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Bogyoke Aung San Museum has seen an increase in number of visitors on Martyrs' Day every year. **FILE PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Public to be permitted to visit first floor of Bogoyoke Aung San Museum after Martyrs' Day

THE public will not be allowed to visit the first floor of the Bogoyoke Aung San Museum on Martyrs' Day, which falls on 19 July, as the historic house cannot withstand the crowds expected on the day.

"Myanmar Engineering Association suggested that crowds should not be allowed inside the Bogoyoke Aung San Museum, following an inspection conducted by engineers from

the association. They said that the historic displays on the first floor should be screened on an LED board in the compound of the house," said Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko on Saturday. However, the public will be permitted to visit the first floor of the museum after Martyrs' Day. As the building was built only for the family of Bogoyoke Aung San and the building is already 97 years old, the first floor was

The first floor was found structurally weak to support a large number of visitors.

found structurally weak to support a large number of visitors. On one single day during

last year's 70th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day, there were 72,268 visitors and such large number would be too much for the structure to bear. As suggested day of the Myanmar Engineering Association, only the ground floor of the museum will be opened to the public during this year's Martyrs' Day period, and the displays on the first floor will be shown through an LED board in the compound instead.

SEE PAGE-2

Congress looks at ways to help women facing hardships

THE Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress continued yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with the means to address the hardships of women in Myanmar as part of its agenda.

At the congress, held by the National League for Democracy, Central Women Work Committee Chair Dr May Win Myint invited reports from the Myanmar womenfolk about their hardships and requirements, as the work committees at different levels were always ready to offer any legal or social help.

The work committees will discuss means to help solve the hardships of women, she said, and added that women's work committees have already been formed at all levels from the region and state levels to the ward and village levels. The congress serves as a forum for the systematic harmonisation of the office functions and procedures of the bodies, she said. Speakers, including U Ye Min Oo, Central Information Committee member, gave talks on office management, Daw Khin Thanda Min (a female writer) on the development of speaking skills, and MP of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aung Kyi Nyunt on the policy and rules of the party after the work committee members read out the reports. The congress continues today at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICCII).—MNA

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Slow business at Monywa poultry farming special zone

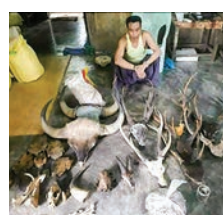
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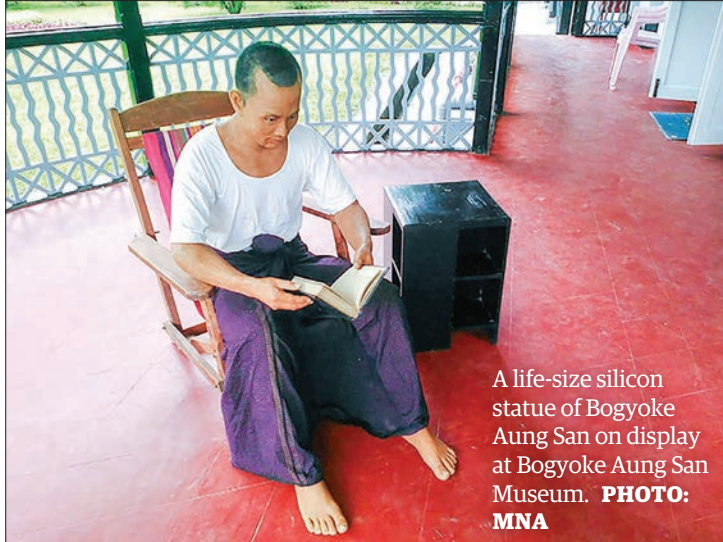
Public to be permitted to visit first floor of Bogyoke Aung San Museum after Martyrs' Day

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Except for Mondays and public holidays, the museum opened from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the public will be able to access both the ground floor and the first floor.

A silicon statue of Bogyoke Aung San is on display to the public at the Bogyoke Aung San Museum.

The life-size statue of Bogyoke being seated in an armchair and reading a book was created by artist Aung Kyaw Tun, who also created a statue of Bogyoke Aung San for the museum of Bogyoke Aung San's home in Natmouk in central Myanmar to mark the 100th birthday of Gen-



A life-size silicon statue of Bogyoke Aung San on display at Bogyoke Aung San Museum. **PHOTO: MNA**

eral Aung San.

Monuments and memorials related to the late national lead-

er General Aung San in Yangon drew thousands of visitors.—Aye Min Thu ■



A pedestrian bridge will be built along a busy part of Pyay Road in Sangyoung Township to reduce possible pedestrian casualties and ensure smoother traffic. **PHOTO: HTIN PAW WIN**

Sangyoung pedestrian bridge nearly complete

A pedestrian bridge being built near the Pyay Road, in front of No.2, Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township, Yangon, is 86 per cent complete.

Construction of the pedestrian bridge began on 1 March and is scheduled to be open to public in September. The 91 ft long, 20 ft high bridge has 10 ft

wide pedestrian walkway. Two escalators will be installed on each side of the bridge, said Ko Myo Thant Aung, the in-charge of the construction company.

Previously, the area where the pedestrian bridge is being constructed is crowded with vehicles and is a dangerous place for passers-by. Upon completion

of the bridge, not only residents in Sangyoung but also pedestrians who use the Pyay Road will be able to cross the street safely.

The pedestrian bridge is being built by Mya Thet Tin Construction Company with the permission of the Yangon City Development Committee.—Htin Paw Win/MDN ■

Old shells found in Sagaing Township

TWO old bombs were unearthed in the compound of a monastery in Kyaungdawgyi Village, Sagaing Township, on 29 June.

A villager, identified as Win Lwin Myint, 22, years of age dis-

covered the old shells, which are 14 inches in length and 9 inches in circumference, while he was digging a hole to plant saplings in the compound of Zeya Mingala Monastery in Kyaungdawgyi Vil-

lage at 8:30 pm on 29 June. The old bombs were handed over to a military engineering regiment in Sagaing, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.—Kyaw Htike Soe/MDN ■

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives invited to attend Pyithu Hluttaw session

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to attend the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw to be held at Pyithu Hluttaw's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 23 July 2018 (Monday).

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, whether they receive the invitation letters or not, are urged to report to the Pyithu Hluttaw Office Affairs Hall (I-12) in Nay Pyi Taw not earlier than 21 July (Saturday) and not later than 22 July (Sunday), bringing along with them their Member of Parliament scrutiny cards.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives invited to attend Amyotha Hluttaw session

The Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to attend the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw to be held at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 23 July 2018 (Monday).

The Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, whether they receive the invitation letters or not, are urged to report to the Amyotha Hluttaw Office Affairs Hall (I-19) in Nay Pyi Taw not earlier than 21 July and not later than 22 July, bringing along with them their Member of Parliament scrutiny cards.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U Ko Ko Shein presents Credentials to President of Belarus

U Ko Ko Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus on 26 June 2018 in Minsk.—MNA

Rural bridge constructed in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region

CONSTRUCTION of a rural bridge that connects Wailamu Village and Thetkelkyin Village in the west side of Thaphan-seik Dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region, was completed.

The bridge, crossing the Mongwun Creek, is 437 ft in length, 10 ft in width and 12 ft in height, and was built at a cost of Ks.80 million contributed by the regional government and local people. Construction of the wooden bridge started in October 2017 and was completed in late June, said U Hsan Tun Ko, a vil-

lage-tract administrator. People from the west side of the dam face transport difficulties when Mongwun Creek is over flooded. Moreover, local people have to pay ferry fare when they cross the creek in rainy season, he added. Local people from more than 30 villages will now be able to use the new bridge in all seasons.

At the same time, the newly built bridge will help improve socio-economic status, such as education, health, economy and agriculture for the local people.—Myo Win Nyo/MDN ■

Only working in unison can benefit all

If you wish for the country to be developed and prosperous, all of the country's resources — financial, natural and human — have to be used together for the equal development of all races.

If the Bamar does what it wants, if the Kachin does what it wants, if the Shan, Kachin and Chin do not all cooperate, there will be no benefits for anyone. Only when you try working in unison will you know its benefits.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogyoke Aung San at the Panglong Dinner on February 11, 1947)



Over Ks260 million donated to Eternal Peace Pagoda



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein donates Ks5 million to the Eternal Peace Pagoda located in Nay Pyi Taw during a ceremony in Mayangon Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

WELL-WISHERS donated over Ks260 million to the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw at a ceremony held yesterday morning at the Vijaya Mingalar Dhamma Hall on Kaba Aye Hillock in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and congregation received Five Precepts from Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Shwe Parami Tawra Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika.

The Union Minister, Yangon Region Chief Minister and officials then accepted cash donations worth over Ks260 million and in return presented certificates of honour to the donors, in which Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife donated Ks5 million; U Soe Paing and Daw Khin Myat Swe, son

Mg Khat Paing Soe and daughter Ma Shwe Yi Shoon Myat (Paing family Co. Ltd.) donated Ks50 million; Major San Yu (Retired) and Daw Kyin Than family donated Ks30 million; U Aung Myint and Daw Kyi Aye, U Kyaw Min and Daw Thi Thi Lwin, U Thein Nang and Daw Aye Aye from Shwe Pyi Nan family Co. Ltd. donated Ks20 million and U Kyin Shwe and Daw Nan Kay Thwe, daughter Ma Saw Yoon Nwe and son Mg Thiha Aung from Family Printing House donated Ks20 million.

