

NATIONAL

Senior General meets officers, troops, families of Mogaung, Mohnyin cantonments

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Ministries to compete in Htamane making contest in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-3

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Pyithu Hluttaw vetoes bikes in outer Yangon; discusses power supply, distribution loss



Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

A MOTION to permit use of motorcycles in six outlying townships of Yangon was voted down at the eighth meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session, which was held yesterday at the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

Motion for motorcycles in outlying townships of Yangon voted down

U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency tabled a motion urging the government

to permit use of motorcycles in four Dagon Myothit townships, and Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships, located just outside Yangon city. Stating his reasons for tabling the motion, he said it would ease transport in areas that are not adequately covered by the YBS system and cited the low cost of using motorcycles. U Ye Lwin of Ahlon constituency supported the motion.

When the motion was put to vote, there were 50 votes supporting it, 265 against it, and 3

... it would ease transport in areas that are not adequately covered by the YBS system ...

abstentions. With a majority of votes against the motion, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced it would not be tabled for discussion.

Power supply arrangement of YESC, MESC

In the question-and-answer session, U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada Constituency asked about the township-wise electricity distribution arrangement of the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC), Mandalay

Electricity Supply Corporation (MESC), and franchises, and how they are handling power losses. The Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr. Tun Naing, said that in the Yangon Region, the YESC and franchise companies were handling electricity distribution in 42 and 15 townships, respectively, while in Mandalay Region, the MESC and franchise companies were handling electricity distribution in 14 and 20 townships, respectively.

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Deputy Attorney-General receives UNDP Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor

PAGE-6



LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar Investment Commission approves nine investment proposals which will create over 5,700 job opportunities

PAGE-11

LOCAL NEWS

Three-year cancer awareness campaign starts

PAGE-10



Pyithu Hluttaw vetoes bikes in outer Yangon; discusses power...

FROM PAGE-1

The deputy minister said the authorities are cracking down on illegal use of electricity and imposing fines on offenders, and they are also detecting non-operational, damaged, and tampered meters. Arrangements are being made to place capacitor banks to reduce losses from poor power factor due to usage of industrial motors when installing industrial-use transformers, he said.

Furthermore when agreements were signed with franchise companies, drawing up and implementing System Development Plans were included to improve electricity distribution in the short term and to provide timely supply of increasing electricity demand. Franchises were to draw up plans to reduce electricity losses and earmark budget for it. The status of works being done was being monitored by district and township managers through field visits, as well as with spot checks by Management Level occasionally. The Head office reviewed, managed and coordinated the monthly progress, explained the Deputy Minister.

In replying to a question raised by U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency on a plan to extend 11 KV power line in Kyaunggon Township, Deputy



Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge.

Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing said Region Government funds were used in fiscal year 2019-2020 for 5 miles of 11 KV power line to provide electricity to Phayagyikon Village beside Kyaunggon-Einme Road, 6.22 miles of 11 KV power line to provide electricity to Moemakha, Ywathakon, KyaungAing and Asugyi villages beside Kyaunggon-Kyonpyaw Road and to provide electricity to Pantawyo, LuthantChaung and Wetchan Gayet villages beside Kyaunggon-Thongwa Road. For fiscal year 2020-2021 funds have been allocated in the Region Government fund to implement 5.97 miles of 11 KV power line to provide electricity to Kungyankon, Yin Saing and Thekon villages besides Kyaunggon-Daka Road



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

and 8.89 miles of 11 KV power line to provide villages like Latpanchaung, Gonmin, Zichaung and ByaikKy, explained the Deputy Minister.

Dr. U Lin LinKyaw of Myittha constituency asked if there was a plan to allocate fund for MyaungGyiBaung, Pwe Lon Kyaw and HtaneKan villages in Myittha Township that were facing difficulties in conducting self-reliant village electrification program. Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing replied that Mandalay Region Government would allocate funds in fiscal year 2020-2021 for 11.72 miles of 11 KV power line for MyaungGyiBaung Village, a mile of 11/0.4 KV power line and 11/0.4 KV 200 KVA transformer for Pwe Lon Kyaw Village and 2 miles of 11 KV power line and two



The Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing.

11/0.4 KV 200 KVA transformers for HtaneKan Village.

Questions raised by Daw Nan Moe of Mongton constituency, Daw Khin HninThit of Padaung constituency, U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency and U Sai Ba Thein of Langkho constituency were then answered by Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

Committee report discussed, explained and approved

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw government's guarantees, pledges and undertaking vetting committee report was discussed by U Naing Naing Win of Tamu constituency, Tatmadaw represent-

atives Lt-Col Tun Tun Win and Major Zin Lin.

Committee member U Khin Maung Oo responded to the discussions by providing explanations and then tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to accept the report. After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the approval of the Hluttaw to accept the report.

Hluttaw approves Civil Service Law (2nd Amendment) Bill

Afterwards Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aye explained about the amendment motions tabled by Hluttaw representatives on the Civil Service Law (2nd Amendment) Bill submitted by the Union Civil Service Board and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw to approve it.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then continued and obtained the decision of the Hluttaw to approve the entire bill and the amended clauses and sub-clauses and announced the Hluttaw's approval.

Finally an announcement was made to hold the Second Pyithu Hluttaw eleventh regular session ninth day meeting on 7 February. - Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's eleventh regular session holds eighth-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin (MNA)

THE eighth-day meeting of eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw where asterisk-marked questions and raised and answered and Hluttaw discussed two bills.

Asterisk-marked questions

U Saw Sein Tun of Kayah State constituency 4 raised the first question asked if there is a plan to upgrade Dawtama Nge Basic Education sub-High School in Dimawhso Township.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that there were only 177 high school students in the sub-High School and since it is only about a mile away from Dimawhso Basic Education High School there it is not in the priority list for upgrade in the 2019-2020



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Academic Year. Furthermore at the moment the school is permitted to teach high school subjects.

Similarly U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 asked if there is a plan to upgrade Sin Oh Chaing Village Basic Education sub-High School in Kyauktaw Township during 2019-2020 Academic Year. Here too Deputy Minis-



U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1.

ter for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that there were only 67 high school students in the sub-High School and it is only about six miles away from Apaukwa Basic Education High School and thus it is not in the priority list for upgrade during 2019-2020 Academic Year. As in the reply made to earlier question the school too is permitted to teach

high school subjects said the Deputy Minister.

U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1 on the other hand asked if there is a plan to provide teaching aid cars to government technical institutes and government technical high schools in the same way as provided to No. 5 Industrial Training Center (Magway). Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the matter was submitted to the President's Office and as permission was granted, arrangements were being made to provide a total of 30 old vehicles for use as teaching aids at a rate of 5 cars per school to government technical institutes in Insein, Shwepyitha, Mandalay and PyinOoLwin, Japan-Myanmar Aung San vocational school and teachers training school. More submissions were made to do the same for remaining

schools and it will be provided once permission is obtained said the Deputy Minister.

Discussion of bills

Following the asterisk-marked question session Tatmadaw representatives Captain Daw Than Than Win and Captain Daw Thazin Hlaing discussed on amending the age of marriage in Child Rights Bill to eighteen years old. Tatmadaw representatives Captain Dw Win Thiri Swe and Colonel Naing Oo also discussed the bill.

Next, U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency 5 discussed the bill amending the Myanmar Engineering Council Law.

The ninth-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 7 February it is learnt. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Senior General meets officers, troops, families of Mogaung, Mohnyin cantonments

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met separately with officers, troops and families of Northern Command, Mogaung and Mohnyin cantonments yesterday morning and afternoon.

Following the meetings Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief presented food for officers, troops and families of the cantonment while his wife presented cash supports to the maternal and child welfare association of the cantonments.

Next, Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander-in-Chief (Air) and high ranking officers from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office presented books, journals, sports equipment and food.

Afterwards the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met with departmental officials from Mogaung Township and Mohnyin District and discussed requirements for using available electricity to produce high quality regional finished products based on agriculture and livestock works and obtain income, for leadership of relevant officials to conduct agriculture and livestock works appropriate for the region, to conduct administrative works in a fair and equitable manner, to cooperate and work together

towards raising the education and knowledge of the local people, conducting drug eradication works and reduce/prevent drug usage and participation of the Tatmadaw in regional development works.

Later in the evening the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party arrived Kachin State, Mohnyin District, Indawgyi Lake.

In the meeting and discussion with local elders, local people and members of militia on regional development matters, local elders, local people and head of militia first explained about regional development and security matters.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief said he was very happy to be able to meet with ethnic nationals.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief said Indawgyi region was a place where agriculture land, water and food were abundantly available and to use the available electricity to produce finished goods from agriculture and livestock works. He advised them to consume nutritious vegetables, meat, fish and eggs and to produce educated ethnic nationals. He added that the Tatmadaw has been doing its best for regional development and for all to participate in controlling



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with department officials from Mohnyin District. PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE

and preventing drug use.

A month after the Tatmadaw made an announcement on 21 December 2018 for cease fire and eternal peace some ethnic armed organizations were found to have broken their promises and pledges. A path has been opened to conduct meetings and discussions along the NCA route for peace and the country would develop only when there was peace. He explained about the importance of rule of law, peace and stability to achieve a disciplined democracy when walking down the democracy

path chosen by the people.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and Commander-in-Chief (Air Force) then presented foods to local ethnic nationals and members of the militia.

Later the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, wife and party paid homage to Shwe Myintzu Pagoda in Indawgyi Lake and donated cash for pagoda all-round repair work.

From there they continued on to the Thousand Arahats Shinpin Myatswa Pagoda on Mt. Shwe Moe, Mine Nar Village, Waing-

maw Township and paid homage to sanghas led by State Sangha Nayaka Myitkyina Dhamma Rakhita Wuntho Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Panita Bhaddanta Kaytumala, after which they took the five precepts and donated offerings.

