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Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents a souvenir to Vice President Mr. Vincent Meriton at dinner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Henry Van Thio hosts dinner for Seychelles Vice President and wife

VICE President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan hosted a dinner for the Seychelles delegation led by Vice President Mr. Vincent Meriton and wife Mrs. Daniella Hoareau at the Park

Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. The Seychelles delegation was on an unofficial visit to Myanmar.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan cordially greeted the Seychelles

delegation led by the Vice President and wife.

Afterwards the Vice President and wife had dinner together with the visiting Seychelles Vice President and wife.

Also present at the dinner

were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, high ranking officials and officials.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Commerce Ministry, MRF to investigate destruction of rice at Ivory Coast

THE Ministry of Commerce will investigate the destruction of 18,000 tons of Myanmar rice deemed 'unfit for consumption' at Cote d'Ivoire.

"We will hold a meeting with the organizations and companies concerned with rice export to look into the case," said U Khin Maung Lwin, Assistant Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

"We will carry out the necessary steps and study this case in detail, so that we can prevent such incidents in the future, and determine what type of cooperation is required between the ministries and organizations concerned," he added.

"Rice from Myanmar is exported under the FOB system, and the exporter is not liable for the quality of rice being transported on a ship, according to the system," he said, adding that a third-party has to check and scrutinize the rice on board.

The rice destroyed at Ivory Coast was not directly sold by a Myanmar company. It was reportedly exported by a Myanmar company through the FOB system to a Singaporean company, which exported the rice to Africa.

A total of 22,000 tons of rice was exported to Guinea, Africa, in October last year, and about 4,000 tons of rice was unloaded there. But, the remaining 18,000 tons of rice was rejected in Guinea and Togo.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets local people in Myawady



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with locals in Htichaya Village-tract at the Htichaya Village monastery in Myawady District, yesterday. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than who was in Myawady, Kayin State, met with local residents in Kwin Kalay Village-tract, Myawady District, yesterday.

At the meeting, the Speaker expressed his delight for being able to meet with local people, saying that he came to Myawady to fulfill the needs of local people as he was elected by the people of Myawady.

The Speaker also pledged to work for the people dutifully and to help the people so that

they can overcome obstacles.

The visit of Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than came at a time when the Hluttaw was in recess.

The Speaker gave comments and advice to the officials concerned to ensure coordination over the issues raised by the people.

Following the meeting, the Speaker also met with people from Htichaya Village-tract at the Htichaya Village monastery in Myawady.

During the meeting, the

Speaker thanked the people for giving him advice and sharing their experiences, adding that he would fulfill their needs the best way he can.

He met with departmental officials and attended to the requirements for development works such as education, health, transportation, electricity, and water supply.

Local residents from Kwin Kalay, Htichaya, and Pulwepu village-tracts attended the meetings. — Maung Sein Lwin
(Translated by TTN)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over controversial Major Bridge bill, and Gambling, and Literature and Arts Copyright bills sent by the President with comments at the meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw D Building yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, deputy chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and members of Joint Bill Committee, members of Pyithu Hluttaw's

Public Affairs Management Committee, and officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Union Government Office, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Construction, the Office of Union Attorney General, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Organization, Myanmar Song owner association, and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein attends the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation visits PRC

A delegation led by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win left Yangon International Airport on 13 April for the People's Republic of China (PRC). The delegation led by the Union Minister was on a friendly visit to PRC to cooperate in forest and environmental conservation sectors.

Union Minister and party first visited the Qiandao Aquarium also known as Qiandao Underwater World. The aquarium displays over 140 fish species of Qiandao Lake and also exhibits history of fish breeding, culture, economics of fish breeding and research works. Next the Union Minister and party toured the Qiandao Lake on a vessel where officials explained about environmental protection works, nature based tourism works and fish breeding works while the Union Minister raised questions on matters of interest. Afterwards they visited Xin'an hydroelectric plant where officials explained about stages of producing hydroelectricity.

Later in the evening the



Union Minister U Ohn Win visits the exhibition at Norinco Company in Beijing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister and party left Qiandao by high-speed rail and reached Beijing near midnight.

On the morning of 15 April the Union Minister and party arrived at State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) head office and met with officials led by SPIC President Mr. Jiang Yi, who explained about Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of hydroelectric projects implemented in Myanmar, Ayeyawady River basin research, China's environmental protection policy, laws and

procedures, implementation of hydroelectric projects in China, hydro, solar and wind energy production with modern technologies, evaluation of impact on environment and socio-economy and clean energy development matters. Union Minister in return explained about Myanmar's environmental protection policy, laws and procedures, natural resources management system, projects on maintaining eco-system in rivers and creeks and international cooperation.

Later in the afternoon the Union Minister and party arrived at Norinco Company, Beijing where company officials explained about the exhibits in the exhibition while Union Minister raised questions on matters of interest. Afterwards the company chairman and officials explained about environmental protection and socio-economic development works related to copper projects implemented in Myanmar and job opportunities for locals.

The Union Minister and party then went on to China Nonferrous Metal Mining (Group) head office in Beijing in the evening where company officials explained about implementation of Tagaungtaung Nickel project and future work programs while Union Minister raised questions.

On the morning of 16 April the Union Minister and party went to State Forestry and Grassland Administration of China head office and discussed MoU signed between Myanmar and China on cooperation in forestry sector development, prevention of illegal timber trade, protec-

tion of forests and prevention of forest fire along the border of the two countries, possibility of cooperation in maintaining bio-diversity, legal timber trade and investment opportunities in developing wood-based industry, technical cooperation programs, development of bamboo and rattan research cooperation, work processes of Asia Pacific Region forest network, maintaining of bio-diversity, forests and wildlife and establishing national parks along China-Myanmar economic corridor program and establishment of wood-based industrial zones. In the afternoon they met with China Forestry Group Corporation general manager and discussed establishment of forest plantations, development of nature based travel business, value adding wood and wood products and establishing wood-based industrial zones. The Union Minister and party left Beijing International Airport on the afternoon of 17 April and arrived in Yangon International Airport by evening. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

“ I would firstly like to address the three branches of the sovereign power of the State, who have been entrusted with power according to the Constitution, to exercise mutual respect, understanding, and trust as they collaborate for the good of the people. Additionally, I wish to urge the media sector, which serve as the ears and eyes of the public, to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“ No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor. I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge— no matter how big or difficult— if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair provides aid to blown down houses in Ottarathiri Tsp

GUSTS of strong winds following heavy rains in Nay Pyi Taw damaged residential buildings in the capital's Ottarathiri Township on 17 April.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and officials provided aid and support to the wind struck victims yesterday. He was accompanied by Nay Pyi Taw Council member Colonel Min Naung, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Min Hlaing, Head of the Nay Pyi Taw branch for Disaster Management Department U Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Ottara District Administrator U Bhome Myat Thu, Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Aung and other officials.

They first handed over aid from the Disaster Management Department which included K2,364,800 for rice, house construction and 11 rescue items for 46 houses that were blown down in Nan Chun village. They also handed over K920,000 which will be divided into K20,000 per household.

Officials handed over K2,014,200 from the Disaster Management Department for purchasing rice, covering house construction costs and 11 rescue

items for 29 houses of Ngansat village, South Zalaung village and North Salaung village. Nay Pyi Taw Council provided K580,000 which will be divided into K20,000 per household. Additionally, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman handed over K250,000 to the abbot of Nan Chun village monastery to fix its overturned roofing.

The Nay Pyi Taw Disaster Management Department provides K865,300 for purchasing rice, covering house construction costs and 11 rescue items for 15 houses of Mingone, Paung Laung and Aung Chantar villages, a house of Aung Chantar village of Taungnyo village-tract, and 8 houses of Shwe Nantar ward. The Nay Pyi Taw Council provided K460,000 which will be divided into K20,000 per household.

The strong winds have damaged 152 houses, 3 monasteries and 5 schools in Ottarathiri Township. Rescue items and monetary support will be given to the remaining villages which were affected as well. —Aung Ko (IPRD)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung provides aids to victims affected by strong winds in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Seychelles Vice President Mr. Vincent Meriton and wife welcomed by Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

Seychelles Vice President, wife arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

A Seychelles delegation led by Vice President Mr. Vincent Meriton and wife who were on an unofficial visit to Myanmar left Yangon by Myanmar National Airlines and arrived to Nay Pyi

Taw at 12:30 pm yesterday.

The Seychelles delegation led by the Vice President and wife was welcomed upon arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for

International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife, high ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Commerce Ministry, MRF to investigate destruction of rice ...

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As the rice was rejected, the company asked the ministry to bring the rice back to Myanmar, and the ministry issued a license to bring back the consignment of rice.

“When we asked the company concerned, at first, they replied that they would bring the rice back to Myanmar, but, later, they said they would unload the rice at Ivory Coast. When the problem happened, the rice had been stored in cargo for six

to seven months,” said U Khin Maung Lwin.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar Rice Federation announced yesterday that it would try and resolve the issue, and that it has contacted the BBC reporter and the African News Agency, who covered the story. The MRF said it is also trying to identify the Myanmar company which exported the rice to the Singapore company.