Later, Shwe Parami Tawra Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika delivered the Anumodana sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained. The Eternal Peace Pagoda was being constructed on Yaza Thingaha Road, near Kan Kaw Pan traffic roundabout in Dekkhi-nathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Aid from Japan delivered to villagers in Maungtau

HUMANITARIAN aid from Japan were handed over to the authorities in Maungtau to deliver it to 14 villages in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State.

Maungtau Township Administrator U Myint Khine received the aid handed over by Daw Yin Yin Pyone, Director of the Rakhine State's Department of Social Welfare, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The donations were distributed to four villages in Shwe Zar Village Tract and to ten villages in Thit Tone Nar Kwa Sone Village Tract. The 687 households in the fourteen villages will each receive three pairs of shoes, two bars of soap, and a solar-powered flashlight. —Nay Win Tun (Myanma Alinn) ■



Authorities hand over humanitarian aid from Japan to villagers in Maungtau. **PHOTO: KYAW AUNG SEIN**

Union Minister Lt Gen Kyaw Swe leaves for China

AT the invitation of Member of the State Councilor and Minister of Public Security of China Mr. Zhao Kezhi, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt Gen Kyaw Swe and delegation left Yangon for China to attend the Ministerial Meeting on Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation in Beijing yesterday afternoon.

The Union Minister and delegation were seen off by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Secretary of the Yangon Region

government and officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs at the Yangon International Airport.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt Gen Kyaw Swe was accompanied by a delegation of eight officials, including Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Win Oo, Director General U Maung Maung Kyaw of the Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI) and senior officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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

Ludu Sein Win youth scholarship programme launched for next academic year

By Nyein Nyein

PROMISING youngsters who cannot afford to pay their education fees can apply for the Ludu Sein Win youth scholarship programme, which is open for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to the Ludu Sein Win Scholarship evaluation board.

This scholarship will help

deserving young people complete their academic goals and help in their careers.

The programme is designated to assist financially needy and academically competitive students to complete their degrees, and thus produce promising young people for the country.

The programme was es-

tablished in December 2012 to honour the late Ludu U Sein Win. It has helped up to 65 students as of June 2018, 34 of whom earned a bachelor's degree. It continues to help the remaining students achieve their goals.

Those eligible can apply for the scholarship by 15 September at the scholarship

evaluation board: No 501, corner of Merchant and 39th streets, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. For further information, one can call 01-375177 or email luduseinwinscholarship@gmail.com.

Those who want to contribute to the scholarship programme can also contact the scholarship board.

Slow business at Monywa poultry farming special zone

THE number of poultry breeders has gone down after the second outbreak of H9N2 in 2016 at the poultry farming special zone near Kyauksittatung Village in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region.

The H9N2 avian influenza virus hit a poultry farming zone in Monywa for two consecutive years. Moreover, the inability to invest is also a reason for the decline in the number of poultry farmers. Only breeders who love to raise poultry chickens and those who are working on a manageable scale are still involved in the poultry farming business, said U Nyunt Shwe, chair of Monywa poultry farming special zone supervision committee.

Eggs produced at 110 farms owned by 56 poultry farmers operating in the Monywa poultry farming special zone are sent to Monywa depot. One egg fetches Ks 100.

Even the current poultry



A woman fills up feeding bowls for hens at a poultry farm. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

farmers are struggling to keep operating their businesses. Biosecurity should be regularly practised to prevent the spread of H9N2.

Those who are engaged in

the whole supply chain in the Monywa poultry farming zone need to put forth concerted efforts, said Dr Ei Ei Aung, head of Monywa Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Depart-

ment.

Of the over 400 farms at the Monywa poultry farming zone, only 110 farms with around 50,000 chickens are producing eggs.—Win Oo (Zeyartine)

CCTV installed in major areas in Mandalay

CLOSED-CIRCUIT televisions have been installed in major areas of Madalay, said Mandalay Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin.

In order to reduce traffic violations and have motorists follow the rules of the road, the CCTVs were employed.

"CCTVs will be used at traffic-lights and the cameras will automatically capture vehicles running red lights and immediately send the recorded video to the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD). The software the CCTVs use has an alarm system built into

it which will act as a warning device for vehicles that may potentially commit a traffic violation" he added. If there are vehicle accidents where CCTVs are located, the recorded video can determine who is at fault. This will make any legal action easier to negotiate.

"Cameras have been equipped in six major areas throughout Mandalay. The RTAD will receive all video records. In addition, there are road signs telling motorists to slow down at approaching intersections, pictorial signs that tell

motorists to yield to all pedestrians and various other road signs that drivers must abide by. I don't like to see road and traffic signs knocked down by reckless drivers or intentionally vandalized by hooligans", said a dean of the Department of Building and Central Stores from Mandalay City Development Committee.

A total of 117 CCTVs have been installed at 32 traffic lights which use the SCATS system. "There are over 100 people and who were involved in accidents and who wanted to review the

recorded video. However, only 50 people had access to the recorded video of their accident. It's easier for people to view CCTV records if they can recall the exact time and location of the accident they were involved in. Those who want access to CCTV video records must fill out an application form", said an official from Central Traffic Control. The installed CCTVs are full HD and operate 24/7. When power cuts occur, the cameras will use a UPS backup system.—Myanmar Digital News

Peanut growers in Kantbalu expect bumper harvest

PEANUT growers in Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Region, said they are expecting a bumper harvest this season due to the improved soil fertility.

Peanut plantations are mainly cultivated in the villages of Kaboe, Aungchantha, Yintide, Leiktu, Kaitaw, Ingyinsu, Alekhon, Mezataw, Malel, Kyaytaw, Yutgyun, Poezagon, Hmantha, Inlegyi, Ghahta and Hsegyi in Kantbalu Township.

The Township Agriculture Department said that a total of 39,738 acres of monsoon peanut plantations have been successfully grown in the township this year, surpassing its target by 2,334 acres.

According to growers, the

production cost for an acre of plantation is Ks180,000, including labour wages and the cost of fertilizers.

The monsoon peanut is usually cultivated in May and is ready to be harvested in September. Last year, an acre of peanut plantation produced an average of 42.26 baskets, with growers expecting to get a good yield this year.

U Aung Than, a peanut grower, said that farmers hope to reap handsome profits from the sale of fresh peanuts. The current price for a basket of peanuts is over Ks51,000. Paddy, sesame, maize and beans are also thriving in Kantbalu Township.—Aung Win Myein (Kantbalu)



A peanut plantation in Sagaing Region. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Myanmar-US trade reaches \$73.8 million in April

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the United States topped US\$73.8 million in the first month of this fiscal year, with \$54.9 million in exports and \$18.8 million in imports, according to the monthly report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exports marine products, clothing, beans and pulses, forestry products and some agriculture products to the US market. Imports

from the US include medicines, hospital equipment, industrial, transportation and dairy products and other commodities.

The Myanmar-US bilateral trade totalled \$718.380 million in the last 2017-2018 FY. The value of trade between the two countries was \$690.630 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$196.902 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$544.640 million in the 2014-2015 FY,

\$104.440 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$122.791 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$293.071 million in the 2011-2012 FY. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, foreign direct investment by the US in Myanmar was \$126.7 million in total.

In the first month of this FY, the country saw no new investment projects from the US.—Swe Nyein

Export value up by \$511 million in nearly three months

DESPITE a decrease of export in three sectors, export earnings from 1 April to 22 June, during the six-month interim period prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019, amounted to US\$3.34 billion, which is up by \$511 million against the amount in the similar period of last FY 2017-2018, according to the commerce ministry.

Agriculture and forestry are among the sectors found to have slightly decreased in value. In nearly three months, the exports of agro products fetched \$657.85 million, but the figures indicated a decrease of \$136 million com-

pared to the similar period last FY. Exports of finished industrial goods earned \$1.8 billion, while mineral exports fetched \$302.96 million.

Fisheries exports hit \$143.58 million, and the export value of livestock was \$62.79 million. Other products with a total worth of \$334 million were also exported.

Myanmar exports goods via the sea route and border trade gates. Exports through the sea route are worth \$2.24 billion, while \$1.09 billion worth of export goods is sent to neighbouring countries via border trade gates.—Mon Mon

Imports of intermediate goods increase by over \$300 million

MYANMAR imported intermediate goods amounting to US\$1.95 billion between 1 April and 22 June this year, and the current figure increased by \$317 million over that of the same period last fiscal year, according to the commerce ministry.

The total import of intermediate goods comprised \$50.34 million by the public sector, whereas the private sector's imports of the same reached \$1.89 billion.

This time last FY, the

country imported a total of \$1.63 billion worth of similar semi-finished products from international trade partners, consisting of \$29.3 million from the public sector and \$1.6 million from the private sector.

Myanmar's major imports are divided into three groups—capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products. Of the three groups of commodities, this year saw a decrease in the value of consumer products by \$23.7 million, compared to the

same period last FY.

Over the first 83 days of this FY, the country purchased capital goods valued at nearly \$1.7 billion and \$996.5 million worth of consumer products from foreign traders.

Myanmar is conducting export/import trade with ASEAN member states, some European countries, African nations, Western states and Asian countries through both the maritime route and border crossings.—Shwe Khine

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Information Ministry Cup goes to NPE

THE final match and awards ceremony of the rainy season football competition of the Ministry of Information was held yesterday on the Training Ground of Wunna Theikdi Stadium, Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and wife, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and departmental heads, officials, staff and their families from the Office of the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Information and Public Relations Department, Printing and Publishing Department and News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE).

NPE took the Union Minister Cup after beating MRTV in the final match, with a 6-5 score during the penalty shootout.

