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Central Committee, work committees meet for holding Hluttaw meetings



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than co-chair the coordination meeting on holding Hluttaw meetings. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE central committee and work committees on holding Hluttaw meetings held a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in preparation for legislation works in the regular sessions of the Hluttaws which would be resumed on 15 July.

The 3/2019 meeting between the committees was opened with remarks by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw

Mahn Win Khaing Than.

At the meeting, U T Khun Myat, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Phithu Hluttaw Speaker, said that 13th regular Hluttaw sessions will commence on 15th July 2019.

These sessions will focus on enactment of the National Planning Bill for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the Union Budget Bill and the Union Tax Bill, according to the meeting.

Amendment of the 2008 Con-

stitution would be discussed, bills being discussed at Hluttaws and other matters of the Hluttaw will be conducted on a priority basis in the upcoming regular sessions of the parliament.

The Speaker also urged the central committee and the work committees to coordinate on necessary matters.

Then, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said that as Hluttaw meetings had been held successfully up

to 12th session, they have a lot of experience. He urged Hluttaw members to use this experience to fill up gaps and hold the 13th Hluttaw regular sessions successfully. Afterwards, a general round of discussion of union ministers, chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers, and permanent secretaries followed.

Then, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker commented on the explanations and discussions.

The meeting came to a close

with the concluding remarks by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Tun Aung@U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers, secretaries of work committees and officials of the Hluttaw Offices.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Permanent Representative of Myanmar to United Nations in Geneva makes statement at Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar during 41st Session of Human Rights Council

AN Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar was held on 2-7-2019 during the 41st Session of Human Rights Council from 24-6-2019 to 12-7-2019 in Geneva.

An oral update was made by the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar

at the Interactive Dialogue.

In response to the Special Rapporteur's statement, Permanent Representative of Myanmar U Kyaw Moe Tun made a statement as a concerned country. In his statement, Permanent Representative highlighted that the democratically elected

civilian government has spared no effort in nurturing democratic norms and practices, strengthening democratic institutions and rule of law and pursuing peace process.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting discussing controversial bills between Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The participants of the meeting discussed the 2017 Land Confiscation Bill and the Myanmar Communication Corporation bill, and the Child Right Bill which was sent back to the Hluttaw from the president's remarks.

The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speak-

er, Chairman of Joint Bill Committee U Tun Aung@U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairmen of the committee, secretaries, joint secretary, officials of Ministry of Union Government Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office. ■ MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds the meeting in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg

UNION Minister of Labour, Immigration and Population received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg at the minister's office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed situation of NVC

holders being able to freely travel, process of citizenship applications, arrangement for conducting interim census, releasing list of ethnic groups and regional development of Buthidaung and Maungtaung.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Bogyoke Aung San Museum being renovated ahead of Martyrs' Day

THE Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Bahan Township of Yangon is undergoing special renovations in preparation for Martyrs' Day, which falls on 19 July. Work is on at the upper floor of the museum, which was shut down for maintenance, so that it can be opened to visitors this year.

Established in 1962, the museum was earlier the residence of Myanmar's independence hero Bogyoke Aung San. He lived in the two-storey home along with his family from May, 1945 till his assassination on 19 July, 1947.

The museum has three rooms on the ground floor and four rooms on the first floor. This year, Bogyoke Aung San's living room has been recreated and his clothes will be exhibited to the public. The rooms on the first floor, which were closed to visitors last year, will be opened after safety measures are put in place. Groups of 50 visitors will be allowed to visit the rooms on the first floor this year.

"Earlier, the first floor of the museum was shut down for necessary maintenance.

After the necessary repair and maintenance, the museum will allow a group of 50 visitors at a time to visit the first floor rooms. The ground floor will take the visitors back to 1947, and Bogyoke's clothes (suits) will be laid out in the bedroom. Visitors can also explore the garden after a trip to the children's bedroom and a special meeting room on the ground floor," said U Khin Maung Soe, Assistant Director, National Museum (Yangon).

Last year, prominent speeches of Bogyoke Aung San were displayed at the museum. This year, stamps with Bogyoke images will be exhibited on 18 boards. The garden in the museum is being maintained by the Yangon City Development Committee's Playgrounds, Parks, and Gardens Department. Covered walkways have been constructed along the entry path by the YCDC's Engineering Department to protect visitors from rain.

On Martyrs' day, the museum will remain open from 6 am to 6 pm. On 20 and 21 July, it will be open from 8 am to 5 pm. Normally, the museum is open

from 9 am to 4.30 pm. Tuesday to Sunday. It remains closed on Mondays and gazetted holidays. Entry is free for locals, while foreigners are charged a fee of K5,000 per person.

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the museum underwent general renovations under

the supervision of the Yangon Region Government, and the current renovation will be completed by 16 July. Officials from the Myanmar Engineering Council, the Association of Myanmar Architects, the Yangon Heritage Trust, and the YCDC will continue with the regular

maintenance of the museum.

Over 20,000 locals and 97 foreigners visited the museum last year. With the latest round of renovation and maintenance, the museum is equipped to receive a higher number of visitors this year.—Than Htike ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Bogyoke Aung San Museum is being renovated in preparation for Martyrs' Day in Bahan Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: THAN SOE**

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives British Ambassador



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets with British Ambassador Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received a delegation led by British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed religious and cultural affairs.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg

UNION Minister Dr Win Myat Aye received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. During the meeting, they discussed implementation of recommendation on Rakhine issue, shutdown of IDP camps, social harmony and development in Rakhine State, ASEAN's collaboration in repatriation of the displaced people, development of women, preventing and countering sexual violence committed against women and children, development of the disabled, rehabilitation of addicts, social management and development of human resource.—MNA
(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with British Ambassador Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Election Commission holds Press conference

UNION Election Commission held a press conference concerning the coming 2020 general elections at the UEC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Present there were Union Election Commission members U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing, U Than Htay, U Nyut Sein, U Thet Tun, officials of commission office and 49 reporters from 31 media. Firstly, U Myint Naing said that the 2020 general elections will meet five standards. The commission had drawn up Strategy Project (2019-2022) and is collaborating with ministries to prepare for the elections. He also explained verdict concerning appeal for 2018 by election objection (1/2019). Then, media asked questions regarding by election objection, election campaigns and election budget, and U Myint Naing answered them.—MNA
(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Election Commission members U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing, U Than Htay, U Nyut Sein and U Thet Tun give the press conference at Union Election Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEC to pass final ruling on Seikkan Constituency candidate complaint

THE tribunal of the Union Election Commission ruled out the appeal from U Nay Myo Aung, the overturned candidate for Yangon Region's Seikkan Township constituency-2, yesterday after hearing his appeal against a previous conviction which revoked his victory and ruled to appoint his rival candidate U Than Htike Aung as the Regional Hluttaw representative. The tribunal of UEC comprised of all members and chaired by UEC Chairman U Hla Thein heard the case on 27 June, 2019. The UEC-chairman led Tribunal yesterday made the same decision of the previous tribunal-1 of UEC that election of U Nay Myo Aung as the Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative in the Seikkan Township Constituency-2 was no longer valid because he violated the electoral laws, and the tribunal ruled that U Than Htike Aung was the legitimate winner of the election.—MNA
(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

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Permanent Representative of Myanmar to United Nations in Geneva makes statement at Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar during 41st Session of Human Rights Council

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The Government fully acknowledges the remaining challenges to overcome and the need for continued endeavours. He pointed out that those who are living through the transition in Myanmar enjoy the widening democratic space and view the progress differently from those who observe it from the outside. “In Myanmar, the voices of people from all walks of life and every part of the region are heard at the highest level”, he stated. Speaking about the freedom of expression and media, high penetration of mobile phone, internet and social media as among the most visible areas of change in Myanmar, he emphasized the need to strike a balance between “Security and Freedom”, “Rights and Responsibilities”.

