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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (Right) welcomes Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Mr. Wang Zhengwei (Left) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## State Counsellor receives CPPCC Vice Chairman

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

received Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) H.E. Mr. Wang Zhengwei and his

delegation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to

bilateral relations and cooperation, the peace process and the situation in Rakhine State.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Independent media group collects news in Maungtaw

By Min Min Zaw (MNA)

An independent media group including foreign journalists arrived at Angu Maw Port in Yathedaung Township, yesterday morning. The media group reached Inn Din village and met the local people to gather news.

Next, the group travelled to Kainggyi (Mro) village in Maungtaw Township, and interviewed Village Administrator U San Htun. They then continued to the Maungtaw District General Administration Department, where Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut explained the work for stability, the rule of law and resettlement and development in Rakhine State. He also briefed on terrorists attacks by ARSA in 2016 and 2017, and actions taken against the ARSA terrorists in accordance with the law, measures for food sufficiency, and readiness for repatriation of returnees from Bangladesh.

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 8<sup>th</sup> regular session holds 3<sup>rd</sup>-day meeting

By Myo Myint, Myothu Hein

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its third-day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday.

At the meeting, U Tin Maung Myint, appointed as a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, was sworn-in in the presence of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

Next, the Tax Administration Bill sent by the Union Government was submitted to the Hluttaw by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.

## MPs to debate taking loan from CBM to cover Gov't account deficit

Later, the matter of taking a local loan from the Central Bank of Myanmar to cover the government accounts deficit of Ks641.029 billion, sent by the President, was explained by U Maung Maung Win and Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge. The Central Bank of Myanmar will issue government treasury bonds, which will be auctioned monthly to cover the deficit.

An announcement was then made for the Hluttaw representative who wanted to discuss the matter to enrol their names.

This was followed by Joint



U Tin Maung Myint sworn-in by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker during the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Bill Committee member U Thein Lwin reading the committee's report on its findings and the report on the bill amending the Early Childhood Development Law, over which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement. An announcement was then made for the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill to enrol their names.

## Dy Ministers explain utilization of foreign loans

Later, the status of project-wise utilisation of foreign loans, approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw up to 31 March 2017, was explained by the deputy ministers.

Deputy Minister for Home

Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe said 246 million yuan from the Exim Bank of China for procurement of vehicles and vessels for the Myanmar Police Force was obtained during the term of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. During the term of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, 50 million euros in loan was obtained from Poland to equip the Fire Services Department with firefighting vehicles and equipment. Similarly, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw explained the ministry's rural development and poverty reduction micro-financing loans provided to cooperatives through foreign loans. Some 3,899 pieces of farm machinery were sold to cooper-

ative member farmers under an instalment system. Under the poverty reduction regional development project phase 1, some 23 water distribution works were conducted in 23 townships of 10 states and regions.

In the poverty reduction regional development project phase 2, the construction of a roughing filter in Bago and Mawlamyine towns was coordinated and 50 per cent of the project works earmarked to be conducted in Sittway town were completed. Under the people centred projects, some 21,356 works were conducted in 12,011 villages in 63 townships. The Myanmar agriculture sector development project is helping to start small

businesses and has established 1,309 acres of systematic farmlands, said U Hla Kyaw. The deputy minister also explained the irrigation work development projects and the irrigation sector development project conducted in the Bago Region (west), the all-round agriculture development project in the eastern states of Myanmar and the Myanmar irrigation development projects that are being implemented.

## MPs debate Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance

Following the explanation by the deputy ministers, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency (2), U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency, U Aung Zaw Myint of Amarapura constituency, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency (3), Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency (10), U Aung Thikey of Seikpyu constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Myint Oo of Magway constituency, U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency (2) and U Kan Oo of Salin constituency discussed the issue to sign the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance, sent by the President.

Following the explanation by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, the Hluttaw approved the discussion. ■

## Mobile team provides health care to people in Buthidaung, Maungtau

THE Ministry of Health and Sports is providing healthcare services without discrimination to the local populace in Rakhine State, according to the medical code of ethic.

A mobile team from the Ministry of Health and Sports went to Buthidaung and Maungtau townships in Rakhine State on 20 and 21 May to strengthen the healthcare services being provided there.

The mobile team, led by the Ministry of Health and Sports, Deputy Director-General Dr. Thaung Hlaing from Nay Pyi Taw and head of Rakhine State Public Health Department Dr. Kyi Lwin, visited Buthidaung



Medical mobile team provides medical treatment to returnee at the clinic in Maungtau. **PHOTO: MNA**

People's Hospital on 20 May and Maungtau People's Hospital on 21 May to observe the healthcare services provided, the status of constructing a small blood bank and the ward extension works in the hospital. They also met with medical staff and provided the necessary support.

On 21 May, the team visited Taung Pyo (Letwe) Hospital in Maungtau Township, and

viewed the healthcare services provided by the hospital and the construction of additional wards and apartments for the staff. They also checked the preparations made to provide healthcare services to the returnees. Further, they visited the Hla Pho Khaung transit centre, where they inspected the preparedness of the clinic, obstetrics room and the medical teams. —MNA ■

## Weather

### Rainfall to increase in southern Myanmar areas

Rainfall is likely to increase in southern Myanmar areas in the next two days, as the weather is slightly cloudy to partly cloudy over the North Bay, and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday. The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and neighbouring areas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent, whereas Mandalay and the neighbouring area will see

isolated rainfall or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters, and the wave height will be some 3-7 feet off and along Myanmar's coast.

### Low-pressure like to form over Southwest of Bay of Bengal

A low-pressure area is also likely to form over Southwest of Bay of Bengal within next 48 hours, according to observation of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department at 1.30 pm yesterday. —GNLM ■



“ Our country is still in poverty with necessities in every sector; which is why we need to carry on our struggle and work hard in all sectors. In the international arena, we are facing pressure, criticisms and misunderstandings. The challenges and difficulties our country and our people are facing today are many. Although every issue cannot be solved easily, we will have to make utmost efforts to solve these issues according to each priority sector.

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

“ I would like the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government. I would especially want the youth to look to the future and join in this effort. I have observed that youth have been participating in these efforts.

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

## Civil aviation department to take action against UAE pilot flying in no-fly zone

THE Department of Civil Aviation has released an official notice to take suitable action against the pilot of a UAE Emirates flight for flying close to a prohibited airspace.

The department will also send an official notice to the civil aviation department on the UAE's side, so that the relevant airline and department can perform the necessary investigations and contact Myanmar's side.

Director U Soe Paing of the civil aviation department told reporters that his department had sent a notice to the Dubai-based airline via an operation manager in Yangon yesterday. “They will have their own procedures on how to deal with this. They will reply informing us about the course of action they will take,” said U Soe Paing. He added that his department would soon send an official notice to the UAE side about the action they would take.

The civil aviation department has restricted any aircraft from flying below an altitude of 24,000 feet over the Yangon civil area, including the Shwedagon Pagoda. However, on 20 March at 6.55 p.m., a Boeing 777-31H(ER), en route from Yangon to Phnom Penh, flew at a low altitude over Yangon City.

Upon investigation, the pilot replied that he crossed the restricted airspace due to weather conditions.

“He said that soon after takeoff, the weather was not favourable for flying and to avoid potential danger to the passengers, he meant to turn the plane around and passed through the no-fly zone,” said Director U Soe Paing. “However, international rules indicate that under no circumstances should an aircraft cross the no-fly zone. We will take action according to standard protocol.” — Shin Min ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Mr. Sun Guoxiang in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor receives China's Special Envoy for Asian Affairs

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 11.15 a.m. in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the

meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral relations and cooperation, the peace process and the situation in Rakhine State.—MNA ■

## Independent media group collects news in Maungtaw

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They proceeded to Hla Pho Khaung transit centre, which is a temporary camp for people who are to be accepted systematically by repatriation camps. U Tin Soe, person in charge of the camp, detailed out the readiness for the repatriation process and replied to questions raised by the media personnel.

The media group visited Pan Taw Pyin village, where U Annawar, the Village Administrator of Pan Taw Pyin, spoke about terrorist attacks, the process of repatriation, new village construction, matters of NV Cards, and development of work processes and the socio-economic

status of the region. Later, they went to the Kanyintan market and collected news.

The media group included journalists and reporters from Tokyo Shinbum, TV Asahi, Nikkei Shinbum, Yunnan, Xinhua, Guangming Daily, CRI, Myanmar Time, Financial Time, ARD (German TV), RFI (Radio France International), and Belgian Newspaper.

The Union Government arranged media trips to Maungtaw, Rakhine State for local and foreign independent media to cover the peace and development in Maungtaw following the armed attacks on 9th October 2016. ■



Journalists interview Pan Taw Pyin Village's Administrator U Annawar in Pan Taw Pyin Village. **PHOTO: MNA**



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you submit a text longer than 500 words  
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edited.

## Coord meeting held for competitions heralding International Day against Drug Abuse, Illicit Trafficking

A COORDINATION meeting for holding competitions to mark the 21<sup>st</sup> International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Sittway, Rakhine was held at the Rakhine State cabinet office yesterday.