In the morning, Printing and Publishing Department and In-



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint hands over the Union Minister Cup of the Ministry of Information's trophy to the winning team from the News and Periodicals Enterprise. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

formation and Public Relations Department played for third

place on the Training Ground of Wunna Theikdi Stadium, in which

the Printing and Publishing Department won with a score 3-0.

After the final competition, the awards ceremony continued, where officials presented the awards to the second, third, fourth and fifth place winners, whereas Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun awarded Ks 5,00,000 to the Union Minister Cup winner, the NPE football team.

Then, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint presented the Best Fans Award to NPE, which was accepted by Director-General U Ye Naing on behalf of the NPE fans.

The second Union Minister Cup of the men's football competition of the Ministry of Information began on 20 June and a total of five football teams participated. The first Union Minister Cup of the Ministry of Information was held in 2017, where the NPE also won the Union Minister Cup.—Myanmar News Agency ■



in
Picture

Members of women working committees from across the country attend a conference by the National League for Democracy held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

Wildlife smuggler arrested in An Township

Forestry officials seized parts of wildlife from a suspected wildlife trafficker during a house raid, according to the Ministry of Home

Affairs. A combined squad consisting of local police members and forestry officials raided the house of a suspected wildlife

smuggler, identified as U Aung Wai, 42 from Pyintaw Village, An Township in Rakhine State on 29 June.

The force found about two viss of bear's bones, nine breastplates of tortoise, 80 ticals of pangolin scales, tusks from feral pigs weighing about 60 ticals, 15 tusks from wild bear, five livers from wild pigs, tusks from wild cat weighing around one tical, one wild bear's horn, one mountain goat horn, five gaur horns and seven sambar deer horns in the house. The suspected wildlife trafficker is being questioned under the Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law by the local police.—Kyaw Htike Soe MDN■



PHOTO: MDN

Search attempts for missing Thai children continue in Myanmar side

A search operation for missing thirteen Thai children who are believed to be trapped in Tham Luang Cave in Chiang Rai near Myanmar-Thailand border in Mae Sai continued for the third day in some caves in Tachilek Township, Shan State, in Myanmar on 30 June.

The Myanmar government has already instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Shan State government to join with Thai authorities in search for the missing group. The missing children aged between 11 and 16 led by their 25 years old coach, went missing after they entered the Tham Luang Cave in Mae Sai on 23 June.

Thai authorities requested Myanmar officials to partic-

ipate in the search and rescue attempts as they believed that the missing youths may still be trapped in the cave. Under the supervision of the district/township management committee, a Myanmar rescue team consisting of firefighters, policemen, members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, social organizations and local authorities started the search and rescue activities on 28 June in some caves in Tachilek but no one has been found. Mongphone Sayadaw Ashin Bhaddanta Nanassamvara went to the cave in Thailand and expressed wishes for safety of the missing group. The monk also recited "Paritta" for the missing youths.—Wai Yan Lin (IPRD) ■



Four dead, hundreds evacuated as torrential rains hit Romania

BUCHAREST (Romania) — Days of torrential rains in Romania have claimed four lives and forced more than 250 people to flee their homes, local authorities said Sunday.

High waters swept away two men and a woman, while a fourth person was crushed when flooding caused her home to collapse.

An embankment gave way in the hard-hit central Covasna region, swamping several villages including Bachel and Lunca Marcusului.

"Firefighters and paramilitary police have been deployed," said emergency situations spokesman Marius Tolvaj. "Work is ongoing to rebuild the dike so that we can empty the water



Flooding affected around 100 towns across Romania, washing away bridges and destroying dozens of homes. **PHOTO: AFP**

from the flooded houses."

More than 250 area residents have fled the rising waters, he said.

Flooding affected around 100 towns across Romania, washing away bridges and destroying dozens of homes. —AFP ■

China speeds up price reduction on cancer drugs

BEIJING — In a bid to reduce the price of cancer drugs, China has included 15 more clinically effective yet expensive cancer medicines into its list of medical insurance reimbursement, according to China's state medical insurance administration.

The list currently covers a majority of the most frequently used and clinically effective cancer drugs, the administration said.

China has exempted all cancer drugs from import tariffs since May 1, as a move to further open the market to boost their accessibility.

However, since drug inventory imported before May 1 has not been affected by the new tariff policy, prices of imported

cancer drugs have not experienced a substantial decline in the short term.

The administration said it will cut the price of cancer drugs on the list via public bidding and procurement.

Medical insurance institutions will negotiate with pharmaceutical enterprises to add cancer drugs into the system that are currently not on the list.

Since 2016, the government has reached agreements with pharmaceutical companies on the prices of 39 drugs -- including 17 cancer medicines -- on the medical insurance list, with drug prices marked down by over 50 percent on average.

—Xinhua ■

War on plastic leaves manufacturers clutching at straws

PARIS — For decades, plastic straws have been essential props for cocktail makers, smoothie lovers and fast food addicts.

But that may be starting to change, thanks largely to vigorous environmental campaigning.

Under pressure from activists, the European Union, Britain, India and even fast food giants like McDonald's have all made some headway towards bringing the use of plastic straws to an end.

And with public pressure growing on governments, particularly in Europe, to ban single use plastics, manufacturers are feeling the heat.

According to peer-reviewed US journal Science magazine, eight million tonnes of plastic are dumped into the Earth's oceans and seas each year — 250 kilograms (550 pounds) every second. For years, the focus of environmentalists has been on plastic bags. But plastic straws have now come into the spotlight, thanks in part to images that have gone viral on the internet.

One online video about the danger posed by seemingly innocuous straws shows a sea turtle rescued off Costa Rica getting one removed from its nostril.

Baby steps

The British government in April said it planned to ban the sale of single-use plastics includ-

ing straws. The European Union followed suit in late May.

In India's commercial capital Mumbai, Burger King, McDonald's and Starbucks were fined for violating a ban on single use plastics, an official said earlier in June. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make his country free of single use plastic by 2022. Some corporations are also taking steps.

In the UK and Ireland, McDonald's has pledged to complete a transition to paper straws by 2019. In France, the burger giant is testing alternatives.

The Hilton hotel giant in May vowed to remove the offenders from its 650 properties by the end of 2018. "Laid end to end, the straws saved each year in (Europe, the Middle East and Africa) would exceed the length of the River Seine," the hotel chain said in a statement.

Pasta and bamboo sticks

There are alternatives to plastic straws, but they are much pricier. The five-star Monte Carlo Palace hotel in Monaco has introduced biodegradable straws.

Others are using raw pasta and bamboo sticks. The United States is resisting change while Europe takes the lead with biodegradable plastics made either from fossil fuels or crops such as potatoes and corn. —AFP ■

Swift excavation underway to rescue boys, coach trapped inside cave

SEARCH teams are now planning a swift excavation programme for 12 youngsters and their coach, who are trapped in ThamLuang Nang Non cave, amidst their continuous search operations inside the cave complex in Mae Sai, Thailand.

They are practising a swift excavation programme involving helicopters and first aid treatments.

Moreover, oxygen tanks

have been installed at 25-metre junctures for divers to use, and a water pumping machine has also been deployed. Authorities, in cooperation with social organisations, are laying rocks at the portal and inside the cave as a way of facilitating transport.

For now, divers continue to work at the mouth of the cave, and drilling is underway at several points inside the cave complex, primarily to relieve

the flooding.

At the press meet held in connection with the incident, the Chiang Rai province governor explained the search and rescue plans.

The boys, all from the Wild Boars soccer team and aged 11 to 16, have been missing together with the coach since 23, June when a park officer spotted bicycles at the entrance of the off-limits cave complex. —Wai Yan Lin (IPRD) ■



Thai troops are taking part in the drill to save children trapped in a cave in ThamLuang Nang Non cave. **PHOTO: WAI YAN LIN (IPRD)**

MSMEs should make the best use of digital technology

THE micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector does not only sustain and advance businesses, but it is the backbone of the country's economy.

There were countless efforts made to promote the growth and development of MSMEs; however, more can be done to advance SMEs through the use of digitalisation.

Myanmar's MSME sector should use digital technology in their production, trading and services to develop their businesses. They should upgrade their services by using communications technology, such as for placing and receiving orders and settlement and information exchange online.

These suggestions were made by Vice President U Myint Swe at the recent opening of the MSME exhibition in Taunggyi.

MSMEs must seize the opportunity of seeking help for technology and market information through discussions with officials of the departments concerned and experts during the exhibitions.

Digitalisation is all about using digital technologies to find new opportunities and revenue streams for businesses. Economic digitalisation is one of the key drivers of global economic growth and development.

The high mobile phone density in recent years would be helpful for digitalisation of MSMEs in Myanmar and would help improve business profits and develop new products and services.

The State has stepped up efforts for the development of MSMEs and is assisting in promoting human

resources, technology transfer and good services and quality of products, so they can produce marketable products which can compete with imported ones.

Local MSMEs should be able to grasp the opportunities brought about by the exhibition and exhibit the significant and strong points of their products.

Local MSMEs are urged to make the best use of this opportunity to attract customers, to find markets, to improve the quality of their products and to improve their creative thinking.

The first exhibition was held in Mandalay in February 2018, exhibiting products from the Mandalay Region and Kachin State.

Products from the Magway Region, Chin State and Rakhine State were displayed at the second exhibition in Magway in March 2018.

The third was held in the Ayeyawady Region in May, while the fourth opened on 29 June in Taunggyi.

As SME development agency meetings are being held during the exhibition period, practical assistance and support for the development of SMEs in the region could be done through discussions and coordination between stakeholders and MSMEs.