“This case can affect Myanmar's rice exports to a certain extent. But, we will explain the

cause of the problem to the international community. The rice was held in cargo for several months and the problem happened. We will explore the real situation and will make it public,” said U Ye Min Aung, President, MRF.

Myanmar exports about 2-3 million tons of rice, of which, about 1 million tons goes to the African market.

There is strong competition in the African market between companies from Myanmar, Viet Nam, Pakistan, and India. — Thi Thi Min, Min Thit

Coord meeting on promoting healthier lifestyles in youths held at Health & Sports Ministry

A coordination meeting on separating students from cigarettes, alcohol and drugs and instilling them with life skills through a national movement was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday.

The Union Education Minister, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, first delivered a speech. He said the State Counsellor has guided the ministries of education and health and sports to collaborate on making schools and universities completely free of drugs, cigarettes, and alcohol, instilling healthy lifestyle and habits in students, reducing injuries from traffic and vehicle accidents, to incorporate reproductive health education in the curriculum, and to do away with habits of playing too much electronic games.

The role of Teachers' Union and Students' Union are important in ensuring success, said Dr. Myo Thein Gyi. He added that the Ministry of Education includes general knowledge on health in



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the coordination meeting at the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

its lifelong skills lessons.

Next, Union Health and Sports Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivered a speech. He said the 9.7 million school-age youths in Myanmar are the future of the country. He said it is important to impart them with general knowl-

edge on health, teach them how to live healthily, and instil a habit for physical activities and sports. Doing so will make not only them healthier, but will create a positive ripple effect on people in their immediate surroundings, said Dr. Myint Htwe. He said the role of

school health divisions is crucial for the tasks guided by the State Counsellor to succeed. He said they will monitor and evaluate school health groups at the township, state and regional levels and fill in where support is necessary. He said the sub department for

health education is important as well.

Dr. Myint Htwe said doing sports and physical activities will reduce and eradicate smoking and consumption of alcohol and drugs, which is why they are increasing tasks related to them. He said carrying out these numerous tasks require cooperation from the Ministry of Home Affairs, General Administration Department, city development committees, and other relevant organizations as well.

The MoE leads implementation on the set tasks and the MoHS provides additional support as needed, said Dr. Myint Htwe. He added that monitoring and evaluation on these tasks will be carried out simultaneously.

After the speeches, officials from both ministries in attendance begin discussions on related topics. Afterwards, Dr. Myint Htwe concluded the meeting with a closing speech. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

AA attacks regional military headquarters near MraukU

THE regional military headquarters near MraukU Township in Rakhine State were attacked on the night of 17 April by a group of AA based in Baungdote Village, according to a military release.

The AA group reportedly launched an attack on the southern part of the regional military HQ in Baungdote village, near MraukU Township, from the Baungdote Village School around 10:40 p.m. on 17 April. AA group bearing small and heavy arms attacked the southeast part of the HQ around 11:32 p.m. and they struck Security Post 2 around 11:40 p.m. The attack by the AA stationed in Baungdote village forced the military to retaliate, according to a military release. The fighting stopped around 11:45 p.m.

Around 10:40 p.m., the AA also opened fire on the MraukU town's regional military HQ from the Yangon-Sittway Union Road, forcing the HQ to return fire.

Yesterday afternoon, officials from the MraukU Township administration office, the district police force, and departmental officials went to the Buddha Nattaung monastery in Baungdote Village. In the presence of the monastery's head monk Bhaddanta Razeinna, they met

with village elders and asked them not to allow AA members into the village as they had launched an attack on the military headquarters from inside the village.

The officials told locals they would be in danger if armed conflicts take place, and asked them not to support terrorism, and inform the security forces if members of



Officials meet village elders at the monastery in Baungdote village. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**



The location where AA group stationed themselves in the village during the attack. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

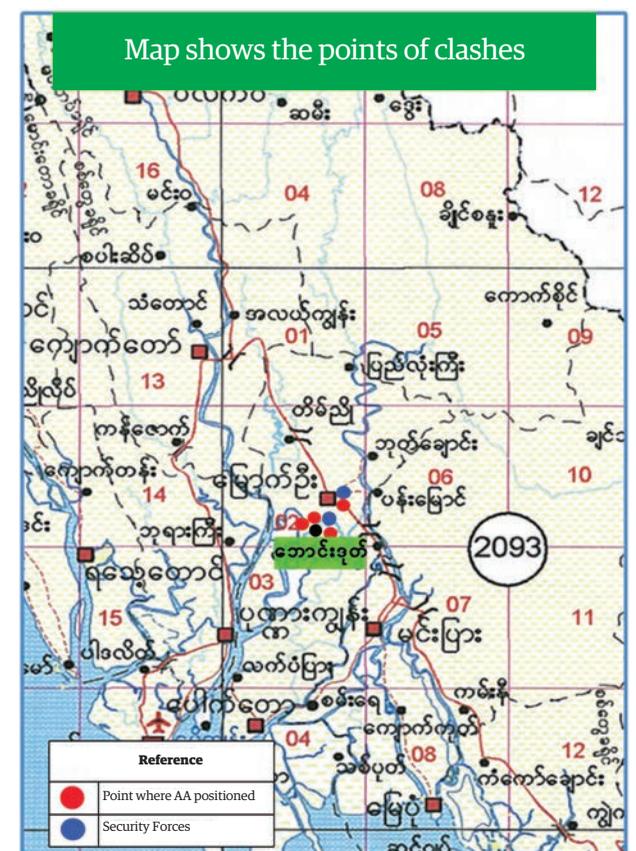


Security personnel inspect the location AA group were positioned during the attack. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

the AA come near the village. The officials also asked the villagers to cooperate in efforts to maintain stability and peace in towns, wards, and villages.

Members of the AA are taking cover in towns, wards, and villages in order to approach and attack military HQs so that, if the military engages with them, the AA can create a misunderstanding between the people and the Tatmadaw, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Sein Ta Lone mango enters Muse border gate, fetches good price

THE Sein Ta Lone variety of mangoes, also known as Diamond Solitaire, is selling well in the Muse trade zone, and fetching a good price, according to traders.

The mangoes started to enter the fruit depot of the North East Gate Public Company Limited this month. Mango varieties such as Sein Ta Lone, Hintha, Yinkwe, and Machitsu, among others, are supplied to the Muse trade zone. A basket of well-packaged Sein Ta Lone mangoes, weighing 15 kilograms, is currently valued at 100-170 Yuan. The prices of low-quality mangoes range from K45-110 per basket.

“The mangoes are fetching a high price, depending



Traders observe to buy Sein Ta Lone Mangoes at the border market. PHOTO: THANT ZIN (MUSE)

on the quality and appearance. Sein Ta Lone mangoes are not delivered to remote

places as they are perishable. The Shwehintha mangoes are sent across Yunnan Province

as they have some shelf life,” said a trader.

“There are 250 agents for

fruits who are responsible for helping ensure smooth freight forwarding in the zone,” said U Soe Naing, the chair of the North East Gate Public Company.

Yesterday, about 15 trucks loaded with 6,000 mango boxes were seen flowing out of the Myanmar border trade channel to China.

Mangoes are cultivated across the country. But, mangoes produced in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region and Monywa Township of Sagaing Region are primarily enter the border market.—Thant Zin (Muse)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Kywaltakhar village in Pwintbyu Township preserving traditional bamboo handicraft

THE residents of Kywaltakhar Village in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, engaged in bamboo handicraft businesses, such as making bamboo murals, thatched roofs, mats, and baskets, are doing well financially.

“We have a total of five villages in the Kywaltakhar village-tract and all villagers are earning well from the bamboo handicraft business. They have been engaged in the bamboo business for about 50 years. Handmade bamboo products

are currently being sent to Pwintbyu, Magway, Minbu, and Salin townships. The price of bamboo murals ranges from K3,500 to K5,000, depending on the size, the bamboo baskets are priced between K500 and K1,000, and bamboo mats are fetching K5,000. The Township Co-operative Department established the Pinwaryone small business cooperative team in 2017 to improve the lifestyle of the locals and reduce poverty. We are doing well commercially with the bamboo handicraft

business after taking loans from the Township Co-operative Department,” said U Phoe Htay, a bamboo handicraft seller from Pwintbyu Township.

Villagers in Kywaltakhar village, Pwintbyu Township, earn their living by making bamboo handicrafts on a manageable scale, and their handmade products have received a good feedback from buyers in Magway, Minbu, Salin, and Sinphyukyun Townships.—Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)

(Translated by La Wonn)



Men making mats with bamboo near Kywaltakhar village in Pwintphyu Township, Magway Region. PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNGU)

Japanese maker to open plastic molding parts plant in Myanmar

PLASTIC molding parts maker Mutsumi Special Alloy Industry Co. will open a factory in Myanmar by the year's end to meet growing demand from Japanese companies operating in the Southeast Asian country.