They then offered flowers, waters and oil lamps to the Buddha image, and paid homage by going around the pagoda in a clock-wise direction according to news released by the Office of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.

— MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Ministries to compete in Htamane making contest in Nay Pyi Taw

On the full moon of Tabodwe on 19 February, 'htamane' making competition of ministries will be held.

A second coordination meeting to hold the competition was held at Ministry of Information and Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said the competition will be held in Nay Pyi Taw to establish friendship between ministries. Making htamane is a Myanmar tradition and as it requires to be done collectively in unity, familiarity and friendship can be established. Through this, there'll be more friendship between the ministries. The competition is being organized with an aim to disperse this practice

among the people and for other countries to get to know of this cultural tradition of Myanmar said the Union Minister.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun suggested on preparation works to successfully hold the competition and officials from ministries discussed on sector wise works to be conducted.

After the meeting the Union Minister, Deputy Minister and officials of ministries that attended the meeting went to Wunna Theikdi Sports Ground cycling field where the Myanmar traditional htamane making competition of ministries is to be held.



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the second coordination meeting on organizing a Htamane making competition between the ministries, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar traditional htamane making competition of ministries will be held on the evening of 19 February (ME 1380 Full Moon of Tabodwe) at Wunna Theikdi Sports Ground cycling field and teams representing ministries will participate while

entertainments will be provided by Myanma Radio and Television.

Htamane making is one of the events in the traditional events of the 12 months of Myanmar calendar and coordination were being made to hold this

event for the first time with the participation of all ministries and arrangements were also being made to invite officials from foreign embassies and international organizations in Myanmar it is learnt. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

National Committee for Children's Rights holds first meeting of 2019



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivers the speech at meeting of the National Committee for Children's Rights in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

WHEN the country stepped up efforts for children's rights, it would give priority to least developed areas of the country, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

"A federal democratic system promotes equality and fair and impartial opportunities. This means the underdeveloped Chin, Rakhine, Naga, Kayin, and Kayah are prioritized for social protection and the remaining states and regions will be receiving uniform development as well," said Union Minister for SWRR Dr. Win Myat Aye at the meeting 1/2019 of the National Committee for Children's Rights, held at his ministry yesterday.

Speaking in his capacity as the national committee's chairman, the Union Minister first explained the Union government's efforts to implement the 4 rights of children through forming a national committee that sets policies, master strategies and methods to achieve it. He said his ministry has sent the Child Rights Bill to the Hluttaw which is in the process of scrutinizing it to make it more relevant and will be enacted in the near future.

He continued to say that Myanmar is a member to the

United Nations and has ratified numerous UN agreements and conventions. This includes being a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and as such, Myanmar is duty-bound to implement measures that ensure and protect the rights of children within its borders, said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

He said the first of the three aims laid by the Union Government is ensuring the rule of law and promoting socio-economic development which is related to implementing the rights of children. He said nurturing the young generation will ensure they grow up into valuable citizens that will carry the nation forward. He said implementing policies, laws, bylaws, and rules and regulations in that regard promotes the rule of law for children as well.

The Union Minister assured that the national committee will lead implementation of the rights of children when the new Children's Rights Law is signed into law. He said developing the skills and capabilities of the nation's human resource will drive up socioeconomic development which in turn will ensure free

and secure development for the entire country.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said they can nurture children to be harmonious with society as progenitors to peace within the nation. He said affairs of children affected in armed conflicts is linked to the peace process and thus, must be treated as a major concern.

The Union Minister said his ministry proceeds with their work in accord with the democratic principles set by the nation and also adheres to the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and UN Sustainable Development Goal.

Next, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung explained the tasks and reports to be submitted by UNCRC signatories, followed by the children's rights committee chairmen from the Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw Council and states and regions, and ministers for social affairs presenting their respective processes for implementing children's rights. Members of committee also discussed the implementation of children's rights performed by relevant government departments and organizations and decided on future plans. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

News in Brief

The Strand Hotel to be marked Yangon's heritage

The Strand Hotel on the Strand Road in Yangon will receive Blue Plaque of the Yangon Heritage Trust, which advocates for heritage preservation in Yangon, at 8 am on 7th February.

Italian food festival on 10 Feb at Italy Embassy

Italy Embassy in Yangon will hold the First Italian Food Festival in Myanmar at the embassy in Inya Myaing Road from 4 pm to 9 pm on 10 February.

Chin National Day to be held in Yangon

Chin community in Yangon will celebrate the 71st Chin National Day at the venue at the corner of Anawrahta Road and Konbaung Road in Ward-15 in East Dagon Township from 9 am to 5 pm on 20 February.

Pet dogs competition in Yangon on 20 Feb

Yangon Mayor's Trophy 5th Pet Dogs Competition will be held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Min Dhamma Road in Yangon on 20 February.

UMFCCI to host talks on economic affairs on 17 Feb

Myanmar Public Administration Network will hold the talks on economic affairs at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at 9 am on 17 February.

High-quality Thai products to be exhibited at Tatmadaw Convention Hall

To promote the bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand, high quality productions from Thailand will be exhibited from 21 to 24 February at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon.

Myint Soe
(Translated by GNLM)

Police arrest suspicious man possessing pistol in Buthidaung, Rakhine State

SECURITY forces arrested a man identified as Mahmout Zubai in possession of a pistol, a cartridge and five bullets in Buthidaung Township on 3 February.

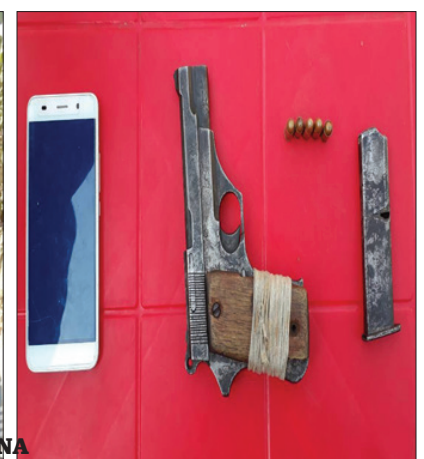
Police on patrol saw two suspicious men near Phoe

Kaung creek in Nyaung Chaung Area, Buthidaung Tsp, at 9:45 am on the aforementioned day. The two men discarded their backpacks when approached by the police and fled. Police pursued the duo and arrested Mahmout Zubai, 24, from Ywat-

Nyo Taung Middle Village, to the east of Pyaing Taung Village. The pistol and related items were confiscated from the men's discarded bags. Police are continuing a search for the remaining suspect. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Mahmout Zubai. **PHOTO: MNA**



UN Peacekeeping Operation Course opens in Nay Pyi Taw

AN opening ceremony of UN Peacekeeping Operation Course jointly organized by the Myanmar Tatmadaw and India's military for the Myanmar Tatmadaw to participate in UN peacekeeping operations was held at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the opening ceremony were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, high ranking officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Indian Ambassador Mr. Saurabh Kumar, Military Attache Col. Naveen Mahajan, training officers from India's Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) and Tatmadaw personnel attending the course.

First Vice Senior General



Vice Senior General Soe Win delivers the opening speech at the ceremony of Myanmar-India United Nations Peacekeeping Training Course in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Soe Win and Indian Ambassador Mr. Saurabh Kumar delivered opening speeches followed with

a power point presentation by a training officer from India's CUNPK on India's participa-

tion in UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Next Vice Senior General

and party took a commemorative group photo with ceremony attendees, CUNPK training officers and trainees attending the course.

The training course is the sixth of its kind to be conducted and from 2016 to 2018 a total of 96 officers and 54 other ranks attended the courses. This course is attended by 30 other ranks and the course covers ethics of UN Peacekeepers, protecting civilians, protecting children, military-civilian cooperation, conducting patrols, convoy security, construction of company base camp, Blue Helmet exercise, and history of UN peacekeeping works and will be held until 15 February, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. - MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Producers urged to upgrade rubber targeting foreign market



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu inspects rubber processing plant in Myeik yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

RUBBER producers in Myeik District were encouraged by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to produce high-grade industrial product targeting foreign market.

At the meeting with local rubber producers in Myeik yesterday, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu urged the rubber business persons who can afford to invest and use high level production technologies to coordinate and combine with small scale producers of the region by sharing technology, create collective sales and strive toward creating a place in foreign market for rubber as a high-grade product. All related persons are to progress from exporting raw material to exporting of industrial goods and strive towards

import substitution added the Union Minister.

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu and party then inspected the production stages of producing rubber crumbs at Pho La Min Rubber Industry rubber crumb factory near Nga Inn Village, Myeik Township where factory officials provided explanation.

The Union Minister remarked on creating job opportunities for local people, organize small scale producers to combine and use the same technology to produce equal quality products, obtain more market share and profit through collective sales. He also remarked on making a production work that maintains the natural environment.

Taninthayi Region had

348,334 acres of rubber plantation and as of end December 2018, 52,569,096 pounds of rubber were produced from 156,226 acres. Myeik District had 147,481 acres of rubber plantation producing 29,688,974 pounds as of end December 2018.

Afterwards, Union Minister and party inspected rural development works, solar lighting for single household and works on acquiring potable water conducted in Nga Inn Village. The Union Minister remarked on using the project works for long term sustainability and the necessity of the participation and cooperation of local villagers and people in continuing the fulfilling and implementing of their requirements. - MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Sri Lanka celebrates 71st Independence Day

The 71st Anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence Day was celebrated at Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening. The ceremony was opened with the national anthems of both countries. Next, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, U Ohn Maung, and Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr. Nandimithra Ekanayake lighted Sri Lan-

ka's traditional oil lamp and sliced the celebratory cake. The Union Minister and Sri Lankan Ambassador then delivered separate speeches. The Union Minister also took a documentary photo with the foreign ambassadors and UN representatives in attendance and then partook in the dinner reception together. - MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung is welcomed by Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr. Nandimithra Ekanayake at a ceremony to mark the 71st Anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence Day in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**



Permanent secretary Dr. Thet Khaing Win addresses the coordination meeting on safeguarding and rehabilitating drug addiction held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Public and private health providers, police discuss tackling drug addiction

A COORDINATION meeting on safeguarding and rehabilitating drug addiction was held at Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was opened with a speech from the permanent secretary Dr. Thet Khaing Win from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS). He said his ministry leads the medical treatment working group of the Body for the Prevention of the Danger of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. He said they have established 26 Major Drug Addiction Treatment Centres, 47 Minor Drug Addiction Treatment Centres, and 55 methadone clinics that are providing continued services.