During the meeting, matters related to painting, cartoon, poster, digital painting and ad-lib competitions were discussed.

In his remark at the meeting, Col. Phone Tint, Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs and Chairman of Rakhine State Committee for Prevention from the Dangers of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, said that students from basic education and higher education schools could participate in the competition. He also urged the relevant departmental officials to cooperate in organising the competitions.

Rakhine State Minister for



Coordination meeting for competitions to mark the 21<sup>st</sup> International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

Social Affairs Dr. Chan Tha then discussed increasing the prize amount to draw the interest of the students and said students from all districts in the state must take part in the competition.

Officials from universities and the state education office discussed holding the event successfully and the strengths and weaknesses of the competitions held in the past years, to which secretary

of Rakhine State Committee for Prevention from the Dangers of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and the head of state police force provided additional discussions. —Tin Tun (IPRD)

## Over 850 criminal cases registered in Yangon Region in one-and-a-half years

By Nyein Nyein

Some 856 criminal cases, including 300 murder cases, were reported in the Yangon Region in one-and-a-half years, said Minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Yangon Region Government Col. Aung Soe Moe.

U Zaw Win Naing, Hluttaw Representative of Latha Township constituency (1), demanded to know how many of the cases that occurred between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017 in the Yangon Region were among the 10 important crimes recorded in paragraph 1,754 of the Myanmar Police Manual. Also, in how many cases the police were yet to identify the suspect/s and

how they were following up.

Hluttaw Representative U Zaw Win Naing asked these questions during the second Yangon Region Hluttaw's sixth regular session's 30<sup>th</sup>-day meeting held on 22 May.

Of the 300 cases of murder that occurred between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2017, some 280 cases were submitted to the court, while 10 cases are still being investigated and 10 cases were closed for lack of strong evidence. One case of robbery was submitted to the court. Of the 84 cases of lootings, 61 were submitted to the court, while 14 cases are being investigated and nine cases were closed. One case

of kidnapping has been submitted to the court, said Col. Aung Soe Moe.

Moreover, of the 460 cases of rape that occurred within one-and-a-half years, 456 cases were submitted to the court, while two cases are still being investigated and two cases were closed for lack of strong evidence. Of the three cases of burglaries that occurred, one case was submitted to the court and two cases were closed for lack of strong evidence.

Five cases of animal theft were submitted to the court. Of the two cases of illegal association, one case was submitted to the court and one case was closed for lack of strong

evidence. No cases of treason, and possession of arms and ammunition were registered. Of the 856 cases that occurred within one-and-a-half years, some 806 cases were submitted to the court and 26 cases are being investigated, while 24 cases were closed for lack of strong evidence, said Col. Aung Soe Moe.

"The number of criminal cases dropped due to preventive activities. For security purposes and to uphold the rule of law, the police carried out patrols and prevented 85,685 cases," he added.

The police work together with local communities to investigate the cases, he added.

## Welding fire triggers fire in Mandalay Zaycho Market



A fire that started from a welding spark destroyed the fourth floor of Mandalay Zaycho Myanmar plaza at 84 street between 27 and 28 streets in Chanayethasan Township, Mandalay, on 22 May.

The accident occurred in the afternoon, when the workers were at the construction site of a cinema in the market. Some

sparks from the welding work spilled on the soundproof cork which was used to decorate the ceiling of a 50x30 room. The fire quickly spread out of control.

It took 16 fire engines and several firemen to put out the blaze. The police station has taken action against four workers under section 285 of the Penal Code.—Thant Zaw Min (IPRD)



## Eel hatching with Viet Nam's technology reaps results

By May Thet Hnin

THE experimental cultivation of Myanmar-origin eels with the use of Viet Nam technology has shown positive results after seven months.

"Last year, officials from the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF) went on a study tour to Viet Nam, where eel cultivation has been successful, and now, we have successfully conducted experimental eel farming," said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, vice president of MFF.

"MFF is proud to achieve the first ever eel cultivation in Myanmar. This will help enhance rural development," she said.

Starting from August 2017, eel varieties from across Myanmar were stocked for eel hatching operations that began in October last year.

More than 200 eel larvae



MFF successfully conducted experimental eel cultivation process with Viet Nam's technology. PHOTO: MNA

were produced in the past two weeks and more eggs were hatched. Currently, the two-week-old larvae are fed stuff produced from the feed processing factory. The larvae will pass the

nursery stage after three weeks, explained Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

"After hatching, the larvae will be kept in a five-square feet lake as they grow. Now, they are in the nursery stage. If larvae

can be farmed with fish feed powder produced from the feed factory, they can be farmed anywhere in the country," she added.

The MFF studied the whole

hatching process, in cooperation with the Zoology Department of Yangon University, and they will conduct research and share their hatching techniques.

The MFF aims to convert eel cultivation into a commercial business. It is preparing to stock eel species from the eel producing regions to proceed with further production.

Currently, the eel population in Myanmar is dropping owing to illegal fishing methods, such as electrocuting.

Myanmar's eels are mainly sent to China. An eel can produce 200 to 1,000 eggs. If the experimental eel cultivation process improves further, many more fish farmers will farm eels.

Additionally, the MFF will import 1,000 Viet Nam-origin snakehead murrel, climbing perch and river catfish soon to conduct fish hatching. ■

## Sein Ta Lone mangoes' export takes air, sea routes to S'pore, Russia, China

SOME 10 tonnes of the Sein Ta Lone (Diamond Solitaire) mangoes are being exported via air and sea routes to Singapore, Russia and China every day since 8 May. Myanmar's Sein Ta Lone mangoes have penetrated foreign markets since 2010, and the demand for this variety has become stronger in the international market since 2013.

"Local cultivators control the quality of mangoes. Therefore, the demand for the Sein Ta Lone mangoes is high. This year, local cultivators have produced more Sein Ta Lone mangoes," said Daw Lat Lat Oo from Myanmar Shwe Fruit Company.

Earlier, traders only bought mangoes that weighed 250 grams per fruit. However, traders are now buying mangoes that weigh 220, 240, 300, 350 and 400 grams per fruit, according to requests made by local cultivators. Traders usually choose the fruits after measuring the weight and size.

"Local cultivators requested traders to buy even the small-sized mangoes. We select the fruits using a machine to weigh their size. The price of mangoes depends on their size. The man-



Labourers arranging mangoes in the farm. PHOTO: KHINE SET WAI

goes are brought to Yangon in air-con container vehicles and then exported via Singapore airline," she added.

Traders usually buy the Sein Ta Lone mangoes that are cultivated mainly in Patheingyi, Kyaukse and Singu townships in the Mandalay Region. They are then sent to China in air-con container vehicles via the 105 mile border gate. Traders also distribute the fruits via air. The Mandalay Region does not

have a direct airline. Therefore, traders export mangoes to Singapore and Russia from the Yangon airport.

Exporters only buy Sein Ta Lone mangoes that are of good quality, colour and are flawless. From 8 May, Myanmar has been exporting mangoes weighing some 8 to 10 tonnes per day via an airline from the Yangon airport. Myanmar exported the Sein Ta Lone mangoes via sea routes recently. —Khine Set Wai ■

## CBM increases exchange rate to Ks1,351

WITH the US dollar appreciating both in the global and domestic markets, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) raised its set exchange rate to Ks1,351 per dollar yesterday.

On 21 May, the CBM set the US dollar exchange rate at Ks1,348. The US dollar index reached 94 on 21 May, resulting in a high exchange rate in the local currency market.

Kyat appreciation against the dollar was strong during the pre-Thingyan period. However, the US dollar exchange rate after the Thingyan Festival was on the higher side ow-

ing to high imports and remittances of importers, along with a rise in the US dollar value in the global currency market.

The US dollar to Kyat interbank exchange rate in Myanmar's currency market has risen from Ks1,323 in the post-Thingyan period. The rate showed a steady rise, and it peaked up to Ks1,350 on 21 May.

The dollar selling price was around Ks1,351, while the buying price was Ks1,348, according to money exchange counters yesterday.—Mon Mon ■

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Workers construct the road along the Htein Bin garbage dump in Hlinethaya Township. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

## YCDC continues monitoring Htein Bin garbage dump

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has been continually monitoring the Htein Bin garbage dump and is also working to reduce the methane gas inside, said Deputy In-charge Dr. Aung Myint Maw of the Environmental Conservation and Cleaning Department.

"The fire has been extinguished but the garbage dump still emits methane gas, so we are monitoring it daily. The fire burned 150 acres of the land-fill, and the methane is trapped there. So, we are digging pathways through the garbage that will divide the 150 acres into 50-acre cubes and release the methane inside," said Dr. Aung Myint Maw. He said the YCDC was working on the first 50 acres where the fire occurred.

The task will require 100 YCDC staff and machinery to pave concrete or gravel roads and dirt roads to transport garbage.

The canals surrounding the dump have been built to accumulate rainwater, and the same will



YCDC staff paving roads to transport garbage at the Htein Bin garbage dump in Hlinethaya Township. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

be done for other garbage dumps so as to prevent future fires.