Mutsumi is investing \$3 million to open the plant in the Bagon Region, about 70 kilometers northeast of Yangon, later this year, Director Hiroyuki Fujii told NNA.

Mutsumi & Mingalar Co., a Myanmar joint venture owned 95 percent by the Mutsumi group with the remaining 5 percent held by a local investor, started building the plant in May 2018, said Fujii, who is also managing director of the local unit.

The joint venture plans to meet demand from the increasing number of Japanese companies operating in Myanmar, he said, adding that its potential clients

are “expected to increase local procurements of precision resin parts” for auto components and home appliances among other industrial products.

Mutsumi's Myanmar arm is setting an initial monthly sales target of \$200,000 and aims to raise the monthly turnover to \$1 million in two years while boosting the number of employees from about 10 to 100 over the same period, Fujii said. Mutsumi & Mingalar is providing a Japanese-language course for local workers before they undergo training in Japan as technical experts on metal mold production at a factory in Akita Prefecture, with an eye to having them work at the Myanmar plant in the future.

The Japanese firm is supported by the nonprofit Wind of Mingalar Japan to hire and train local workers, Fujii added.—NNA/Kyodo News

Nikkeisha Opens Branch in Yangon

NIKKEISHA, Inc. commences the operation of its branch (official name: Nikkeisha, Inc. Myanmar Branch) in Yangon which is attracting attention from many Japanese companies as the last frontier in Asia, today.

With the establishment of its Myanmar Branch, the Company will support Japanese companies that expand into the country from the initial phase, said the press release of the company adding that. It will provide communica-

tion services rooted in the country through its sales promotion activities, digital ads and mass-market advertising, and will also contribute to the development and expansion of the communication sector of the country through the development of new content. Also in Japan, the Company will provide local information to Japanese companies through seminars on the business trends in Myanmar and the management of a study tour to the country.—GNLM

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Tourist arrival increases by over 33 per cent within six months of 2018-2019 FY

THE arrival of tourists to Myanmar through international entry gates on tourist visa has increased by over 33 per cent within six months of 2018-2019 fiscal year, compared to the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

In 2018-2019 FY, a total of 630,177 tourists visited Myanmar via visa, including 501,821 tourists via tourist visa and 128,356 tourists via business visa. Last year, a total of 471,194 tourists visited Myanmar via visa, including 343,778 tourists via tourist

visa and 127,416 tourists via business visa.

The tourist arrival has increased by 158,983 tourists this fiscal year, a 33.74 per cent increase compared to the same period of last year.

In 2018-2019 FY, the number of tourist arrival hit 73,652 in October, 98,980 in November, 102,012 in December, 111,814 in January, 124,094 in February and 119,625 in March.

A total of 119,500 tourists visited Myanmar from international or border entrance gate, including 75,313 tourists through

Yangon airport and jetty, 29,452 tourists through Mandalay airport, 2,052 tourists through Nay Pyi Taw airport, 7,708 tourists through Tachilek border gate, 3,698 tourists through Myawady border gate, 1,006 tourists through Kawthoung border gate, 86 tourists through Hteekhee border gate, 256 tourists through Tamu border gate and 54 tourists through Reed border gate.

Although the number of European and North American tourists dropped this year because of political situation, in

Myanmar, that of the tourists from China, South Korea, Japan and Asian countries has significantly increased.

Most of the tourists are from China, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, America, France, Singapore, Viet Nam, India and Malaysia this year. The tourists mostly visited Yangon and Mandalay regions as well as Shan State.

Myanmar received 4.6 million tourists in 2015, 2.91 million in 2016, 3.44 million in 2017 and 3.55 million in 2018.—Aye Cho
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Thingyan: 196 admitted, nine brought dead to Mandalay General Hospital

DURING the Thingyan festival this year, 196 patients were admitted to the Mandalay General Hospital, and nine people were pronounced dead on arrival, according to U Min Lwin, the Assistant Director of the Healthcare Public Relations Department.

During the four-day festival, the Mandalay General Hospital received 761 patients who had been in accidents. Of them, 556 patients were treated as out-patients, 196 received in-patient treatment, while nine were brought dead.

"Most of them got injured in vehicle mishaps, especially accidents involving motorcycles. Six people out of the nine that were brought dead were killed in a vehicle accident, while two lost their lives after a heated quarrel, and one woman drowned in the moat.



Mandalay General Hospital provides access to emergency care. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

The number of patients has decreased this year compared with last year's data," said U Min Lwin.

The Mandalay General

Hospital received 750 patients, including 28 dead on arrival, in 2015; over 700 patients, including 16 dead on arrival, in 2016; 813 patients, including 17

dead on arrival, in 2017; and 783 patients, including 9 dead on arrival, in 2018.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)
(Translated by La Wonn)

Around 800 patients admitted to Yangon hospital during water festival

THE Yangon General Hospital admitted around 800 patients during the four-day water festival this year, according to the YGH. The number of patients admitted to the hospital during the festival showed an increase this year compared to last year.

The YGH treated 789 patients during the festival this

year. Of them, 147 people were treated on the first day of the Thingyan festival, 206 on the second day, 204 on the third day, and 232 on the last day. Most patients were injured in traffic accidents, fights, and quarrels, among other things.

Last year, the hospital admitted 708 patients — 159

on the first day of the festival, 177 on the second day, 177 on the third day, and 195 on the last day.

Of the total patients admitted to the hospital this year, 194 patients were hospitalized after traffic accidents. During the water festival, the YGH had opened a 24-hour emergency

treatment ward and assigned nearly twice as many doctors and staff because a large number of patients had to be provided medical treatment.

The hospital had closed its out-patient department from 13 to 17 April.—Tin Maung Myint

(Translated by Hay Mar)

SWRR Ministry holds coord meeting to boost research processes

A coordination meeting on increasing the implementation tasks of the Research and Development Centre under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at the ministry's meeting hall yesterday.

Union SWRR Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye first delivered a speech. He said his ministry regularly sets policies, laws, strategies, procedures, and short-term and long-term projects for social protection, managing manmade disasters, and rehabilitation. He said using factually supported research data in the aforementioned undertakings will better fulfil the needs of the people

and achieve expected beneficial changes.

The centre was opened on 14 September 2016 and the Protocol and Ethics Board was formed as well, said the Union Minister. He said evaluating the research conducted over two years have produced noticeable results. He said more experts will be called in for conducting research. He added that staff need to become more interested in the research tasks and upgrade their research skills.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, directors-general and officials discussed the work operations. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the coordination meeting on increasing the implementation tasks of the Research and Development Centre. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister works on travel sector development in Shan State east

UNION MINISTER for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung arrived at Shan State south Kengtung Town and inspected the news and information counter opened by Directorate of Hotels and Tourism at Kengtung Airport on the morning of 14 April. The Union Minister remarked that as the ministry was using Digital Platform, arrangements were to be made to provide news and information using digital technology.

Next the Union Minister observed a ceremony conducted by Gon Shan nationals since more than 600 years ago and arranged for uploading of the ceremony using digital technology. Afterwards the Union Minister went to Loimwe Town to promote new tour itinerary, observed the local products produced, centenary colonial era buildings, Christian churches, Hindu temples and commented to officials on establishing new tour itineraries.

Later the Union Minister and party went to Kengtung Town, Amazing Keng Tong Hotel and met with hotel business persons, travel business persons, tour guides and officials from transports associations in the hotel hall.

The Union Minister explained about relaxing visa requirements to ease entry of foreign visitors, Digital Marketing conducted, travel business development matters and responded to questions and matters raised by business



Union Minister U Ohn Maung visits Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge over Mekong River where departmental officials explained about works conducted. PHOTO: MNA

persons.

On the morning of 15 April the Union Minister arrived to Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge over Mekong River where departmental officials explained about works conducted and the Union Minister remarked on establishing bilateral tour and trilateral tour.

On the morning of 16 April the Union Minister went to Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 to inspect entry and exit of travellers. At 10 a.m. the Union Minister met with hotel business persons, travel business persons, tour guides and officials from transport associations in the hall of Platinum Hotel. The Union Minister explained in

detail about the numbers of visitors increasing this year when visa relaxation were made by the state after there was a slight drop in the numbers of visitors last year, conducting market development using Digital Platform system, ministry issuing travel business license to related states and regions and relaxation on transfer of rights.

Following the explanations of attending business persons on difficulties faced in Tachilek Town travel businesses and future works, the Union Minister responded to matters raised and coordinated with departments. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar-ROK trade stands at \$422 mln during Oct-Feb period



Fresh Coffee berries in a basket. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea in the first five months (Oct-Feb) of the 2018-2019 fiscal year reached US\$422.067 million, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's exports to South Korea are relatively higher than imports, with exports registered at \$233.54 million and imports valued at \$188.5 million.

Myanmar exports rice and broken rice, coffee, mangoes, pulses, apparel produced on cut-make-pack basis, shrimp and sesame oil, among other things, to South Korea, while it imports capital goods such as machinery and equipment, raw industrial goods such as fertilizers and garment materials, and consumer goods such as cosmetics.