The permanent secretary said drug addiction shares

many similarities with other chronic illnesses and brings numerous physical, mental, and social consequences. He said this calls for increased drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation efforts. He said drug addiction is usually stigmatized rather than viewed as a health problem and this creates obstacles in providing or receiving treatment and other services.

Attending the meeting were Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors, heads of public health departments and medical services departments from states and regions, Medical Superintendents of hospitals, professors and medical specialists, and

officials from Myanmar Police Force and the Rehabilitation Department under MoHS.

The two-day coordination meeting began yesterday and will conclude today. Attendees will discuss current processes of drug treatment departments, projects to support opening of drug treatment and rehabilitation centres in Shan State, the current status, challenges, ways forward and strategic key points of drug treatment departments in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Kachin and Shan states, designing a national strategic framework based on the new National Drug Control Policy, and implementing strategies moving forward. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 5/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 2 February.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 2 February.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 6 February issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

Deputy Attorney-General receives UNDP Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor

DEPUTY Attorney-General U Win Myint received a delegation led by Mr. Euy Whan Kim, Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor from UNDP, on behalf of the Union Attorney-General, at the guest hall of the Union Attorney-General's office yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed how national development and combating corruption were intrinsically related, the importance of correct policies, methods physical support, and reforming mindsets in anti-cor-

ruption processes, the need to set early preventive measures, how UNDP's workshops on anti-corruption support Myanmar's plans for setting good policies and methods, and how effectively pushing back corruption will lead to the emergence of a good administration system.

Present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and directors-general Daw Khin Cho Ohn and Dr. Swe Swe Aung. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint meets Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor from UNDP Mr. Euy Whan Kim yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Tourists enjoy riding trishaws to tour Katha, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: NGWE OE (KATHA)**

Colonial buildings, trishaw rides draw tourists to Katha, Sagaing Region

KATHA in Sagaing Region has seen an increasing number of tourists keen on visiting colonial buildings described in the 'Burmese Days' by George Orwell.

Trishaw rides, tours of buildings dating back to the colonial era, and cruises on the Ayeyawady River are attracting travellers, according to a local tourism agency.

"They love to visit areas

which can be reached within one hour from the ship. They also like cruising along the river, enjoying the sunset, watching the Ayeyawady dolphins in the river, and the daily life of the local people," said a local tourism agent. Tourist arrivals in Sagaing Region have increased from 385,031 in 2016 to 483,784 in 2017, and 492,097 in 2018.—Ngwe Oe (Katha)/(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Health & Sports Ministry commemorates World Cancer Day with fitness dance

WORLD CANCER DAY 2019 was commemorated with an awareness raising event and physical exercise ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw's Wunna Theikdi Stadium (B) yesterday morning.

Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, delivered the opening speech. She first said the ceremony marks World Cancer Day 2019-2021, with methods to prevent and treat cancer put into practice in 2008. The primary goal of World Cancer Day is to implement early preventive measures and significantly reduce death caused by cancer. Every year, about 9.6 per cent of the global population dies from cancer. The Deputy Minister said

we must educate ourselves to figure the first signs of cancer. She encourages the two main methods to reduce risk of cancer: regular 30-minute walks every day and reducing stress. She said the old adage 'prevention is better than cure' truly applies in this context and urged everyone to perform daily physical exercise to reduce stress and ward off cancer.

Next, Dr. Khin Khin Nwe, an oncologist from Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed General Hospital, led the cancer awareness program. She said the cancer rate in Myanmar has been increasing recently, with men developing oral cancer from excessive betel nut consumption, in addition to lung

cancer, and head cancer the most, and women developing breast cancer and endometrial cancer the most.

Afterwards, staff from the Department of Sport and Physical Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports engaged in a collective physical fitness dance.

According to the official website of World Cancer Day: 2019 marks the launch of the 3-year 'I Am and I Will' campaign. 'I Am and I Will' is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the future. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Staff from the Department of Sport and Physical Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports listen to a speech on cancer awareness before engaging in a collective physical fitness dance, at a ceremony to mark World Cancer Day held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

45 projects to protect Sagaing riverbanks at cost of K9 bln

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems will implement 45 riverbank protection projects in Chindwin and Ayeyawady rivers across Sagaing Region at an estimated cost of K9 billion, said U Kyaw Soe, the Deputy Director of the regional department of the directorate.

The projects will start early this month, when water levels of both rivers are usually lower than normal. Of the total projects, the regional department

will implement 25, while tenders will be issued for the remaining 20 projects.

"A total of 45 projects to protect riverbanks from erosion will be implemented within this financial year. Normally, riverbank protection projects cost more than other works. In addition, the department will improve waterways along the Chindwin River, with the allocation from the Union budget, to reduce the shipping traffic, which has increased due to lower water lev-

els. We have been carrying out river conservation each fiscal year, depending on the budget," said U Kyaw Soe.

The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is also continuing to install navigation signs along the river. Between December and March in the previous 2017-2018 FY, the department installed 1,590 navigation signs in the river and 1,480 navigation signs on land.—Ko Min (Indaw) ■ (Translated by Khaing Thandar Lwin)

CBM Governor receives delegation from International Monetary Fund



CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung receives a delegation from the International Monetary Fund. PHOTO: MNA

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, received a delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) consisting of resident representative Mr. Yasuhisa Ojima, and advisors Mr. Giorgi Barbakadze and Mr. Inwon Song, at the Yangon

Branch of CBM yesterday. They discussed Myanmar's latest development processes for its economic sector and banking sector, the foreign currency exchange, and systematic supervision to be exercised by banks. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Efforts on to keep fuel price at K10-20 per litre

BY Aye Yamone

THE Myat Myittar Mon group is working out an arrangement with fuel stations to allow sale of petrol in a narrow price range of K10-20 per liter, according to a release issued by the company.

Though fuel stations are selling petrol at a competitive price in the market, suppliers are fixing prices based on different parameters. Some suppliers are setting the price based on the purchase price, while others are selling the fuel at a reduced price without using the purchase price as the basis. "We won't sell at a reduced price, but a competitive price. Currently, the price of fuel oil is being fixed using different methods. The Myat Myittar Mon group and partnering fuel oil companies will sell petrol and diesel at the market price. But the price will be within a narrow range of only K10-20 per liter. We will try our best not to extend the gap to K40-50 at most stations. The price of domestic fuel will be fixed depending on the foreign fuel oil price," said Dr. Win Myat, chairman of Myat Myittar Mon Company.

"As for the Myat Myittar Mon group, we will coordinate with other distributors to enable sale of petrol at the price prevailing in the market. Some shops do not sell at market price because

they have bought the petrol at a higher price. We are also trying to control the quality of the fuel oil being sold. We are currently taking measures to ensure the sale of fuel oil in the correct gallon. But, with regard to the price, fuel oil shop owners are still applying different methods to arrive at the sale price. Therefore, we will try our best to coordinate with fuel oil suppliers to allow sale of petrol and diesel within a narrow price range," said Dr. Win Myat.

"If we impose a fixed price on fuel oil entrepreneurs, suppliers will not cooperate. We will, therefore, have to be persuasive rather than abrasive to win their cooperation in the effort to fix prices in a narrow range," he said. Since 2008, the Myat Myittar Mon group has been importing fuel oil and distributing it across the country. In 2011, the company constructed fuel storage tanks and reservoirs at Thilawa Port. There are over 50 companies distributing fuel oil in collaboration with the Myat Myittar Mon group. The Myanmar Petroleum Trading Association updates the price of fuel oil daily on their website and also mentions fuel oil stations which are selling fuel at a lower price in Yangon Region. Currently, there are around 2,200 fuel stations distributing fuel across the country. (Translated by Hay Mar)

Hailing 72nd Anniversary of Union Day

The heart of the Union

Counting the days of the past, the Peasant Day, the National Day, the Armed Forces Day, the Union Day, the Martyrs' Day, and the Independence Day happened to be the most auspicious days in the chronicle of Myanmar; and that they are intertwined with each other reflecting significant features. All these positive days stood as milestones shimmering for the independence struggle to escape from servitude. In reminiscence, the Union Day is found to be in the center of all the auspicious occasions as the heart of the Union.

By Ko Myint Tun (Saw)

Political situation of Myanmar after Second World War

Following the Second World War, the AFPFL (The Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, or hpa hsa pa la by its Myanmar acronym, was the main political alliance in the country from 1945 until 1958) in 1946 initiated with many demonstrations, protests and strikes against the suppression of the British government. The objections and outcries continued namely the peasant strike from Htantabin Township of Insein District on 18 May; the public strike at Yangon Kandawmin Park on 7 June; the public mass rally and meeting of over (100,000) people on 26 June; and the mass Rangoon police strike on 5 September, and many workers' detests.

With the intent to change and distract the mind of the people, the British Government on 4 August 1946 had switched the administration from Governor Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith to Major General Sir Hubert Elvin Rance, the last Governor of British Burma between 1946 and 1948. Despite the changes, the strong and tough strikes were in top gear in the country. At that juncture, the political clout of the government employees and the workers were mounting, followed by general strikes of all workers and trade unions. As a result, the government headed by Sir Paw Tun collapsed on 17 September 1946.

In concession, Governor Sir Hubert Rance had invited Bogoyoke Aung San and the representatives and asked to form the Executive Council of the Governor of Burma, and subsequently formed the cabinet on 27 September 1946.