The changes caused by digital technologies could result in the transformation of different fields of human activities, society and governance.

MSMEs in Myanmar need to turn to digitalisation, while striving to expand their markets from local to international and need to know about marketable quality, packaging and design. ■

Arzarni Day and Future Myanmar nation

By Thein Tun (IR)

MYANMAR commemorates Arzarni Day or Martyrs' Day on 19 July with saddest memories among the people as it enters its 71st years. For Myanmar, the day stands out as a sad, significant event, unlike other memorial days.

Other eventful days are mostly related to religious ceremonies, New Year or making achievement occasions.

On that dark day, Bogoyoke Aung San and seven other members of the then-interim government – U Abdul Razak, U Ba Cho, U Ba Win, U Mahn Ba Khaing, U Ohn Maung, U Sao San Tun and Thakin Mya – were assassinated. Many see Arzarni Day as one of the saddest and darkest moments in the country's contemporary history.

Let us think about the meaning of Arzarni Day and define why it is a day of remembrance, honor and tribute in the whole country.

The author of the article is deeply reflecting: are we just to weep in a ploy, ruse and gambit? Are we in the right direction in line with the aspiration and desire of our fallen leaders?

How will our other independence leaders evaluate if they are still alive. Will they be happy? Will they be sad?

They may differ in their assessment and observation. However, their desire and aspiration may come in a single and the same way.

Independence is for national interest

Each and everyone know that Bogoyoke Aung San and the fallen leaders, as well as other patriotic leaders, indulged wholeheartedly for regaining independence of the country.

Personal benefit and advantage were nowhere in their hearts, but regaining independence only embedded in their minds. They never ever worked for personal gain.

On 28 November 1946, Bogoyoke Aung San, while in Myitkyina, said, "We are trying to liberate the country. It is for sure that the independence is at hand sooner or later."

The desire and aim could be seen clearly in the words of Bogoyoke Aung San. Their life, their soul and their future is independence. In the book entitled "Defeat into Victory", General Slim [Field Marshal William Slim, who commanded a British field army in Myanmar during the Second World War] wrote about Bogoyoke Aung San by highlighting that he did admire Bogoyoke Aung San. General Slim remarked that Bogoyoke was not a self-seeker and irresponsible guerilla leader as he mistook him earlier. Bogoyoke Aung San was a real patriot, not a day dreamer. He was a pragmatist and a very honest man.

Bogoyoke always kept his promise, and therefore, he could work out the task with him. Bogoyoke Aung San was a leader who had been admired and well-liked by the enemy of Myanmar.

Myanmar after 71 years

When Arzarni Day arrives, a memorial and mourning event is held. It has passed generations. However, the ambition and aspiration of Bogoyoke Aung San to stand tall among the world nations is still very far and we all are at a standstill struggling for it.

The writer of this article would like to point out two factors.

The first factor is about the national unity. Our independence was regained through the struggle of national unity;

however, the post independence unity of the nation is in disarray and disorganized. The inevitable necessity is sincerity and honesty. This factor is clearly and solidly pointed out by Bogoyoke Aung San. All the national races truly believe in honesty and integrity. That was why they joined hands together. The answer and solution for today's national unity already existed since 71 years ago. Despite the fact that the answer and solution is previously there; the question remains incomputable and incalculable, and therefore, this needs deep contemplation.

The second point depends on the international relations. As of today, Myanmar is in a predicament of domestic challenges and international pressures.

The challenges are that of unstable system of transition, weakness in the national unity, powerful nations intervening for their own interests, other organizations inciting and inflaming in the country, which is compounded with the Rakhine situation in the northwest of the country.

These circumstances could be measured with the concept and outlook of Bogoyoke Aung San. He could be seen as a respectable military leader, as well as a skillful political leader who thoughtfully and tactfully applied soft power and hard power, combined into smart power, among the nations such as Britain, Japan, India and China in regaining independence of the country.

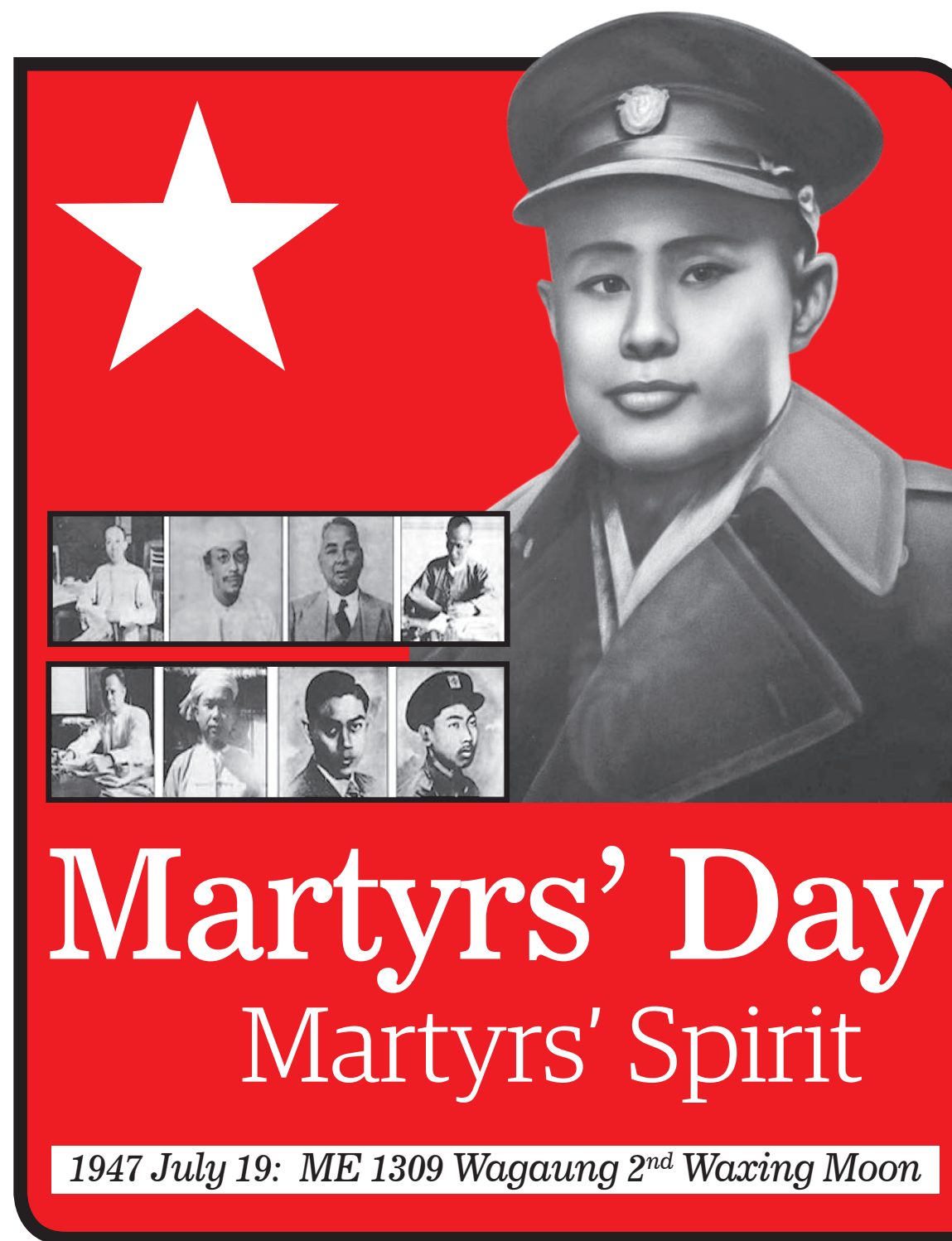
Today, Myanmar needs to equip with smart power in the international relations. Myanmar needs the capable power balance for the national interest to enable to ease and reduce the international pressure and eventually enhance the interest of the nation and the people's welfare.

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Same aim and objective

Bogoyoke Aung San and fallen leaders have embraced and encountered the political split and provocation of self-seeking politicians and were assassinated.

Bogoyoke Aung San said that he intended to retire from politics after regaining independence, because the power seeking politics would be coming into the scenario in the post independence period. He said that he is not compatible and not well-suited with the power seeking politics.

Bogoyoke Aung San and leaders were assassinated due to effect of power seeking politics, and Myanmar sustained irreparable loss. This is due to the gap and difference between power politics and national politics.

Nation building could never be constructed on national politics alone and it could never be realized either on power politics or party politics. We must have

common aim and objective in building a nation through good for one and good for all concepts, through all inclusive political policy.

There may be diverse beliefs in politics but it must have common aim and objective to work together.

The Arzarni leaders were assassinated due to self-seeking politics. We must take lessons out of it. The future nation desired by all should be built on with identical and same aim by all stakeholders.

Bogoyoke Aung San worked against all odds and consolidated national unity and eventually regained independence.

Today, we are not under imperialists but have our own administration. We could work on our own and the basic forces are the basic foundations for nation building.

Therefore, all the basic forces must come together in conceiving and formulating an identical and same aim.

Paying respect with full essence

As Bogoyoke Aung San had spelled out, we must stride ten leaps when other countries are stepping one step. If we really love and admire our Arzarni leaders, then we must pay respect with real essence, and emulate Bogoyoke Aung San. We must follow his words.

In conclusion, the writer would like to mention that today's deeds and performances would be recorded by upcoming generations. We are enjoying the gifts handed down by Arzarni leaders.