The value of bilateral trade between the two countries was \$424.7 million in the last mini-budget period, \$798.4 million

in the 2017-2018FY, \$866 million in the 2016-2017FY, \$657 million in the 2015-2016FY, \$862 million in the 2014-2015FY, \$1.57 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$623 million in the 2012-2013FY, and \$667 million in the 2011-2012FY.

This FY, four South Korea-listed enterprises brought in capitals of \$60.99 million into the country. South Korea is Myanmar's sixth largest investor. Multinational corporations such as Posco, Daewoo, Samsung, and Hyundai from South Korea have already grabbed a market share in Myanmar.

Additionally, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has provided a grant aid for sustainable rural development and capacity building in public service, technology, education, and building of fundamental infrastructure.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Public cooperation key to minimizing losses from disasters

INCLEMENT weather swept across parts of Sagaing Region from 14 to 16 April and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 17 April. Strong winds associated with hailstones and isolated heavy rainfall hit around 10 townships in Sagaing Region and damaged about 500 houses.

This natural phenomenon usually occurs in the summer season, especially in March and April.

The public must remain alert to the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning, gale force winds, and hail. Such weather patterns can follow the movement of cumulus clouds in the pre-monsoon period from mid-April to mid-May.

Cumulus clouds form in the afternoons and evenings across the country in the pre-monsoon season, as day time temperatures increase.

Gale force winds also hit other regions during these days.

Thunderstorms are most common in April and May in Myanmar, and people are advised to take precautions on account of the risk posed by severe weather conditions.

Thunderstorms are most common in April and May in Myanmar, and people are advised to take precautions on account of the risk posed by severe weather conditions.

Due to global warming, the evil effects of natural disasters related to climate change are threatening the safety of our planet. There has been an increased occurrence of natural disasters, with greater destructive impact. The consequences of climate change cannot be avoided, but the Union government has already demonstrated that disaster preparedness and rapid response can save lives and make a huge difference.

It is clear that we need to be ready to resist and respond to natural disasters. Since 1980, the country has seen an increase in the number of thunderstorms.

The Union Government has arranged to fight against natural disasters by forming disaster management committees at the region, state, district, and township levels.

The people, on their part, need to gain knowledge and awareness about natural disasters by deriving lessons from past experiences. Public participation can lead to successful implementation of the government's disaster mitigation plans.

The government is committed to respond quickly to disasters to minimize losses.

Public cooperation is very important in all such efforts.

"Transition starts with GAD": Securing Rule of Law, Community Peace and Tranquility, Regional Development, Serving the Public Interest

"The aim of GAD was to administer government machinery to run systematically for social development. GAD is conducting its main works of land management, excise management, collection of four types of tax, rural development work, systematic organization of towns and rural land, forming of organizations and associations in line with to law and awarding of honours and awards."

Director General U Myint Than

By Tahya
PHOTO: SHWE KO LAY

PERFORMING the functions as per the motto "transition starts with GAD", General Administration Department (GAD) aims to provide the people a simple and trouble-free administrative and service system that is legal, just, uniform and reduces time and eases the burden.

The General Administration Department under the Ministry of Office of the Union Government provide vital administrative machinery for the country by conducting transition works in an exemplary way for a society free from corruption, self-interest and with good moral character.

OSS for people

Mandalay Region Chanayethazan Township OSS won the consolation prize in 2017 Nationwide One Stop Shop (OSS) Implementation Award and joint third prize in 2018. In the awards presented by Mandalay Region it won third prize in 2017 and first prize in 2018. Mandalay Region Chanayethazan Township OSS was opened on 7 July 2015 and as of 18 March 2019 it had accomplished in providing 64,716 public services.

As OSSs fulfil required public services in the best possible ways, it was recognized and relied upon by the people. For the 2018 Nationwide One Stop Shop (OSS) Implementation Award Rakhine State Sittway Township won the first prize, Yangon Region Hmawbi Township won the second prize, Chin State Haka Township and Mandalay Region Chanayethazan Township won the third prize jointly.

OSSs provides basic requirements for the people such as testimonial certificates of residency, having good character (free of criminal record), being of good health; entry and exit from household member list; adding in household member list birth of new household member and deleting from household member list of death; application for holding



Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu.

events and ceremonies; selling of stamps valued below Ks 1,000; labour registration (issuing of labour card); and driver license application for motorcycle and vehicles for 16 and 18 years old.

As per the motto "OSS for the people" and depending upon local and regional situation 316 OSSs

systematically and are fulfilling the satisfaction of the people. Committee to draft Public Service Bill was formed and at the moment it was working toward the aim of establishing a standard operating procedure.

At the moment GAD was informing the people of services it

As per the motto "OSS for the people" and depending upon local and regional situation 316 OSSs were opened in townships to fulfil the services for the basic requirements of the people ...

were opened in townships to fulfil the services for the basic requirements of the people by providing convenient and efficient services free of corruption and bias; develop people's trust and reliance on government and departments; and support check and balance and mutual support among public servants as well as departments.

OSS Implementation Work Committees and sub-committees were formed to ensure that OSSs established in States, Regions and Nay Pyi Taw are providing relevant departmental services

Transition starts with GAD

GAD is also implementing the four aims and duties of enforcing rule of law, community peace and tranquillity, promoting regional development and serving the public interest. It was formerly a department under Ministry of Home Affairs and was transferred to Ministry of Office of the Union



Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, U Min Thu, greets staff of Mon State General Administration Department in Mawlamyine.

Government on 28 December 2018 under office order 1/2018.

GAD (Head Office) was formed with seven departments consisting of administrative department, general department, land department, excise and tax department, training and research department, finance and account department and international department. An Institute of Administration Development was formed and GAD was working under 19 laws and 10 by-laws.

The aim of GAD is to administer government machinery to run systematically for social development. GAD is conducting its main works of land management, excise management, collection of four types of tax, rural development work, systematic organization of towns and rural land, forming of organizations and associations in line with to law and awarding of honours and awards. In addition to this, it also perform works assigned by Ministry of President Of

Government on 28 December 2018 under office order 1/2018. GAD (Head Office) was formed with seven departments consisting of administrative department, general department, land department, excise and tax department, training and research department, finance and account department and international department. An Institute of Administration Development was formed and GAD was working under 19 laws and 10 by-laws.

During the third year period of the government the first three months of 2019 was designated as a transition period of administrative form. At the same time in order to increase the momentum of transition a workshop on GAD reform was conducted from 26 to 28 February 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. A total of 118 Nay Pyi Taw Council, State/Region administrators and district administrators attended the workshop.

Reforms of laws, rules, notifications and announcements related to GAD, works ought to be done for transition, works to conduct effective services down to ward and village level were discussed at the workshop. The outcome of the workshop discussions was the establishment of "people centred good administrative machinery"

as a future aim of the department that was in line with the present situation and appropriate to the reform work.

Future aims, goals and values of GAD was established at the workshop to implement the

motto "transition starts with GAD", added Director General U Myint Than.

Similarly four duties and aims for GAD personnel to stress enforcing of rule of law and community peace and tranquillity,

implementation of government policies, establishment of a good administrative system and conducting people centred regional development works and six values and norms of being capable and effective, transparent, responsible, having the trust of the people, equality and inclusiveness and in accord with procedures were designated.

Three GAD reform work processes consisting of sector wise and priority wise policy reforms, work process and administrative reforms and regional development and establishment of good work system was also established.

Human resources

Since the beginning of implementation as GAD personnel continuous training and management was conducted to raise capacity and to be free from corruption. Human resources development was conducted by giving equal opportunity to departmental personnel as well as to outside personnel in equal ratio.

Duties, responsibilities and works of the department can be fulfilled and performed not only by giving priority to the personnel within the department but also through recruiting new blood and personnel from the outside, said Deputy Director General Daw Swe Swe Naing.

SEE PAGE 10



Union Minister U Min Thu delivers the opening speech at the workshop on reforming General Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw.

“Transition starts with GAD”: Securing Rule of Law, Community Peace and Tranquility, Regional Development, Serving the Public Interest

FROM PAGE-9

During fiscal year 2018-2019, 25 staff officers and administrative positions were recruited through Union Civil Service Board while 394 personnel were systematically promoted internally. Recruitment for vacant positions was made in an equal ratio from within and without the department and arrangements were made for recruitment of more than 190 personnel.

Institute of Administration Development held 8 courses on Admin-1 and Admin-2 on job training course, Training of Trainer course, capacity building course for township administrator and deputy township administrator and capacity building course for district administrator and director for 762 trainees in the third year of the incumbent government.

At the same time 714 personnel were sent to various courses conducted by Union Civil Service Board Central Institutes of Civil Service.

Starting from 2016 capacity building courses was conducted for GAD personnel working along the border areas of the country. Arrangements were made to hold a third course in May 2019.

Of the 330 townships all over Myanmar, there were 16,186 ward/village tract administrators and the majority were males. As more female ward/village tract administrators were elected and enter the service a third capacity building course and workshop for female ward/village tract administrators was held in cooperation with UNDP in December 2018.