The Htein Bin garbage dump is currently being monitored daily by 10 firefighters and 40 YCDC staff with four fire engines.

The Htein Bin fire broke out on 21 April and was successfully extinguished 12 days later on 2 May, with the combined strength

of firefighters (including reserves), YCDC staff, staff from the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management, military officers, police officers, and Myanmar Red Cross members. Authorities divided the burning area into four zones (A, B, C, D) on 29 April and extinguished one zone per day. —Zaw Gyi ■



Special Envoy Mr. Sun Guoxiang, left, and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, right, meets in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chinese Special Envoy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received China's Special Envoy for Asian affairs Mr. Sun Guoxiang at Bayint Naung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters relating to China's strong condemnation of the attacks

against security posts and houses in Muse on 12 May, care provided by China to civilians fleeing there from the Muse attack, special emphasis put towards peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries, conduct of the government and Tatmadaw for the internal peace process, and the assistance provided by China. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## India limits traffic on Myanmar-India friendship bridge

INDIA has temporarily suspended traffic on the border crossing bridge between Myanmar and India as of 21 May and the closure has caused difficulties for businesses.

Following the suspension, Myanmar traders stopped exporting betel nuts to India. Meanwhile, traders on both sides are using carts drawn by men to export and import goods through the bridge.

As private cars were also not allowed to cross the bridge, the number of visitors from India to the Rih Lake in Chin State has dramatically decreased. The Rih Lake is located about

2 miles from the bridge.

It is reported that the temporary traffic limitation happened as a VIP person is expected to visit the Indian site soon. According to local authorities, some of the goods exported to India are considered illegal in India though Myanmar legally trades them. As the two sides have reached an agreement to mutually close the bridge temporarily, Indian authorities have allowed people to cross the bridge and carry their goods with carts. The move is meant only to limit the traffic and when the bridge will reopen is uncertain. — IPRD ■



Myanmar-India friendship bridge between India and Myanmar. **PHOTO: IPRD**

## Jade scavenger killed in slag heap collapse

A jade scavenger died in a slag-heap collapse at an abandoned jade mine in Phakant Township, Kachin State yesterday morning.

The accident happened when a jade scavenger identi-

fied as U Chong Chin, 58 years of age from Seikmu Village was killed after a 50 ft high slag-heap crumbled at a jade mine abandoned by Triple One Jade Mining Company near Bazanchauk Village in Phakant

Township. Firefighters and rescue workers from local social organizations went to the scene to carry out search operations. The corpse was transferred to a public hospital in Phakant. —Win Naing (Kachin Land) ■



# MIC releases work in March, 2017-2018 FY, in April, 2018

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is permitting local and foreign investments, according to the Myanmar Investment Law.

The MIC permitted investments worth some US\$409.146 million in the 2017-2018 (March) fiscal year, including the increasing of investments, and \$47.099 million worth of foreign investments in the 2018 transitional period (April to September), for the 2018-2019 FY.

The foreign investments permitted in March of the 2017-2018 FY and in April, the first month of the six-month transitional period ( from April to September) for the 2018-2019 FY are as follows:

Sr.	Sector	March		April	
		No. of Investments	Capital US\$ million	No. of invest-ments	Capital US\$ mil-lion
a	Transport and commu-nica-tion sector	1	157.440	-	-
b	Industrial sector	10	97.306*	2	21.539*
c	Housing sector	-	127.540*	1	2.880
d	Hotel and trav-el sector	1	20.060*	-	0.300*
e	Livestock and fisheries sector	1	2.000	-	-
f	Other service sector	2	4.800	1	17.150
g	Industrial estate sector	-	-	-	5.330*
Total		15	409.146	4	47.099

\*Increase in the investment was included in the investment amount.

The MIC permitted in the 2017-2018 (March) fiscal year some Ks345.353520 billion worth of national investments and in the 2018 interim period (April to September) some Ks638.785697 billion worth of national investments.

National investments permitted during the 2017-2018 FY (March) and 2018 FY (April to September) in April are as follows:

Sr.	Sector	March		April	
		No. of investments	Capital Kyat mil-lion	No. of invest-ments	Capital Kyat mil-lion
a	Transport and com-munication sector	1	36,000.000	-	-
b	Housing and building construction sector	1	2,418.640	3	177,322.109
c	Industrial sector	8	110,933.630	6	75,758.365
d	Industrial estate con-struction sector	1	65,052.660	-	-
e	Hotel and travel sector	2	39,080.000	5	35,102.733

f	Livestock and fisher-ies sector	1	962.000	1	66,435.660
g	Electricity sector	-	-	2	8,070.030
h	Other service sector	3	90,906.590	6	276,096.800
Total		17	345,353.520	23	638,785.697

\*Increase in the investment was included in the investment amount.

The increased number of jobs created by foreign investments during the 2017-2018 FY (March) and the 2018 FY (April to September) in April are as follows:

Sr.	Sector	No. of jobs created for local workers	
		March	April
a	Livestock and fisheries sector	24	-
b	Industrial sector	4,895	1,548
c	Transport and communication sector	47	-
d	Hotel and travel sector	76	-
e	Housing and building construc-tion sector	-	70
f	Other service sector	353	28
Total		5,395	1,646

The increased number of jobs created by national investments during the 2017-2018 FY (March) and the 2018 FY (April to September) are as follows:

Sr.	Sector	No. of jobs created for local workers	
		March	April
a	Electricity sector	-	43
b	Industrial sector	3,149	769
c	Hotel and travel sector	229	636
d	Housing and building con-struction sector	12	388
e	Livestock and fisheries sector	32	760
f	Transport and communication sector	20	-
g	Industrial estate construction sector	202	-
h	Other service sector	2,182	225
Total		5,826	2,821

Myanmar News Agency

# Facebook boss to apologise to European Parliament over data scandal

BRUSSEL — Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg will say sorry to the European Parliament on Tuesday, pledging that the social media giant has learned hard lessons from a massive breach of users’ personal data.

Zuckerberg’s comments, released in advance of the hearing in Brussels, are the latest part of a tour of contri-tion over the Cambridge Ana-lytica scandal that began in the

US Congress in April.

“Whether it’s fake news, foreign interference in elec-tions or developers misusing people’s information, we didn’t take a broad enough view of our responsibilities,” Zuck-erberg will say, according to prepared remarks e-mailed to AFP

“That was a mistake, and I’m sorry.”

The Facebook chief’s grill-

ing by the European Parlia-ment will be live-streamed to the public after he staged a U-turn on Monday and agreed to a webcast, in a further bid to limit the fallout from the data scandal.

Angry EU lawmakers had objected to initial plans for it to be held behind closed doors.

Facebook admitted that up to 87 million users may have had their data hijacked by Brit-

ish consultancy Cambridge Analytica, which worked for US President Donald Trump during his 2016 campaign.

The Silicon Valley giant has told the European Com-mission, the EU’s executive arm, that the personal data of up to 2.7 million Europeans may have been sent inappro-priately to Cambridge Analyt-ica, which has since filed for bankruptcy in the US.—AFP ■



The EU laws will cover large tech companies like Facebook, Google, and Twitter that use personal data **PHOTO: AFP**



# We can promote water transport system through PPPs

MYANMAR'S coastal line is 1,385 miles long with nine ports. Yangon Port is the major one that handles more than 90 per cent of the international maritime trade. In the Thilawa port area, two international standard multi-purpose terminals were constructed. Yangon Port handled more than 6 million tonnes of goods after it was upgraded this year to handle huge vessels. This was a quick achievement after the port and navigation were upgraded.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Transport and Communications has planned to deepen the stretch of Ayeyarwady River flowing from north and south of the country to at least 3 metres and the Chindwin River to at least 2 metres. This would allow 500-tonne vessels to navigate the rivers all year round. The Ayeyarwady, the country's longest river, is 1,394 km long flowing between Yangon and Bamo, while the Chindwin River is more than 700 km long.

The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has completed 13 water route improvement projects and 23 projects to prevent coastal erosion by constructing retaining walls and dykes measuring some 20,905 feet in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY). A container barge was constructed with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency last year. The aim is to transport goods along the Ayeyarwady River between Yangon and Mandalay, as well as to transport containers between Thilawa Port and Shwe Pyit Tha Shwe Me (Black Gold) port. These efforts are aimed at providing cost-efficient means to economic development, as well as help ease road congestion.

However, large investments will be needed to boost the navigability of our rivers, as water transport is the most competitive transport solution.

According to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the commodity flow has decreased yearly, as the waterways of both rivers are unstable. Vessels normally face transport problems, as water levels vary depending on the season.

According to a survey conducted in the 1992-1993 FY, 33 million people used both rivers for transport. The number has decreased to 11 million in the 2015-2016 FY. The commodity flow and trading volume along the rivers have declined from 2.6 million tonnes in 1992-1993 to 1.38 million tonnes last FY.

Closing the transport infrastructure gap is a key focus area of the National Transport Master Plan, of which the new inland ports are important parts.

The requirements for modernizing water transport are huge, and they can be fulfilled only through the PPP (public-private partnership) system.