Immediately after two days, the AFPFL headed by Bogoyoke Aung San staged a public protest over the White Paper Project of British Government. The white paper envisioned several years of economic reconstruction for war-ravaged Myanmar, and the prewar colonial firms were to play an important role in this project. Bogoyoke Aung San initiated a cam-



Attendees of the 71st Union Day ceremony in Panglong, Shan State, salute the State Flag in 2018.

paign against the white paper at a mass meeting in Yangon, demanding that independence be granted immediately.

Despite the formation of Executive Council of the Governor of Burma, the AFPFL clearly declared and informed the people that the strikes would continue until the independence was achieved.

On 8 November 1946, the Executive Council of the Governor of Burma headed by Bogoyoke had announced that a constitution would be drafted for the purpose administration of the country.

On 10 November 1946, the AFPFL Headquarters had released the declaration that it was to achieve independence within a period of one year. It was declared and an ultimatum was given to the British Government that if the de-

mand was not met by 31 January 1947, all the AFPFL representatives serving at the Executive Council of the Governor of Burma would resign.

If the British Government did not consent to the demand of the AFPFL, then fitting and harsh action would be followed. The British Government convened a Parliamentary meeting and spelled out a concession by arranging to invite Bogoyoke Aung San and his delegation to London for discussion.

Historical Speech

Before the departure to London, the AFPFL asked Bogoyoke Aung San to negotiate for total independence. On his departure to London, Bogoyoke Aung San informed the people, the AFPFL, and the Tatmadaw to be united

and to prepare for the best and ready for the worst in the struggle for the independence.

Earlier, Bogoyoke Aung San forecast a constitutional crisis in Myanmar. If this time there was a struggle for independence in Myanmar, he replied with emphasis, "I hope for the best but I am prepared for the worst."

On 2 January 1947, Bogoyoke Aung San and his delegation left Yangon for India, where he met Jawaharlal Nehru, first prime minister of independent India (1947-64), and discussed the situation.

Following the meeting, Bogoyoke Aung San was asked by the media whether soft approach would be used or tough tactic would be applied, and in response, Bogoyoke Aung San daringly replied that the situation depended

on the circumstances and that he and his men were swift enough to move ahead.

Bogoyoke Aung San and his delegation had arrived in London on 9 January 1947, and conducted a round of discussion with British Prime Minister Clement Attlee on 13 January. The writer of this article would like to highlight the words of Bogoyoke Aung as the first historic words of Myanmar with the British Government over the independence.

After the pleasantries greetings from Mr. Attlee was extended, Bogoyoke Aung San talked directly with plain words and said that he was a soldier and he talk very candidly and openly, and therefore, not to expect diplomatic sentences.

He added that Myanmar wanted total independence with-

out any influence, and that the word Myanmar meant all inclusive of nationalities in the country, where they were ready to join in unity if there was no discrimination and no outside interference in providing total independence.

In the words of Bogoyoke Aung San, it was indeed very short and direct to the point as had desired and also considered in advance.

Experiencing constructive and destructive acts

While Bogoyoke Aung San and Myanmar delegation were having discussions in London on 16 January 1947, the AFPFL had organized a public meeting at Bandoola Park in Yangon attended over by (100,000) people demanding independence. The decisions at the public meeting had been sent to

Bogoyoke Aung San over the telegram. The other camp of some Shan chieftains sent a telegram to London accusing that Bogoyoke Aung San was not representing the Shan nationalities, and therefore, Shan chieftains should be invited separately to London to discuss the matters regarding the frontier areas and hill track issues, creating dilemma at the London meeting.

In response, youth leaders of nationalities organized a public meeting in Taunggyi of Shan State seeking approval from the mass that Bogoyoke and the delegation was the real and genuine representatives of the nationalities, and decision was duly sent through a telegram to London.

The London meeting resumed when the telegram of confirmation arrived there. Some other ethnic nationalities sent delegates to London and insisted that they wanted to remain under the British Administration. However, the strong will of the Myanmar delegation with the sincere desire and the forceful unity of nationalities and the people, the historic Aung San - Atlee Agreement was able to sign on 27 January 1947.

The Aung San - Atlee Agree-

ment was not the document that granted the independence of the country, but the interim agreement of British and Myanmar for the plans to be implemented during transition period. Among the Myanmar delegation, some denied to sign the agreement, and that they were no other than Thakin Ba Sein and U Saw. Worse scenario was the incident that U Saw attempt of slandering campaign over Bogoyoke Aung San after arriving back in Yangon.

Merging flat lands and frontier areas

After successful conclusion of meeting of Myanmar delegation headed by Bogoyoke Aung San, they arrived back Yangon on 2 February 1947. On 3 February, the Aung San - Atlee Agreement was approved by the Myanmar Delegation and the AFPFL, and then on 8 February, Bogoyoke Aung San proceeded to Panglong legendary town in Shan State and met with nationalities.

At the meeting held on 11 February 1947 between the Myanmar delegation headed by Bogoyoke Aung San and the delegation comprising leaders of various nationalities had agreed to merge the flat lands and the hilly regions without separation in acquiring independence as a whole. On the dot of 10:00 am on the beautiful morning of 12 February 1947, the historic and renowned Panglong Agreement was successfully signed. The most important and critical foundation

The unity built by our predecessors must be cherished, preserved, and maintained for posterity, and this has become the national duty of people from all nationalities residing in the Union.

for getting independence was the creation and crafting of national unity which had been cemented on February 12, and that the memorable day we have cherished has attained the milestone of (72) years. Despite the author's presentation is rather short, it is firmly believed that the tough and bumpy journey to the desired destination and the difficulties and barriers where all these supplemented with the ardent endeavors of the national leaders could be assessed and evaluated. The unity built by our predecessors must be cherished, preserved, and maintained for posterity, and this has become the national duty of people from all nationalities residing in the Union. Unity is strength, and harmony is power; and above all, the heart is the Union.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Striding towards a democratic federal Union

ETHNIC solidarity involves all ethnic nationals uniting and coexisting peacefully, and supporting each other through good times and bad. It is, in fact, among the most important foundations of the Union of Myanmar.

The diverse ethnic races of Myanmar have been living in close proximity for thousands of years. While they have had their fair share of conflicts in the past, these resembled no more than familial disputes, which would get resolved on their own, sooner or later. At a time when we were drifting apart and external forces interfered in our affairs, we managed to unite the entire country under a single spirit.

At a time when we were drifting apart and external forces interfered in our affairs, we managed to unite the entire country under a single spirit.

The historic First Burmese Empire was founded by King Anawratha and the Second Burmese Empire was established by King Bayinnaung. The Third Burmese Empire was established by Alaungpaya, while the Fourth Burmese Union was founded under the leadership of Bogoyoke Aung San, who firmly established it as an independent sovereign state that continues to exist till today.

The Union of Myanmar was divided into seven states and seven regions, depending on the majority race living in

the area, with the agreement of the people. Even so, all ethnic nationals consider the land, water, and people of the state or region they live in as their own, without any discrimination. They live peacefully as one big united family.

Our country is now on the path to ensuring equality, freedom of opportunity, and many other freedoms that are embodied by a democratic nation. All stakeholders are making their utmost effort to help realize the wishes of the ethnic nationals by establishing a democratic federal Union. When that lofty goal is achieved, each one of us will be able to shape our own destiny, while peace and development will increase in each region.

To reach this stage, we must first work on implementing peace, and to achieve that, we must foster trust among all ethnic nationals. The Union government is facing some challenges in implementing uniform development across Myanmar, but we can see it is doing its best.

This being the case, we urge everyone in the country and our supporters at home and abroad to strive for Union peace and national reconciliation first, and follow it up with upholding non-disintegration of the Union and strengthening ethnic solidarity.

72nd Anniversary (2019) Union Day National Objectives

- All ethnic nationals to work with collective strength for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, perpetuation of national sovereignty; and to work for preservation and protection of the above.
- To strive for the emergence of a Constitution that is in alignment and harmony with the Democratic Federal Union.
- To strive for the success of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong and thence till the success of the internal peace process.
- All union nationals to cooperate and work in "Unity and Harmony" for rule of law and for the people to be secure and free from danger.
- All union citizens to be able to enjoy good education and adequate health care protection.

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Three-year cancer awareness campaign starts

People participate in three-year public campaign for cancer awareness to mark World Cancer Day in Bahan Township on 4 February 2019. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

THE Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government launched a three-year public campaign for cancer awareness to mark World Cancer Day at the football pitch in Bahan Township on 4 February.

The campaign, which will run from 2019 to 2021, has been

organized in collaboration with the Shwe Yaung Hnin Si Cancer Foundation.

A total of 2,000 officials, members, and staff from the Yangon Region Public Health Department, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Dental Council, Myanmar Nurse and

Midwife Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, and Myanmar Scouts Association attended the event.

"The campaign aims to raise awareness about cancer, which can be prevented. People must go for cancer screening tests. If cancer is detected at

an early stage, it can be treated successfully. People can reduce the risk of cancer by avoiding tobacco products and alcohol, and by following a healthy diet and an active lifestyle," said Dr. U Tun Myint, the Deputy Director-General of the Yangon Region Public Health Department.

World Cancer Day marked the launch of the three-year campaign, with the theme 'I am and I will', emphasizing that each of us can be a changemaker, he said. The campaign seeks to make people aware that we can reduce cancer risk by avoiding behaviors that are linked to the disease, he added.

According to data released by the World Health Organization, 18.1 million new cancer cases were reported worldwide in 2018, while around 9.6 million people died from the disease. According to the WHO, one in five men and one in six women worldwide are at risk of cancer, while one in eight men and one in eleven women die from it. In Myanmar, lung and liver cancer cases are the most common among men, while breast and endometrial cancer are two common malignancies found in women. —Myint Maung Soe ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Ms Silver cruise ship docks at Ngapali Beach. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Tourists visit Ngapali beach on board cruise

A group of 61 tourists visited Ngapali beach on board the Ms Silver Discoverer cruise ship, under an arrangement with Destination Asia Co. Ltd, supervised by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

They arrived at Ngapali beach on Friday and explored the beach, the Thandwe Myoma market, and the pagodas in Thandwe Town. They left for

Yangon on 4 February at night. The tour group comprised two tourists from Canada, two from Australia, one from France, one from the Netherlands, two from the UK, and 53 from the US.

