial hunts resumed. **PHOTO: AFP**

than eight metres (27 feet) long, was hoisted from a ship onto a truck and driven to a warehouse.

Inside, whalers hosed it down with water and then lined up to pour ceremonial cups of the Japanese liquor sake over the animal — a ritual to purify and celebrate the catch.

Vessels left from other ports elsewhere in Japan on Monday, including in Shimomoseki in the west of the country,

and whalers and government officials hailed the resumption of the hunts.

"I'm a bit nervous but happy that we can start whaling," 23-year-old Hideki Abe, a whaler from the Miyagi region in northern Japan, told AFP before leaving from Kushiro.

"I don't think young people know how to cook and eat whale meat any more. I want more people to try to taste it at least once." —AFP ■

## Philippine defense chief voices concern over suicide bombings in Philippines

MANILA — Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana voiced concern on Monday over the frequency of suicide bomb attacks in the Philippines.

Lorenzana said the twin bombing attacks, committed in broad daylight at an army camp in Indanan, a town in Sulu province in the southern Philippines Friday last week, was "obviously a suicide bombing" and has raised the level of extremism in the Philippines.

The twin attacks, carried out by two motorcycle riding suicide bombers, left seven killed, including three soldiers, and 22 others injured.

Lorenzana said the incident was the third suicide attack in the Philippines. "This is the third one so it's becoming an occurrence and we are very much concerned about this," he said.

The first suicide bomb at-

tack was recorded on 31 July, 2018 when a powerful bomb exploded in a van the troops were inspecting at a military checkpoint in Lamitan, a city in the island province of Basilan. A soldier, five militiamen, four villagers and the driver of the van were killed in that incident.

Lorenzana said at the time that the bomb-laden van driven by the lone Moroccan terror suspect was intended for a planned "feeding program" in the city's plaza that will be participated in by 4,000 children.

The second suicide bombing attack happened on 27 January this year. At least 27 people were killed and many more injured as a result of the bomb attacks at a Roman Catholic cathedral on the remote Jolo Island in Sulu province. Authorities said Indonesian suicide bombers carried out that attack. —Xinhua ■

# At least 50 children wounded in Taliban attack on Kabul

KABUL (Afghanistan)—At least 50 children were among more than 100 people wounded Monday when the Taliban detonated a powerful car bomb in Kabul, officials said, the latest deadly attack in one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a child.

Save the Children led international condemnation of the blast targeting a defence ministry building, which sent a plume of smoke into the air during rush hour and shook buildings nearly two kilometres (1.2 miles) away.

It was followed by gunmen storming a nearby building and triggering a gun battle with special forces in the PuliMahmood Khan neighbourhood of the Afghan capital.

Officials said all five attackers have been killed and a clearing operation is ongoing.

At least three people have been killed, including one child, and 116 wounded, according to the health ministry, though that figure is expected to change once the clearing operation has been completed.

Among the wounded were 50 children, the education min-



Wounded Afghan men receive treatment at the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital following a car bomb attack in Kabul. PHOTO: AFP

istry said in a statement, adding that most had been hurt by flying glass and were in stable condition.

Some social media images purportedly taken at a hospital showed wounded, stunned children in school uniforms, still clutching books as they arrived for treatment. In its statement, the education ministry said five schools had been partially damaged, and asked “all sides involved in fighting to guarantee the safety of students, teachers, education workers and schools”.

Such an attack was “utterly

deplorable”, Save the Children said in a statement, warning that “Children’s smaller bodies sustain more serious injuries than adults” and that the trauma of such attacks can stay with them for years to come.

The Taliban claimed the attack, which came just two days after the insurgents began a seventh round of talks with the US in Qatar as Washington eyes a breakthrough before Afghanistan’s September presidential election.

“We were sitting inside the office when the world turned up-

side down on us,” said Zaher Usman, an employee at a branch of the culture ministry, which he said stands just 150 metres (yards) from the blast.

“When I opened my eyes, the office was filled with smoke and dust and everything was broken, my colleagues were screaming,” Usman told AFP by telephone.

AFP reporters could hear gunshots and multiple smaller explosions for hours after the initial blast, before the clearing operation was announced. The interior ministry said 210 civilians had been rescued from buildings nearby.