# Receiving compensation for occupational hazards

By Khin Yadana

As the rainy season has set in, farmers start to plough the fields. Indeed it is a good opportunity for daily wage earners to get involved in agriculture and animal husbandry. If accidents—serious or fatal—happen to the employees in a workplace, it is usually settled out of court by a meager payment of cash by the owner. Even fatal accidents can be settled in a compensatory payment of little cash or kind.

Once a mango broker hired a daily wage earner to pick mangoes from the trees. In that specific morning, the climber got electrocuted while picking and dropped to death. Being a wage earner, he was not a member of the Social Security; his family didn't understand compensatory damages, either. Finally the bereaved family members had to content with compassionate grants. Such kinds of serious problems often occur in rural areas.

## Compensatory payments

Wage earners and professional employees are generally identified as workers in factories and/or offices. Only a few people understand that they are entitled to get compensatory payments if serious or fatal accidents happen to them in a workplace. After all, the 1923 Compensation Act has been practiced for 95 years. 'If a worker gets involved in an accident—injured, fatal or disabled—then the owner is responsible for the event. Urban dwellers normally tend to get quick medical treatments than the rural ones. That is why we are going to amend the 1923 Compensation Act for Workers so that they can receive more benefits of medical aid and compensatory damages', said U Soe Win, Director of Labour Department. Complaints can be lodged through the township labour offices to pay compensation to government servants for their occupational hazards of serious or fatal accidents as well as workers from other departments such as Labor Department and Immigration and Manpower Department.

## No compensation for non- Social Security members?

After promulgation of new laws for Social Security, the Social Security members are seen to enjoy social rights and benefits. Five out of ten Social Security members from mills and factories contribute compensation fees. But odd-job men in restaurants or shops have no idea of social security rights or benefits. These men find it difficult to go on if something- accidents or diseases—happen to them.

The Labour Scrutiny Committee was formed in every township so that workers liable for diseases or damages caused could lodge complaints to the Committee; it is composed of township administrator as chairman and a labour officer as a secretary and medical officer as a member.

The Committee handles all the complaints and preliminary investigations have been made about them. Investigations are made whether the complaints are in accord with the existing laws or



If a worker gets involved in an accident—injured, fatal or disabled—then the owner is responsible for the event.  
PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

not; the relatives of the diseased are genuine or not, the injured person himself lodged a complaint or not and the person died in an office or factory or not," explained an official from the Ministry of Immigration and Manpower Planning. These efforts are being carried out for those workers who are not members of the Social Security. Although the Act was promulgated a long time ago, it would be beneficial for injured or disabled workers in some ways.

## Types of compensations

Under the specifications of the Compensation Act, there are four types: fatality, loss of limbs, permanent or temporary disability. If an employee dies in a workplace, 36 times of the diseased's salary should be given between K. 150,000 and K.450,000 according to the Act. For those disabled persons 36 times or 140% of their salary will be calculated; permanent disabled persons will be awarded with Ks 200,000 to Ks 600,000. But a disabled person with the help of another person will be awarded with a highest compensatory payment with an addition of 25% of that payment.

The owner has to pay cash or kind in compensation for the injured or disabled persons, the sums in the past are not keeping with the times so the announcement was issued in 2005 to raise the

compensation payment for the injured or sufferers. The Committee member of the doctor calculates the loss of workforce in view of health and law. For example, if a compensatory payment of Ks 600,000 is fixed, it must be recommended by the doctor.

Awards of compensation sums depend on kinds of severed fingers; thumbs and forefingers will cost more than other fingers. The calculation of loss of workforce will take into consideration of womanhood, family background and his possible revitalization."

## A notice to the owners

"In our tea shop, a child accidentally ground his hand in the powerful teeth of sugarcane grinder. I sent him to hospital at my own expense and did everything for him for compensation purposes through law courts. As owners, we are totally responsible for occupational accidents or hazards. We should solve the problems publicly but with a clear conscience.' Explained an employer how a child was compensated legally.

If no negotiated settlement is reached, come over the Labor Office "If accidents happen in urban workplaces, a negotiated settlement for these cases is reached before getting to the Compensation Committee. The main objective is to get mutual satisfaction between the employers and

the employees. But in rural areas, it is complex: snakebites, fodder mincers, agriculture and animal husbandry, tea shops, restaurants and household chores and building constructions could cause harm to employees, it is not easy to get something done in compensation. They don't even know how to lodge a complaint to the township labor office," continued U Soe Win.

The Labour Directorate managed to give financial benefits to the eight cases of occupational fatalities during the past financial year. In addition, 19 cases of accidents were awarded with financial rewards with 27 beneficiaries, settling with a total of K.44519480. The compensation sums are relatively lower than the current prevailing prices of commodities. But things have eased up more or less now," said U Kyaw Myint who takes care of rights for the workers. "If you are not satisfied with the amount of compensation payments, or decisions handed down by the authorities concerned, you have a right to lodge a complaint to the Region high court. If the decisions are right, the complaints are to be dismissed. If not, a case will be opened in a law court. But without an agreement with the Committee, the court is not in a position to pass judgment," U Kyaw Myint added.

Translated by Arakan Sein

## Ministries hold press conference on second one-year performance today

A press conference related to the second one-year performances of Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Office of the Auditor General of the Union will be held in Office No. (7), Ministry of Information building, Nay Pyi Taw, at 1 p.m. on 23 May.—Myanmar News Agency

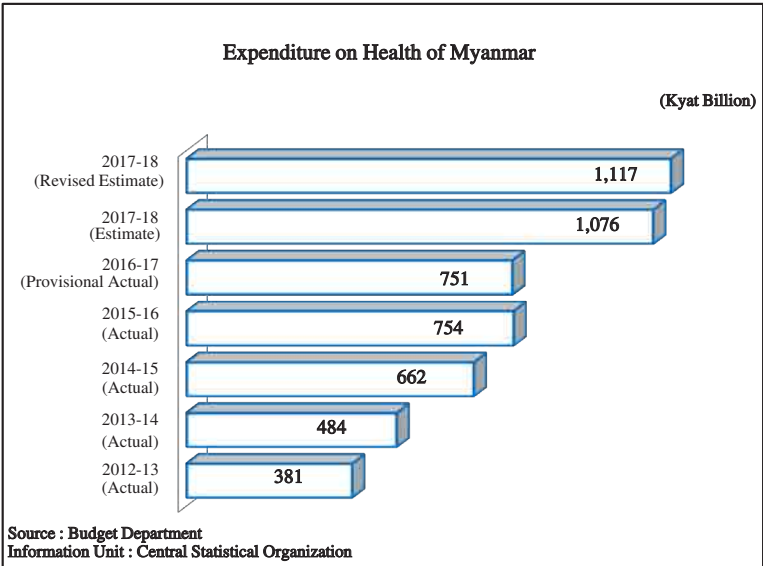
Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Order No. 23/2018

8<sup>th</sup> Waxing Day of NayonME 1380  
(22 May 2018)

## Appointment of Sagaing Region Security and Border Affairs Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (a) (2), (b) (e) (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a) Sub-section (2) (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Kyaw Thant Naing, Sagaing Region Security and Border Affairs Minister, has been returned to unit to perform his original military duties and has been replaced with Colonel Than Tun Aung, Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), who has been appointed as Sagaing Region Security and Border Affairs Minister.

Sd/ Win Myint  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



## Kremlin spokesman dismisses US media allegations on Russian arms, says 'trust Putin'

MOSCOW — Journalists should rather trust Russian President Vladimir Putin instead of listening to reports of their American colleagues regarding allegedly unsuccessful tests of Russia's cutting-edge weaponry, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

"Listen to Russian President Vladimir Putin and trust him," Peskov told journalists, commenting on the US television channel CNBC's recent report about failed tests of Russia's most advanced weapons.

In his State of the Nation Address to both houses of Russia's parliament on 1 March, Putin announced about the development and trials of the most advanced strategic weapons Russia was creating in response to Washing-



Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. PHOTO: TASS

ton's unilateral withdrawal from the ABM Treaty and the deployment of the missile shield both on the territory of the United States

and outside its national borders.

CNBC reported on Tuesday, citing its unnamed sources that new generation missiles men-

tioned in Putin's address two months ago allegedly failed the trials.

The breakthrough weapons include the Sarmat new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the Kinzhal hypersonic missile, the nuclear-powered cruise missile and the drone submarine that can be armed with both conventional and nuclear charges.

The Russian leader stressed that Russia's growing military might was a reliable guarantee of peace on the planet while all the work to strengthen the country's defence capability had been carried out within the framework of existing arms control international treaties.

—Tass ■

## An egg a day may keep heart disease away

BRUSSELS — Eating an egg each day appears to be linked to a lower risk of heart disease among middle-aged Chinese, according to a study published online in the British journal Heart.

The study, authored by a group of Chinese scientists, analyzed data from over half a million Chinese aged 30 to 79 from 10 diverse survey sites in China during the period from 2004 to 2008, and have since been followed up upon to determine their morbidity and mortality rates.

