

PARLIAMENT

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives outgoing Chinese Ambassador



PAGE-2

PARLIAMENT

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives outgoing Chinese Ambassador



PAGE-2

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 20, 4th Waxing of Kason 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 7 May 2019

President U Win Myint, Spouse to pay Official Working Visit to Viet Nam

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Spouse, U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar and Spouse Daw Cho Cho will pay an official working visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the near future. In conjunction with the visit,

the President will also attend the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration to be held in Ha Nam Province, Viet Nam.—MNA

Efforts for peace, stability, socio-economic development in Rakhine State reviewed



Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe (Centre), Chairperson, U Win Mra, Discussant, and Dr. Ko Ko Naing, Speaker, are seen at the Workshop on Review of the Implementation on Recommendations on Rakhine State at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

WORKSHOP on Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was held in Yangon yesterday as part of efforts for peace and stability and

for speeding up socio economy in the state.

It was attended by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor; Union Minister for Information Dr.

Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Ministers for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaug Tun,

Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister

for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mra, deputy ministers, directors-general, representatives of Hluttaw, members of the Maungtaung Investigation Commission, members of the Advisory Commission for Rakhine State, members of the committee for implementation the recommendations on Rakhine State and members of the advisory board, representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), diplomat and representatives of the UN agencies and international organizations.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said the Union Government, since its swearing into office in 2016, it is committed to bringing peace and prosperity to Rakhine State. The Union Government requested Mr. Annan to take lead on this important initiative to from a commission to analyze the root causes of earlier social instability in Rakhine and recommend the path forward.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture receives outgoing PRC Ambassador

PAGE-5



NATIONAL

NRPC, Kayah State Government, KNPP meet in Loikaw

PAGE-6



NATIONAL

Myanmar Government, UNODC begin meeting for second review cycle on UNCAC implementations

PAGE-10



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives outgoing Chinese Ambassador

THE Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, U T Khun Myat, received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr. Hong Liang who completed his tour of duty in Myanmar.

At the meeting at the Hluttaw Building, they discussed on promoting friendly relations between the governments and parliaments of China and Myanmar, cooperation on the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, and matters relating to Myanmar's internal peace.

The Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, U Tun Tun Hein, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat (C) and Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein welcome Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang. PHOTO: MNA

Office were present at the meeting as well. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives outgoing Chinese Ambassador

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr. Hong Liang who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar.

At the meeting at Amyotha Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, matters relating to increasing bilateral friendship and cooperation, strengthening contacts between the parliaments of the two countries, successfully implementing One Belt, One Road economic corridor project and support to Myanmar's internal peace process works were open-

ly and cordially discussed. Present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U

Aye Tha Aung and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw Office. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than shakes hands with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang. PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses Yen 38.642 bln loan from JICA

By Mawsi, Aye Aye Thant (MNA)
Photos: MNA

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 12th regular session's third day meeting was held yesterday in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall where the meeting starts as in the third day meeting with Hluttaw representatives discussing another loan from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). The loan amount discussed totals Yen 38.642 billion.

The loan was discussed by U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, Daw Cin Ngail May of Chin State constituency 7, U Tun Mya Aung @ U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago Region constituency 5, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7, U Saw Victor Clyde of Thandaunggyi constituency, U Sein Boh of Myawady constituency, U Win Htut of Pyapon constituency, U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9 and U Win Myint Aung of Dabayin constituency discussed the loan.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the remaining program on this matter were scheduled to be held on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting of 9 May 2019.

Ministries' explanation on



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu.



Dr. Ye Myint Swe.



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.



U Khin Cho.



Daw Cin Ngail May.



Maj. Thurein Zaw.

usage of K 9,095.262 million emergency fund

The next agenda of the meeting was explanation by ministries on usage of emergency fund K 9,095.262 million from fiscal year 2018-2019 Union Budget sent by the President. Deputy Ministers for Defence; Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; and Home Affairs provided the explanations. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speak-

er then announced the Hluttaw putting on record the Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Ministry of Home Affairs usage of emergency fund and announced further that Ministry of Foreign Affairs' usage of emergency fund will be conducted.