The current endeavors and activities would be enjoyed by posterity. Following similar steps of the Arzarni leaders, we must leave good legacy to all future generations of people, and therefore, we are bound to pay respect to the Arzarni leaders with real essence and spirit. ■

Translated by UMT (HK)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Notification 4/2018

4th Waning of First Waso 1380 ME
1 July 2018

Summoning Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ninth regular session

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ninth regular session is summoned in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:30 pm on the 11th Waxing of Second Waso 1380 ME (23 July 2018) (Monday).

Sd/ Mahn Win Khaing Than
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyithu Hluttaw Notification 2/2018

4th Waning of First Waso 1380 ME
1 July 2018

Summoning Second Pyithu Hluttaw ninth regular session

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 35 of the 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyithu Hluttaw ninth regular session is summoned in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 11th Waxing of Second Waso 1380 ME (23 July 2018) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Amyotha Hluttaw Notification 2/2018

4th Waning of First Waso 1380 ME
1 July 2018

Summoning Second Amyotha Hluttaw ninth regular session

In accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 35 of the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Amyotha Hluttaw ninth regular session is summoned in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on the 11th Waxing of Second Waso 1380 ME (23 July 2018) (Monday).

Sd/ Mahn Win Khaing Than
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

'Livid' UK minister tears up PM May's favoured Brexit customs plan

LONDON — Britain's Environment Secretary Michael Gove ripped up plans for possible future customs arrangements with the EU, according to reports on Saturday, as tensions within the cabinet over Brexit continue to surface.

Gove was reportedly "livid" and tore up the papers detailing Prime Minister Theresa May's preferred option for a future customs partnership with the European Union, after concluding his concerns about the proposals had been downplayed, the reports said.

Gove, a leading proponent of Brexit, "physically ripped it up to show he wasn't prepared to accept the document as a summary of their discussions," *The Sun* newspaper reported.

The account of the incident was later confirmed by the BBC, citing aides to the minister.

May will gather together her warring ministers for a key Brexit summit on Friday to thrash out Britain's plans for issues including trade and customs after it leaves the EU next year, as pressure intensifies for them to agree to a unified stance.

The cabinet, which has been publicly disagreeing on various aspects of Brexit, is in deadlock over two options for customs arrangements after the 29 March,



Prime Minister Theresa May. PHOTO: AFP

2019 withdrawal date.

A "maximum facilitation" model proposes using trusted-trader arrangements and technology to avoid border checks, while a "customs partnership" system would see Britain collect tariffs on behalf of the EU for goods heading to the continent.

Two groups of cabinet members have been looking at each of the plans. Gove was reportedly among the ministers examining the partnership model, largely opposed by Brexiteers, and was reacting to a summary report of their supposed position on it prepared by civil servants.

European Union president

Donald Tusk issued a "last call" on Friday for Britain to explain what it wants from Brexit, as the bloc warned time was running out and stepped up preparations for the prospect of no deal.

The Independent newspaper said on Sunday EU leaders had given up hope of reaching an agreement by the next summit in October, as originally envisaged by both sides.

Meanwhile, in another blow to May's authority, the *Daily Telegraph* reported new US National Security Advisor John Bolton bypassed Downing Street and held a secret meeting on Brexit with senior Conservative eurosceptic lawmakers while in London last

week. The aide to Donald Trump reportedly used the meeting to stress the US president's enthusiasm for Britain's withdrawal from the EU and his belief that the two countries can agree a trade deal within two years of its departure.

No government officials were present at the meeting, and Downing Street was not informed about it, the paper said.

Speculation is growing that Trump will decide to meet Tory Brexiteers privately when he visits Britain on 13 July, further undermining May, it added.

Downing Street declined to comment on the reports. —AFP ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Cyclone barrels towards Japan's Okinawa

TOKYO (Japan) — Okinawa residents braced for large waves and violent winds on Sunday after weather authorities warned of a fierce cyclone approaching the southern Japanese island.

Typhoon Prapiroon was closing in on Okinawa's capital Naha on Sunday afternoon while packing gusts of up to 144 kilometres (90 miles) per hour, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. It was expected to draw close to the Okinawa island Sunday night through to the next morning before veering towards southwestern Japan and the Korean peninsula, the agency said. —AFP ■

Russia destroys drones near Syria airbase: report

MOSCOW — Russian military shot down several drones near an airbase in Hmeymim, Syria, a media report said on Sunday.

The air defense system detected a group of unknown small unmanned aerial vehicles in the northeast of the base late Saturday and destroyed all of them, the Sputnik news agency reported, citing a representative of the base. The airbase is operating normally with no personnel injuries or damage, the report said. Russia maintains an airbase in Hmeymim and a naval base in Tartus in Syria to support the government forces fighting terrorists. —Xinhua ■

44 dead in bus crash in northern India: police

DEHRADUN (India) — At least 44 people were killed in northern India on Sunday when a passenger bus crashed into a gorge in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, police said.

"44 people have died in the accident. At least 3 others are injured. The rescue work is still ongoing," Deepesh Chandra Kala, a disaster management officer from Pauri Garhwal district where the accident occurred, told AFP. —AFP ■

Italy's far-right League holds conference in buoyant mood

ROME — Italy's far-right League will begin its annual conference on Sunday with party head and hardline Interior Minister Matteo Salvini in triumphant mood after declaring the country's ports closed to NGO migrant ships.

Salvini, attending his fifth party conference in the northern port of Pontida, said the League goes into its annual meeting "stronger and more organized than ever".

Around 50,000 people from around Italy are expected to attend the event. Salvini, 45, who is co-deputy prime minister as well as interior minister, has thrived as the migrant issue has become central to the European agenda.

He announced on Friday that Italian ports would be closed "all

summer" to NGO ships which rescue migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean from Africa to Europe.

"The NGOs will only see Italy on a postcard," Salvini quipped.

Anti-immigration hardliners accuse NGO rescue boats of exacerbating the situation in the Mediterranean, where migrants try to cross the sea on rickety boats.

'Italians First'

"It's the League's moment," the *Corriere della Sera* daily opined on Saturday.

The party's strength "depends above all on the continuity of Matteo Salvini's communication strategy in relation to the electoral campaign, a strategy

based on a precise choice of sensitive topics in Europe, and also on his aggressive stance towards political leaders," in particular President Emmanuel Macron of neighbouring France, the paper said. Last weekend Macron called for financial penalties to be levied against EU nations that refuse to accept migrants.

Salvini's co-deputy prime minister and head of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement, Luigi Di Maio, has been eclipsed by the League's leader.

Italy's new anti-establishment government took power on 1 June, ending months of deadlock that saw the eurozone's third largest economy narrowly avoid snap elections after a last-gasp coalition deal.

New Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, 53, was sworn in at the head of the first populist government in an EU founding member, forged by the Five Star Movement and the far-right League. Salvini had taken the helm of the League in 2013, when it was a northern secessionist party on the brink of collapse with four percent of the popular vote.

His "Italians First" slogan has helped bring about a triumphant nationalist transformation for the party.

His previous mocking of southern Italians has been forgotten and for Sunday's party conference there will be people travelling up in their hundreds from Campania, Calabria and even Sicily. —AFP ■



Members of the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) arrive at the scene of a suicide car bombing outside a warehouse where ballots boxes from the May legislative polls were stored in the northern multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk on 1 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Saudi economy escapes recession in first quarter

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia's economy pulled out of recession in the first quarter of 2018, thanks to rising oil prices and a surge in the non-crude sector, authorities said on Sunday.

The kingdom's economy grew by 1.15 per cent in the first three months of the year compared to the same period last year when it shrank by 0.84 per cent, according to the General Authority for Statistics. The body attributed the growth to a 2.7 per cent jump in the non-oil sphere and a 0.62 per cent rise in the oil sector, which contracted by nearly 2 per cent in the first quarter of 2017.

Oil prices have been steadily rising since early 2016, when OPEC and non-OPEC producers struck a deal to cut output.

The cut in oil revenue — which accounts for 70 per cent of government income — pushed the OPEC kingpin's economy into negative territory last year for the first time since 2009, a year after the global financial crisis.

The reports of growth come as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman pushes

a package of sweeping economic and social reforms in the kingdom.

As part of his Vision 2030 plan, the heir to the throne plans to reduce Riyadh's dependence on oil, boost tourism and massively invest in the underdeveloped entertainment sector to increase domestic spending.

Crude prices have remained strong even after oil producers said last week they plan to increase output starting in July.

US President Donald Trump said Saturday that Saudi Arabia's King Salman had agreed to his request to ramp up oil production by up to two million barrels per day.

Riyadh has posted a budget deficit for the past four years, borrowing from domestic and international markets and hiking fuel and power prices to finance the shortfall.

It also introduced a five percent value-added tax at the start of 2018. Since 2014, Saudi budget deficits have totalled \$260 billion and the government is projecting a 2018 shortfall of \$52 billion.—AFP ■

Suicide bombing wounds 19 at Iraq ballot warehouse

KIRKUK (Iraq) — A suicide bombing on Sunday targeting a warehouse in Kirkuk where ballot boxes from Iraq's May elections were stored wounded 19 people, days before a vote recount, a security source said.

"Nine policemen, six members of a counter-terrorist unit and four civilians were wounded when a car bomb driven by a suicide bomber exploded at the main gate of the warehouse,"

the source said. The building was damaged by the blast but the ballot boxes were unaffected, said Rakan al-Juburi, the governor of Kirkuk north of Baghdad.

Iraq's supreme court has ordered a manual vote recount in polling stations where results from the May legislative elections were contested following allegations of fraud.