"Our findings contribute scientific evidence to the dietary guidelines with regard to egg consumption for the healthy Chinese adult," said the scientists.

The study linked eating an egg a day with lowering the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) by 11 per cent, ischemic heart disease by 12 per cent, major coronary events by 14 percent, hemorrhagic stroke by 26 per cent as well as ischemic stroke by 10 percent.

Daily consumers of eggs also have an 18 per cent lower risk of CVD death and a 28 per cent lower risk of hemorrhagic stroke death compared to non-consumers, it showed.

Eggs are a prominent source of dietary cholesterol, causing the concern that eating too many may be unhealthy. But they also contain high-quality protein, many vitamins and bio-active components.

In recent years, more scientific evidence has emerged for the positive impact eggs have on human health. Previous studies focusing on a link between eating eggs and heart disease mostly had smaller sample sizes, fewer CVD events and were unable to obtain accurate estimates on stroke subtypes, said the Chinese scientists.—Xinhua ■

## EU fears offer to US not enough to end trade row

BRUSSELS — The EU's own top trade official warned on Tuesday that the bloc's last-ditch bid to persuade US President Donald Trump to back off stiff tariffs on metals imports from Europe fell short of expectations in Washington.

Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom spoke ahead of talks of the EU's 28 trade ministers to discuss an attempt to woo the US away from punishing steel and aluminium tariffs and win Europe a similar break as handed China.

Europe was hit by the shock tariffs in March, part of the protectionist president's threat of an "America First" trade war with Washington's closest partners, including Canada, Mexico and Japan.

"If we are exempted, then we are willing to engage in talks and see how we can facilitate trade relations," said Malmstrom.

She has spearheaded a series of talks with US Commerce

Secretary Wilbur Ross, a stalwart of Trump's hardball tactics who also plays a role in the parallel negotiations with China.

But asked if she thought the EU's gesture to the US was acceptable to Washington, Malmstrom answered: "I think they don't think it's enough."

The ministers will take encouragement from the US-China development on Sunday with Washington and Beijing backing off from tit-for-tat tariffs after reaching an as-yet unspecified accord on slashing the massive American trade deficit with China. The European Union has said it refuses all trade talks with the United States unless Washington grants a permanent exemption from the painful steel and aluminium tariffs that are set to kick in on 1 June.

"We are allies but we are not vassals. Today is a moment of truth for the EU," said French trade minister Jean-Baptiste



EU Commissioner of Trade Cecilia Malmstrom said he did not think Europe's offer to the US would be enough to stave off the threat of a trade war. PHOTO: AFP

Lemoyne as he arrived for the talks.

EU trade ministers will discuss a plan laid out by EU leaders at a summit last week for a limited EU-US trade deal as well as opening up the European market to US natural gas — if the exemption is granted. Europe's incentives come with a threat to retaliate against the

US with European tariffs on American imports, including iconic items such as Harley-Davidson motorbikes and bourbon whiskey.

These counter-measures will officially become enforceable on 20 June, but Europeans have committed to not use them as long as talks with the US are ongoing.—AFP ■

## Arrests as protest greets fourth year of Thai junta rule

BANGKOK — Thai police detained leaders of an anti-junta protest on Tuesday who had tried to mark the fourth anniversary of a coup by marching to Government House, one of the largest

acts of dissent since the army grabbed power.

Protest leaders flashed a three finger salute as they were led into a police van — a resistance symbol borrowed by Thai-

land's anti-coup movement from the Hollywood movie "The Hunger Games".

Disquiet with the junta is simmering in Thailand, despite a ban on political gatherings since

a coup toppled the elected government of Yingluck Shinawatra on 22 May, 2014. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who as army chief booted Yingluck's administration from power, has suggested

elections will be held in February next year. But the timetable for a return to democracy has repeatedly slipped and patience with his junta is wearing thin among many sections of Thai society.—AFP ■



# Israel says first to use F-35 stealth fighter jets in combat

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military has used its newly acquired F-35 stealth fighters in combat, making it the world's first to do so, the air force commander said on Tuesday.

"The Adir aircraft are already operational and flying combat missions," Major General Amikam Norkin said at a conference in central Israel, using the plane's Hebrew name.

"In fact, we have performed the first operational F-35 strike in the world."

"We attacked twice in the Middle East using the F-35 — we are the first in the world to do so," he said in remarks quoted by the air force's website, without providing further details.

Israel has carried out a number of strikes in Syria against what it describes as Iranian targets as well as on what it says are advanced arms deliveries to Hezbollah.



An Israeli Air Force F-35 Lightning II fighter jet performs during an air show at the graduation ceremony of Israeli air force pilots at the Hatzertim Israeli Air Force base in the Negev desert, near the southern Israeli city of Beer Sheva on 27 December, 2017. The Israeli military has used its newly acquired F-35 stealth fighters in combat making it the world's first to do so, the air force commander said on 22 May, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

The country has agreed to buy 50 of the American high-tech stealth bombers, which will help it maintain military superiority in the turbulent Middle East, particularly regarding anti-aircraft missile systems in Syria.

In December, the air force

announced that the nine F-35 jets in its possession at the time were operational.

Norkin was speaking at an event marking the air force's 70th anniversary in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv, attended by senior air force officials from over 20 countries,

the military said.

Israel has pledged to prevent its main enemy Iran from entrenching itself militarily in neighbouring Syria, where Tehran is backing President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Earlier this month, Israel launched a large-scale attack on what it said were Iranian targets in Syria, raising fears of a major confrontation.

Those strikes followed a barrage of rockets that Israel said was fired toward its forces in the occupied Golan Heights by Iran from Syria.

In his comments on Tuesday, Norkin also made reference to an Israeli strike on missiles Iran had allegedly transported to Syria, without providing a timeframe.

"Over the past weeks, we understood that Iran was transporting long-range missiles and rockets to Syria, among which are 'Uragan' missile launchers which we attacked, just north of

Damascus," Norkin said.

He then went on to describe the series of events on May 9 and 10.

"The Iranians fired 32 rockets. We intercepted 4 of them and the rest fell outside Israeli territory," Norkin said.

"Afterwards, we attacked dozens of Iranian targets in Syria."

He noted that over 100 ground-to-air missiles were fired at Israeli planes during the attack.

The strikes left at least 27 pro-regime fighters dead, including 11 Iranians, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Israel has been blamed for a series of other recent strikes inside Syria that have killed Iranians, though it has not acknowledged them.

As a result, Israel had been preparing itself for weeks for possible Iranian retaliation.—**AFP ■**

## Five killed, 33 wounded by blast in southern Afghan city

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN — At least five people were killed and 33 wounded on Tuesday when a minivan stuffed with explosives detonated as security forces were trying to defuse it in southern Afghanistan, officials said.

Security forces in Kandahar had already cleared the area around a bus station where the van was found, provincial governor spokesman Daud Ahmadi said.

"As the security forces were trying to defuse the van, it detonated," said police spokesman Mohammad Qasim Azad.

The dead included one civilian, as well as two police and two intelligence officials, authorities at Kandahar's Mirwais Hospital said.

The blast was so powerful that the majority of the wounded were civilian passers-by outside the cleared area.

Ahmadi said security forces also found a large container of explosives, rocket-propelled grenades, suicide vests, and ammunition near the site.

"The terrorists planned

to conduct a big attack at end of Ramadan in the city among crowds of people as they went out shopping for Eid... security forces prevented a disaster from happening," one security official told AFP.

No group immediately claimed responsibility.

The blast comes as the Taliban step up their spring offensive across the war-torn country.

Last week the insurgent group attacked western Farah city, but were repelled by commandos backed by Afghan and US Air Forces.

On Monday, the Taliban warned Kabul residents to avoid "military centres" in the heavily fortified city, saying they are planning more attacks in the Afghan capital.

A US government watchdog also warned Monday that upbeat assessments of improving security in the country did not match facts on the ground.

The Pentagon's Office of the Inspector General said there were "few signs of progress" in the fight against the Taliban.—**AFP ■**

## Dozens feared killed in Karachi heatwave: charity



Pakistani residents cool off at a water supply pipelines during on a summer day in Karachi on 22 May, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

KARACHI, PAKISTAN — Dozens of people are feared to have died in a heatwave gripping Pakistan's largest city Karachi this week, a charity in the sprawling metropolis said on Tuesday, as temperatures hit 42 degrees Celsius (108 degrees Fahrenheit).

The non-profit Edhi Foundation said scores may have been killed by the sweltering weather, with double the usual number of bodies sent to the city's morgues in recent days.

"We have received 180 dead bodies in the last four days which is more than double of what we receive normally," said Faisal Edhi, head of the welfare organization which oversees a variety

of public health projects — including morgues and ambulance services.

"The majority of these were sudden deaths because of the heatwave as claimed by their relatives, which we cannot independently verify."

The provincial government in Sindh province disputed the estimate.

"Only one casualty has been reported due to heat stroke so far," said Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Director of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority in Sindh told AFP.

The heatwave coincides with the beginning of Ramadan, when millions of devout Pakistanis ab-

stain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department warned "hot to very hot weather is likely to prevail in Karachi during next 2-3 days", forecasting highs of 44 degrees Celsius during the period.