Hluttaw explained on joining IPBES

Next Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe explained to the Hluttaw about joining Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their

names.

Hluttaw explained on acceding to Protocol of 1988

Afterwards Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo explained to the Hluttaw on Myanmar acceding to Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of the Life at Sea 1974 sent by the President.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Hluttaw approves Gambling Bill and Major Bridge Bill

Later the Hluttaw approved by paragraph the Gambling Bill returned with comments by the President and the Major Bridge Bill in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement.

Suggestion on duty and tax exemption for import of Red Cross vehicles

As a final agenda of the day Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Maj. Thurein Zaw provided suggestions on considering the Custom duty and commercial tax exemption for import of five Red Cross vehicles.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the matter was considered to be handled in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting of 9 May 2019.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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

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

That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for "collective strength" to overcome our country's challenges.

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

Efforts for peace, stability, socio-economic...

FROM PAGE-1

The recommendations of the Annan commission focused on overcoming the current humanitarian crisis, security crisis and human right crisis; as well as preventing such future crises, he said.

The Union Government has now passed a year and half of implementing these recommendations. "The actual status of the implementation could have progressed a lot more if we did not have the August 2017 incidences and the massive consequences aftermath; and it we were also not burdened by additional responses to that crisis in the late part of 2017 that hindered the implementation in the early days," said the Union Minister.

"Having said that, we are glad that we were able to put ourselves back on track in 2018. And as you all know, we now have a new but different security issue in Northern Rakhine, which imposes another hindrance to the implementation again. But I'm sure we will be able to overcome this again as we did in 2018," said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

"I will be honest here to say that the implementation of these recommendations is not a smooth-sailing progress. At the policy level, our cabinet is highly committed, and we are driving these initiatives really hard. However, the actual implementation is harder, he said.

Many of the issues in Rakhine State stem from decades-long lack of development and trust. And it was hard to bring all the right stakeholders together, and to have consensus on certain matters are more difficult than one would expect," said Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

"In light of both the historical context as well as the current situation in Rakhine State,



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivers the opening address at the workshop on Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



I believe everyone here would agree that durable peace and security is the first the most important factor for achieving anything in Rakhine," said the Union Minister, adding that, "such can only achieve when there is social acceptance and cohesion.

Therefore, our priority is to create a conducive environment for social acceptance and cohesion."

Rule of Law is a fundamental necessity in Rakhine State

He also stressed the importance of the rule of law in Rakhine State.

"Rule of law is a fundamental necessity whether it is about dealing with the current security crisis, or repatriating the displaced communities to their places, or preventing any future incidences," said the Union Minister.

He invited domestic or international partners who intend to work with the Union Government to achieve peace and stability in accordance with the international best practices and norms as the country is continuously trying to promote the rule of law in Rakhine State.

Roads, Electrification: significant achievements in Rakhine State over past two years

He continued to say that the Union Government was seeing some positive improvements in such regard, including in Rakhine State.

The Union minister said one significant example is the improvement of infrastructure

such as roads, telecommunications and electricity in Rakhine State over the past two years. However, the country still have a long way to go, he added.

The socio-economic development was a fundamental need to restore normalcy and improve the situation in Rakhine State, and it is also a critical step in building a democratic federal Union, said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

IDP Camps

One of the recommendations touched base on the closure of IDP camps in Rakhine State. To reflect on what have been done as far, this work started before the submission of the final report by the Annan commission, he said.

SEE PAGE-4



Diplomats attend the workshop on Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Thaug Tun, Dr. Win Myat Aye, U Kyaw Tin and attendees pose for the documentary photo at the workshop on Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Efforts for peace, stability, socio-economic ...



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin (Centre) acts as the chairperson while Dr. Aung Tun Thet (Left) as the speaker and Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo (Right) as the discussant at the workshop on review of the implementation of recommendations on Rakhine State at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**



Rt. Hon. Lord Darzi of Denham from OMKBE, Former member of the Advisory Board for the Committee for the Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State delivers the speech at the workshop in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-3

Three camps were closed right after the interim report was submitted. One more camp was closed in 2018 and one is currently in the final stages of closure. In 2018, we drafted a national strategy for closures of IDP camps in close consultation with national and international experts, which will be used as guiding document for shutting down the IDP camps not just in Rakhine but also in other parts of the country.