With regard to the issue in Rakhine State, Permanent Representative explained that the current Government is fully aware of its primary responsibility and has placed the issue as upmost priority since day-one. He underlined that, alongside the Rakhine Advisory Commission’s recommendations, the work of the Independent Com-

mission of Enquiry is important guiding light for the resolution and that Myanmar is taking “holistic and inclusive approach for finding sustainable solution”. He expressed deep sympathy and concern for displaced persons from all communities and reiterated Myanmar’s readiness to receive the verified returnees since 23 January 2018, as agreed in the bilateral Arrangements. He also emphasized the urgent need to commence expeditious repatriation. “Anyone should not turn a blind eye on Myanmar’s genuine and concerted efforts for enabling the repatriation,” he called on the Council.

He invited all to join hand with Myanmar in a constructive manner to find a sustainable solution “instead of naming, shaming and pressuring the country based on groundless allegation.” He also repeated his question to the Special Rapporteur that she failed to respond in the previous interactive dialogue held on 11 March 2019 if she was aware of the displaced persons in the camps in Cox’s Bazar including 444 Hindus who repeatedly expressed their desire to return Rakhine and reminded her that “the work of the Special Rap-



Permanent Representative of Myanmar U Kyaw Moe Tun attends the 41st Session of Human Rights Council in Geneva. **PHOTO: MOFA**

porteur should be impartial and not be selective.”

He stressed the importance of the ability of the Special Rapporteur to look at the problem objectively and impartially, to analyse it correctly, to find the right answer, and to assist and support in the constructive way for promotion and protection of human rights in a concerned country. He also said that the country’s particular circumstances including the perspectives of people and their

government, unique historical and cultural backgrounds, constraints, as well as challenges and complexities should not be neglected.

He reiterated Myanmar’s willingness to extend cooperation with the relevant UN mechanisms including with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General.

As it is a critical juncture for Myanmar in its journey towards a democratic federal union, the Permanent Representative af-

firmed that Myanmar will not tolerate any non-constructive measures and retributive actions that can lead to disunity of its people and infringement of sovereignty and territorial integrity in promotion and protection of human rights.

He concluded by saying that Myanmar’s democracy “is young and still yet incomplete” and it looks to friends the world over to support Myanmar in a constructive way to move its journey forward.—MNA ■

Monetary assistance provided to 13 relief camps in MraukU



Officials from the Disaster Management Department provide cash assistance to people sheltering in the relief camps in MraukU, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

OFFICIALS from the Disaster Management Department, under the Ministry of Social

Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, distributed monetary assistance to people at 13 re-

lief camps in some wards of MraukU Town, Rakhine State, on Wednesday.

Daw Nam Moe Nwe, the Assistant Director of the Disaster Management Department, and staff disbursed monetary assistance for 3,443 people from 919 households who are currently taking shelter in 13 camps, including the Shit Thaug temple monastery, Mya Tan Hsaung temple monastery, Aung Zedi monastery, Phayar Paw monastery, Koe Na Win monastery, and Shwe Htee Hsaung monastery

After handing the two-week monetary assistance to persons in charge of the relief camps, the officials toured the camps and spoke words of encouragement to the people.

—District IPRD ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Solving the Forced Labour Complaints by High Level Working Group (Nay Pyi Taw, June 2019)

- ❖ Myanmar has been cooperating with the ILO in solving forced labour complaints by establishing a complaint mechanism in 2007.
- ❖ At the beginning of 2019, there have been making efforts to set up a National Complaints Mechanism so that to tackle the forced labour complaints.
- ❖ During the interim period before setting up a National Complaints Mechanism, High Level Working Group (HLWG) composed of representatives from concerned ministries including Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is going to handle the forced labour complaints.
- ❖ Complaints can be raised through the following telephone numbers: 067-3430184, 067-3430229, 067-3430274
- ❖ and emails addresses: mol@mptmail.net.mm, molipoffice@gmail.com, research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com.

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Myanma Port Authority collecting rent from just two of nine Yangon water bus terminals

By Nyein Nyein

OF the nine port terminals of the Yangon Water Bus service, the Myanma Port Authority is collecting rent from just two, said U Bo Soe, the Assistant General Manager of the port authority.

“We are collecting rent of K700,000 per month from the No4 and Lanthit terminals. The Myanma Port Authority is not charging any rent from the remaining terminals to help develop the water bus service,” said U Bo Soe, who is also a member of the Yangon Region Transport Authority.

The nine port terminals of the water bus service are Botahtaung No4, Nanthida, Lanthit, Kyimyindine, Hline, Insein, Sarpachaung, Thamada, and the Antgyi shipyard in Dala Township, according to the



Water buses mooring at the Pansodan Terminal in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Myanma Port Authority.

“At present, the Yangon Wa-

ter Bus is running 11 ferries for 100,000 passengers. The number

of passengers has decreased in the monsoon season,” said U

Bo Win.

Meanwhile, to extend the water bus route to the Pazuntaung creek, the Tint Tint Myanmar Company and the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems have jointly conducted a feasibility study at a suitable location for establishing a jetty, and their report has been forwarded to the Yangon Region government, he said.

“We have made plans to extend the water bus route to the South Okkalapa Pagoda. They have been submitted to the regional government,” he added.

The Yangon Water Bus was launched on 7 October, 2017, and it has been providing ferry services on internal routes in Yangon City as well as on Kyauktan and Twantay routes for the past one-and-a-half-years. ■

(Translated by EMM)

Foreign companies eye Myanmar electricity sector

By Nyein Nyein

FOREIGN companies are increasingly showing an interest in investing in Myanmar’s electricity sector, said U Thant Sin Lwin, the acting Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

“We received several investment proposals on electricity infrastructure during the power cuts. Companies from Japan, South Korea, China, and Thailand are interested in this

sector. Thailand PTTEP has proposed solar power projects. China wants to invest in hydro-power,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

Earlier, some companies had protested against the meter charges in Myanmar, and electricity pricing remains a cause for concern among investors, according to the DICA.

“But, the newly set power tariff rates may help attract foreign investors into the electricity sector,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

Foreign companies have

discussed investing in the electricity sector, and the tariff proposed was around K110 per unit, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy, in a recent statement, announced a hike in electricity rates from 1 July.

As per the investment data of existing enterprises, released by the DICA, the electricity sector attracted investments of US\$3.159 billion between 1 October, 2018 and 28 June, 2019.

■ (Translated by La Wonn)

Consumer, capital, intermediate goods imports see downward trend

THE imports of consumer, capital, and intermediate goods declined to US\$13.24 billion between 1 October and 21 June in the current financial year from \$14.16 billion in the year-ago period, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imported consumer goods worth \$2.23 billion such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil in the October-June period. Compared to the same period in the previous fiscal, both public and private sector imports of consumer goods registered a decrease of \$351.8 million.

Meanwhile, imports of cap-

ital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and airplane parts declined by \$6.25 million to reach \$4.3 billion.

Intermediate goods make up the bulk of Myanmar’s imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. The import of raw materials totalled \$4.97 billion, a decline of \$222.5 million compared to the same period in the previous FY.

In addition, raw materials worth \$1.72 billion were imported for the CMP (cut-make-pack) garment sector.—Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade declines to \$23 mln

THE bilateral border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh reached US\$23 million in the period from 1 October to 21 June in the current financial year, which reflects a decline of \$1.3 million compared to the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

Border exports between the countries declined by \$7.93 million, while imports increased by \$6.557 million.

During the same period

in the 2017-2018FY, border trade between the two nations totalled \$24.472 million, with exports worth \$23.438 million and imports valued at \$1.034 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Border trade between the two countries is conducted through the Sittway and Maungtau trade camps.

In the October-June period, trade through the Maung-

taw gate reached \$6.152 million, while trade at the Sittway border point was valued at \$16.952 million.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboos, ginger, peanuts, salt-water prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jam, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages.—Zwe ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Horse cart riding to provide two more trips in Inwa

THE horse-drawn carriage ride throughout Inwa is popular and mostly used by the tourists. The charges of horse cart riding in Inwa are planned to increase to K15,000 on 1 August, to provide two more trips according to U Tun Shwe, head of Inwa horse cart gate.