## Brief lockdown

Shams Amini, a spokesman for the Afghan Football Federation, told AFP that the blast occurred near their HQ gates, and said some colleagues had been injured.

Nearby Shamshad TV station, which was attacked in 2017, aired images of broken glass and damage to its offices. “I was terrified,” Shamshad anchor Hashmat Stanikzai told AFP. A media watchdog said seven Shamshad journalists were among the

wounded.

The attack came as the US was set to begin a third day of negotiations with the militants in Doha. With the attack still ongoing, the Taliban spokesman in Doha again insisted that the insurgents will not negotiate with Kabul. “Once the timeline for the withdrawal of foreign forces is set in the presence of international observers, then we will begin the talks to the Afghan sides, but we will not talk to the Kabul administration as a government,” Suhail Shaheen tweeted.

A potential deal would see the US agree to withdraw its troops after more than 17 years in Afghanistan, igniting deep concerns among Afghans who fear Washington will rush for the exits and allow the militants to return to some semblance of power.

In return, the Taliban would guarantee the country would never again become a safe haven for violent extremism, as happened with Al-Qaeda before the September 11, 2001 attacks. However, US officials have insisted that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”, including intra-Afghan talks.—AFP ■

## Kenya, South Sudan ink deals to shore up trade ties

NAIROBI — Kenya and South Sudan on Monday inked agreements aimed at deepening trade ties between the two neighboring countries.

The deals which were signed in Nairobi between visiting South Sudan President Salva Kiir and his host Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta will also see the two countries set up a joint border commission for the management of the common border.

Under the agreements, Kenya will hold a trade expo in Juba in November to help deepen trade ties between the two nations and also work as a show of confidence in South Sudan’s economy.

“The expo will not only showcase Kenyan products but also reciprocate by exposing South Sudan’s products to Kenyan business people,” Kenyatta told a joint news conference after holding bilateral meeting with Kiir.

Kenyatta said his government has also agreed to allocate land for a dry port to South Sudan at the Naivasha

Special Economic Zone and for a logistics hub near the new Lamu Port.

Kenyatta assured South Sudan that Kenya is fast tracking the completion of an ambitious Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPPSET) corridor project, an economic and transport corridor that stretches from Kenya’s coastal Lamu Port to South Sudan and Ethiopia, including transnational highways, oil pipeline and the Lamu Port, among others, to link the two countries.

“The first berth (of the Lamu Port) will be ready this August while Berths 2 and 3 are expected to be completed within the year 2020. I will invite Your Excellency, with other regional leaders, to inspect the Lamu Project in due course,” said Kenyatta.

He said Kenya and South Sudan will put more efforts in completing transnational highways including Eldoret-Lokichoggio-Nadapal-Kapoeta-Torit-Juba Road. —Xinhua ■

## Iran says it exceeds enriched uranium stockpile limit

TEHRAN (Iran)—Iran said Monday it had exceeded a limit on its enriched uranium reserves under a 2015 nuclear deal that has edged towards collapse as the US imposes a “maximum pressure” campaign.

“Iran has crossed the 300-kilogramme limit based on its plan” announced in May, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told semi-official news agency ISNA.

The United States withdrew from the nuclear deal last year and reimposed biting sanctions on Iran’s crucial oil exports and financial transactions as well as other sectors.

Tehran, which has sought to pressure the remaining parties to save the deal, on 8 May announced it would no longer respect the limit set on its enriched uranium and heavy water stockpiles. It also threatened to go further and abandon more nuclear commitments unless the remaining partners — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — helped it to circumvent



Iran has threatened to abandon more nuclear commitments. PHOTO: AFP

sanctions, especially to sell its oil.

In his comments published Monday, Zarif said Iran had set out its intentions “very clearly” in May. The International Atomic Energy Agency on Monday confirmed Iran had exceeded the limit that the deal had imposed on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium (LEU).

The IAEA “verified on 1 July that Iran’s total enriched uranium stockpile exceeded 300 kilogrammes”, a spokesperson said.

The EU said Friday after a

crisis meeting aimed at salvaging the deal that a special payment mechanism set up to help Iran skirt the sanctions, known as INSTEX, was finally “operational” and that the first transactions were being processed.