Myanmar is endowed with unique natural beauty, and has several eco-tourism locations and archaeological sites. The country also has a culture-based tourism

industry now, which allows tourists to observe the traditions and cultures of the ethnic people. As a result, a large number of tourists are visiting Myanmar.

Tourists are arriving in the country by air, sea, and road. Road travellers have been coming to Myanmar on vehicles, motorbikes, and bicycles.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar, South Korea to collaborate on 3 research projects

The Department of Agricultural Research under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation has signed an agreement with the Korea Program on International Agriculture for collaboration on three research projects, according to a statement released by the ministry. The signing ceremony for the research projects was held on 30 January. "The agreement involves setting up of a potato distribution system, providing training courses for wheat cultivation in Sagaing Region and Shan State, and development of post-harvest technology for rice, which is one of the main crops of Myanmar," said U Naing Kyi Win, the Director-General of the Department of Agricultural Research. The three projects will help local farmers to produce and harvest better quality crops and to reduce waste in storage of crops. The project is also expected to contribute to increasing farmer incomes.—AMIA ■

Myanmar Investment Commission approves nine investment proposals which will create over 5,700 job opportunities

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (2 / 2019) was convened at the meeting room of MIC in Yangon on 4 February 2019.

The meeting approved nine projects in manufacturing and sales of Wet Pulp, manufacturing of photosensitive Powder, manufacturing of various kinds of bags and belts on CMP basic, aqua feed products and related products processing, cold storage and distribution, electronic ticketing service

with E-Payment for public bus transportation in Yangon region, construction of jetty for storage, distribution and sale of diesel, gasoline and LPG, private education services, construction and operation of cinemas show which will create 5,753 job opportunities for citizens.

The meeting was attended by U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC, Dr. Than Myint, Vice Chairman and 10 members. ■
—MNA



The Myanmar Investment Commission holds the meeting (2 / 2019) in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Rise in exports, lower imports help trim Myanmar trade deficit

The rise in exports and decline in imports over the last three months of the current fiscal year has helped cut the trade deficit to US\$1.16 billion from \$1.78 billion in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Between 1 October and 25 January, Myanmar's external trade increased to \$10.43 billion from \$10.2 billion in the previous FY. The figure includes an estimated \$4.6 billion in exports and \$5.8 billion in imports. Compared with the same period in the previous FY, exports have increased by \$438 million, while

imports have declined by \$202 million.

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

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from the CMP (cutting, making, and packaging) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's trade deficit stood at \$91.9 million in the 2012-2013FY, \$2.5 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$4.9 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$5.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$1.3 billion in last mini-budget period, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). — Mon Mon ■

(Translated by
Ei Myat Mon)

CMP imports up over 29% in 2018-2019 FY

MYANMAR'S CMP imports between October and January in the 2018-2019 fiscal year exceeded US\$730 million, an increase of \$1655 million or 29.3 per cent from the corresponding period in the last 2017-2018 FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From this time last FY, the country's CMP imports by the private sector was \$564.6 million.

Also, during the week between 12 and 18 January, local importers bought CMP products valued at over \$57 million,

which went up by \$29.4 million matched against the same period last FY, when the import of CMP raw materials was \$27.6 million.

CMP is one of four major groups of import products. The country also imports capital goods, intermediate products and consumer goods from international countries. Between 1 October and 25 January this FY, the country imported \$1.86 billion worth of capital goods, \$2.13 billion worth of intermediate goods, and over \$1 billion worth of consumer products.

This year saw a continuous decrease in imports by the private sector. Apart from CMP raw materials, private sector imports of capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumer products decreased by over \$200 million, as against this time last FY. During the current fiscal year, the country's total import of goods covered \$4.8 billion through by sea, and goods reaching nearly \$929 million through the border trade stations.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing
Thanda Lwin)

CBM will switch to market-based reference exchange rate from today

By Nyein Nyein

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will start publishing its market-based reference exchange rate daily from today.

The CBM has been setting the reference exchange rate on the basis of the cut-off rate in a two-way auction since 2012 to help develop the forex market. The system has helped the forex market grow, besides determining the exchange rate. The size of interbank market trade increased from just US\$0.01 billion in the 2013-2014 fiscal year to \$2 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, and it is likely to continue growing.

From now, the CBM will set the reference exchange rate as a market-based weighted average rate, in line with the best practices followed by central banks internationally, according to a notice released by the CBM on 4 February.

"The reference exchange rate against the US dollar will be determined as the weighted average of rates for transaction volumes between banks and participants in the forex market. This being so, the gap between the reference rate set by the CBM and the floating rates in the over-the-counter market will narrow," said U Than Lwin, a senior consultant with KBZ.

"It is good that there will be a small difference between the rate set by the CBM and the rate in over-the-counter trading," said U Than Lwin.

Additionally, the CBM has changed the hour for calculating the daily reference exchange rate to 4 p.m.

The CBM usually uses the last business day's weighted average rate to set the reference rate in the morning, which can result in some disparities when compared with the market exchange rate on a given day. This is especially the case after long holidays and weekends. The new system will help avoid this variance, as the reference rate will be published on the same day.

"Earlier, there was a wide gap as the rate was published in the morning and it was set for the whole day trading. In addition to this, the country's forex market is usually on a roller-coaster ride," said U Than Lwin.

The CBM also calculates and publishes the reference exchange rates of other foreign currencies, according to the rate in the international markets, or the cross-rate of the issuer country's domestic interbank market.

The CBM stated that the reference exchange rate is indicative, not mandatory. To settle customs obligations, accounting, and for statistical purposes, the reference rate of the previous day can be used.