"Previously, a horse cart taxi took K10,000 for two passenger seats. Although the charges will increase to K15,000 for two people, they will add two more trips for three hours. Additionally, if the horse ride tour taken an extra thirty minutes than the set three hours, they will take K5,000 for extra charges. The horse cart ride is charged K15,000 either on full trip tour or part of trip. They already notified this information to the respective department and the tour agencies", he said.

The previous trip plans included Me Nu Oak Kyaung, Bagaya monastery, Nanmyint tower, and YadanaHsemee Pagoda and now the Leaning watch tower and Win Gabar Pagoda will be added. The horse carts are mostly hired by the

Horse-cart drivers wait the passengers to get around the ancient city of Inwa. **PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHINE**

tourists except Chinese tourists.

"Most of the Inwa people earn their livings as horse cart driver, farmer, mason, carpenter, and other. We have two horse carts and earn K10,000 per time. We hired the horse cart driver for one horse cart and paid K3,000 for whole day", he added.

At present, only 20 horse carts have passengers, but there

are 180 rounds per day during high season.

"The horse cart riding in Inwa can give the strange experience and it is the best way to get around the ancient capital. We can feel the natural beauty of Inwa with its fascinating monasteries and pagodas. The ancient city and horse carts can be marked as the trademark of

Inwa" said, Ma Hnin Hnin, a traveller. Ava, now called Inwa, was the old capital of Myanmar for more than 400 years which is located in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region. Inwa is well-known as the cultural heritage zone with its archaeological sites.—Aung Thant Khine ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

UK trade mission looks to partner with Myanmar companies to develop low cost, low carbon, sustainable energy

THE British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar announced yesterday the imminent arrival of a Trade Mission from the UK yesterday.

The mission derives from the Energy Catalyst programme run by Innovate UK, funded through the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF), a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government in late 2015 to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries.

The Energy Catalyst programme was set up in 2013 to support UK-based businesses develop highly innovative, market focused, energy technologies.

In 2019 the Energy Catalyst programme was awarded £36.6m from the GCRF to develop new energy technologies and enable them to rapidly become viable sustainable energy solutions, adhering to three key pillars of; Low Cost, Low Carbon and Secure Supply, specifically working in two areas of Sub-Saharan Af-

rica and South Asia.

The delegation will include representatives from fifteen UK companies, with expertise in a range of areas inclusive but not limited to hydrokinetic energy, biofineries, microgrids, research and funding. The aim of the mission is to help organisations applying for the Energy Catalyst (Round 7) to gain an understanding of the energy access issues in Myanmar and find links to potential partners.

Peter Crowhurst, CEO of the British Chamber of Commerce commented;

'We have an opportunity to bring about prosperity in under developed regions through mini grids driven by solar, wind and water. The Myanmar Government's objective is for 100% electricity coverage in ten years' time. There is potential to reduce this time-frame with attention being paid to renewables and the opportunities that it presents.'—GNLM ■

Myanmar species added to new list of birds



PHOTO: WCS

INTERNATIONAL experts have classified the Burmese prinia (prina cooki) as a separate sub-category of the brown prinia and have added it to the list of species endemic to Myanmar.

"These bird species usually inhabit middle Myanmar. But, some of them are found in Shan State. They have not been included in the list of rare bird species," said U Thet Zaw Naing, an ornithologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar).

After international experts researched the brown prinia bird

species, the Burmese prinia (prina cooki) species was classified as a separate type, and has been listed as a Myanmar endemic bird species, which means, it can only be found in Myanmar, according to the WCS. The decision was confirmed on 17 June.

According to the WCS, 46 of the world's threatened bird species are found in Myanmar. Eight of these species are critically endangered, 12 endangered, and 26 have been classified as vulnerable, it added.—Nyi Tu (Translated by Hay Mar)

Smart cards to be issued to all YBS drivers this month: YRTA



YBS bus runs near Sule Pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWA

By Nyein Nyein

ALL drivers employed with YBS bus lines will be given smart cards this month, said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, Managing Director, Yangon Region Transport Authority.

“We expect to complete issuance of smart cards to YBS drivers in July,” he said, adding there are more than 5,000 drivers who have applied for smart cards.

The transport authority has said it will give first priority to drivers with large companies,

followed by medium-sized companies, when issuing smart cards. Once drivers from the large and medium companies are covered, then drivers from the remaining bus lines will be given smart cards, according to the YRTA.

“Once the smart cards are issued, the YRTA will have the personal information of every single driver, so it will be simpler for the authority to deal with complaints or take action against undisciplined drivers,” said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

“The YRTA will have a centralized database detailing the job history and work experience of YBS drivers. This will make it easy to trace drivers quickly,” he added.

According to the transport authority, it is currently dealing with 1,012 cases involving driver indiscipline — four cases of drivers changing routes, 790 cases of fine receipt, and 218 complaints against drivers. In addition, there were 13 accidents involving buses, that left four people dead and 22 injured. ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Bangkok Airways Passenger Service System (PSS) to be unavailable on 13-14 July

BANGKOK Airways Public Company Limited announces that its Passenger Service System (PSS) including Reservations, Ticketing, Inventory, and Departure Control System, will be unavailable between 13 July 2019 at 7 p.m. – 14 July 2019 at 6 a.m. Bangkok Time (GMT+7) as the airline will migrate their Passenger Service System to the Amadeus Altéa Suite.

During the transition period, certain systems for passenger service functions such as flight bookings, flight modifications and self check-in services on both www.bangkokair.com and Call Center 1771 will not be available. Also, web check-in, mobile check-in, and kiosk check-in, will be unavailable from 11 July at 10pm – 15 July 2019 at 6am. Passengers can follow the migration updates at



Bangkok Airways PSS will be unavailable during 13-14 July. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

www.bangkokair.com.

For passengers who would like to book and/or issue tickets, the airline recommends to please do so before the outage periods. Passengers traveling during the transition period are

encouraged to arrive early (2 hours for domestic flights and 3 hours for international flights) for check-in formalities at the airport and to have a copy of their confirmed e-ticket and itinerary.—GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement (104/2019)

3rd Waxing of Waso 1381 ME
4 July 2019

Announcement of Union Election Commission decision according to State/Region Hluttaw Election Law Section 75 (b)

1. U Than Htike Aung filed a complaint on the election of U Nay Myo Aung as Representative for Yangon Region Hluttaw Seikkan constituency 2. Union Election Commission conducted an investigation with Election Tribunal under State/Region Hluttaw Election Law Section 69 and Section 75 and made a decision.
2. In the decision of Union Election Commission on Election Complaint Appeal 1/2019 dated 4 July 2019, election of U Nay Myo Aung as Representative for Yangon Region Hluttaw Seikkan constituency 2 was declared null and void and U Than Htike Aung was declared as the legally election representative according to State/Region Hluttaw Election Law Section 75(a).
3. Therefore from the date of this announcement, U Nay Myo Aung is no longer a Hluttaw Representative and U Than Htike Aung [12/Ka Ma Ya (Naing) 002590] is designated and declared according to Hluttaw Election Law Section 75(b) as the Representative for Yangon Region Hluttaw Seikkan constituency 2.

Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

(Unofficial Translation)



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Nothing should stop us from fighting discrimination against women in all its forms

MYANMAR Women's Day falls on 3 July and marks the day when the Myanmar National Committee on Women was founded. The theme for this year's International Women's Day – "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change"—found an echo in Myanmar Women's Day celebrations, underlining the need to create an environment which ensures gender equality, social justice, and protection of women.

Cases of sexual violence against women, including minors, are a source of worry, and very often, they show how the importance of women in society is being underestimated.