At the workshop the subjects such as role of women in regional and public administration; the role of ward/village tract administrators in people centred development; women's participation and role in Hluttaw; consideration of gender and gender affairs; women, peace and security; drawing up development projects with people's participation; women and leadership etc. were lectured by officials. It was a beneficial workshop as 104 women ward/village tract administrators attends it.

During the third year period of the government one district, 11 towns, 63 wards, 20 village tracts and 55 villages were expanded and reorganized while six village tracts and 214 villages were abolished, according to 2008



Staffs participate in the workshop on reforming General Administration Department (GAD) of Ministry of Office of the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Constitution section 54.

Systematic registration of associations and organizations

During the one year period a total of 239 consisting of 211 local associations and 28 international non-government organizations were registered under the Association Registration Law 2014.

Registration of associations and organizations benefit the country's development and the people. The associations and organizations can obtain assistant and support in accordance to the law from relevant ministries and the registered associations and organizations also provide an additional benefit of strengthening the civil society organizations, said director U Aung Thaik Win.

The main works of GAD include presenting honorary awards and titles to worthy persons. On 4 January 2019 GAD presented honorary awards and titles to persons who had worked outstandingly toward establishing a peaceful and developed country, who selflessly worked toward protecting “Our three main causes,” works in an outstanding manner in civil and military sector for the country, innovative to a world level in science, arts and literature, foreign leaders and diplomats who had cooperated and worked with the country.

A total of 102,168 medals including Myanmar's first Excellence Performance in Science as well as one Gallantry Medal, 1,489 Military Thingaha Med-

als, 2,599 Good Military Service Medals, 2 Ye Thurein Medals, 5 Ye Kyaw Zwa Medals, 214 Good Police Service Medals, 779 State Police Service Medals, 11,169 Public Good Service Medals, 25,263 Public Service Medals 60,646 Rule of Law and Order Medals were awarded.

During the third year period, as of fiscal year 2018-2019 end February, K 284.50 million was allocated for implementing 98 rural development works consisting of 4 agriculture works, 78 bridge works, 13 water utility management works and 3 regional development works.

Land management works

For socio economic development land grant (land lease agreements) issuing works for villages where there were no land problems was implemented starting from the 100 days project. A total of 23,017 land grants were granted to 275 villages in 275 townships.

This was continued in the third year period and a total 500 land grants were granted in villages where there were no land problems. In addition to this a total of 15,810 land grants in states and regions including 6 land confiscations, 160 land transfers, 42 pasture lands, 127 religious land grant, 53 Buddhist consecration lands, 123 land grants for 5 acres and above lands and 15,299 land grants for lands less than 5 acres were granted.

Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands had released

197,873.7141 acres of unused lands and 186,710.117 acres was returned to 6,118 former owners.

Issuing of land grants gave benefits such as moral and physical security to the person working on the land, more tax revenue for the state as well to live and conduct businesses with peace of mind. The State receives more tax revenue while the citizens had firm evidence of ownership allowing the opportunity of living and conducting of businesses, said director U Soe Thein.

Excise and tax management

GAD collects excise tax, land tax, embankment tax and mineral tax. In the past license fees were set at one rate country wide by notification of the Ministry of Union Government Office but in the present as per 2008 Constitution, the excise tax rate was being set by State and Region Hluttaws and collected by GAD at an appropriate rate for the specific State and Region after the enactment of Excise Tax Law and put into the State/Region fund, said Excise and Taxation Department director U Khin Maung Lwin.

Land and embankment taxes were collected by GAD at a rate set by Land Records Department and put into the respective State/Region fund.

On mineral tax gravel and pebble for road construction, pebble and sand for construction works and other minerals that were not of industrial raw mineral grade or gem grade were collected country wise by GAD at

a rate set by Ministry of Union Government Office notification and put into the respective state/region fund.

During the six months fiscal year of 2018 April to September, K 18,101.646 million was earmarked for collection through the four types of tax and K 20,396.741 million was collected. So the tax collection rate achieved 112.68 per cent.

In excise tax management GAD collects full tax amount from liquor, beer, and wine production, storage, transport, distribution and sales. Task Forces were formed at township/district, State/Region and central levels to prevent illegal liquor and tobacco works as well as increasing collection of excise tax, said director U Khin Maung Lwin.

During 2018 actions were taken against 5,202 persons who had conducted illegal liquor and tobacco works and 5,184 cases were opened. 754 cases were opened and action taken against 575 persons for violation of excise license rules.

Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) were drawn up and followed through to prevent environmental damages via discharge of refuse from liquor distilleries. Action Plans were drawn up to implement Waste Water Treatment System and Real Time Waste Water Online Monitoring System.

A liquor distillery was permitted to test produce at 50 per cent capacity only after a complete and systematic Action Plan was submitted. A one year time frame was given to conduct monthly field inspection, timely monitoring of waste water discharge and production through installation of flow meter and during 2018 a total of 21 liquor distilleries had installed Waste Water Treatment System to prevent environmental damages.

During the third year period GAD was able to conduct land management, excise management, systematic organization of towns and villages, registration of associations and organizations to increase implementation of people centred beneficiary works according to set laws, rules, procedures and notifications. It was emphasizing toward assessing and reporting complaints made by the people and to provide services to the people without delay.

Translated by Handytips



Supporters of Peruvian ex-president Alan Garcia gather outside the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party headquarter's in Lima, on 17 April 2019, after he committed suicide shooting himself in the head at his home as police were about to arrest him in a sprawling corruption case. **PHOTO: AFP**

Peru ex-president Garcia dies after shooting himself

LIMA (Peru) — Former Peru president Alan Garcia died in hospital on Wednesday after shooting himself in the head at his home as police were about to arrest him in a graft investigation, a party official said. He was 69.

"Alan Garcia has died, long live Apra," said Omar Quesada, the general secretary of Garcia's American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (Apra) party.

Peru's current President Martin Vizcarra expressed his sympathy on his Twitter account. "Dismayed by the death of ex-president Alan Garcia. I send

my condolences to his family and loved ones," Vizcarra wrote in a tweet. Garcia was president on two occasions, from 1985-90 and 2006-11.

Police were acting on an arrest warrant for money laundering linked to the wide-ranging corruption scandal involving Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht.

Peru's health ministry said the bullet passed straight through Garcia's head. Garcia suffered cardiac arrest three times while undergoing emergency surgery, Health Minister Zulema Tomas said.— AFP ■

Strong 6.1-magnitude quake hits Chinese Taipei, injuring 17 people

TAIPEI (China) — A 6.1-magnitude earthquake jolted Chinese Taipei on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said, disrupting traffic and injuring 17 people.

In the city Taipei, highrises swayed while some panicked schoolchildren fled their classrooms in eastern Yilan county, according to reports.

The quake was felt across the island and a highway connecting Yilan and Hualien was shut down, authorities said.

An official at the Hualien county fire department told AFP that two people were injured by falling rocks. The National Fire Agency said one, a Malaysian male tourist, had been rushed to hospital in a critical condition after suffering a cardiac arrest, a leg fracture and head injuries.

The agency added that there were also 15 injuries reported around Chinese Taipei and that two buildings in the city were temporarily evacuated due to structural damages after the tremor.

Taipei's metro system was closed for over an hour for safety checks following the quake, while the Taipei Railway Administration also suspended some of some of its services in the east coast for several hours, officials said.

The quake struck at 1:01 pm

(0501 GMT) at a depth of 19 kilometres (11.8 miles) in eastern Hualien county.

The central weather bureau also put its magnitude at 6.1. The USGS had earlier measured it as a 6.0 quake, but later revised it to 6.1. "The tremor could be felt for 33 seconds, which is considered quite long ... It could be felt all over Chinese Taipei and it's the first quake above 6.0 magnitude this year," said Chen Kuo-chang, director of the bureau's seismological centre. Social media users posted photos of the glasses at a restaurant being shattered by the quake, and of the exterior tiles of a department store building falling.

"I live on the 21st floor, the building swayed so much that

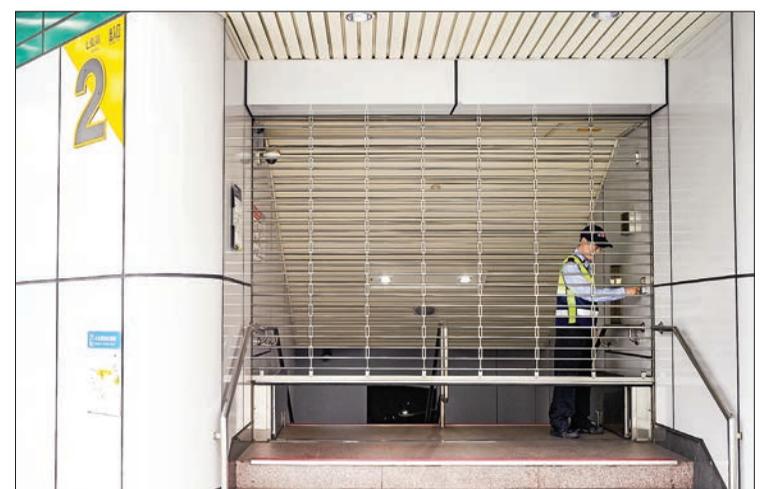
I was almost scared to death," one user posted. The Japan Meteorological Agency warned that people living near the coast could notice some effects on sea levels, but said there would be no tsunami, and "there is no concern about damage".