Aamir Habib, from Karachi's Korangi, said his brother was among the dead and had been rushed to the hospital after collapsing at work on Monday.

"The doctors said he died because of heat stroke," Habib told AFP.

The mega port city, capital of southern Sindh province, is hit by frequent power cuts and has few green spaces.—**AFP ■**





Students take part in a demonstration on 22 May, 2018, in Montpellier, southern France, as part of a day of striking by French public sector workers to protest a series of reforms proposed by the French president, which they consider an attack on key civic services as well as their own economic security. **PHOTO: AFP**

## French public sector workers strike against Macron's reforms

PARIS — French public sector employees joined rail workers in striking on Tuesday to protest overhauls proposed by President Emmanuel Macron, calling them an “attack” by the centrist leader against civil services as well as their economic security.

It is the third day of major stoppages and demonstrations by public-sector employees since voters last year elected Macron, who has pledged to reduce public spending, trim jobs and reform large parts of the vast French state.

All unions representing civil servants have backed on Tuesday's strike, a show of unity which was last seen around 10 years ago. Their walkout affected schools and daycare centres, flights and some energy infrastructure, while public transport was also disrupted as some workers took part ahead of the next round of two-day strikes at national rail operator SNCF starting late Tuesday. “Thanks to the civil service, all of the unions in this country will be together,” said labour leader Bernadette Groison from the FSU union. “That shows how high the stakes are.” The centrist government plans public sector reforms next year which would lead to the greater use of contract workers for some state services and a cut of 120,000 jobs by 2022 out of 5.6 million.

It has already maintained a pay freeze while Olivier Dussopt, the minister in charge of France's public service, is preparing cost-cutting measures he has said will be “more or less disruptive”. Many civil servants also fear that the government plans to scrap their special status and job-for-life privileges, a measure that has already been announced for new recruits on the state railways, the SNCF. Striking police officers also snarled traffic on the ring road surrounding Paris to defend their status and retirement benefits.

But surveys suggest the movement is struggling to garner widespread support, with 49 per cent saying they did not back the striking public workers in a ViaVoice poll published by French daily Le Figaro.

Just 40 per cent said they supported the movement.

### Not backing down

The poll results largely coincide with those concerning the rail reform, which has sparked one of the longest strike sequences ever on the network.

Just 42 per cent of respondents said the SNCF strike was justified in an Ifop survey published Sunday by the Journal du Dimanche newspaper, compared with 58 per cent who said it was not.

Rail workers have been striking every two days out of five since 3 April and will begin a new round of stoppages on Tuesday night. The strikes have widely affected high-speed services and commuter trains.—AFP ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (567N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (567N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING  
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

## Nipah virus death toll in India jumps to 10

NEW DELHI — The death toll from an outbreak of the rare Nipah virus in southern India jumped to 10 on Tuesday with more than 90 people quarantined to try to stem the spread of the disease, officials said.

With tests from other suspect deaths awaited, authorities in Kerala state have ordered emergency measures to control the virus, which is spread by fruit bats.

Three of the fatalities are members of the same family — dead bats were found in a well at their home. A nurse who treated one of the family has also died, leaving a heart-wrenching note for her family.

“We sent 18 samples for testing. Out of these 12 tested positive. Ten of those who tested positive have died and the remaining two are undergoing treatment,” a health official in Kerala's Kozhikode district, the centre of the

outbreak, told AFP.

Ninety-four people who have come into contact with those who died have been isolated in their homes.

“They have been quarantined as a precaution,” Kerala state health surveillance officer KJ Reena told AFP.

Nipah has killed more than 260 people in Malaysia, Bangladesh and India since 1998 and has a mortality rate of nearly 70 per cent, according to the World Health Organisation.

There is no vaccination for the virus which induces flu-like symptoms that lead to an agonising encephalitis and coma.

The WHO has named Nipah as one of the eight priority diseases that could cause a global epidemic, alongside the likes of Ebola and Zika.

### Nurse hailed

Among the dead in the Kerala outbreak was

nursing assistant and mother-of-two Lini Puthussery, who had helped to treat one of the original family suffering from Nipah.

Puthussery died on Monday and was cremated before her family members could bid her a final goodbye because of fears the virus could spread.

In a final note she scribbled in a hospital isolation unit, she urged her husband to take care of the children.

“I don't think I will be able to see you again. Sorry. Please take care of our children,” she said.

Kerala state Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Puthussery's “selfless service will be remembered”.

He also said many professionals had expressed their willingness to work in Nipah affected areas. “The government of Kerala welcomes their service,” he said on Twitter.—AFP ■

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE ( INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER ) ( 10/ 2018 )

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB/002(18-19)	Cement Additives (4) Items	US\$
(2)	DMP/L-031(18-19)	Steel Ball Valves and Pipe Fittings	Ks
		(2) Groups	
(3)	DMP/L-032(18-19)	2 3/8" & 2 7/8" EUE Tubing (2) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-033(18-19)	Spares for CAT D-342 Engine (52) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-034(18-19)	Spares for CAT D-353 PC Engine(55)Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-035(18-19)	Spares for Hitachi Excavator (72) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-036(18-19)	Spares for Mack Truck (10) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 23 May 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **16:30 pm on 21 June 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 21-6-2018, 16:30 pm

**Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise**  
Ph . +95 67 - 411206  
+95 67 411212



## Malaysia ex-PM Najib quizzed by graft agency

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia — Scandal-tainted former Malaysian leader Najib Razak arrived on Tuesday at the anti-corruption agency for questioning over a massive financial scandal that helped to bring down his long-ruling regime.

Najib's coalition suffered a shock defeat at the 9 May poll, beaten by a reformist alliance led by Mahathir Mohamad, which broke their six-decade stranglehold on power.

Mahathir, who first served as premier from 1981-2003 and came out of retirement aged 92 to take on Najib, and his allies focused on claims that the former leader and his cronies looted sovereign wealth fund 1MDB.

Billions of dollars were allegedly stolen from the fund in a sophisticated fraud, and used to buy everything from artworks to high-end real estate.

Najib and his reviled, luxury-loving wife Rosmah Mansor have had a swift fall from grace. They have been barred from leaving the country, and police have seized handbags, jewels and cash during raids on properties linked to the couple.

The ousted leader arrived at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission



Malaysia's former prime minister Najib Razak (centre-R) leaves after being questioned at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) office in Putrajaya on 22 May, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

(MACC) headquarters in the administrative capital of Putrajaya, walking through a scrum of about 100 journalists.

Najib was summoned by the MACC to give a statement over claims surrounding SRC International, an energy company that was originally a subsidiary of 1MDB, and forms just one part of the wide-ranging probe into the scandal.

SRC was placed under the finance ministry in 2012 — Najib was finance minister as well as premier at the time.

According to an investigation by the Wall Street Journal, 42 million ringgit

(\$10.6 million) originating from SRC was transferred to Najib's personal bank accounts.

Hundreds of millions of dollars from 1MDB allegedly ended up there.

Najib and 1MDB have denied any wrongdoing. A domestic investigation launched during his premiership concluded that the money in his accounts was a donation from the Saudi royal family. Abdul Razak Idris, a former senior officer with the anti-graft agency who last week lodged reports against Najib, praised the body for quickly hauling in Najib

"If we delay, a lot of

evidence can be lost or tampered with," he told AFP.

As reports proliferated in recent years that billions were looted from 1MDB, Najib's government shut down domestic inquiries into the scandal, arrested critics calling for a full investigations and muzzled news organizations reporting on the affair.

Mahathir has vowed to fully investigate the financial scandal. On Monday the new government set up a task force headed by high-ranking current and senior officials to probe the controversy.— AFP ■

## Foreign reporters head to North Korea to cover shutdown of nuke test site

BELJING—Around 20 foreign journalists on Tuesday left Beijing for North Korea by a charter plane to observe the dismantlement of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site, three weeks ahead of leader Kim Jong Un's potential summit with US President Donald Trump.

North Korea allowing foreign media to conduct on-the-spot coverage of the facility's shutdown is seen as a sign of goodwill from Kim, who has recently committed to denuclearization — but skepticism lingers that it may be only a "political show."

Pyongyang has said it will hold a ceremony to mark the closure between Wednesday and Friday, depending on weather conditions, and that journalists from China, Russia, the United States, Britain and South Korea will be allowed to visit the site.

Punggye-ri is where North Korea has conducted all of its six nuclear weapon tests to date, beginning in 2006, including the most powerful one last September.

US and Russian reporters said they received visas at North Korea's Embassy in Beijing on Mon-

day. Foreign journalists are scheduled to go to a press center set up in Wonsan, a city on the country's east coast.

"We hope that North Korea is going to be transparent like they said," Will Ripley, a CNN correspondent based in Hong Kong who is on his 18<sup>th</sup> trip to North Korea, told reporters before departing from Beijing International Airport. At his summit with South Korean President Moon Jae In on 27 April, Kim pledged to shut down the key test site in May and disclose its closure to foreign experts and media

to ensure transparency, according to Moon's office.