But “the Europeans’ efforts were not enough, therefore Iran will go ahead with its announced measures,” Zarif said.

INSTEX, which “is just the beginning” of their commitments, has not yet been fully implemented, he added.—AFP ■



Thet Htar Thuzar clinches the championship title of women's single series in Benin. **PHOTO: THET HTAR THUZAR FB**

## Thet Htar Thuzar claims one more championship title in Benin

Thet Htar Thuzar of Myanmar claimed the championship title of the World Badminton Federation's women's single series in Benin, bringing her international championship tally to five.

The tournament was held in Benin from June 27-30.

After defeating Peru's Daniela Macias, she added the title to the four she already has — the Egypt International Badminton

Series in 2018, the Uganda Badminton International Series 2019, Kenya Future Series 2019 and the FLEET Mauritius International 2019. — Shine Htet Zaw

(Translated by TTN)

## Monaco sign Martins from Atletico Madrid

MADRID (Spain) — Atletico Madrid have agreed to turn Gelson Martins' loan move to Monaco into a permanent transfer, the two clubs announced on Monday.

Martins has signed a five-year contract with Monaco after playing for the French team from late January until the end of last season. "AS Monaco is thrilled to announce the signing of Gelson Martins," Monaco wrote on Twitter.

"Originally on loan from Atletico Madrid, the attacking midfielder has put pen to paper on a five-year permanent deal."

An Atletico Madrid statement read: "Atletico Madrid and AS Monaco have reached an agreement for the transfer of

Gelson Martins.

"The midfielder moved to Monaco on 27 January and, after an agreement was reached, will remain with the Monte Carlo club."

Martins signed for Atletico last summer from Sporting Lisbon but only played 12 competitive

matches and has said he struggled to adapt to Diego Simeone's style.

The 24-year-old played a more prominent role with Monaco, scoring four goals in 16 Ligue 1 games during his loan spell and helping the team steer clear of relegation. —AFP ■



Gelson Martins has made his move to Monaco permanent. **PHOTO: AFP**

## FIFA's Technical Director meets with MFF's officials

THE Fédération Internationale de Football Association-FIFA's Technical Director Mr Dato' Yap Nyim Keong met with officials from Myanmar Football Federation-MFF at the MFF's Office in Yangon yesterday.

The Technical Director of FIFA and MFF's officials are to hold meetings until 3 July to discuss matters related to FIFA Forward 2.0 Development Programme and new rules.

During the yester-

day's meeting, Mr Dato' Yap Nyim Keong met with MFF's general secretary U Ko Ko Thein, joint-secretary U Tin Myint Aung, technical director Mr Aris, and discussed MFF's technical development.

In the evening, Mr Dato' Yap visited the MFF Futsal Indoor Stadium which is under construction as part of FIFA Forward Programme.

On 2 July (today), the Technical Director of FIFA, MFF's general secretary

and joint-secretary will hold meeting with youth development in-charge, futsal in-charge and coaches of selection teams.

On 3 July, the Technical Director of FIFA will meet with MFF's general secretary and joint-secretary to review their previous meetings. The visit of the Technical Director is said that it is a part of FIFA's development programmes for its member countries to sharpen their effectiveness and accuracy. — Kyaw Khin

## Second seed Osaka crashes out in first round of Wimbledon

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Naomi Osaka's bid to win a third Grand Slam title came to a premature end on Monday when she lost to Kazakh Yulia Putintseva, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 in the first round.

The 21-year-old Japanese said she had felt a weight lifted from her after losing her number one world ranking but it did not show against a talented opponent on Centre Court.

Indeed Putintseva simply franked the form

from the recent Birmingham tournament where she had beaten the US Open and Australian Open champion in the second round.

Russia-born Putintseva had never been on Centre Court before and admitted to being taken aback by its circular shape, although she was far from over-awed in the manner she played.

"I did a good job out there and I was fighting great," said the 24-year-old. "It is amazing."

Putintseva said she was getting more accustomed to grass, although, she still feels clay is her best surface, and added having a good record against Osaka counted for nothing when they walked out onto Centre Court.

"Honestly every match is a battle I don't know what is going to happen," she said after her third win in three against the Japanese.

"I do my best, that is all I can do." —AFP ■



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