National Verification, the first step to claim nationality

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye also underscored the important process of National Verification saying that as in any sovereign country across the world, there will be a due process to claim nationality, Myanmar is no exception. He called the enrollment to national verification process as the first step in citizenship process, and he also welcomed constructive suggestions and engagement for improving the process.

Afterwards, Rt. Hon. Lord Darzi of Denham, member of the Advisory Board of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, delivered a key-note speech urging the international communities to cooperate in implementing the recommendations as the Rakhine issue is the long standing issue and the challenges in Rakhine State needs to be resolved

through negotiations.

Afterwards, sector-wise discussion was followed and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe presided over the discussion on review of the implementation on recommendations on Rakhine State. Director-General Dr. Ko Ko Naing, Disaster Management Departments acted as the speaker and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Win Mra as the discussant in the discussion.

In the afternoon, the review on the role of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance and Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State- (UEHRD) was held, and Union Minister U Kyaw Tin presided over the discussion. Chief Coordinator of the UEHRD Dr. Aung Tun Thet and Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo participated in the discussion.

In the discussion on reviewing the role of AHA Centre and ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team-ERAT, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu presided over it and U Tun Myat, member of the Advisory Board for the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, Mr. Arnel Capili, Deputy Executive Director of the AHA Centre took part in the discussion and U Hla Myint, member of the Advisory Board, took part in the discussion.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture receives outgoing PRC Ambassador



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received outgoing People's Republic of China (PRC) Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and party at the ministry's guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the meeting Myanmar-China bilateral cooper-

ation in culture, assistance provided by China for repair of Bagan pagodas damaged by earthquake, repair of Thatbyinnyu Pagoda, China's technical and financial assistance toward repair of National Theatre in Yangon, support of PRC toward Myanmar's submission for inclusion of Bagan region in world heritage list during

the 2019 Azerbaijan World Heritage Conference, cooperation in repairing and maintaining of ancient buildings in Rakhine State MraukU region, submission for inclusion of MraukU region in world heritage list and increasing future bilateral cooperation in religion and culture were discussed. —MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy receives PRC Ambassador



Union Minister U Win Khaing holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing received People's Republic of China (PRC) Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang at Union Minister's guest hall yesterday morning. The ambassador had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar.

During the meeting the Union Minister said a Master Plan to implement China-Myanmar economic corridor

project was signed and had become quite well established. Bilateral relation and cooperation was also strengthened day by day and cooperation in electricity and energy sector will be increased said the Union Minister.

The Ambassador spoke of Pauk-Phaw relation between China and Myanmar expected to increase, importance of transportation electricity and

energy sector in implementation of China-Myanmar economic corridor, expectation to implement electricity and energy projects as quickly as possible and to provide his support in the best possible way for continuing cooperation in electricity generation and distribution sectors, hydroelectric, oil and natural gas sectors. — MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Supreme Court passes judgment, hears cases

UNION SUPREME COURT yesterday heard six special civil appeal cases and passed judgments on two special criminal and three special civil appeal cases.

Chief Justice of the Union

Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and heard cases and made the judgements.

— MNA ■

U Soe Lynn Han presents Credentials to President of Republic of Croatia

USOE LYNN HAN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Croatia, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Mrs. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of the Republic of Croatia, on 23 April 2019 in Zagreb.—MNA ■

Ministries to hold press conferences on third year of administration

THE Union Ministries will be holding separate press conferences on different days on their journey during the third year of the civilian government's administration. The press conferences will all begin at 1pm and will be held at Office No. 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

The schedule for the press conferences are as follow:

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Border Affairs, and the Office of the Union Auditor-General on 9 May.
2. The Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the Ministry of Industry on 13 May.
3. The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Nay Pyi Taw Council on 15 May.
4. The Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Construction, and the Central Bank of Myanmar on 17 May.
5. The Ministry of Information, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

- on 21 May.
6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Ministry of International Cooperation, Office of the Union Attorney-General, and the Union Civil Service Board on 23 May.
7. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Health and Sports on 27 May.
8. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 29 May.
9. The Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on 31 May.