Hualien, a scenic tourist hotspot, was struck by a 6.4-magnitude earthquake last year that killed 17 people and injured nearly 300 people.

Chinese Taipei lies near the junction of two tectonic plates and is regularly hit by quakes.

The island's worst tremor in recent decades was a 7.6-magnitude quake in September 1999 that killed around 2,400 people.

— AFP ■



The quake was felt across Chinese Taipei, including in Taipei where highrises swayed. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indonesia warns against unrest as Widodo rival rejects results

JAKARTA (Indonesia) — Indonesian authorities warned Thursday against unrest as a firebrand ex-general rejected unofficial election results that appeared to hand President Joko Widodo another term as leader of the world's third-biggest democracy.

National Police Chief Tito Karnavian said Wednesday's "smooth and safe" polls would not be disrupted by demonstrations, and warned of arrests.

"If there are any illegal or unconstitutional actions that threaten public stability and security, (authorities) will take firm action," he said.

"We won't tolerate it."

"I urge everyone against mass demonstrations, whether it's to celebrate or to express dissatisfaction" at the results, Karnavian added.

This year's campaign was punctuated by bitter mudslinging

and a slew of fake news online — much of it directed at the presidential contenders.

Authorities said Thursday they had seen a spike in false reports and hoaxes, with some calling for chaos in the streets and for Indonesians to commit violence in response to the results.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo (C) greets supporters after the country's general election in Jakarta on 17 April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

However, the capital Jakarta was quiet Thursday after as many as 190 million voters in the Muslim-majority country cast ballots in the one-day poll — which featured a record 245,000 candidates — to elect a new president, parliamentarians and local legislators.

While official results are not

due until next month, a series of so-called "quick counts" by pollsters, which are based on samples, showed Widodo as much as 11 percentage points ahead.

Quick counts have been reliable indicators in past elections, but Widodo held off declaring victory — while his rival Prabowo-Subianto insisted he was the archipelago's next leader.

'Unity and harmony'

Widodo said Thursday that he had received phone calls from several world leaders to congratulate him on his country's election, but added that he would await the final results before declaring victory.

"We still have to wait for the numbers from the KPU (General Elections Commission)," he told a crush of reporters.

"Let's continue to work and maintain our unity and harmony as a nation," he added.

However, Subianto reiterated that he and running mate Sandiaga Uno, a wealthy financier, had won, citing voter fraud but without supplying concrete evidence.

"Sandiaga Uno and I are declaring victory as the president and vice president," he told cheering supporters in Jakarta, ending his speech with shouts of "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) and "Merdeka" (freedom).

The retired general — who had close ties to the Suharto dictatorship, which collapsed in 1998 — earlier warned he would challenge the results in court if he lost, and stage street protests.

Some supporters of Subianto called for a march near Jakarta's biggest mosque after prayers on Friday, Islam's holy day. The 67-year-old, who has long had his eye on the country's top job, lost to Widodo in 2014 and then mounted an unsuccessful legal challenge to that election.— AFP ■

11 security personnel among 14 killed by militants in SW Pakistan gun attack

ISLAMABAD—At least 14 people including 11 security personnel were killed when some unknown gunmen opened fire at them in Ormara area of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province in the wee hours of Thursday morning, senior security officials told Xinhua.

The killed included nine personnel from Pakistan navy, one from Pakistan coast guards, and one from Pakistan air force, whereas identities of the remaining three victims have not been determined yet, speaking on the condition of anonymity, security officials from Balochistan said. The incident happened when five vans carrying civilians and the victims were stopped by some 20-25 militants disguising as security personnel to check identity cards of the passengers.

After scanning the identities, the militants forcibly removed 14 people from different buses and allowed the remaining passengers to head to their destination.

After reaching a safe place, two soldiers of Pakistan army, who were traveling in one of the vans informed security forces about the whole incident who rushed to the incident site and recovered 14 bodies who were shifted to Ormara hospital, the sources added. The vans were heading towards capital city Karachi of neighboring Sindh province. Confirming the incident, Pakistan Navy spokesperson said that the 14 killed included several navy personnel.

Later Thursday morning, proscribed organization Baloch Raji Ajoi Sangar claimed the attack on their unverified twitter account, saying that their offensives against the security forces will further intensify. —Xinhua ■

N. Korea's Kim oversees test of new weapon with 'powerful warhead'

SEOUL (South Korea) — North Korea's Kim Jong Un has supervised the test-firing of a new tactical weapon with a "powerful warhead", state media reported Thursday, in the first test of its kind since nuclear negotiations with Washington stalled.

The test marks a ratcheting up of tensions weeks after a summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump collapsed without agreement.

It also comes after satellite imagery suggested heightened activity at a nuclear test site.

Wednesday's test was "conducted in various modes of firing at different targets" the Korean Central News Agency reported, adding that Kim "guided the test-fire".

The report said Kim described its development as one "of very weighty significance in increasing the combat power of the People's Army".

The "advantages"



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said last week he was open to talks with US President Trump only if Washington came with the "proper attitude". PHOTO: AFP

of the weapon were "the peculiar mode of guiding flight and the load of a powerful warhead", KCNA said. Its report gave no details of the weapon.

South Korea had not detected anything on radar so it was unlikely to have been a missile, a military official told AFP.

"When North Korea launches a missile, our radar catches it. But no

missile was detected," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Seoul's presidential office said it had no comment.

"The description makes whatever was tested sound like a missile, but that could be everything from a small anti-tank guided missile to a surface-to-air missile to a rocket artillery system,"

said North Korea analyst Ankit Panda.

Earlier in the week, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a US monitor, said activity had been detected at Yongbyon, the North's main nuclear testing facility.

The think tank said evidence suggested Pyongyang may be reprocessing radioactive material into bomb fuel. Kim's Hanoi

summit with Trump, the second between the two men, ended abruptly, with North Korea later protesting that the US was being unreasonable in its demands. Since then, North Korea has said it is mulling options for its diplomacy with the US, and Kim said last week he was open to talks with Trump only if Washington came with the "proper attitude".

"Kim is trying to make a statement to the Trump administration that his military potential is growing by the day," said Harry Kazianis, an analyst at the Washington-based Center for the National Interest.

"His regime is becoming frustrated with Washington's lack of flexibility in recent negotiations."

Koh Yu-hwan, professor of North Korean studies at Dongguk University, agreed the test was a message to the US showing its displeasure over the stalled nuclear talks. —AFP ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the following packages. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Lot No.	Description	Quantity
G 117	1	Supply Medical Kits (small size)	3,478 sets
	2	Supply of Medical Kits (Larger size)	2,523 sets
G 127	1	Supply of Project with Screen	25 sets

Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. The invitation to quote will be distributed on the needs of DRD. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding **date and time stated in respective ITQ**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: Project Director Mrs. Nyo Nyo Win, NCDD Project Secretariat, Department of Rural Development, Office N° 36, Nay Pyi Taw. Telephone (95-67)418604. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067418637/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com.

Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be sent as well as introduce your company name and contact number to communicate with you. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

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Reference Number: G 126

Reference No.	Lot No.	Description	Quantity (Units)
G 126	1	PHOTO COPIERS for replacement and additional needs in existing townships	70

Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. The invitation to quote will be distributed on the needs of DRD. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding **date and time as stated in package**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

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New premier of Canada's Alberta to roll back environmental protections

OTTAWA (Canada)—Wednesday he will nix its carbon tax, opening up a new battlefield with liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau ahead of October national elections.

The move could put Canada's climate target out of reach, while saddling the federal government with a controversial pipeline project it bought last year as part of a deal with the previous Alberta government to cap its oil sands emissions.

The vast oil region in northern Alberta contains the world's third largest oil

reserve and is the single largest polluter in the country. "So bill number one in that legislature session will be the carbon tax repeal act," Jason Kenney told a press conference. His United Conservative Party won 63 out of 87 seats in local elections, unseating Trudeau ally Rachel Notley's New Democrats.

Scheduled to be sworn in on April 30, Kenney said he had a "respectful conversation" about the need to reverse Alberta's energy slump with Trudeau, who called to congratulate him on his win.

He said he particularly pressed the prime minister to get started soon on construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project to move Alberta oil to the Pacific coast for shipping to new overseas markets. "I think Prime Minister Trudeau knows that if we can't get coastal access for our energy, that this new government will vigorously stand up for Alberta," he said.

Trudeau's government bought the Trans Mountain project last August, effectively nationalizing it, in exchange for Alberta adopting a carbon tax and capping

its oil sands emissions.