Gradually, people have started realizing the importance of women in the world as it is. Today, the importance of women in society is beyond question. In today's world, women, with their ambition, intelligence, and strength, have proved that the word "inferior" has nothing to do with gender.

Traditionally, there has been strong empathy towards women in Myanmar, ensuring they receive care, not since they are considered inferior to men, but because they are given priority. The cultural values placed on women in our country have changed gradually through the eras, with low levels of education and economic development affecting our culture negatively.

The menace of drugs and over consumption of alcohol seen today can be counted as the side effects of advanced technology eroding the real Myanmar culture. Cases of sexual violence against women, including minors, are a source of worry, and very often, they show how the importance of women in society is being underestimated.

Violence against women and girls has been identified as a serious violation of human rights and we all have a moral obligation to end it. It also has serious economic and social costs. There is no single explanation for why people are violent, and more specifically, violence towards women and girls.

We all need to make a commitment to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women. Regardless of how difficult that sounds, nothing should stop us from striving for complete success, and that is a worthy target.

To build such an environment, we need a management machinery that will enforce laws and rules that ensure social protection of women. The world has witnessed how powerful an influence women can have on international affairs. This has been made possible due to the strong involvement of women in social communities. Women have the power to shape not only their own children, but countless other young women who are watching and listening to them at work, at home, and in the community. For a very long time, women were considered inferior to men. However, the role of women in society has changed significantly in recent decades.

Ending Violence Against Women

By Khaing Khaing Win

HUMANS differ with each other in a variety of ways – country, religion, race, language, culture, and gender. Discrimination against women is not new. Historically, women have been denied rights to vote, passed up for promotions and discriminated for being who they are. Assaulting and/or sexually abusing women, especially children who are not yet teenagers, is a grave violation of international human rights. Targeted abuse against women is also known as gender-based violence. Such kinds of crimes not only hinder the country economic ascent, but also affects the legitimacy of democracy where equality and rule of law are pillars of the system.

Abuse Against Women

The term "abuse against women" doesn't only mean physical violence; there are other kinds of abuse women face such as mental abuse, economic abuse (financially controlling), sexual assault, genital mutilation, trafficking and forced marriages. Gender discrimination in the workplace as well as at home are also common. According to the World Health Organization, 1 in 3 women have experienced some form of physical violence by their intimate partner. This is not limited to sexual assault or violence and includes a range of behaviors such as slapping, shoving, pushing.

The Aftermath

The abuse can last both short-term and long term. No matter the time length, the damage has been done- the victim has surely



We need to raise awareness of violence that girls and women face every day. GRAPHIC: BT

suffered physically and mentally from the assault. There are lots of health problems that can follow as well including sexually transmitted diseases (eg. HIV), unwanted pregnancy, disfigurement, stress, depression, PTSD and death. According to research, disabled women are more likely to be victims of abuse compared to abled counterparts. Children who grew up experiencing sexual abuse are more likely to have mental health complications which can hinder their growth.

Violence against Women in Myanmar

More than half of Myanmar's population is women. Although it is difficult to get statistics on the

Myanmar has also signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with its core principles of equality and non-discrimination in 1997 to address women's rights..

whole country for violence against women, the Myanmar Police Force has reflected on its crime rates and warned that there is an increase in violence against women in Myanmar. There has been an alarmingly increasing number of reports on sexually abusing children. This is

Public Opinion

It is still quite uncommon to see discussions on violence against women across Myanmar. This may be quite to the negative stigma attached to being a victim which discourages them from reporting a crime as well as pressure from relatives and family keeping the incident in the family so they don't lose face amongst their neighbors. Others do not see domestic violence as a problem while others are afraid that they might suffer more abuse if they report. Some are unaware of the law enforcement mechanism that exists. All the factors contribute to silence from the victims and/or the

people around the victim who are aware of the violence. Studies have also highlighted that most of the reports from the victim results in almost little to no justice for them with the perpetrator often walking free or serving the minimal sentence.

Protecting the Victims

Myanmar has also signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with its core principles of equality and non-discrimination in 1997 to address women's rights to non-discrimination within political, civil, cultural, economic, social and family spheres. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is the focal ministry in forming national to local organizations that will work towards combating targeted crimes against women. There are also plans to draft a new law specifically targeting against perpetrators of violence against women. There are also women organizations that are working towards providing free legal assistance for victims to make it easier for them to get justice. There are also several organizations with different purposes such as raising awareness for gender equality, providing vocational training for women so they can be financially independent as well as those that teach women self-defense. July 3rd also marks the annual Women's Day in Myanmar with the country celebrating women across the country with discussions, panels, talks, and parades.

Livelihoods of millions in East, Southeast Asia at risk from Swine Fever epidemic

The rapid spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) is threatening the food security and livelihoods of millions of households in the region which rely on pig farming : FAO

UN News

SMALL scale farmers account for a significant proportion of pig meat production in the vast region, and the outbreak is of particular concern for these producers, who may lack the expertise and funds necessary to protect their herds from the disease.

Higher prices, lower incomes

FAO has received reports that ASF has led to income losses in the affected countries, where tens of millions of households are engaged in pig farming – in China, the world's largest pig meat producer, the figure is some 130 million – both because of the animal losses, and attempts by governments to stem the spread of the disease, which include limitations

on the transportation and sales of live pigs and pork products.

The diets of many vulnerable people living in east and south-east Asian countries are expected to be adversely impacted: pork is one of the world's most widely consumed animals in many countries in the region, and the decline in production, as well as concerns about the future impact of ASF, has already led to price hikes.

Continued spread of disease likely

Since the first reported outbreak of ASF in the northern Chinese province of Liaoning in August 2018, the disease has swept through the country, and 32 of the country's 34 mainland provinces have since

been affected. Despite actions taken by the Chinese Government, including the culling of 1.13 million pigs, ASF continues to spread, and has been reported in Viet Nam, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Laos. In May, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, commonly known as North Korea, reported its first outbreak.

The current failure to curb the disease is being attributed to several factors. Firstly, many small-scale farmers have not put in place measures to adequately protect their herds from disease. Secondly, pigs on small farms are often fed with table scraps, or uncooked organic refuse, which may contain the virus. The cross-border trade of pigs, some of which may be contaminated, has also contributed to the prevalence of ASF.

For these reasons, experts believe that the disease will inevitably spread further in the coming months, with far-reaching implications. These include a large decline in the number of farmed pigs, impacting the global market.

ASF is a contagious viral disease that affects pigs and wild boars causing high fever, internal bleeding, and is almost always fatal within a few weeks, as there is no treatment or vaccine available. The disease is harmless for humans. It spreads easily between domestic and wild pigs through direct contact, the feeding of contaminated food and materials that come into contact with the animals, including shoes, clothes, vehicles and equipment.

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H.E U Thit Linn Ohn appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia.—MNA

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July, 2019, during the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, from 4 am to a completion of the ceremony. While roads are closed, bypass routes will be used passing through West Shwegondine Road to the Link Junction, Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road junction, Dhammazedi Road and U Wisara Junction, West Shwegondaing Road and U Wisara Junction. Arzarni Road, the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the western archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed on that day.

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Announcement on closure of Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road on Martyrs' Day

For the convenience of visitors to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum on the Martyrs' Day which falls on 19 July, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed on that day starting at 5 am until the closing time. Road users are advised to use other routes while the road temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter experience service problems worldwide

SAN FRANCISCO — US major social media platforms of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Twitter are experiencing global problems Wednesday as users reported failed attempts to upload pictures and other posts.

Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, which all are owned by Facebook, are reporting problems around the world, and the outages were concentrated in the eastern United States, and parts of Europe and South America, according to Down Detector, which tracks service interruptions on a variety of sites across the world.

“We’re aware that some people are having trouble uploading or sending images, videos and other files on our apps. We’re sorry for the trouble and are working to get things back to normal as quickly as possible,” Facebook



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks during the F8 Facebook Developers conference on 30 April 2019 in San Jose, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

said. Twitter also confirmed in a tweet that its service is “currently having some issues with DM delivery and notifications.”