The ballot was won by populist Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr's

electoral alliance with Communists, as long-time political figures were pushed out by voters seeking change in a country mired in conflict and corruption.

The vote recount is expected to begin on Tuesday in the Kurdish provinces of Arbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk, as well as in Kirkuk, Nineveh, Salaheddin and Anbar, the spokesman of the electoral commission said on Saturday.—AFP ■

UAE announces pause in offensive on Yemen's Hodeida

ABU DHABI — The United Arab Emirates on Sunday announced a pause in the offensive it is backing against Huthi rebels in Yemen's port city of Hodeida, to give a chance to UN peace efforts.

"We welcome continuing efforts by UN Special Envoy, Martin Griffiths, to achieve an unconditional Huthi withdrawal from Hodeida city and port," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said on Twitter.

"We have paused our campaign to allow enough time for this option to be fully explored. We hope he will succeed."

The announcement comes after Griffiths met with President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, whose troops are battling the Huthi rebels for control of the Red Sea port city, earlier this

week.

Hadi demanded a full rebel withdrawal from the city, which has been the target of a weeks-long military offensive by the Yemeni government and its regional allies, led by the UAE on the ground.

Diplomatic sources have said Griffiths has been pushing for the Iran-backed Huthis to cede control of the port to the United Nations and there have been some reports they have agreed.

The Huthis have controlled the western city of Hodeida, and its port, since 2014, when they drove the Hadi government out of the capital and seized large swathes of northern Yemen.

On 13 June, the UAE and its allies, including Saudi Arabia, launched a massive military operation — dubbed "Golden



Yemeni pro-government forces backed by the Saudi-led military alliance advance during their fight against Huthi rebels in the area of Hodeida's airport on 19 June, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Victory" — to drive the rebels out of the Hodeida port.

Some 70 per cent of imports to Yemen, where eight million people face imminent famine,

flow through the port of Hodeida.

Nearly 10,000 people have died in the Yemen war since 2015, when Saudi Arabia and its allies joined the government's

fight against the Huthis.

The United Nations has called Yemen the world's largest humanitarian crisis.—AFP ■

Thai divers advance as cave search for lost boys gains ground

MAE SAI (Thailand) — Rescue divers inched closer to a spot in a flooded cave where 12 boys and their football coach have been missing for more than a week after days of bad weather beset the grueling search.

The children, aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old assistant coach have not been heard from since they ventured into the recesses of the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand on Saturday and were blocked by heavy rains.

But the clouds parted on Sunday and with the help of water pumps divers were able to establish a forward operating base inside the twisting chambers, raising hopes that the “Boars”, as the team is known, could be located soon.

“Today is a bright day for me and our team. We have sunlight today, roads are easily walkable,” Narongsak Osottanakorn, governor of Chiang Rai province, told reporters on Sunday afternoon.

He said water levels in the cave had decreased and that almost 60 foreign and Thai divers were involved in the rescue effort.

“Today what we have to do is to rush to the kids,” Thai Navy Seal commander and Rear Admiral Apakorn Yookongkaew said earlier at the site. “We will not stop until we find them.”

Responders are placing extra oxygen tanks, strong ropes and LED lights along the cave’s walls in hopes they can provide a path to an airy chamber called Pattaya Beach where officials



This photo taken and released by the Royal Thai Navy on 1 July, 2018 shows Thai Navy SEALs navigating a flooded section of Tham Luang cave at the Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in the Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai province on 1 July, 2018, as the rescue operation continues for a missing children’s football team and their coach. **PHOTO: AFP**

believe the 13 are taking refuge because of its elevation.

Rescuers have advanced 600 metres from the base towards the Pattaya site, while heavy drilling at separate chimneys outside the cave has started in an attempt to establish communication with the boys.

The upbeat attitude comes after a week of heavy rains pounded the area near the Myanmar and Laos borders, making it difficult to reach deeper into Tham Luang.

“I’m feeling happy like I’ve never felt in a long time. Many

good signs,” the football team’s head coach Nopparat Khanthavong, 37, told AFP on Sunday.

“The rain has stopped and rescue teams have found potential ways to reroute the waterway”, diverting its flow so no more enters the cave, he said. “The families are feeling much better too.”

‘I miss them’

The dramatic wait has transfixed Thailand, capturing the attention of social media users, dominating front pages of newspapers and grabbing in-

ternational headlines.

Buddhist monks from all over Chiang Rai gathered at a local school to pray for the football squad.

Teams of foreign experts from Australia, England, Japan and China, including more than 30 US military personnel, have descended on the remote mountainous site to join some 1,000 Thai rescuers.

The field where the Boars used to practice is now a helipad used to lift up heavy machinery.

“Every single day the conditions are changing,” Jessica

Tait, a spokeswoman for the US troops, told AFP. “With the improvement with the weather, hopefully some other areas and some of the efforts are becoming easier.”

Large pumps were installed in a nearby village to drain water from the area.

At 10 kilometres (six miles), Tham Luang is one of Thailand’s longest and toughest caves to navigate, but drilling experts hope its limestone formations could make a series of holes and alternative entrances explorable by camera.

“We still expect some difficulties, because we have to drill not vertical, but inclined,” Suthisak Soralump, a geotechnical engineer leading up the effort, told AFP. “But anyway we put our best team in Thailand to come. So let us try.”

Officials said the boys know the site well and have visited many times, so they may have been able to find shelter.

Rescuers discovered footprints and handprints in a chamber earlier in the week, farther in from where they recovered the kids’ football boots, backpacks and bicycles.

Relatives and friends have held vigils and prayed for their safe return.

“I miss them,” said 15-year-old Thananchai Saengtana, a friend of one of the boys. “I want them to come back so we can play football together again.” —AFP ■

Notorious thief flees French jail by ‘copter

PARIS (France) — A notorious career thief who was once France’s most-wanted man pulled off a daring jailbreak on Sunday, fleeing a prison in the Paris area by helicopter, officials said. Redoine Faïd, 46, broke out of the prison in Reau in the city’s southeastern suburbs within minutes, helped by a number of heavily-armed men, sources close to the case said.

The escape came after an appeals court sentenced him to 25 years for masterminding a May 2010 botched armed robbery, in which a policewoman was killed.

Faïd fled on Sunday with three accomplices, according to the sources.

The helicopter was later found in a northeastern suburb

of the French capital, they said, adding that a police search has been launched across the entire Paris region.

It is the second time Faïd has pulled off a spectacular jailbreak — in 2013, he blasted his way out of a prison in northern France using dynamite.

He had been in prison since mid-2011 for breaking the terms of his parole over past convictions for bank robberies and brazen heists of cash-in-transit vehicles.

Armed with a pistol, he briefly took four guards hostage before escaping in a waiting getaway car. All the hostages were released unharmed. Faïd was eventually recaptured six weeks later at a hotel in an industrial area on the outskirts of Paris.

A woman working at the hotel told AFP at the time that Faïd’s accomplice had paid for the room in cash and that the two men had been there for several days.

Prior to the 2013 escape, Faïd had been released from a previous stint of a decade behind bars after convincing parole officials that he regretted his criminal past and was determined to start afresh.

Faïd, who grew up in tough immigrant suburbs outside Paris, has made several television appearances and co-authored two books about his delinquent youth and rise as a criminal in the Paris suburbs. He said his life of crime was inspired by American films such as “Scarface” and “Heat”. —AFP ■

11 members of a family found dead in Delhi

NEW DELHI — Eleven members of a family, including seven women, were found dead under mysterious circumstances in north Delhi’s Burari on Sunday morning, the police said.

Ten bodies were found hanging and blindfolded, while a 75-year-old woman’s body was found on the floor. Two of the deceased are minors, they said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi BJP Chief Manoj Tiwari visited the spot.

According to police, they were initially informed by a neighbour that six to seven people have committed suicide.

But upon reaching the spot, it was found that 11 members of a family had died.

The family was into plywood business and they were staying in the locality for the last 20 years, the locals said.

The police said that they were probing all angles and have not ruled out the possibility of foul play in the incident. —AFP ■

Chasing dinosaurs in northern Myanmar

MYITKYINA, (Myanmar) — “Amber hunters” on a quest for a Jurassic Park-style discovery of dinosaur remains sift through mounds of the precious resin in Myanmar — a lucrative trade that captivates palaeontologists.

The morning amber market on the outskirts of Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin state, throngs with traders using torches and magnifying glasses to scrutinize pieces of the honey-coloured fossilised tree sap. Some sell rough-edged uncut chunks. Others tout finished products: pendants, necklaces and bracelets made from carefully polished pieces.

The jade and ruby industries dwarf the largely artisanal amber trade, but the resin can still fetch big sums. In Myitkyina’s market there is money to be made, says trader Myo Swe.

His speciality is “inclusions”, sap that has trapped parts of plants, animals and even dinosaurs before hardening into amber — history suspended inside the resin. Find the right buyer and he could pocket up to \$100,000 a piece in a shady industry that sees most amber smuggled across the border to China.

“Even if it just contains an ant or a mosquito — every piece is interesting,” the 40-year-old told AFP. “I value every one of them.”

Dinosaur tales

Amber, historically coveted as jewellery by nobility from China to ancient Greece, enjoyed a revival in popular culture thanks to the 1990s hit movie “Jurassic Park”, set in a theme park where dinosaurs have been cloned by extracting DNA from mosquitos preserved in the resin.

However, most amber heralds not from the Jurassic but from the later Cretaceous Period, up to 100 million years ago.

The best preserved “inclusions” offer today’s scientists and collectors a three-dimensional fossil, with some creatures even frozen mid-movement.