But its construction has continued to be delayed by protests and legal challenges. Meanwhile, without Alberta tackling its emissions, Canada faces a herculean task of meeting its Paris climate target of reducing CO2 emissions by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Added to that, four other Tory-led provinces have lined up against a federal carbon tax imposed on April 1 on provinces that failed to put significant curbs on their CO2 emissions.—AFP ■

London climate protests enter fourth day

LONDON (United Kingdom)—London commuters faced further disruption on Thursday as climate change protests continued to bring parts of the British capital to a standstill, leading to over 300 arrests.

Transport for London tweeted that "bus routes which usually serve stops in central London remain diverted—curtailed due to an ongoing protest which is blocking several roads."

A total of 340 protesters have been arrested so far during this week's "Extinction Rebellion" event, and three people will appear in court on Thursday charged with obstructing trains at financial hub Canary Wharf. Demonstrators began blocking off a bridge and major central road junctions on Monday at the start of a civil disobedience campaign that also saw action in other parts of Europe.

The Extinction Rebellion group was established last year in Britain by academics and has become one of the world's



Thousands of campaigners gather in Trafalgar Square as part of global protests calling for world leaders to act urgently on climate change 04 November 2006. **PHOTO: AFP**

fastest-growing environmental movements. "We expect demonstrations to continue throughout the coming weeks," a Metropolitan Police said.

The arrest figure includes three men and two women who were detained at the UK offices of energy giant Royal Dutch Shell on suspicion of criminal damage. Campaigners daubed graffiti and smashed a window at the Shell Centre building. Other activists chained themselves

to Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's garden fence. The majority arrested were seized for breaching public order laws and obstructing a highway.

The protest has seen more than a thousand people block off central London's Waterloo Bridge and lay trees in pots along its length. People also set up camps in Hyde Park in preparation for further demonstrations throughout the week. The police have ordered the protest-

ers to confine themselves to a zone within Marble Arch, a space at the junction of Hyde Park, the Oxford Street main shopping thoroughfare and the Park Lane street of plush hotels.

Campaigners want governments to declare a climate and ecological emergency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2025, halt biodiversity loss and be led by new "citizens' assemblies on climate and ecological justice".—AFP ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the following packages. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Lot No.	Description	Quantity
G136	1	Project Information Board with NCDDP Logo	10,500 Sheets
G 137	1	Backpacks	2,000 Bags
G 142	1	Grievance Suggestion Box Stickers	23,000 Nos
	2	Motorcycle Stickers	7,800 Nos
	3	File Cover Stickers	78,000 Nos

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Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be sent as well as introduce your company name and contact number to communicate with you. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (1931N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (1931N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING
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Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (012N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (012N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TB;BRANTAS-1202 BG;BINGA BESAR-21

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TB;BRANTAS-1202BG;BINGABESAR-21 VOY.NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-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 ZENITH OVERSEA MARINE
SERVICES PTE, LTD.

Phone No: 2301928



Adidas shoe factory to open up 5000 employment opportunities

By Maung Dikar

Myanmar Investment Commission

Myanmar Investment Commission representatives, headed by Myanmar Investment Commission chairman U Thaung Tun, visited the Myanmar Pou Chen factory manufacturing Adidas shoes located in ShwePyiThar township, ThaGu Industrial Area on April 6th 2019. The main purpose for visiting the factory was to improve relations for smoother investments and to witness ease of doing business

in Myanmar. The management and work flow of the factory is remarkable, setting an example for other investment initiatives.

Starting the Factory after earning the license

Myanmar Pou Chen factory obtained their operation license from Myanmar Investment Commission in 2014 and started their operations with 1200 employees at the end of 2014. The company took 9 months to build the 2 main factories and exported their first batch of 200,000 pairs of shoes.

Expanding the Business

During the time span of three years from 2016 and 2019, Myanmar Pou Chen received more investments and have skyrocketed their production. Currently, the factory employs 5000 people exporting up to 5 million pairs of shoes to the UK, Spain, Germany and Greece annually. The two main factories produce the bulk of the shoes with 8 more factories constructed for various purposes such as to treat waste water, handle electricity, warehouse, canteen, medical facility, fire emergency department,

offices, and employee housing.

Programs for human resource development and improving worker conditions

There are lunch programs for employees as well as dinner and housing for night shift workers on overtime. There is a separate canteen building for lunch with 100 staff working on dining and keeping the canteen clean and sanitary. There are also celebrations for New Years and Myanmar Thingyan. As the Corporate Social Responsibility program, the employees are

able to attend fire awareness campaigns, health programs, roundtables for staff and other training workshops.

Myanmar Pou Chen and the future of factories

Myanmar Pou Chen is currently working with multi-national corporations and internationally renowned brands such as Adidas. The factory serves as a great example for other investors on the responsible investment path. The factory is currently applying to be a member of UN Global Compact group to abide by international human and worker rights along with environmental sustainability measures.

The company also visited other Bonded Warehouse systems to perfect the Deep Processing Transit (DPT) system. There are plans to expand the factory to not only invest in Yangon but other areas such as the Ayeyarwaddy and Pegu Regions where there is an abundance of labor. Myanmar Pou Chen factory serves as a guiding light to what it means to be a company that believes and practices responsible investment in Myanmar.

Hopefully, other potential and existing investments in Myanmar take example of the ways in investment in working towards the development of Myanmar's Economy. (Translated by Myat Thu)



Let items of medicinal properties be marketable

By Khin Maung Nyo (Economist)

I GOT to Myeik town under an arrangement of a local community. It happened to be in the middle of displays of goods and competitions. I went there by chance to have a look around at the show and listened to the discussions. In the hope of crowing and grumbling.

Actually there were noises of crowing and grumbling from businessmen. As the location is near the border of other country, it could be an opportunity as well as a challenge. As usual in all meetings, people were crowded at an opening ceremony; but there were few audiences. If there were many who were willing to take part in the discussions. For instance, talks about owning the copyright of a novel, a music or a song. The locals rarely think about that sort of thing. Once at an event in Nay Pyi Taw, I found it impossible to award a prize because of an international trademark.

Authorities concerned in Myeik invited me in advance to take part in the discussions. And to add the title of MSME, how could I help these enterprises. Getting loans and other assistance are often heard; actually they are greatly in need of loans. It is easier said than done to get other assistance. Presently, how could I help in your business? What remains to be done? In some ways, ask for help and at the same time, start from your own business. After an opening ceremony on 22 March, 2019, I looked around at the showrooms.

All local businesses which won prizes in the competitions have also arrived in Myeik including some businesses which have sought a new market. I have never seen many of finished products of wood. Stringy masses of fibers from the dried fruit of Sponge Gourd are seen in a new form. A lot of Kunzaw oil and bird-nest shops. I could not remember the pills of Kunzaw oil, not in a liquid form. I found a lot of medicines which have been used by myself. Traditional medicines are meant for competitions, but included pharmaceutical products as discussed earlier. Chemical drugs are intended to produce with the help of a machinery. Chemists and food experts should give a lot of advice.

A big bronze from Mandalay was unusually found here in Myeik. The big Bronze could

create a statue by using laser method; They could not only create statues but also heavy machinery parts. I am not going to talk about my favourite dry tea leaves, coffee and tea. Shipate is widely used and not-so-important butterfly pea flowers are found medicinal and marketable. Clothing industry from Pakokku won a prize, little-known Pakokku jams and slippers are normally found. A pair of shoes with an extra brush is simple and new.

I did not expect many businesses of yam tubers, grams, dried fish and roasted lima beans. Rice, not strange in our

and Shan traditional clothing shops were also seen. Pillows, curtains, mattresses and toilet goods were made of amber; in addition, a shirt made of amber was found. During my stay of 2 or 3 weeks, I could not look around all shops, let alone the other ones. For every round I was burdened with several gifts which had to be put at nearby shops to be collected later in the day. My stomach was full of tea, coffee and different kinds of juices, thereby lucky enough not get infected with diarrhea and vomiting. Carbohic and Shwewar soaps were strangely found,

the Banks. No guarantors for possible losses at higher interest rates. Far from technical knowledge; weak competitive advantages in other markets rather than local markets. Despite difficulties, we have to our businesses on a self-help basis.

We have to recognize businesses which have tried to attain this position. Those who won prizes should be acknowledged with a permit together with an accompaniment of special loans under my advice. In the future, prizes should be categorized for granting loans despite different kinds of difficulties involved.

for 185 businesses, totaling 275 businesses. As much as K. 15000 million was found to have lent out to many businesses.

Many loans are available in Taninthaye Region, Nay Pyi Taw and many States; as much as K. 300 million was lent out during a period of 3-5 years with an interest rate of 9% in an accompaniment of mortgaged properties. Production, production and sales, exports and substitutes of imports, economization on fuel, and recycle and technique-based service sectors were given a priority for loans. As much as K. 20 million was currently lent out under the CGI system.

The system is used for those who are unable to show enough mortgaged properties and those with no mortgaged properties. With support of Myanmar Insurance Association, a permit has been issued to the businesses with no mortgaged properties.

It is also interesting that discussions on foods are made by Food and Drug Administration. As the food is directly connected with intake of a consumer, the separation of working places and residences is indispensable. Inspections of workers' health and their uniforms and clothes-changing rooms should be provided.