The objective behind the CBM's move is to regulate volatility in the exchange rate. The bank plans further efforts to reach this goal. ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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radio frequency transistors; user interfaces for electronic devices; wireless communication devices for recording, organizing, transmitting, receiving, manipulating, and reviewing voice, text, data, image, and audio files; computer hardware, software and firmware, central processing units (CPU), semiconductors, integrated circuits, microcontrollers, and Computer hardware; computer software; central processing units (CPU); integrated circuits; microprocessors; microcontrollers; semiconductors; modems; sensors; battery chargers; accelerometers; applications processors; computer hardware accelerators; circuit boards; circuit board assemblies; data conversion circuits; data storage devices, namely transponder chips and tags and card packages containing same; development boards, evaluation boards and reference design kits for semiconductors, sensors and software; digital signal controllers; digital signal processors; direct digital synthesizers; earbuds; electronic access cards; electronic identification cards; electronic labels, electronic stickers and electronic tags for identification and security purposes; electronic tickets; electronic wristbands; headphones; high power electronics, namely radio frequency (RF) amplifiers, high side switches and battery sensors; microcircuits; microcomputers; mobile phones; near field communication (NFC) technology-enabled devices; radio frequency transistors; user interfaces for electronic devices; wireless communication devices for recording, organizing, transmitting, receiving, manipulating, and reviewing voice, text, data, image, and audio files; computer hardware, software and firmware, central processing units (CPU), semiconductors, integrated circuits, microcontrollers, and analysis and trace, all for use in the development of stand-alone software programs used in devices such as network switches, engine control modules, cat-scan machines, industrial automation controllers, avionics and wireless handsets; computer hardware and computer software based development tools, namely, compilers, debuggers, integrated development environments, run control, event analysis and trace, all for use in the development of stand-alone software programs used in industrial, consumer and automotive applications; computer hardware and computer software for transferring, storing, converting and displaying medical device data; computer hardware and software for creating, programming, controlling, encoding, scanning, reading and interpreting RFID and NFC chips and tags; computer software for charging smart phones, tablets, and mobile electronic devices; computer software for enabling functionality of safety and testing systems, apparatus and equipment; computer software for enabling functionality of sensors for use in automotive, consumer, industrial and medical applications; computer software for managing computer networks; computer software for tracking; computer software, hardware and chipsets for use with wireless communication apparatuses, consumer electronic devices, smart phones, digital cameras, IP cameras, drones, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVS) and wearable mobile computers; computer peripherals for processing digital signals, for processing background data and information on computer operating systems, for tracking user activity and location, for enabling activation by speech and touch and for detecting sensory cues and launching applications that correspond to specific sensory cues and computer software, hardware and chipsets for use with these goods; computer software, hardware, and chipsets for streaming music and for synchronizing audio speakers in consumer electronics devices; computer software, namely compilers, linkers, support software to assist in the development of stand-alone programs, and software for assisting in the development of object oriented software applications, such as database systems; computer software, namely operating systems, board support packages (BSPS), virtualization technology software, hypervisor software, embedded software, applications programming interface (API) software, software libraries used to create other computer software; applications software for automotive, consumer, health care, medical, aerospace, military, cellular and mobile communications, networking, motor control, smart energy, and industrial applications, protocol stacks, configuration software, and optimization software; content filtering software, namely, computer software for controlling content made available to a user; control plane software; data plane software; data processing apparatus and software for enabling, controlling, managing and monitoring all aspects of a paperless payment and/or access system employing RFID (radio frequency identification) and/or NFC (near field communication) technology, including allowing users to recharge their payment accounts remotely; deep packet inspection software; downloadable computer software for developing computer hardware and software for chipsets for wireless devices; enterprise security software for use in gateway and other networking devices to provide network security; firewall software; integrated networking, security, and collaboration software; internet security software; intrusion detection and prevention software; load balancing software; VPN (virtual private network) operating software; integrated circuits, computer hardware and software for signal processing in wireless communication apparatuses, consumer electronics devices, portable media devices, mobile gaming devices, pocket computing devices, and smart phones; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; magnetic data carriers; recording discs; computer network interfaces devices; electronic, electro technical and electromagnetic modules; data processing equipment; data storage apparatus; interfaces for computers; smart cards; smart card integrated circuits; RFID chips and tags; computer hardware and software for creating, programming, controlling, encoding, scanning, reading and interpreting RFID chips and tags; contactless smart cards; dual interface smart cards; dual interface integrated circuits that provide a link between contactless cards and contact cards; writers and readers for wireless transmission to and from transponder chips; electronic apparatus for writing and reading of wireless transmission to and from transponder chips; computer programs for controlling transmission of data to and reading of data from transponder chips; data processing machines for fare determination using transponder chips; encoded smart cards; computer hardware, software and peripheral devices used for access control and authentication purposes; wearable activity trackers; wearable computer peripherals; smartphones; wearable telecommunication apparatus; multicore processors; application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs); integrated circuits embedded with software; signal processors; digital signal processors (DSPs); vector processors; vector signal processors; communications processors; network processors used in network and telecommunications equipment; application-specific hardware accelerators; wireless baseband processors; base stations on a chip, namely wireless base stations on a chip; integrated circuits, namely system basis chips and systems on a chip (SOC); multicore microcontrollers; semiconductor chip sets comprised primarily of semiconductor chips; integrated circuit modules in the form of semiconductor packages and packaging, namely redistributed chip packaging (RCP), and systems-in-package (SiP); radio frequency (RF) power transistors; radio frequency semiconductors; sensors, namely, inertial sensors, pressure sensors, magnetic sensors, touch sensors all for use in automotive, consumer, and industrial applications; proximity sensors; radar sensors; capacitive sensors; acceleration sensors; gyro sensors; sensors for computer interfaces featuring software, firmware and electronic integrated circuit chips; sensor systems comprised of sensors, computer software, microprocessors, microcontrollers, and logic or wireless protocols for enabling functionality of sensors for use in automotive, consumer, and industrial applications; electronic test instruments for developing and testing microprocessor-based systems; semiconductor memories; semiconductor devices, microcontrollers, integrated circuits, circuit boards, chipsets, all for management of operating frequency, voltage and power, optimization of static and dynamic power, power management, power optimization or power reduction; semiconductors, sensors and software for use in automotive, consumer, aerospace, military, cellular and mobile communications, networking, motor control, smart energy, and industrial applications; semiconductors and software for use in healthcare and medical applications; semiconductors, sensors and software for use in wireless connectivity, battery management, smart grid, smart metering applications, engine control units (ECUs) and tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS); microcontrollers, firmware, sensors, and radio frequency (RF) and analog circuitry devices for use with energy efficient wireless chargers; printed circuit boards namely evaluation boards and reference design kits consisting of software for semiconductors, sensors and software; semiconductors and software for use in portable medical devices, diagnostic and patient monitoring devices, therapy devices, and medical imaging devices; computer application software, namely, computer software for use in applications for multimedia, graphics video, audio and numerically intensive computations; computer network switching software; computer convergence network software; computer network collaboration software; quality of service software; network access software; networking software for operation of chipsets; networking software for content processing; computer software, namely, firmware, applications and development tools, for use in network content processing; failover prevention software; stateful packet inspection software; stateful application inspection software; enterprise security software; wireless radio controller software; command line management software; voice over IP software; video over IP software; networking and security software for use with unified threat management equipment, gateways, integrated access devices, routers, switches, controllers, base stations, hubs, and security appliances; utility software for facilitating computer use at remote locations and for facilitating communications among mobile users over networks; computer software for providing security to remote users and for implementing computer, software, and network security measures for remote users; component-based software modeling tool featuring a graphical user interface, automatic code generators and built-in knowledge-base for use in the rapid design, development, implementation, verification and optimization of embedded applications; software for use in developing other software titles; downloadable, searchable electronic publications, namely reference manuals, user guides, application notes and product specifications on the subject of semiconductors, sensors and software; user manuals in electronic format supplied with the foregoing" in **Class 9**; "Providing information in the field of telecommunications and telecommunications information relating to wireless communications and mobile technologies; consulting in the field of telecommunication services, namely, transmission of voice, data, and documents via telecommunications networks" in **Class 38** and "Providing information in the field of computers, computer software and computer systems; providing information in the field of design and development of computer data networking; providing information in the field of network security and computer security; design for others of integrated circuits, semiconductors, microprocessors, computer hardware and software, and communications software and networks; developing, designing and testing semiconductors, semiconductor devices, integrated circuits, microcontrollers, processors, radio frequency (RF) devices, sensors and software, electro technical and electromagnetic modules and their parts and building elements, data storage apparatuses, interfaces, smart cards, controllers for smart cards, controllers for RFID chips and tags for others; computer software development in the field of mobile applications; design and development of wireless communications systems for transmission and reception of voice, data and video; design and development of battery charging technology; design and development of data networking systems; design and development of network security and computer security systems; design and development of computer hardware and software for the operation and control of drones; design and development of computer hardware and software for the operation and control of robots; design and development of computer hardware and software for the operation and control of automobiles; cloud computing featuring software for transferring, storing converting and displaying medical device data; developing wireless power transfer technology for use in charging

vehicles; platform as a service (PAAS) featuring computer software platforms for use in developing, programming, building, and prototyping IOT (internet of things) devices; platform as a service (PAAS) featuring computer software platforms for wireless acquisition, transmission, conversion and storage of medical device data; providing technical information in the fields of semiconductors, semiconductor devices, integrated circuits, microcontrollers, processors, radio frequency (RF) devices, sensors and software; consulting in the field of telecommunications technology; design and development of wireless communications systems for authentication purposes; providing temporary use of online non-downloadable software applications, development platforms, and development tools that enable software developers to develop, program, build, and prototype software for integrated circuits, chips and data processing equipment; computer programming services; research and design of antennas for scanning, reading and interpreting RFID chips and tags; research and design of NFC (near field communications) apparatus, instruments and equipment; advisory services in relation to all the above" in **Class 42**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 5th February 2019

Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For **Qualcomm Incorporated, C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Imm@kcyangon.com

Singapore police probing report of fraud by Germany's Wirecard

SINGAPORE (Singapore) — Singapore police said on Monday they are looking into a report of alleged forgery by German digital payments firm Wirecard in its Asian operations, including in the city-state.

The *Financial Times* newspaper reported last week it had seen documents from lawyers commissioned by Wirecard, showing they had found evidence of "serious offences of forgery and/or of falsification of accounts/documents" at the group's Singapore office.

"There are reasons to suspect that they may have been carried out to conceal other misdeeds, such as cheating, criminal breach of trust, corruption and/

or money laundering," the document seen by the *FT* said.

In an emailed statement to AFP on Monday, a spokesperson for the Singapore Police Force said police were "looking into the matter."

In Singapore, a regional finance hub, the police's Commercial Affairs Department carries out investigations on financial crimes such as money laundering.

Stocks in Wirecard, which knocked banking stalwart Commerzbank out of Germany's prestigious DAX blue-chip index last year, fell sharply last week in reaction to two *FT* reports on the alleged fraud. Wirecard has hit back at what it described as "yet

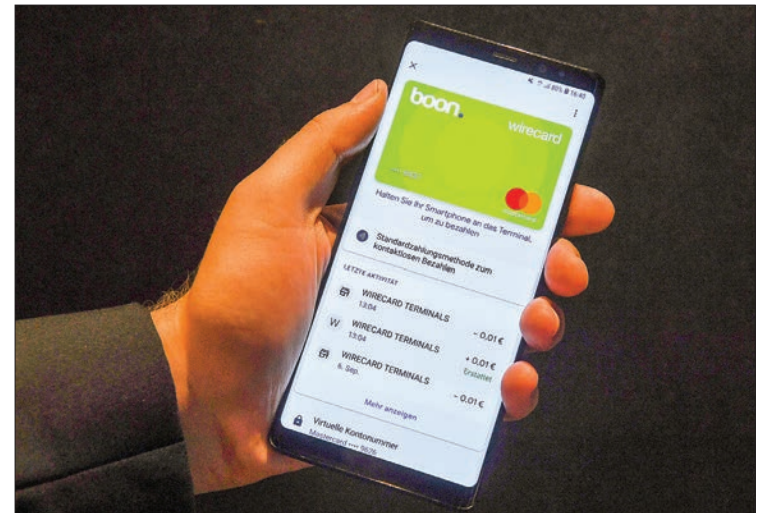
another inaccurate, misleading and defamatory" article.

Wirecard on Wednesday issued a denial of the *FT*'s original article on suspected fraud at the company, which the paper said was based on a different internal document.

It accused the journalist responsible of publishing "a false, inaccurate, misleading and defamatory article" that "lacks any substance".

German financial markets watchdog Bafin said on Thursday it was launching an investigation into possible market manipulation over the story.

Wirecard stunned the traditional German banking sector last year by displacing Commer-



Picture taken on 18 September, 2018 shows the digital credit card on a mobile phone being demonstrated in the headquarters of the technology and financial services company Wirecard in Aschheim near Munich, southern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

zbank, which had enjoyed sizeable enough market capitalisation and trading volumes to be listed on the DAX for decades. Hailed as a champion of the "fintech" (financial technology) scene with

its software for cashless and contactless payments, it then boasted a market valuation of more than 23 billion euros — outweighing even giant Deutsche Bank.—AFP ■

Thailand begins candidate registration for March general election

BANGKOK — Thailand's Election Commission on Monday began accepting registrations for both constituency and party-list candidates ahead of a March general election that will end over four years of military rule.

Registration is also open for up to three candidates for prime minister from each party, from among whom a new prime minister will be chosen when the new parliament gathers following the 24 March election.