This picture taken on 31 May, 2018 shows Akbar Khan, a 52-year-old self-described ‘extreme fossil in amber hunter’ inspecting a piece of honey-coloured fossilised tree sap from Kachin State in Myanmar at his streetside stall in Bangkok. “Amber hunters” on a quest for a Jurassic Park-style discovery of dinosaur remains sift through mounds of the precious resin in Myanmar — a lucrative trade that captivates palaeontologists but also fuels a decades-long conflict in the far north. **PHOTO: AFP**



This picture taken on 31 May, 2018 shows a piece of amber, a honey-coloured fossilised tree sap from Kachin State in Myanmar. **PHOTO: AFP**

There are amber deposits found all over the world but, for palaeontology, the mines

of Kachin are “irreplaceable”, explains 36-year-old Lida Xing from the China University of Geosciences in Beijing.

“The amber mining area in Kachin is the only Cretaceous period amber mining site in

the world that is still engaged in commercial mining,” he says. “There’s no better place than Myanmar.” Lida Xing shot to fame among fellow palaeontologists in 2015 when he brought back part of a feathered dinosaur tail to China



This picture taken on 12 May, 2018 shows vendors selling bracelets, pendants and rings made of amber, a honey-coloured fossilised tree sap at the amber market in Danai, Kachin state. **PHOTO: AFP**



This picture taken on May 31, 2018 shows Akbar Khan, inspecting a piece of honey-coloured fossilised tree sap from Kachin State in Myanmar. **PHOTO: AFP**

from Myanmar that dated back some 99 million years.

The excitement of his discovery, though, was tinged with disappointment when he returned to try to find the source.

“They said they did not know. They had probably already sold or smashed it. This dinosaur might have even been a complete one with a head,” he told AFP in Beijing. Akbar Khan, a 52-year-old self-described “extreme fossil in amber hunter” who runs a street-side stall in downtown Bangkok shrugs off the risks and ethical questions.

He makes frequent visits to Kachin and explains the adrenaline rush he gets from finding dinosaur parts is like nothing else.

“You feel like you’re walking in clouds, in heaven,” he says. “If people have a big diamond, so what? The world is full of big diamonds... but the world is not full of dinosaurs in amber.”—AFP ■

Ex-Malaysia PM Najib’s deputy takes over his party

KUALA LUMPUR — Ousted Malaysian leader Najib Razak’s party has chosen his former deputy as its new leader, party officials said on Sunday, after a shocking May election loss broke its decades-old political reign.

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, 65, was elected president of the United Malays National Organization (Umno) after defeating

two former ministers.

Official results saw Ahmad receive 78 nominations from the party’s 191 divisions while Khairy Jamaluddin won 53 and Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah was handed 28 nominations.

Ex-premier Najib’s long-ruling coalition, long dogged by corruption allegations, lost the 9 May elections to a reformist alliance

headed by Mahathir Mohamad.

Najib quit as Umno president days later, and now faces an anti-graft probe over allegations that billions of dollars were looted from sovereign wealth fund 1MDB. Both Najib and the fund have denied any wrongdoing.

The coveted presidency of Umno once meant a clear path to becoming prime minister.

But Umno, which led the former ruling Barisan Nasional coalition, saw key allies desert after the polls with a number co-opting up to Mahathir’s Pact of Hope alliance.

However, it remains the multi-ethnic country’s single largest political party, boasting some three million members and 52 MPs. Penang Institute political

scientist Wong Chin Huat said he did not believe that Ahmad’s win would improve Umno political chances.

“(Ahmad’s) victory signals a reluctant, opportunistic and combative opposition which will not change itself,” he told AFP.

“(It) only hopes to change everything else including voters’ perception.”—AFP ■

Actress Vanessa Paradis marries French director: report



French actress Vanessa Paradis has two children with Hollywood star Johnny Depp, although the couple never married. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS — Actress and singer Vanessa Paradis has married French director Samuel Benchetrit, according to a report by magazine *Le Parisien*.

Wearing a cream-coloured ruffle dress with flowers in her blonde hair, Paradis married Benchetrit at the town hall in Saint-Simeon, east of Paris, the report said.

Photographs on the web-

site of *Le Parisien* showed a smiling Paradis leaving the town hall arm-in-arm with Benchetrit, wearing a navy suit, as wedding guests threw confetti over the couple. The small ceremony was attended by a few dozen guests, including Paradis' 19-year-old daughter Lily-Rose Depp, born during her 14-year relationship with American actor Johnny Depp which ended

in 2012, the report said.

Paradis and Benchetrit, both 45, made their relationship official in August 2017.

The French singer and actress began her career as a model before becoming a huge film and music star in France.

Paradis has two children with Depp, Lily-Rose and son Jack, but the couple never married.—AFP ■

Stop self-doubting ladies, we have enough people doing that to us, says Priyanka

LOS ANGELES — Priyanka Chopra says women have “always been treated as second-class citizens” and unlike men, they are forced to adhere to certain standards of beauty.

The 35-year-old star believes rather than submitting to the societal norms, women should focus on loving themselves and being confident in their own skin.

“We’ve always been told that only one of us can win and only the best one will get the cutest boy and only the best one will get the job, that we spent so much time elbowing each other out of the way, pulling each other down.

“Can we, for a second, love ourselves and say, ‘I do not need all of these magazines to tell me how to lose the weight or how should I starve because I wanna please a man?’” Priyanka said in an interview with *Allure* mag-



Priyanka Chopra. **PHOTO: AFP**

azine.

The actor said people have always doubted women's capability, so they should stop berating their own selves.

“So the next time you see yourself doubting yourself or you look at a picture of yourself and you say, ‘Oh my God,’ or you wake up in the morning and you say, ‘Wow, why do I look like

that?’... Whatever that instant might be, the next time you do that for yourself, recognize it,” she said.

“Start with just recognizing what you’re doing. That’s called self-hate, self-doubt, you’re berating yourself. I mean, we have enough people doing that to us anyway. Why do we need to do it to ourselves?”—AFP ■

Drake smashes streaming record with new album

NEW YORK—Drake has smashed streaming records with his new album “Scorpion,” with Apple Music and Spotify both reporting unprecedented listenership in its first day.

Apple Music said on Instagram that the Canadian hip-hop superstar's fifth studio album was streamed 170 million times in the 24 hours since its release Friday.

The worldwide figure is the highest ever reported by any streaming service for an album over one day and comes even though Apple Music significantly trails industry leader Spotify in total users.

Drake has a lengthy relationship with Apple, which heavily promoted “Scorpion.” The hotly anticipated album inexplicably appeared two hours late on Spotify. But “Scorpion” also set a record on Spotify, which heavily featured the album after it went alive. The site Spotifycharts, which tracks listening data, said that Spotify users streamed the album's 25 songs more than 132 million times over the first day.

The figures smash the previous record for one-day streaming — rapper Post Malone's album “Beerbongs and Bentleys,” which was streamed just under 79 million times on Spotify on the first day of its release in April.

Streaming records are being frequently broken as growing numbers of listeners embrace Spotify, Apple Music and competitors such as Deezer and Tidal, which allow unlimited on-demand music. Just days ago, the Colombian reggaeton star J Balvin surpassed Drake as the artist with the most regular monthly listeners on Spotify — but Drake quickly retook the crown with “Scorpion.”

Drake has found massive success releasing sprawling albums and mixtapes of danceable tracks online without consideration to physical formats.

“Scorpion” features a posthumous duet with Michael Jackson, a collaboration with rap great Jay-Z and an admission that Drake secretly had a son with Sophie Brussaux, a French actress in pornographic films.—AFP ■



Drake has smashed streaming records with his new album “Scorpion,” with Apple Music and Spotify both reporting unprecedented listenership in its first day. **PHOTO: AFP**

Brad Pitt always wanted to be a ‘great dad’

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood star Brad Pitt is in better spirits as he is getting to spend more time with his children.

The actor, 54, will soon be in London, where ex Angelina Jolie is currently filming “Maleficent 2”, to see his children for a second time in recent weeks.

The visit comes after a judge presiding over the former couple's divorce proceedings established a detailed schedule for him to spend time with Pax, 14, Zahara, 13, Shiloh, 12, and nine-year-old twins Vivienne and Knox.

“Having kids was always

very special to him. He wanted kids for years before he met Angie. He was dreaming about being a dad. And he has always been a great dad. Very involved and present.

He talks about the kids non-stop now. He brought gifts back to England,” a source told *People* magazine.

The court papers stated, “The children not having a relationship with their father is harmful to them,” and that Jolie, 43, could lose full custody of the kids if she does not allow them to grow their relationships with Pitt.—AFP ■

UNESCO lists Korean mountain Buddhist temples as World Heritage sites

MANAMA — Seven ancient Korean mountain temples, which typify the way Buddhism in the country has merged with indigenous beliefs and styles, were listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites on Saturday.

The seven mountain temples — Seonamsa, Daeheungsa, Beopjusa, Magoksa, Tongdosa, Bongjeongsa, Buseoksa — were all established during the Three Kingdoms period that lasted until the 7th century AD.

UNESCO made the announcement at a meeting in the Bahraini capital Manama.

“These mountain monasteries are sacred places, which have survived as living centres of faith and daily religious practice to the present,” UNESCO said in a press statement.

Buddhism was imported

to the Korean peninsula in the fourth century and accepted by the ancient kingdoms of Goguryeo, Baekje and Silla, establishing it as the national religion for more than 1,000 years.

During the religion’s heyday in the fifth and sixth centuries many houses of worship were built under strong state patronage, accelerating the importation of Buddhist culture, architecture and style.