But North Korea did not invite experts, such as those from the International Atomic Energy Agency, to observe the dismantlement, raising concern that the actual condition of the nuclear test site will not be revealed.

All the tunnels at the test site will be destroyed by explosions and the surrounding area will be completely closed, North Korea's Foreign Ministry was quoted by the country's official media as saying earlier this month. — Kyodo News ■

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental  
Conservation  
**Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium**  
**The Information on Fifty-Fifth Myanmar**  
**Gems Emporium 2018**

1. The significant Fifty-Fifth Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held on June 20 to 29, 2018 at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.
2. Rough jade, rough gems, cut and polished gemstones, jewelries, jade carvings, gold and silver wares and gemstone pictures will be sold in Euro currency at the Emporium.
3. Gems lots and jade lots will be put up for sale through open tender system and specifying reserve prices as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Reserve Price (Euro) for Open Tender	
(a)	Pearl	500	and above
(b)	Gems	500	and above
(c)	Jade	4,000	and above
(d)	Finished product and Jade Carving	1,000	and above

4. Foreign visitors eligible for the following qualifications will be granted admission to the Fifty-Fifth Emporium 2018, excluding those blacklisted for their default on payment in the previous emporiums;
  - (a) The person who was invited by the Emporium Central Committee with invitation card.
  - (b) The person who requested the invitation card via the Foreign Jade Associations.
  - (c) The person who requested to receive the invitation card through the respective Embassies and Consulate - General.
  - (d) Foreign visitors are permissible to make bids for the lots up to the value of the 10-fold of the minimum deposit paid by the types of gemstones. The minimum amount of deposit to be paid and the amount permitted to bid are as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Deposit to be paid	Permitted limit to bid
(1)	Gems	€ 10,000	€ 100,000
(2)	Jade	€ 20,000	€ 200,000

- (e) Making bids for lots priced more than the permitted limit is required to make additional deposit (10% of its value) to the Account No. EEM 400034 opened with the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) by the name of The Central Committee of Emporium (Deposit). Deposit must be made by the preview deadline as below;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Kind of selling system	Deposit Payment Date
(1)	Gems	Open Tender	June 22, 2018
(2)	Jade	Open Tender	June 23, 2018

5. Starting from 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, admission card will be issued at the Maniradana Jade Hall, Registration Office to the foreign merchants who have already paid the deposit ahead.
6. Application Forms for admission to Emporium can be downloaded from provided websites ([www.mining.gov.mm](http://www.mining.gov.mm) or [www.mge.gov.mm](http://www.mge.gov.mm)), starting from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Application can also be submitted via On-Line Pre-Registration System from [www.mge.gov.mm](http://www.mge.gov.mm). The requirements to make the admission card are as follow;
  - (a) Name, Passport and National Scrutiny Card No. (Passport Issuing Country)
  - (b) Clear Photocopy of Passport.
  - (c) Two passport photos taken within one month.
  - (d) Complete contact information, (to state Phone No., Fax No. and E-mail if applicable)
  - (e) Admission fee – Myanmar currency (Kyat) which is equivalent to US\$ 100.
7. Buyers shall settle payment for the purchases within deadline as prescribed by the Sales Agreement. The necessary arrangements will be made if the buyer desires to bring his/ her fully paid purchase along with them.
8. Shipment of fully paid purchase to the buyer is made under the EXW(EX Works)System. Purchase will be timely despatched once the buyer has made full payment for the purchase. Emporium Central Committee will be responsible for loading the merchandise onto the Transportation Vehicles from the Emporium Hall while the buyer himself or his authorized representative company will be held liable for the remaining processes.

**Emporium Central Committee**

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# Barack and Michelle Obama sign Netflix production deal

NEW YORK — Barack and Michelle Obama have entered into a multi-year agreement to produce films and series with Netflix, the world's leading internet entertainment service announced on Monday.

The former first couple have launched Higher Ground Productions to produce a variety of content for the video streamer, possibly including scripted series, documentaries and features.

"One of the simple joys of our time in public service was getting to meet so many fascinating people from all walks of life, and to help them share their experiences with a wider audience," Obama, who served two terms in the White House from 2009, said in a statement.

"That's why Michelle and I are so excited to partner with

Netflix. We hope to cultivate and curate the talented, inspiring, creative voices who are able to promote greater empathy and understanding between peoples, and help them share their stories with the entire world."

The Obamas already have a large social media presence — a combined 150 million followers on Twitter and Instagram — but the deal will see their influence boosted significantly by Netflix's 125 million subscribers in 190 countries. "Barack and Michelle Obama are among the world's most respected and highly-recognized public figures and are uniquely positioned to discover and highlight stories of people who make a difference in their communities and strive to change the world for the better," said Netflix chief content officer



Barack Obama and Michelle Obama. PHOTO: AFP

Ted Sarandos.

The statement didn't discuss money, but their time in the White House has already begun to reap lucrative dividends for the Obamas, who negotiated book deals last year reportedly worth more than \$60 million.

A much-awaited memoir by Michelle Obama is due to be released on 13 November; publisher Penguin Random House said in

February, describing her as "one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era."

The Obamas met while he was an intern and she his adviser at a Chicago law firm, and they were soon married. She became his closest confidante during his political rise. Michelle used her influence as one of the world's most high-profile public figures to advocate for the rights of wom-

en and girls and campaigned for Americans to live healthier lives.

The Obamas are not planning to use Netflix to counter President Donald Trump or other conservatives, but will focus instead on "storytelling to inspire us, to make us think differently about the world around us, and to help us open our minds and hearts to others," the former first lady said. — AFP ■

# Tom Holland is the Spider-Man I envisioned, says Stan Lee



Actor Tom Holland. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Comic book legend Stan Lee says Tom Holland is the perfect choice to play Spider-Man as the actor is exactly how he imagined the webbed superhero.

The 95-year-old popular comic book writer, who co-created the character with writer-artist Steve Ditko in 1962, took to Twitter to praise Holland. "I think @TomHolland1996 is a great Spider-Man. He is the exact height and age I envisioned when I first

wrote Spider-Man. Spidey was never supposed to be too large. How is my friend Tom doing?" Lee wrote. In another tweet, the veteran writer said his publisher had initially trashed the idea of creating Spider-Man. "Never give up on your dreams! When I first wrote Spider-Man, my publisher said I was crazy because people hate spiders and insects and he was not going to publish it. But I never gave up, until it was published," he added. Holland replied

to Lee's tweets, saying: "Thanks very much Stan. It all started with you sir. Looking forward to catching up soon bud". The 21-year-old first appeared as the webslinger in "Spider-Man: Homecoming" and was last seen in the recently-released "Avengers: Infinity War". He will reprise his role in the upcoming sequel to his stand-alone. Besides Holland, Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield have played the superhero in the past. —PTI ■

# Thailand Cultural Music Festival to be held in Pattaya next week

BANGKOK — The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) said during a press conference on Wednesday that the Thailand Cultural Music Festival is to be held from 25 to 26 May, at Bali Hai Bay in Pattaya targeting international travelers.

Sujitra Jongchansitto, TAT Deputy Governor for Tourism Products and Business, said during the press conference, "The Thailand Cultural Music Festival will help build awareness and promote tourism through Thailand's dynamic music industry that really is

growing into one of the country's greatest assets."

"Events like this help build brand recognition for Thailand as a tourist destination as it is also one of Asia's best musical and cultural event destinations." She added.

The Thailand Cultural Music Festival's line up include local folk music performances, contemporary musical acts and a live stage with music by popular bands and singers, with action taking place across four stages over two days. — Xinhua ■

# Taylor Swift changed my life: Selena Gomez

LONDON — Singer Selena Gomez has thanked her best friend, pop diva Taylor Swift, for changing her life and for being a support system throughout her career.

The "Same Old Love" hitmaker praised Swift as she joined her on-stage at her Reputation Tour at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, reported Contactmusic. "I want to say thank you to my best friend of about 12 years, almost 13. And the reason why she has been one of my best friends is because this person has never, ever judged a single decision



Singer Selena Gomez. PHOTO: PTI

I've made. "She's always met me where I've been. She's encouraged me when I've had nothing to be encouraged about. And I don't

know if I would be as strong as I am if I didn't have you and your family because you changed my life," Gomez said. —PTI ■



# Monet sister paintings reunited in US for first time

WASHINGTON — For the first time since they were painted more than a century ago, two oil paintings of Claude Monet's garden in Vetheuil have been reunited, in Washington.

Monet moved to this village in the Paris suburbs in 1878 with his sickened wife Camille and their two young children as they faced financial difficulties, along with the family of one-time patron Ernest Hoschede.

The period that ensued was one of the most prolific for the French Impressionist, who produced in just three years nearly 300 paintings, including "The Artist's Garden at Vetheuil" (1881).

Until 8 August, the National Gallery of Art is presenting two of four known works of this lush summer scene with huge sunflowers, including its own, larger piece and another temporarily on loan from California's Norton Simon Museum.