Although registrations continue across the country until Friday, every major party contesting the lower house election registered its single-seat constituency candidates on first day, in order to be able to submit its list of candidates for proportional representation.

The pro-junta Palang Pracharath Party has named Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha as its No 1 candidate for prime minister, but the junta chief is said to be still considering whether to

accept the offer. The second and third candidates named by the party are party leader Uttama Savanayana and deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak.

The Pheu Thai Party, which largely draws on support from the poor, especially in rural areas, is reportedly nominating former health minister Sudarat Keyuraphan as its candidate for prime minister along with another key figure of the party.

Sudarat is a longtime loyalist of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who lives abroad in self-imposed exile.

The party is widely perceived as Thaksin's political vehicle.

The Democrat Party, Thailand's oldest party whose pillar of support comes from the wealthy in urban areas, plans to nominate just one candidate for prime minister, leader and former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Thailand has been under military rule since a coup in 2014

toppled a Pheu Thai-led civilian government following a period of political instability.

After repeated delays, the junta said last month that the election to choose 500 new lower house members will be held on 24 March, paving the way for the country's return to civilian rule. As supporters of various parties gathered at a registration office in Bangkok on Monday to rally for their parties, a 52-year-old business owner in Bangkok, who only gave his first name as Prawit, said he supports the Democrat Party for its long history and the qualifications of its candidates.

Korkaew Tirakul, a 64-year-old Palang Pracharath supporter in Bangkok, said she hopes the new pro-junta party will continue the projects undertaken by the junta, such as one aimed helping low-income families and seniors, while staving off clashes between rival political forces in Thai society. Somchai Naruerithiron, 51, a merchant

and Pheu Thai supporter, said he hopes party lawmakers will help turn his underdeveloped area of Bangkok into a tourist attraction. Under the country's new electoral system, 350 of the 500 members in the lower house will be chosen through elections in single-seat constituencies, with the remaining 150 through proportional representation from party lists.

The country last had a general election in February 2014, when Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister, was prime minister, following months of anti-government protests. But the election was later nullified by the Constitutional Court following disruptions in some constituencies.

Pheu Thai won a general election in 2011, installing Yingluck as Thailand's first female prime minister. But she was ousted by the Constitutional Court shortly before the military intervention.—Kyodo News ■

Main suspect of Jolo blasts surrenders to Philippine authorities

MANILA — A main suspect of the deadly twin blasts hitting the southern Philippines late last month has surrendered to authorities, the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Monday.

PNP Chief Director General Oscar Albayalde said the suspect, identified only as Kamah, denied involvement in the church bombings that killed 22 and injured more than 100 others on 27 January in Jolo in southern Sulu province. Albayalde said Kamah, a student, turned himself in along with four others over the weekend in Jolo. The police claimed that Kamah, an alleged member of the Abu Sayyaf's Ajang-Ajang subgroup, was seen near the church before the explosions. Four other "suspects" in the blasts who were spotted on a street surveillance camera also came forward last week to deny the allegations.—Xinhua ■

Make-your-own udon at Japan's new noodle hotel in Kagawa

TAKAMATSU (Japan) — When it comes to noodles, Japan may be more famous for ramen. Yet Kagawa Prefecture prides itself on serving the best udon, and now has a hotel that doubles as a cookery school dedicated to the local delicacy.

The Udon House opened last October in Mitoyo city, on the western Japan island of Shikoku, in a refurbished 80-year-old home built in a traditional style.

“We hope to promote the local region through the culture of sanuki udon,” said hotel manager Kanako Harada, referring to Kagawa’s famous thick, chewy noodles.

Guests take half-day classes from udon masters, learning the tricks of the trade necessary to turn wheat flour into the local soul food. To cater to the rising



Udon House, a hotel in Mitoyo, Kagawa Prefecture, offers lodging and udon-making classes. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWSNEWS**

number of foreign visitors, the hotel has staff who can speak English, Chinese and Korean.

Still, the bulk of guests are Japanese. Kaori Yamada, a 44-year-old university lecturer

visiting from Kyoto in late December, said the udon-making lesson was very detailed and she was glad that teachers took account of participants’ individual needs.

Harada, the manager, hails from Tokyo and had worked in Rakuten Inc’s travel department until spring 2017.

But last June, she moved to Mitoyo after being involved in the launch of Setouchi Udon Co, a local trading company fully funded by the city.

Drawing on her global travel experiences as a student and later work in the tourism industry, Harada said, “I came to realize that travelers desire to learn about the local culture of where they are visiting.”

So far, foreign visitors account for some 20 per cent of guests, but Harada said overseas’ interest had picked up since the hotel was featured on CNN’s travel website in January.

“I want to show that a local community in Shikoku is capable

of being directly connected to the world,” Harada said.

The hotel offers two dormitory-type rooms and one Japanese-style room.

The standard plan, which includes the udon class and a local farm visit, in addition to dinner and breakfast, is priced at 29,800 yen (\$270) per person, excluding tax.

Kagawa, which promotes itself as Japan’s “Udon Prefecture,” is situated in the Seto Inland Sea and is a famed pilgrimage spot on the 88-temple “Shikoku Henro” route.

The nearby island of Naoshima is famous as a contemporary art hub, while the olive-producing island of Shodoshima boasts of its picturesque “Angel Road” sand bar that only appears during low tide.—Kyodo News ■

Cuaron on path to Oscar victory after Directors Guild win

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuaron on Saturday scooped the Directors Guild of America (DGA) award for “Roma” — a strong indicator he will be named best director at the Oscars in three weeks’ time.

“Roma,” a highly personal ode to Cuaron’s own childhood in 1970s Mexico City, is nominated for 10 Academy Awards, including best director.

Cuaron received the top prize on Saturday from compa-

triot Guillermo del Toro, who won last year for “The Shape of Water.”

Cuaron, who won the same accolade for “Gravity” in 2014, thanked stars Yalitza Aparicio and Marina de Tariva, along with the rest of the cast for bringing a memory to life.

“Thank Libo [the domestic worker who inspired the film], my mother and my country, the real architect of ‘Roma,’” he added.

The acclaimed director beat out Spike Lee (“BlacKkKlans-

man”), Adam McKay (“Vice”), Peter Farrelly (“Green Book”) and Bradley Cooper (“A Star is Born”). Cuaron is the second director to be awarded the prize for a foreign language film: Ang Lee won in 2000 for “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.”

The DGA short list is considered an Oscars bellwether. Last year’s DGA winner, Guillermo del Toro (“The Shape of Water”), went on to win the same prize at the Oscars and the film took best picture honors.—AFP ■



“Bohemian Rhapsody” star Rami Malek. **PHOTO: PTI**

My situation with Bryan Singer was not pleasant, says Rami Malek

LOS ANGELES — “Bohemian Rhapsody” star Rami Malek says that he did not have a pleasant working relationship with film’s director Bryan Singer.

Fox terminated Singer’s services as the helmer of the Queen biopic under the “pay or play” provision of his contract, sources had indicated at the time, due to his repeated failures to show up on the set, which brought the production to a halt in December 2017. The film was later completed by Dexter Fletcher. Singer remains the credited director.

Malek, who has been nominated for the best actor Oscar this year, recalled working with Singer on the film.

“I’ve sat here and talked about how everyone deserves a voice and anyone who wants to talk about what happened with Bryan deserves to have their voice heard. In my situation with

Bryan, it was not pleasant, not at all. And that’s about what I can say about it at this point,” the actor told *The Hollywood Reporter*.

He said the filmmaker being fired from the job was a bolt out of the blue.

“For anyone who is seeking any solace in all of this, Bryan Singer was fired. Bryan Singer was fired, I don’t think that was something anyone saw coming but I think that had to happen and it did,” Malek said. Fresh allegations hit Singer last month after a report by *The Atlantic* surfaced, wherein four men alleged that the director had sexual encounters with them when they were teenagers in the late 1990s. The director denied the charges. The actor previously said he was “not aware” of the allegations of sexual misconduct against the director before he started working with him.—AFP ■



Director Alfonso Cuaron (r) poses next to director Guillermo Del Toro with the award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Feature Film for “Roma” in the press room during the 71st Annual Directors Guild Of America (DGA) Awards at the Ray Dolby Ballroom in Hollywood on 2 February, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Obesity-linked cancers on the rise in young adults

PARIS (France) — A sharp increase in the rate of obesity-linked cancers among young adults in the United States could foreshadow a reversal in the overall decline in cancer mortality, researchers warned on Monday.

In a sweeping study covering two-thirds of the US population, they showed that half a dozen cancers for which obesity is a known risk factor became more frequent from 1995 to 2015 among women and men under 50.

The younger the age bracket, the more quickly these cancers gained ground, they reported in *The Lancet*, a medical journal.

During the period examined, the incidence of pancreatic cancer, for example, increased by about one per cent per year for adults aged 45 to 49. Among 30 to 34-year-olds, the average annual percent increase was more than twice that high.

And among 25 to 29-year-olds, the rate jumped by 4.4 per cent per year.

Comparing five-year age brackets from 25 to 80, the annual hike was similarly highest among the 25 to 29 cohort for four other obesity-linked cancers: kidney (6.23 per cent), gallbladder (3.71 per cent), uterine (3.35 per cent), and colon (2.41 per cent).



A sharp increase in the rate of obesity-linked cancers among young adults in the United States could foreshadow a reversal in the overall decline in cancer mortality, researchers warned on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

“Our findings expose a recent change that could serve as a warning of an increased burden of obesity-related cancers to come in older adults,” said co-author Ahmedin Jemal of the American Cancer Society, USA.

Obesity has more than doubled in the United States over the last four decades.

Mortality could rise

It has also risen sharply in other rich nations and, more recently, the developing world. Today, some two billion people are overweight or obese.

With few exceptions, cancer

has been seen as a disease of ageing.

Indeed, the researchers note that the number of new cancer cases reported remains much higher in older age brackets, even if the rate of increase is now highest among young adults.