Over time elements of traditional Korean beliefs merged into the religion, forming the Tong Buddhist doctrine, meaning consolidation or integration, and temple architectural layouts followed suit.

Buildings were constructed in supposedly auspicious locations and many temples set up in hilly areas, in line with the



The Seonamsa temple in South Jeolla province is one of seven ancient South Korean temples to be listed by UNESCO. **PHOTO: AFP**

traditional Korean reverence for mountains and the Zen focus on meditation in a calm environment. Temples were built on high positions protected by hills and commanding an open view over other mountains.

A typical mountain temple has a long winding entrance path

up the slope, buildings laid out in a square with an inner courtyard in the middle. The most important hall is on the highest level at the back, and halls for meditation, everyday living areas for monks, and a pavilion form the other three sides.

But Buddhism’s influence

began to wane after the Chosun dynasty, which took over in the 14th century, adopted Confucianism as its ideology and launched an extensive and enduring crackdown on the religion.

It forced many urban temples to close, leaving only those in remote hills to survive.—AFP ■

Cellist brings sounds of ‘peace, coexistence’ to ruins of Iraq’s Mosul

MOSUL — Iraqi cellist and conductor Karim Wasfi has played a concert for “peace and co-existence” amid the ruins of Mosul, almost a year after Iraqi forces ousted the Islamic State group from the capital of its self-declared “caliphate”.

Dozens of people attended on Friday as Wasfi, in full concert dress, played on a makeshift stage among the most iconic religious monuments of Iraq’s second city. The venue lay between the Catholic church of Our Lady of the Hour with its famed clock tower and the remains of the iconic Hadba (“hunchback”) leaning minaret next to the Nuri Mosque, destroyed during the battle for the city.

Wasfi was joined by the violinist, guitar and oud players of

local band Awtar Nerkal. “This music is a message from Mosul to the whole world, of the concepts of security, peace and co-existence,” said Wasfi. The dual Iraqi-US national is former conductor of Iraq’s National Symphony Orchestra and has been nicknamed “Iraq’s Rostropovich” after the Russian maestro cellist.

The music was “a call for companies, investors and organisations to come and take part in the reconstruction of the city, especially its destroyed Old Town”, the bearded and bespectacled artist said. The impromptu concert came in the same week that Iraqi authorities finally launched clean-up operations in the city that jihadists held for three years until their ouster in July 2017.

—AFP ■



Iraqi maestro and cello player Karim Wasfi performs in front of the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Hour in Mosul’s war-ravaged Old City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ritual sacrifice draws crowds to Indonesia volcano

PROBOLINGGO (Indonesia) — Thousands of locals and tourists climbed Mount Bromo early Sunday for a lavish religious ceremony that involves throwing ritual offerings into the smouldering crater of an active volcano in Indonesia’s tribal hinterlands.

Each year people from the Tengger tribe gather from the surrounding highlands to cast fruit, vegetables, flowers, and even livestock such as goats and chickens into Mount Bromo’s smoking crater as part of the Yadnya Kasada festival.

Other villagers — not members of the Tengger tribe — try to catch the offerings before they disappear into the billowing

smoke using nets and sarong. This is not technically part of the ritual but reflects local frugal urges not to waste the offerings.

The month-long Yadnya Kasada festival harkens back to the 15th century legends of Majapahit kingdom princess Roro Anteng and husband Joko Seger. Unable to bear children after years of marriage, the couple begged the gods for help.

Their prayers were answered and they were promised 25 children, as long as they agreed to sacrifice their youngest child by throwing him into Mount Bromo.

Legend has it this son will-ingly jumped into the volcano to

guarantee the prosperity of the Tengger people.

The sacrifice tradition continues to this day — though the Tengger sacrifice their harvest and farm animals instead of humans.

Dancers in elaborate traditional costumes and tourists were up before dawn to take part in this year’s ceremony.

Crowds have swelled at Mount Bromo in recent years as the local government promotes the festival as a tourist event.

Foreign tourists joined travellers from elsewhere in Indonesia at the mountain’s peak, throwing coins into the crater for good luck.—AFP ■



Each year people from the Tengger tribe gather from the surrounding highlands to cast fruit, vegetables, flowers, and even livestock such as goats and chickens into Mount Bromo’s smoking crater as part of the Yadnya Kasada festival. **PHOTO: AFP**



Russia's players celebrate their victory at the end of the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Spain and Russia at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow on July 1, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Akinfeev stars as Russia stun Spain on penalties

MOSCOW — Russia captain Igor Akinfeev saved two penalties in a dramatic shootout as the World Cup hosts dumped title contenders Spain out in the last 16 following a 1-1 draw.

Veteran Russia centre-back Sergei Ignashevich gifted Spain the opening goal on 12 minutes in Moscow when he unwittingly turned into his own net after grappling with Sergio Ramos.

Russia hit back just before the interval as Artem Dzyuba nervelessly converted a penalty awarded for a handball by Gerard Pique. Spain controlled the game as expected but struggled to create genuine chances, with Akinfeev sharp on the few occasions they did before saving from Koke and Iago Aspas to seal a 4-3 win on penalties. “We are having a fantastic World Cup,” said Akinfeev.

“Not just our fans, but the fans of other countries got a sense of this atmosphere and understood that Russians really know how to play football and want to play football.”

Russia will meet either Croatia or Denmark for a place in the semi-finals, as Spain's rotten run against hosts nation at major tournaments continued. Fernando Hierro made the bold decision to drop Andres Iniesta for Koke in central midfield, with Marco Asensio handed his first start of the competition. Russia boss Stanislav Cherchesov left out leading scorer Denis Cheryshev, opting for three central

defenders in a conservative 5-3-2 formation.

It was Nacho, in for Dani Carvajal at right-back, who won the free-kick that led to Spain taking the lead as he was caught by Yury Zhirkov to the right of the penalty area.

Asensio, who made two brief substitute appearances in the group stage, whipped in dangerously to the far post where the ball looped in off an unsighted Ignashevich as he tussled with Ramos. Spain dominated the first 30 minutes, pressing Russia heavily as the hosts struggled to advance beyond the halfway line in humid conditions.

Aleksandr Golovin carved out their first chance of note, starting a move with a jinking run before bending just wide of David de Gea's left-hand post.

Isco produced a series of regal touches with Spain's King Felipe VI among those in the crowd at the Luzhniki Stadium, but Russia equalised shortly before half-time.

Pique penalised

A deep corner was met by Dzyuba, whose header struck the outstretched arm of Pique, with referee Bjorn Kuipers contemplating his decision before pointing to the spot.

Dzyuba calmly sent De Gea the wrong with his penalty to join Cheryshev on a team-leading three goals.

Akinfeev snuffed out an opening for Diego Costa on the

stroke of half-time as the Spain striker tried to latch onto a through ball.

The Russia goalkeeper was again involved early in the second half, flying to his left to pluck a spinning Jordi Alba effort from the air. Cherchesov introduced Cheryshev for Alexander Samedov on the hour, a move greeted by a deafening roar from the home support.

Iniesta replaced David Silva, while Costa was withdrawn for Aspas, and the two substitutes went close to winning it late in regulation time.

A low 20-yard drive heading towards was palmed away by at Akinfeev at full stretch, with the angled follow-up from Aspas also pushed to safety. Aspas nearly picked out Carvajal with a cut-back seconds into the start of extra time, which saw Aleksandr Erokhin come on as Russia's fourth sub — the first time the rule has been applied at the World Cup.

Spain followed suit as Rodrigo replaced Asensio, and the former went closest to ending the impasse, sprinting towards goal after a clever dummy only for Akinfeev to claw his shot away before the rebound from Koke was blocked. Russia endured a tense wait when Kuipers was in communication with the video assistant referee following a late tug on Pique in the box, before Akinfeev's shootout heroics clinched an unforgettable triumph. — AFP

Myanmar beat Philippines in AFF's Group B opener

In the opening match of the AFF Women's Championship 2018, the Group B Myanmar national women's football team won 4-0 against the Philippines women's team at Jakabaring Stadium at Palembang in Indonesia yesterday.

The winning goals were scored by Naw Arr Lu War Phaw at the 2-minute mark, Khin Moe Wai at the 23-minute mark, Win Theingi Tun at the 49-minute mark and July Kyaw at the 59-minute mark

respectively.

“Today's match is really a satisfactory one, as all my players played very well. As the match was the very first match for our team, we got more chances to score goals.

I respect our opponents, the Philippines team, which played with all their stamina until the final whistle and their strategic play was good as well”, said U Win Thu Moe, head coach of the Myanmar National Women's football team.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

Yangon United still leads MNL 2018

After the completion of Week 18 of the MPT Myanmar National League 2018, Yangon United is still leading the score table with a total of 39 points among a total of 17 matches played.

Yangon lost just 2 matches, tied in 3 matches, and won in 12 matches.

Following Yangon United, defending champion Shan United stands in second place with

37 points out of 17 matches and they won in 11 matches, tied in 4 matches and lost 2 matches.

At third place is Yadanabon FC with 27 points out of 17 matches in which they won 7, tied 6 and lost 4. Hanthawady United trails behind with one point less than Yadanabon while they have played a total of 17 matches with 8 wins, 2 ties and 7 losses.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

20:30 MST (2.7.2018)		
Brazil		Mexico
00:30 MST (3.7.2018)		
Belgium		Japan
World Cup 2018 Results		
Uruguay	2 - 1	Portugal
Spain	4 - 5	Russia
Russia win on penalties		