“We’re working on a fix and will follow up as soon as we have an update for you. Apologies for

the inconvenience,” Twitter Support added. Facebook suffered similar partial outage in March this year, which affected its global users for almost 24 hours, as a result of what it called a change to its system.—Xinhua ■

Vodafone launches 5G service in UK using Huawei equipment

LONDON — Vodafone UK on Wednesday switched on its 5G service, becoming the second UK mobile operator to turn on its 5G network relying on Huawei equipment.

The Vodafone network is launched in seven British cities, including Cardiff, London, Manchester and Glasgow, offering much faster speeds and the opportunity for new services such as artificial intelligence, the internet of things, robotics, connected cities and self-driving cars.

Meanwhile, Vodafone also announced that it’s offering 5G roaming in four European coun-

tries – Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy over the summer. Vodafone’s 5G network will be working at average speeds of 150-200 Mbps, up to 10 times faster than 4G. Anne Sheehan, Business director of Vodafone UK, described 5G as “a game-changer for the economy and UK businesses.”

“We are committed to helping our customers take advantage of this technology by making it widely available in the UK and through roaming. We want to help UK businesses become global leaders and 5G will play an important role in achieving that aim,” Sheehan said.

Victor Zhang, Huawei Senior Vice President, told Xinhua: “We are proud to be helping Vodafone open up a new world of seamless opportunities with their launch of 5G mobile services in the UK. This reinforces the UK as a 5G leader and builds on our 18-year history of supporting the digital economy here.”

Huawei is the world’s leading company in 5G. According to the Chinese company, Huawei already won 50 5G contracts globally. On May 30, mobile network operator EE launched Britain’s first 5G service, using Huawei equipment.—Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 3 July, 2019 shows a Vodafone store in London, Britain. Vodafone UK on Wednesday switched on its 5G service, becoming the second UK mobile operator to turn on its 5G network relying on Huawei equipment. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

London inaugurating its first elevated linear park this week

The Tide, set to be inaugurated on July 5, will be located in the new creative neighborhood of Greenwich Peninsula alongside the river Thames.

This cultural linear park, conceived as a “destination for art, design, and well-being,” will feature timber-decked bridges surrounded by native trees and natural vegetation.

Nine-meter-high elevated walkways will connect to a five-kilometer-long loop, where visitors can relax in a jetty garden or grab a bite on a giant outdoor picnic table.

The park, designed by architecture firm Diller Scofidio + Renfro, will also present a collection of public art by British artists, including installations by Damien Hirst and Anthony Gormley.

Hirst’s sculptures “Hydra & Kali” and “Mermaid,” which were both included in his 2017 exhibition “Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable,” will be on view in The Tide. More artworks from the artist will later be installed.

Pop artist Allen Jones has also been commissioned to cre-

ate a site-specific installation, known as “Head in Wind.” The red eight-meter-high sculpture was designed to be seen from above, inviting visitors to interact with the sculpture from a new perspective.

London-based artist Morag Myerscough has also created a boldly colored installation, “Siblings,” that will be on view under the elevated walkway of The Tide.

The first kilometer of the park will be unveiled during Turning Tides Festival, which will run over the first two weekends of July (5-7 and 12-14).

The free event will include performances by Laura Mvula, Oumou Sangare and LGBTQ+ collective Sink The Pink.

Yoko Ono’s “Wishing Tree” participatory art project will also be on show, as well as conceptual artist GERONIMO’s new large-scale installation of 25 water droplets.

On 6 and 13 July, Morning Glory will host an early-morning rave party during which guests can partake in yoga classes and gong bath sessions.—AFP ■

Jakarta residents sue Indonesia government over air pollution

JAKARTA — Residents of Indonesia’s capital on Thursday filed a lawsuit against the government over the toxic levels of air pollution that regularly blanket the city.

Jakarta has been shrouded in hazardous smog for much of the past month, with air quality readings recording high concentrations of harmful microscopic particles known as PM2.5.

Fed up with what they say is worsening air pollution, a group of 31 concerned residents has sued President Joko Widodo, as well as the ministry of environment and forestry, ministry of health, and Jakarta’s governor.

The plaintiffs — which include activists, office workers and motorcycle taxi drivers — want to raise awareness about the issue and force the government to act.

“(The government) has neglected people’s rights to breathe healthy air,” lawyer Nelson Nikodemus Simamora told reporters after filing the lawsuit.

“They have not maintained air quality at a level that is healthy enough for the 10 million people

living here.”

Toxic smog saw Jakarta ranked as the most polluted city in the world for several mornings running last month, forcing residents to wear pollution masks and sparking a storm of social media criticism. Air Visual, an independent online air quality index (AQI) monitor, pegged Jakarta at the “very unhealthy” level of 231 on June 25, higher than notoriously polluted cities like India’s capital New Delhi and Beijing in China.

Environment groups blame the air pollution on a cocktail of vehicle fumes, smoke and emissions from coal-fired power plants that ring greater Jakarta.

Greenpeace Indonesia last week recommended people don masks to protect themselves from respiratory illness. “The number of unhealthy days for 2018 is twice as high as the figure for 2017,” Bondan Andriyanu, climate and energy campaigner for the group, told AFP. “The government should recognise the issue, they are still using outdated regulation from the ‘90s.”—AFP ■

New EU chief makes first trip to Brussels

BRUSSELS — The EU's new president-elect Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday made her first trip to Brussels since being nominated, as senior officials sought to shore up support for her appointment in the European Parliament.

Current German defence minister von der Leyen met Jean-Claude Juncker, the man she is to replace as European Commission president, for talks a day after pledging to present her "vision for the next five years for Europe" within a fortnight.

She must win the approval of the highly fragmented European Parliament, where there have been grumblings about the deal to appoint her, which was cooked up by EU national leaders over three days of tortuous summit wrangling.

Juncker and von der Leyen — the first woman to be named to the head of the EU's executive



Outgoing president of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker (right) welcomes his successor, German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels. PHOTO: AFP PHOTO

arm — embraced warmly for the cameras as they met at commission headquarters in Brussels, but neither made any comment.

Juncker, whose five-year term has been marked by Brexit and the migrant crisis — two of the biggest upheavals ever to hit

the EU — tweeted later that he was "delighted" to receive von der Leyen.

"A true European, we are on the same page when it comes to speaking up for EU interests," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Donald Tusk the

president of the European Council of member states, appeared before MEPs at the parliament in Strasbourg to urge them to unite and support von der Leyen.

"We must respect each other and cooperate with each other, because only then can we build trust and change Europe for the better," Tusk told the parliament, sitting this week in Strasbourg, France.

Tusk — who led the summit talks that eventually installed von der Leyen — will meet the 60-year-old, who has served in the German cabinet since 2005, for separate talks on Thursday afternoon.

Von der Leyen wasted no time in her campaign to court MEPs, travelling to Strasbourg on Wednesday, less than 24 hours after winning the leaders' nod, for talks with her centre-right European People's Party (EPP) bloc.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's Dongfeng plans manufacturing electric cars in Egypt

CAIRO — China's giant automaker Dongfeng Motor Corporation (DFM) held discussions with the Egyptian minister of trade and industry over manufacturing electric cars in Egypt, the Egyptian ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

"With the production of electric cars in Egypt, the government aims to meet the needs of the local market and then to export to Arab, African and European markets," Egyptian Trade and Industry Minister AmrNassar said in the statement.

The ministry said that DFM is earnestly studying the manufacture of electric cars in Egypt, adding that the government provides investment incentives in this field in the light of global tendency to use electric cars.

"The Chinese corporation could sign a contract of partnership with an Egyptian state-owned production line for cooperation in manufacturing and assembling electric cars," it added.—Xinhua ■

S Korea concludes Japan's export restrictions violate WTO rules

SEOUL — South Korea's National Security Council concluded Thursday that Japan's tighter rules on exports of semiconductor-related materials to its neighbor that went into effect the same day are retaliatory and violate World Trade Organization rules.