"It's a turning point in terms of his career, his struggles, he's

turning more toward landscape, he's becoming more interested in atmospheric effects," National Gallery curator of 19<sup>th</sup> century French paintings Kimberly Jones said in an interview.

The Norton Simon's version, believed to have served as a model for its companion, is more heavily worked in most areas.

## New findings

"Before these two pictures were together, we always described the handling of this one as quite loose because we didn't have another example, and we had always believed ours was a study for the larger picture," said Norton Simon assistant curator Emily Talbot.

"All of the things that have been published about these two pictures we're starting to question just by having them in the same space."

Where Monet layered meridian green thickly on top of cobalt blue to give more interest to the



Emily Talbot, assistant curator of the Norton Simon Museum, views "The Artist's Garden at Vetheuil" (1881) by Claude Monet at the National Gallery of Art's conservation laboratory in Washington on 17 May, 2018. Two versions of Monet's paintings of the same scene are on view together, at the National Gallery of Art, for the first time since they were created more than a century ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

sky in the Norton Simon's picture, in the companion piece it's defined instead by contrasts of thick and thin, and patches of exposed canvas ground.

The National Gallery's senior conservator of paintings Ann Hoenigswald spent months removing a discolored natural resin varnish from the museum's masterpiece that had flattened the work visually.

"The minute I got the varnish off, it just soared," she said.

"What I find really exciting is the energy of the brushwork. You see the richness of the impasto and the speed at which he moves his brush across, and all the bristles of the brush, or a little lip of paint that just comes straggling there."

It was not until almost 10 years later, in 1890, that Monet

began painting formal series each comprised of dozens of works depicting a single subject — the Rouen Cathedral, London's Houses of Parliament or water lilies — at different seasons or times of the day usually from the same vantage point.

The garden proto-series "could be the germ of an idea that's just starting to develop in his mind," said Jones.—AFP ■

## Japan social benefit costs to rise 50% by FY 2040 amid aging society

TOKYO — Social benefit costs in Japan will grow more than 50 per cent over the next two decades as the country's population rapidly ages, the government said on Monday.

The costs, which include

pensions and health-care coverage and will be primarily funded by the government and insurance fees, are expected to balloon from an annual 121.3 trillion yen (\$1.11 trillion) in fiscal 2018 to around 190 trillion yen

in fiscal 2040.

It would be equivalent to an increase from 21.5 per cent of Japan's gross domestic product to 24.0 per cent, according to the government's "baseline" scenario for economic growth.

The outlook, released following a meeting by an economic policy panel consisting of members of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet, Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, and academics and private-sector business leaders, will become the basis for the government to draw up long-term plans to deal with the demographic shift.

Of the total costs, pensions are projected to increase from the current 56.7 trillion yen to 73.2 trillion yen, while medical benefits could rise from 39.2 trillion yen to as high as 68.5 trillion yen.

Nursing care benefits are expected to more than double from 10.7 trillion yen to 25.8 trillion yen, and benefits for child-rearing will grow from 7.9 trillion yen to 13.1 trillion yen.

Regarding how the costs will be funded, the government said the 46.9 trillion yen currently shouldered by taxpayers is forecast to climb as high as 80.4 trillion yen, while insurance premiums will rise from 70.2 trillion yen to as much as 107.3

trillion yen.

An extremely low birthrate and a wave of postwar baby boomers entering advanced age means Japan's population will continue graying. People over age 65 made up 26.6 per cent of the population in 2015, but that is expected to grow to 38.4 per cent by 2065, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

In addition to the rising costs of social benefits, the surge in the elderly population will require more workers in the medical and nursing care industries.

The ministry said Monday the number of such workers is expected to increase to 10.65 million by fiscal 2040, or 18.8 per cent of the country's entire workforce, compared with current 12.5 per cent. The government's "baseline" scenario for economic growth, which formed the basis for the latest social benefit outlook, assumes Japan's nominal GDP will grow from a projected 564.3 trillion yen in fiscal 2018 to 790.6 trillion yen in fiscal 2040.—Kyodo News ■



PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



## West Ham announce Manuel Pellegrini as new manager

LONDON — West Ham announced former Real Madrid and Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini as their new manager on Tuesday, replacing David Moyes at the helm of the Premier League club.

The 64-year-old Chilean left his role with Hebei China Fortune over the weekend and flew to London for talks.

The Hammers opted not to keep Moyes on after the Scot's short-term contract ended following the final game of the Premier League season — a 3-1 win over his former side Everton that saw them finish 13<sup>th</sup>.

Joint chairman David Sullivan hailed Pellegrini's track record of winning the Premier League title with City as crucial

to his chances of ushering in a new era of success at the London Stadium.

"I am delighted to welcome Manuel Pellegrini to West Ham United," Sullivan said on the club's website.

"He is one of the world's most respected football coaches and we look forward to working with him.

"It was important that we appointed someone with knowledge and experience of the Premier League, who already has an understanding — not only of the teams and players we face — but of West Ham United and our ambitions.

"Manuel brings a reputation for attacking football and getting the best out of his play-

ers. We believe he will attract new talent to the London Stadium as well as improving the current squad."

Pellegrini coached at Villarreal, Real Madrid and Malaga in Spain before taking charge of Manchester City in 2013, going on to win the 2013/14 Premier League title as well as the League Cup twice before his departure.

He left the Etihad Stadium in June 2016, to be succeeded by Pep Guardiola, but was soon back in work at Hebei.

Despite being under contract through to the end of 2018 and with a reported release clause of \$7 million, Hebei confirmed on Saturday that Pellegrini had left his role.—AFP ■



Former Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini is the new boss at West Ham. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Back among the best: Klopp instils new belief in Liverpool

LONDON — The last time Liverpool faced the might of Real Madrid, then manager Brendan Rodgers named a second-string side so impossible did it seem that England's most successful club on the European stage could compete with the self-proclaimed "kings of Europe".

Madrid won 1-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu that November night in 2014, two weeks after they had inflicted Liverpool's heaviest ever European home defeat by cruising to a 3-0 victory at Anfield.

Such was the gulf between the sides that even a former Manchester United hero Cristiano Ronaldo was applauded off on what used to be enemy territory. Madrid were a class apart rather than a competitor. Fast-forward three-and-a-half years and Jurgen Klopp has transformed the five-time European champions back into believing they are worthy of their place in a Champions League final when they face Real once more in Kiev on Saturday.

"A lot of things happened since I came in, but the biggest change was how the people changed in the case of how much they like their actual team," said Klopp on Monday. "That is really

nice and helped a lot. The boys deserved this. They had an exceptional season, always could be better, but it was really good and a big step in comparison to last year."

Klopp's tenure has been far from all plain sailing. He acknowledged even after ousting Premier League champions Manchester City 5-1 on aggregate in the quarter-finals that the clock was ticking on his promise to deliver a trophy in his first four years.

By contrast, since the sides last met, Madrid have won another two Champions Leagues, a La Liga title, two Club World Cups and two European Super Cups.

### Best yet to come

However, the feeling around Anfield is that Liverpool can now compete with Europe's elite, and — with Klopp having renewed his contract till 2022 — the best is still to come.

"This could be the start of something special under Klopp, he's world class," the last Liverpool captain to lift the Champions League, Steven Gerrard, told BT Sport after a rollercoaster 7-6 aggregate semi-final win over Roma. Klopp's role as a rab-

ble-rousing, bear-hugging cheerleader on the sidelines makes the 50-year-old a colourful and loveable character for fans, players and media alike.

However, the headlines he creates often hide a keen eye for the tactical details that count.

None more so than how Klopp didn't let the loss of arguably his best player in Philippe Coutinho for a Premier League record sale of £142 million (\$194 million, 160 million euros) in the middle of the season derail Liverpool's road to Kiev.

Coutinho's departure robbed Klopp of competition for places and ammunition for his front three. Yet, Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino continued to thrive, combining for 90 goals this season. Behind them Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain came to the fore, scoring a stunning goal against City in a 3-0 first leg win at Anfield in the last eight.

When the England international's season was ended by a cruciate knee ligament injury against Roma in the semi-finals, Georginio Wijnaldum stepped in to score what proved to be the winning goal in the tie in Rome.—AFP ■

## Buffon to make a decision on PSG within week

MILAN — Juventus legend Gianluigi Buffon said on Monday that he will make a decision this week on whether he will be joining Paris Saint-Germain.

Buffon, 40, played his final game for the Italian giants in a 2-1 win over Verona on Saturday, capping a 17-year career in Turin that harvested seven consecutive Serie A titles.

"PSG? I need a week to be calm and analyse everything. These aren't simple choices. At 40, you can't make decisions in the heat of the moment," Buffon told Sky Sports Italia after play-

ing in former Italy team-mate Andrea Pirlo's testimonial at the San Siro on Monday.

"Do I speak French? No," he added.

Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi earlier in the day poured cold water on suggestions Buffon could step in to replace the French club's number one goalkeeper, Alphonse Areola. Al-Khelaifi told L'Equipe sports daily: "He (Buffon) is a fantastic goalkeeper, he's very charismatic and is a true gentleman. I'm sure all the clubs want him."—AFP ■



Buffon. **PHOTO: AFP**