Two pancreatic cancer cases, for example, were diagnosed among every 100,000 24 to 49-year-olds from 2010 to 2014, compared to 37 cases for every 100,000 people aged 50 to 84.

Overall, the number of people in the United States who succumb to cancer has declined.

From 1980 to 2014 — when

cancer claimed some 20 million lives — mortality dropped by 20 per cent, from 240 to 192 deaths per 100,000 people, due in part to reduced tobacco use.

“But in the future, obesity could reverse that progress,” Jemal cautioned.

“Obesity is now one of the most preventable causes of cancer in the US and UK — around 1 in 12 cases in the US are caused by excess weight, and more than 1 in 20 in the UK.”

Building on earlier research suggesting a link between obesity and more frequent colon cancers in young adults, Jemal and colleagues analysed all cancer cases from 1995 to 2015 in 25 US states home to 67 per cent of the population.

The data covered 30 types of cancer, 12 of which had previously been linked to obesity.

Too much junk food

For five of the 12, the rate of increase for new cases was highest in the youngest age group, and for a sixth — a form of bone marrow cancer called multiple myeloma — the biggest jump was among adults in their early 30s.

Of the other 18 types of cancer, only two showed a similar trend, with the others either stable or — for those related to

smoking and infection — in decline.

“The investigators speculate that these findings are driven in part by the obesity epidemic, a hypothesis that is both provocative and plausible,” Catherine Marinac from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard University’s Brenda Birman commented, also in *The Lancet*.

Still unexplained, however, is why the six other forms of cancer classified by the UN’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as related to obesity did not also show similar rates of increase among younger adults. The authors called for more aggressive screening for obesity by front-line doctors, and called on them to warn patients about the cancer risk of being seriously overweight.

Currently, less than half of primary care physicians in the US regularly measure the body-mass index (BMI) of their patients.

“The quality of the American diet has worsened in recent decades,” said lead author Hyuna Sung, also of the American Cancer Society.

More than half of 20 to 49-year-olds eat for too little fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and too much salt, fast food and sugary drinks, she said.— AFP ■

AI-based medical diagnostic services to be launched in Japan

TOKYO — Medical diagnostic services using artificial intelligence technologies are set to be introduced this year in Japan, where the uptake of information technology in healthcare has been slow, sources close to the matter said on Monday.

The private Showa University in Tokyo, Nagoya University and a software company Cybernet Systems Co have jointly developed software to analyze colon polyps in images taken during endoscopic examinations.

Using a vast amount of past diagnostic data, the software will determine whether polyps are malignant. It has been proven reliable — with an assessment determining it can identify a potentially cancerous polyp with the same accuracy as a leading specialist — and approved for commercialization by the government.

LPixel Inc., an image analysis service venture firm, has produced a program to spot cell

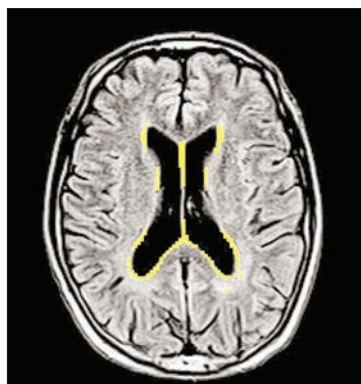


Image of an artificial intelligence analysis of a magnetic resonance imaging brain scan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

degeneration in the cerebrum from images taken by a magnetic resonance imaging scan.

The company used a deep learning method to process large amounts of diagnostic data with the programme. When a progression in a cerebral disease is suspected, it will be recommended that the patient undergo a closer check by a doctor. The software has also been approved for sale.— Kyodo News ■

Russian scientists to synthesize 114th, 115th elements of Mendeleev’s Periodic Table

PARIS — Russian scientists will hold the first experiments at the Super-Heavy Element Factory in Dubna near Moscow in April to synthesize the 114th and 115th elements of Mendeleev’s Periodic Table, Scientific Director of the Flerov Laboratory at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research Yuri Oganessian told TASS on Tuesday.

The world’s first Super-Heavy Element Factory (the DC-280 accelerator) was launched at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in December last year. The facility will help scientists synthesize and study new elements of Mendeleev’s Periodic Table of Chemical Elements.

Today work has been actually launched at the world’s major nuclear physics centers to synthesize the 119th, 120th and 121st elements. The Joint Institute for Nuclear Research expects the

to help it be the first to obtain these chemical elements.

“Now the lab is ready and a new accelerator was launched in December. Its intensity is ten times higher than the intensity that was until now... If everything proceeds as we are planning, in April we will stage an experiment, which we already held before, for the synthesis of the 114th and 115th elements but

only in this experiment there will be a hundred times more these heavy atoms. This is what all this (the new lab) was done for. This is the so-called demonstration experiment: to obtain what you have already done but in a new quantity. This will be the first step,” Oganessian said during events devoted to the opening of the Year of Mendeleev’s Periodic Table.— Tass ■



The world’s first Super-Heavy Element Factory was launched at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research last year. PHOTO: TASS

Benzema on target again as Real close gap at the top

MADRID (Spain) — Real Madrid gained ground on both Barcelona and Atletico Madrid in La Liga as Karim Benzema and Vinicius Junior each scored in a 3-0 win over Alaves on Sunday.

Benzema, Vinicius and Gareth Bale started together for the first time and two thirds of the newly-dubbed 'BBV' delivered as Madrid capitalised on Barca being held by Valencia and Atletico losing at Real Betis.

Mariano Diaz, on as a substitute, added a third late on.

After 22 rounds, this is the first in which Madrid have been the only winners from the established three clubs, which is as much an indication of their own inconsistency as the sturdiness of Atleti and, particularly, Barca.

Madrid could now overtake Atletico if they win the city derby next weekend but the difference behind Barcelona, whom they face in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday, is still a considerable eight points.

"We will fight for everything until the end," Solari said. "Today there was a real hunger to cut the gap." It may have been the



Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema (L) vies with Alaves' Ghanaian midfielder Mubarak Wakaso during the Spanish league football match Real Madrid CF against Club Deportivo Alaves at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 3 February, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

5-1 loss to Barca in October that proved the final straw for Julen Lopetegui but Alaves' 1-0 victory at Mendizorrotza, their first over Real in 87 years, was perhaps the team's rock bottom. Benzema has been the revival's ring-

leader since and his latest goal was his sixth in four games, his best streak since January 2016. The only La Liga player to have scored more in all competitions this season is Lionel Messi.

He did it starting alongside

both Bale and Vinicius but it was the latter, not the former, that looks to be Benzema's most dangerous partner. Bale endured one of his quieter nights and it was noticeable that while Benzema and Vinicius both departed

to rousing ovations late on, there was a scattering of disgruntled whistles when the Welshman was replaced by Marco Asensio shortly after the hour.

"It was difficult," Solari said. "Alaves defended very well, they were determined and there weren't many spaces."

It was Vinicius' clever reverse pass through the legs of Carlos Vigaray that led to Benzema's opener as Sergio Reguilon was set free down the left, his cross ensuring the Frenchman could not miss.

Alaves defended so deep at times that Madrid's defence were playing more as creative midfielders but the visitors were not without chances on the break. Tomas Pina took too long to shoot and Jony Rodriguez forced a smart save from Thibaut Courtois.

Madrid, though, ended any hopes of a comeback with 10 minutes left as Asensio picked out Vinicius at the back post. The teenager controlled, picked his spot and put it there.

Mariano's diving header in injury-time from Isco's cross added a final flourish.—AFP ■

Boca move into Superliga Argentina top four

BUENOS AIRES — Defending champions Boca Juniors struck either side of half-time to defeat Godoy Cruz 2-0 in the Superliga Argentina standings on Sunday.

Dario Benedetto opened the scoring from the penalty spot at the Bombonera after Carlos Tevez was brought down by Facundo Cobos.

Mauro Zarate made it 2-0 in second-half stoppage time with a curling free-kick into the top left corner. Boca are now fourth in the 26-team standings with 31 points from 16 matches, 11 points behind leaders Racing Club, who defeated Huracan 3-1 on Sunday.

Copa Libertadores champions River Plate secured their second win in five days by overcoming Velez Sarsfield 2-1 away from home. Despite their improved recent form, River remain seventh with 25 points. In Sunday's only other match, Newell's Old Boys drew 0-0 at Union.—Xinhua ■

Aguero hat-trick sinks Arsenal, City close gap on Liverpool

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) — Pep Guardiola was glad to see Manchester City's clinical best return as Sergio Aguero's hat-trick closed the gap Premier League leaders Liverpool to just two points in a 3-1 win over Arsenal on Sunday.

The champions were let off the hook by Liverpool's 1-1 draw with Leicester on Wednesday, 24 hours after City's shock 2-1 defeat by Newcastle with what Guardiola described as an unrecognisable performance.

This time City did take advantage of playing a day before Jurgen Klopp's side, who travel to West Ham on Monday, to pile on the pressure and jump back ahead of Tottenham, who had leapfrogged City into second on Saturday.

"After what happened at Newcastle, everybody thought we would be seven points behind, everyone expected Liverpool to beat Leicester," said Guardiola.

"But a lot of things are go-

ing to happen until the end of the season, a lot of games will be tough. That is the real Premier League, you know better than me what that means and what we have to do.

"The most important thing today was the players showed why they are a good team. We didn't recognise ourselves in the previous game at Newcastle. Today, at least, we came back."

Aguero's seventh goal in as many games in 2019 — and his 10th in his last dozen against Arsenal — was the highlight of a thoroughly dominant performance.

For the second time in a week, the Argentine scored inside the first minute to give City the perfect start by heading home Aymeric Laporte's cross.

However, just like on Tyneside on Tuesday, City failed to press home their advantage as Laurent Koscielny profited from some slack defending to head home an equaliser just 10 minutes later.—AFP ■



Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero runs with the ball during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England on 3 February, 2019. PHOTO: AFP