During a meeting presided over by Chung Eui Yong, director of the National Security Office, "council members vowed to explore a diplomatic response so Japan would withdraw the measures," the presidential office said in a statement.

President Moon Jae In's office also said South Korea will explain to major countries the unfairness of Japan's export curbs and how they go against

the principle of free trade and will propagate its views as a global opinion.

Effective Thursday, suppliers are required to seek government approval before exporting to South Korea three materials needed to produce semiconductors and display panels, potentially dealing a crippling blow to South Korean chip and display makers.

The Japanese move comes after what Tokyo views as Seoul's failure to address a months-long bilateral dispute over compensation for wartime labor. Japan, announcing the move, cited "significant damage to the relationship of mutual trust" between the countries.

Earlier Thursday before the NSC meeting, South Korea's finance minister, Hong Nam Ki, made a similar assessment that Japan's latest move is clearly a type of economic retaliation.

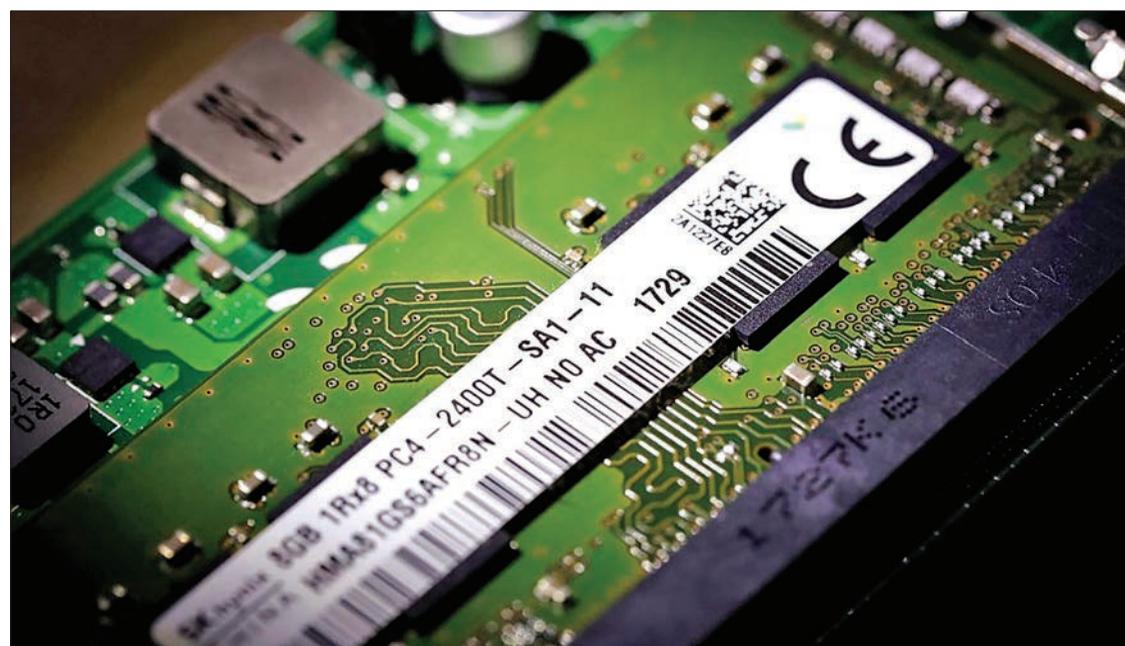
"The government will surely take 'corresponding' measures," Hong said on a radio show, while adding that filing a complaint with the WTO is not the only option as taking that route could take quite a long time to resolve the matter.

Minister For Trade YooMyungHee said at a separate meeting that Japan's measures are incompatible with international norms, such as those under the WTO. She called on Japan to accept bilateral talks that South Korea has proposed.

Yoo also called for Japan to withdraw the export measures, saying the move not only damages the economic ties between the two countries but also has a serious impact on the international trading order and companies in third countries. South Korea has reportedly started examining the legal grounds for taking the matter to the WTO, while Japan is said to be considering imposing stricter export controls on more items.

Concerns grew in South Korea on Thursday as Japan's tighter rules took effect, with calls even emerging on social media for a boycott of Japanese products. Japan indicated Monday it also plans to remove South Korea from its "white list" of countries that enjoy preferential treatment in the shipments of items that could be diverted for military use.

Maeil Business Newspaper, a Seoul-based business daily, reported Thursday that if South Korea is removed from the list, the automobile and battery industries will also be hit. Given the concern, the Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association has opened an emergency probe into how critical the impact would be, according to the report. The conservative Dong-A Ilbo newspaper reported that posts calling on Koreans to stop traveling to Japan and boycott Japanese-made products are spreading on social media.—Kyodo News ■



Japan's tighter rules on exports of semiconductor-related materials to its neighbor. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Tariffs hurt US businesses, raise risk of global recession, former US security adviser warns

WASHINGTON — The US-initiated trade war is hurting the country's businesses and increasing the risk of a global recession, a former US senior official has warned.

The tariffs "are hurting US businesses, consumers, and farmers. They are alienating US allies. And, analysts warn, they are increasing the risk of a global recession," said Thomas Donilon, a former national security adviser in the Obama administration.

In a recent article posted on the website of Foreign Affairs, Donilon pointed out "The rivalry between the United States and China is here to stay," but he emphasized that the trade war employed by the US government is the wrong tools.

He said the flaw in the US strategy is that it has focused too much on China and almost not at all on the United States, said Donilon, who is also a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. think tank.—Xinhua ■



Alek Sigley — one of a handful of Westerners living in Pyongyang — disappeared without a trace around 23 June. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australian student detained in North Korea 'released, safe'

BEIJING — A 29-year-old Australian student detained in North Korea surfaced in Beijing on Thursday, saying he felt "great" after being released.

Alek Sigley — one of a handful of Westerners living and studying in North Korea — disappeared without a trace around June 23, prompting a week of deep concern and frantic speculation about his fate.

For days Sigley's family received no word about his whereabouts or wellbeing, stoking fears he may have been the latest in a long line of foreigners to become entangled in North Korea's police state. "I'm ok, I'm ok, yeah, yeah, I'm good, I'm very good," Sigley said at Beijing's international airport. Asked how he felt, he responded: "Great." He went to the Australian embassy and was later seen again at the airport, where he smiled again and waved at reporters. He was expected to travel to Japan, where his wife still lives.—AFP ■

Trump, producer-president, makes July 4th his own show

WASHINGTON — Tanks in the heart of Washington, fighter jets screaming overhead, and a speech from the Lincoln Memorial: President Donald Trump is promising the "show of a lifetime" as he prepares to turn the Fourth of July into a personal primetime extravaganza.

The commander-in-chief and erstwhile Manhattan showman plans to tear up another norm, critics say, by hijacking traditionally non-partisan Independence Day as he seeks re-election.

"Our July 4th Salute to America at the Lincoln Memorial is looking to be really big. It will be the show of a lifetime!" Trump tweeted Wednesday.

"We have the greatest economy anywhere in the world. We have the greatest military anywhere in

the world. Not bad!" he added.

Usually, said Rich Hanley, a media and popular culture expert at Quinnipiac University, July 4 works as a kind of national ceasefire.

"It's a day when people can set aside their polarized differences ... and raise the flag without entering into political discussions," he said. "Then on the 5th they go back to normal."

But this year, the familiar script is being given a rewrite.

At around 6:30 pm (2230 GMT), Trump will take to the hallowed steps of the Lincoln Memorial for an unprecedented "Salute to America" event that will include a televised address, military hardware and a giant fireworks display. The nation's top military brass

will have a front row seat.

The modified Boeing 747 used as Air Force One will fly over, as will noisy, powerful warplanes expected to include F-35s, and jets from the Navy's Blue Angels air show team.