A businessman discussed about digging tube wells to bring water up from under the ground; water from the tube wells is more purified than that of streams and normal wells. As there are many food industries in our country, food intakes on exports must be hygienic. Day after day, some drugs are often found harmful and food is found to be of little help to one's health.

Upon study tours around the showrooms, these industries present are greatly in need of loans, acquisition of technology, marketability and businesses on a self-help basis. Businesses on a self-help basis will surely be helped by other works and associations in a genuine sympathy. This kind of event will pave the way for connections between generous givers and humble takers. Let our Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise keep flourishing including marketability in domestic and foreign showrooms. Our products should be beneficial not only for consumers but also for producers by adding medicinal values.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)



Wooden furnitures being seen at the National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Products Trade Fair and contest. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

eyes, is to boost the strength and diabetic patients. Pickled fish from Pago is also included and so is AmayHtwa cooking oil from Magwe. Local populace take a great interest in Thatha boiled rice. I don't understand much about battery-driven cars, machinery and high dryers. Among prize-winning businesses, the business which made Gascards, exported them to foreign countries. Pedalling company also exported bamboo products as fishing rods. Water-purifying machines, Ayethaya wine and Sogyu are also supported by local populace. Jujube and tamarind juices and Nan Sein Bakery enjoyed recognition and popularity.

Women folks were interested in buying silk and cotton cloth and computerized embroideries. A shop for teaching aids was surrounded by children and parents probably for their studies during summer holidays. Chin, Kachin

showing their presence up until today. If it were held in Yangon, I wonder more spectators could be expected. I am happy to see that young businessmen get involved in their own businesses; but they were not seen in discussions and knowledge-sharing talks, possibly because of taking care of their showrooms. The reasons could be coincided with one another for many discussions and competitions were held simultaneously. They should have known intellectual copyrights, loans, and permits issued by Food and Drug Administration concerning with essential foodstuffs.

As the Deputy Minister of Commerce Ministry pointed out, only 10% of the loans could be granted. At the same time, there is no basic accounting system. Bank loans cannot be granted to the businesses where there were no prior engagements with

There is a deadlock between lenders and borrowers with 10% interest rate; serious negotiations are needed to break the deadlock. Japan's loans of K.500 million during a period of 5 years could solve the problems of granting short-term and long-term loans to the businesses. Purchases of machines, upgrading of factories need and an enormous amount of money to keep the machinery going on. It is interesting that Japan's loans are not available for housing, banking, metalwork, liquor and entertainment as well as for farming. (the loans are available through Agricultural Bank and but loans are available for those connected with farming such as rice mills, oil mills, and food industry.) Myanmar Economic Bank lends money by a mortgage for 90 businesses and under Computer-generated imagery (CGI) without mortgages

Fixtures for 2nd round of AFC U-19 women's qualifiers released

THE fixtures for the second round of the 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship qualification were released yesterday, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

There will be two groups, A and B, in the second round of the qualifiers. Each group will have four teams.

Fixtures for Group A

The matches of Group A will be held at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

On 26 April, Australia's women's national football team will compete against Nepal's women's national football team at 3 p.m. local time, while the

Uzbekistan team will take on team Myanmar at 6 p.m.

On 28 April, Nepal will play against Uzbekistan at 3 p.m., while Myanmar will compete against Australia at 6 p.m.

On 30 April, Australia will take on Uzbekistan at 3 p.m., while Myanmar will face Nepal at 6 p.m.

The Myanmar women's national football team flew to Mandalay yesterday to train for the qualification matches.

Fixtures for Group B

All Group B matches will take place at the Viet Nam YFTC Field No.3 in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

On 26 April, South Korea's women's national football team will compete against Lebanon's women's national football team at 4 p.m. local time, while Viet Nam will take on Iran at 7 p.m.

On 28 April, Iran will play against South Korea at 4 p.m., while Lebanon will face Viet Nam at 7 p.m.

On 30 April, Iran will take on Lebanon at 4 p.m., while South Korea will compete against Viet Nam at 7 p.m.

A total of four teams — the winners and runner-ups in the matches of the two groups — will qualify for the AFC U-19 women's championship. — Kyaw Zin Tun

MPT Myanmar National League 2019 to resume on 20 April

THE MPT Myanmar National League 2019 football tournament, which was suspended during the Thingyan Festival, will resume on 20 April, according to the Myanmar National League.

Before it was suspended, the tournament had been on for seven weeks. The matches for Week 8 will be held on 20, 21, and 22 April.

On 20 April, the Chin Land F.C. will compete against the Yadanarbon F.C. at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon.

On 21 April, the Magwe F.C. will take on the Yangon

United F.C. at the Thuwanna Stadium, while the Hantharwady United F.C. will play the Zwegapin United F.C. at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago.

On 22 April, the Dagon F.C. will compete against the Southern Myanmar F.C. at the Thuwanna Stadium, while the Sagaing United F.C. will face the Ayeyawady United F.C. at the Monywa Stadium in Monywa.

All the matches will be held at 4 p.m. on the respective days. MRTV will broadcast all the matches live. — Kyaw Zin Tun

Messi looms for Liverpool, but Cardiff on Klopp's mind for now

PORTO (Portugal) — Jurgen Klopp might be steeling himself for some sleepless nights as he tries to work out how to stop Lionel Messi, but for now the German can be delighted at seeing his Liverpool side extend their outstanding record in European ties under his management.

Having won 2-0 at home in the first leg, Liverpool always knew that an early away goal in the second leg of their quarter-final against FC Porto at the Estadio do Dragao would effectively kill the tie. So it proved, as after surviving a barrage of early pressure in northern Portugal on Wednesday, Sadio Mane's 26th-minute strike broke Porto hearts and set Liverpool on their way to a 4-1 win on the night.

Having won 3-1 at Bayern Munich in the last round, here was another statement away victory for the Anfield club after they lost all three matches on the road in the group stage.

Klopp remains unbeaten after 10 two-legged European ties as Liverpool manager, with two coming against Porto.

He has only been stopped in finals, against Sevilla in the Europa League in 2016 and Real Madrid in last season's Champions League.

"I know people like to be disrespectful to a team like Porto, but we knew how difficult it is and we won 2-0 at home, it was deserved, and here anything could have



Jurgen Klopp is unbeaten in 10 two-legged ties in Europe as Liverpool manager. **PHOTO: AFP**

happened," Klopp said.

"We dealt really well with it. In the quarter-finals there are only unbelievably strong teams."

The former Borussia Dortmund boss knows the same applies in the semi-finals, where last year's runners-up face the daunting prospect of Messi and Barcelona. Having been at home first against Bayern and Porto, the Reds will head to the Camp Nou for the first leg on 1 May.

It is six years since Barca lost at home in the Champions League, but Liverpool need to ensure they remain in the tie before the return at Anfield on 7 May.

"It is our dream. Every single player wants to play this kind of game in their lives," admitted Mane, yet Klopp will have to come up with a plan to deal with the brilliant Messi.

"Thank God I don't have to think about that tonight," Klopp joked on Wednesday. "I have a few more nights to think about that. Everybody tried it so far and nobody can do it."

"We still will try it. We are looking forward to it but we have so many jobs to do before we meet Barcelona. Let's first play these games and then let's prepare Barcelona."

'Another intense game'

The focus now reverts back to the Premier League, with Liverpool two points clear of Manchester City at the summit having played a game more.

Klopp's squad stayed in Portugal on Wednesday night before returning home to start preparations for Sunday's visit to relegation battlers Cardiff City.—AFP ■

Medvedev topples Tsitsipas to continue Monte Carlo streak

MONTE CARLO (Principality of Monaco)— Sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas slammed an overhead into the net on match point on Thursday to lose 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 to Daniil Medvedev at the Monte Carlo Masters.

The Russian winner, seeded 10th, will face either top seed Novak Djokovic or American Taylor Fritz in the quarterfinals.

The pair exchanged breaks early in the final set. Then, trailing 5-4, Tsitsipas was caught on the back foot as he fell to 0-40 to face three match points.

After saving the first two, the Greek mismanaged the third to seal his exit after an hour and three-quarters. Medvedev has won all four of his meetings with Tsitsipas. The victory also increased his ATP-leading total of match wins this season to 20.

"This was a great achievement for me," Medvedev said.

"Everything was perfect today.

"Some wind came up in the second set and I could not get used to it. But in the third, I just worked to put every ball in the court. "I was pleased to fight back after going a set down in the third set." The player who stands a career-high 14th credits his rising form to a renewed commitment to the sport. "I've been working hard for the past 18 months - since before the start of 2018. I've dedicated my life to tennis, which I did not do before.

"I had my best season last year — hopefully this year will be better." The Russia reached his first quarter-final at the Masters 1000 level after winning his second match against a Top 10 opponent. Tsitsipas, runner-up last season to Rafael Nadal in Toronto, suffered his eighth defeat of the season against 18 wins.—AFP ■



Daniil Medvedev enjoyed his victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas. **PHOTO: AFP**