A handful of tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles are stationed near the Lincoln Memorial, although the enormous machines are not expected to roll, as their tracks would likely tear up city streets.

The center of attention, however, will not be the weapons. Or the nearly million dollars' worth of fireworks that are in the works, a donation from two big manufacturers.

Rather, it will be Trump.

"Your favorite President, me!" he tweeted when announcing the show.—AFP ■

Myanmar Toyota Tsusho Company Limited
(Under Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM DEBTS

Take Notice that the creditors of the above-named Company are required to send their names, addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their attorneys, if any, to the undersigned Liquidator at address mentioned below in person or by their attorneys to come in and prove their said debts or claims on or before 5th August, 2019 or in default thereof they will be excluded from the settlement of such debts and claims.

Daw Thauung Mya Wai
LL.B, DA, DCA
Liquidator
Room No. (2D), Rose Condominium,
No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road,
Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interests to provide for the implementation in a number of areas to accelerate the development of rural telecommunications (voice and internet) infrastructure and services in locations that are unlikely to attract sufficient private investment in Myanmar. The deadline for the submission of electronic copy of EOI is August 5, 2019 by 2:00 PM Myanmar Standard Time.

Attn:

Director General
Office No. (2), Posts and Telecommunications Department,
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 3407225
Fax phone: +95 67 3407216
E mail: dg@ptd.gov.mm
cc: kyawoo@ptd.gov.mm and
usodepartment.ptd@gov.mm

The detail information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Expression of Interest and it can be downloaded at PTD Website:

<https://www.ptd.gov.mm/NewsDetail.aspx?id=K9xncWTh%2bm1nRRc7zHafqg%3d%3d>

Tender Committee
Ministry of Transport and Communications

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Law and

MYANMAR TOYOTA TSUSHO CO., LTD

[Under Sections 345 & 348]

The Special General Meeting of Myanmar Toyota Tsusho Co., Ltd duly held and convened on 30 - 6 - 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at 14th Floor, HAGL Myanmar Centre Tower 1, No. 192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the following resolutions were passed unanimously as Special Resolutions:

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

- Resolved that the Company be and is hereby wound up voluntarily under Members' Voluntary Winding up.
- Resolved that Daw Thauung Mya Wai, LL.B, DA, DCA, holder of Citizenship Scrutiny Card No. 12/ Tha Ga Ka (Naing) 143470, Manager of WIN Consulting Limited of Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar be and is hereby appointed as Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up and be authorized her to carry on the business of the Company to such extent and for such period as may be necessary for the beneficial winding up thereof and be granted such other powers as may be deemed fit or proper.

By order of the Board,
Mr. Takuya Ichihashi
Managing Director
Myanmar Toyota Tsusho Co., Ltd

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (018N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (018N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 05-07-2019 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
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Starved, tortured, bombed: the fate of refugees trapped in Libya

PARIS — Acute malnutrition, forced labour, torture: NGOs have sharpened their tone against the shocking conditions endured by refugees and migrants in Libya, where over 40 people were killed in an air strike on a detention centre.

Tuesday night's strike on the centre at Tajoura near the capital Tripoli, in which 70 people were wounded, underscored the vulnerability of the mainly African migrants trapped in conditions the UN has called "ghastly".

Their plight has been blamed by NGOs on an agreement between EU nations and the Libyan coastguard to prevent the migrants from reaching Europe's shores by boat.

Since January, over 2,300 people have been intercepted at

sea and brought back to Libya, according to the UN.

Once back in Libya, they are transferred to detention centres like the one in Tajoura.

The situation has deteriorated further since Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar, whose forces have been blamed for the airstrike, launched an offensive in April to capture Tripoli, triggering a wave of violence in which over 700 people have been killed.

"There is a certain blindness among European countries among the situation of migrants in Libya," Vincent Cochetel, special envoy for the Central Mediterranean at UN refugee agency UNHCR told AFP.

"The recent fighting has created an even worse situation. It cannot be business as usual in

terms of this cooperation (with the EU) on returns to Libya," he argued.

The levels of despair among the migrants are such that in May, a man in a rickety boat who spotted the coastguards approaching jumped into the sea rather than be captured — a scene captured on video by German NGO Sea-Watch. The man was later rescued by a passing ship.

EU on the defensive

Excruciating footage filmed inside hidden prisons run by human traffickers that was broadcast by Britain's Channel 4 in February gives some idea of the brutality inflicted on migrants by militia members who use them to try to extort money from their families.—AFP ■



The Libyan coastguard take back migrants they have rescued towards Zawiyah — but some have preferred to take their chances by jumping into the sea rather than endure the conditions of some detention centres. PHOTO: AFP



Smoke billows from the volcano on the Italian island of Stromboli. PHOTO: AFP

Tourists flee as volcano erupts on Italian island of Stromboli

ROME — A volcano on the Italian island of Stromboli erupted dramatically on Wednesday, killing a hiker and sending tourists fleeing into the sea.

The volcano is known to be active but on Wednesday there were two particularly powerful explosions.

"Unfortunately one man is dead, there are a few injured, but none seriously," emergency worker Calogero Foti told RAI television.

The dead man was a 35-year-old from Messina in Sicily who was walking with a Brazilian companion who was found dehydrated and in a state of shock, the AGI news agency reported.

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They were walking below the 400-metre altitude limit above which a guide is required.

'Like being in hell'

A navy boat has been sent to the 12 square kilometre (five square miles) island for a possible mass evacuation, with 70 inhabitants and tourists already evacuated. "It was like being in hell because of the rain of fire coming from the sky," Italian news agencies quoted local priest Giovanni Longo as saying.

He said it was not known if there were any hikers on the volcano at the time of the eruption, which caused fires around the village of Ginostra.—AFP ■

Mauritania releases opposition supporters arrested after vote clashes

NOUAKCHOTT — Opposition supporters arrested in Mauritania during clashes after disputed presidential elections have been released following official confirmation of the ruling party's victory, security and justice sources told AFP.

"Several activists and opposition leaders arrested during these events were released" on Tuesday, a security source told AFP, without specifying the number. Those released included supporters of candidate Baba Hamidou Kane, who came fourth, the source said Wednesday.

Foreigners who took part in

the clashes have also been released and others have been deported and charged with "undermining the security of the state," a judicial source told AFP, without indicating their number.

Ex-general Mohamed Ould Ghazouani won the 22 June poll with an absolute majority of 52 per cent, the Constitutional Council, the final authority on Mauritania's founding law, announced on Monday.

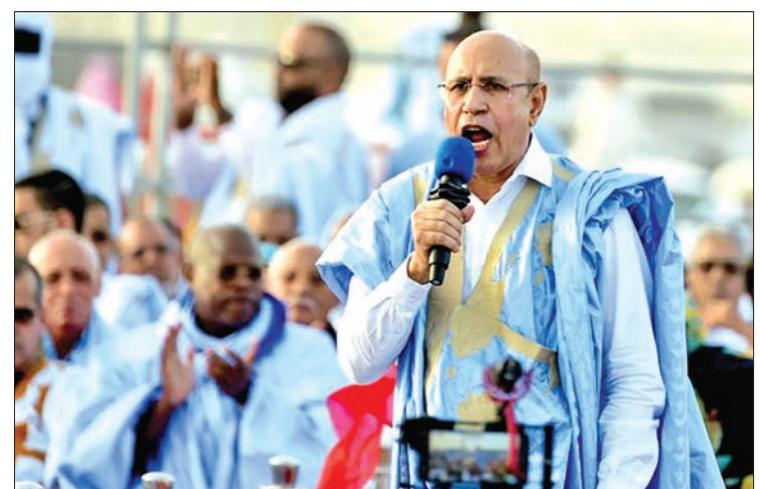
Four opposition candidates, who have claimed the vote was fraudulent and unfair, said in a joint statement on Tuesday that they were ready to help end the

"current political crisis" through dialogue.

The opposition had complained that hundreds of people were arrested in a crackdown on post-poll protests.

The authorities have not specified a total of arrests but said about 100 nationals of neighbouring countries, including Senegalese and Malians, had been detained.

Mobile access to the internet, which had been partially cut off in the conservative West African country since 23 June, was restored on Wednesday. Fixed-line access had been cut off from 25



Former general Mohamed Ould Ghazouani has been confirmed as the winner of Mauritania's presidential election. PHOTO: AFP

to 28 June. However, Ahmed Ould Wediaa, a journalist with the private TV channel Almourabitoune, was arrested late Tuesday, police said Wednesday. The reasons for his arrest were not given.

Ghazouani will on August 2 officially take over the presidency from close ally Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, who is stepping down after serving the maximum two five-year terms.—AFP ■

Malaysia decriminalizes street demonstrations

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's lower house of Parliament passed a government proposal Thursday that decriminalizes street demonstrations, fulfilling a reform promise made by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's administration.

The house passed the amendment to the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012 by a simple voice vote.

"The amendment is needed to give room to the people, their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly," Home Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said in a speech when tabling the bill at the House of Representatives.

Previously, the act banned

any assembly in the form of a "street protest," defined as marching from one location to protest or advance a cause, while allowing public gatherings. Participating in a street protest was punishable with a maximum fine of 10,000 ringgit (about \$2,400).

Muhyiddin said there are other laws such as the Penal Code that can be applied if protestors turn violent or commit other offences.

The amendment also allows an organizer to notify the police seven days in advance from the date of the rally, down from the previous 10 day.

A new provision is added enabling the police to issue a



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

fine of not more than 5,000 ringgit to those who fail to comply with the notice requirement or break the conditions set by the police

for the rally.

When the Peaceful Assembly Act was first tabled in the Parliament eight years ago by

the previous government led by former Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's National Front coalition, rights groups had slammed it for being restrictive because of the ban on street protests. The then opposition staged a walk-out, foregoing their right to vote.

Anti-government street protests back then had sometimes been met with tear gas and water cannon, with protestors being arrested.

After Mahathir's alliance defeated the National Front in last year's general election, it formed a committee to look into what it deemed "draconian laws" including the Peaceful Assembly Act.—Kyodo News ■



A woman looks at the Tokyo Olympics ticket application website in Tokyo on 9 May, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Olympic organizers announce more Tokyo 2020 ticket lotteries

TOKYO — Two more ticket lotteries for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics will be held for residents of Japan, after millions missed out in the first draw, organizers said Thursday.

The next lottery, in August, will be a "second chance" for those who were not allocated tickets when the results of the first one were announced on 20 June, and will largely be for qualifiers and first-round events.

A third lottery, open to all residents, will be held in the autumn.

Organizers have ditched plans to offer unsold tickets in the autumn on a first-come, first-served basis, due to worries about a repeat of the heavy website traffic in the first draw.

Applicants experienced website connection problems

at the beginning and end of the first application period, which ran from the morning of 9 May to noon on 29 May, having been extended by 12 hours at the end to cope with demand.

More than 7.5 million people entered the first lottery, while the ticketing site saw 24.25 million visits during that period.

Despite there being a finite number of tickets, organizers have been discussing ways to satisfy those who were awarded none, did not get the ones they desired, or want to buy more.

The number of fan IDs registered comes close to the total number of tickets available, which Tokyo 2020 organizers have said is approximately 7.8 million. Remaining tickets will be sold at booths across Tokyo in spring or summer 2020.—Kyodo News ■

Another death as heavy rains prompt evacuations in Japan

TOKYO — Torrential rains killed one woman and caused flooding and landslides in southern Japan on Thursday, authorities said, as they began lifting evacuation orders that had been in place for over one million people.

The woman's death, confirmed after she was reported missing earlier Thursday, means two people died in the heavy rains that started over the weekend and inundated parts of southern Japan.

As the worst of the rains moved north, authorities began lifting evacuation orders — but nearly 800,000 people in the Ka-

goshima were still affected.

Despite that, just 2,300 people were in shelters in the Kagoshima region on Thursday afternoon, an official tally showed.

The rains come a year after torrential downpours in western Japan killed over 200 people in flooding and landslides.

Both deaths in the latest rains came when landslides buried the homes of the victims. Several injuries have also been reported along with small landslides that have buried cars.

About 793,000 people in Kagoshima remained under evacuation order on Thursday afternoon with more facing low-

er-level evacuation advisories.

The order is issued when a natural disaster is highly likely to occur and municipalities repeatedly urge residents to leave their homes — although the instruction is frequently ignored.

It is the most serious warning issued before a disaster actually occurs. The scale's highest level is activated once a disaster is declared and orders people to take measures to protect their lives.

The front was moving northeast Thursday and forecast to bring downpours to central and eastern Japan in coming days.—AFP ■



The rains come a year after torrential downpours in western Japan that killed over 200 people in flooding and landslides. PHOTO: AFP

Singapore women footballers to play friendly match in Myanmar

THE Singapore women's national football team will visit Myanmar next week for training and participating in a friendly match with the Myanmar U-19 women's team, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The trip is in preparation for the ASEAN Football Federation Championship 2019, which is scheduled to take place in Thailand from 15 to 27 August.

The friendly match between the Singapore and Myanmar teams will take place at 4 pm on 13 July on the artificial turf in Bahan Township, Yangon, according to the MFF.

The Myanmar U-19 women's team comprises 30 outstanding youth players and is headed by head coach Daw Thet Thet Win. The team has been training since 1 July, and is also preparing to take on Asian giants Japan, China, and

South Korea in Group B of the Asian-level tourney, the AFC U-19 Women's Championship, which is scheduled to take place from 27 October to 9 November in Thailand.

This is the third time the Singapore women's national football team will make a friendly tour to Myanmar. The trip is being organized with funds from the Football Association of Singapore, the MFF stated.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



The Singapore national women's team pose for a group photo at an international match. PHOTO: FAS

U-14 football tourney: Yamethin beat PyinOoLwin 3-2



Youth footballers from Yamethin and PyinOoLwin vie for a header during the opening match of the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday. PHOTO: MNL

IN the opening match of the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 (Man-

dalay Zone), held yesterday at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay,

the Yamethin Township's youth team beat the PyinOoLwin Township's

youth team by 3-2.

Both teams played energetically from the kick-off, with the players showing off their individual and team skills.

The Yamethin team dominated the match, and the goals for the team were scored by Hein Htet Soe at 4 minutes, Nyi Nyi at 32 minutes, and Thant Kyaw Min Htet at 55 minutes.

The goals for PyinOoLwin were scored by Phone Myat Shan at 10 minutes and Hein Thant Htoo at 24 minutes.

Today, the Meithila U-14 team will take on the Mandalay U-14 team at 4 p.m. at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, according to a statement from the Myanmar National League.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Peru stun defending champions Chile 3-0 to reach Copa America final

SAO PAULO — Peru stunned defending champions Chile 3-0 to reach the Copa America final on Wednesday.

Peru notched up the convincing win thanks to goals from Edison Flores, Yoshimar Yotun and Paolo Guerrero, and their reward will be a rematch against host team Brazil in the final.

Peru were thrashed 5-0 by Brazil in their last group match, but they became a rejuvenated team after the humbling defeat, edging past Uruguay with a 5-4 penalty shoot-out win in the quarterfinals before sending Chile packing.

The stunning victory stopped Chile's

golden generation from challenging for a third straight title, following their triumphs over Argentina in 2015 and 2016 finals.

Peru took the lead in the 21st minute when Flores seized his chance inside the box and struck home.

A goal by Yotun in the 38th minute made it 2-0 for the Peruvians. Veteran striker Guerrero then hit the third goal in injury time to wrap up the victory.

Peru will face Brazil in the final in Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium on Sunday while Chile will play against Argentina for the third place in Sao Paulo on Saturday.—Xinhua ■



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