All domestic and foreign media agencies wishing to attend the press conferences can register by sending their name, agency, and contact information to the e-mail of the Domestic/Foreign Relations and Information Division at irpso.moi2015@gmail.com. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

NRPC, Kayah State Government, KNPP meet in Loikaw

NATIONAL Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC), Kayah State Government and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) held a meeting at Famous Hotel, Loikaw Town, Kayah State yesterday morning.

At the meeting Peace Commission Secretary Lt-Gen (Retired) Khin Zaw Oo said KNPP and NRPC met in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 March where some positive agreements were reached covering recognition of future works on education and health.

At the meeting Peace Commission Secretary Lt-Gen (Retired) Khin Zaw Oo recalled the positive agreements reached at KNPP-NRPC meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 March. He also recalled the agreements reached in a meeting between Tatmadaw negotiation team led by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and KNPP group led by Vice Chairman Khu Oo Reh.

In comparison to other groups, KNPP was having better opportunities through having regular monthly meetings. Even those who had signed the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) didn't have such opportunities of regularly meeting with State Government to discuss regional and military matters. KNPP was having a good opportunity to meet the state government monthly with the participation of the regional military commands.

The aims of these were to open a path for KNPP to sign the NCA by resolving difficulties within the region through monthly discussion and negotiation. The aim was also to build trust through meetings. In the forthcoming meetings KNPP can discuss difficulties faced on the ground and the State government and regional commands will resolve matters without overstepping their authorities. The Peace Commission was



The meeting between the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) takes place in Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

participating in this meeting because if there were matters that were beyond the authorities of the State government and regional commands. As such meeting attendees were requested to openly discuss and as these meetings were successful, it'll become closer for KNPP to sign the NCA, said the Peace Commission Secretary.

Next Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho spoke of being honored on behalf of Kayah State on the fact that union level and State level KNPP group leaders and officials were meeting in a positive manner with full willingness and belief to implement peace that was truly required in the State. Kayah State government will support and assist while going step by step and if there were matters that couldn't be conducted by the State government those will be submitted to NRPC to obtain guidance. He added on warmly welcoming all KNPP leaders to strengthen cooperation and conduct systematic reforms.

Afterwards, KNPP Vice

Chairman Khu Oo Reh said this meeting was the continuation of the regular monthly meeting between KNPP and Kayah State government. During the bilateral ceasefire between KNPP and government there were stabilities as well inconveniences. Still a situation that was better than other states had been maintained

Since the time of the previous government monthly meetings were held with the aims to implement agreements and to find resolution to daily inconveniences. However, as the rules and regulations on the monthly meetings were not discussed and agreed upon the monthly meetings ended with inconveniences. Due to weakness in mutual understanding there was a complete break in the meeting and former leaders were discussed and negotiated to restart it, said Khu Oo Reh.

However, after the change of government, efforts aimed at signing the NCA became the main reason why monthly meetings were not held as more

emphasis was placed on coordinating and discussing with other ethnic armed organizations. That was why monthly meetings were restarted as agreed in the Bilateral Agreement.

Representatives sent to these monthly meetings were central committee members and reserve central committee members who were sector wise responsible persons. As good results and outcomes were not reached, this time we as well as leaders and representatives of NRPC and Peace Commission were participating in the meeting. The aim was to conduct monthly meetings systematically. It was believed that this would support the holding of monthly meetings.

Prior to signing the NCA some works that can be done in cooperation and solution for inconveniences in some areas will be discussed with officials in this meeting based on Bilateral Agreement. Discussion on regular matters with the State Government will be done in the regular meeting while military

matters will be discussed in a separate meeting with military leaders.

Before reaching the final stage of implementing peace during the ceasefire period an interim program of negotiation and discussion on education, health and development works will be conducted with relevant representatives and State government officials. Therefore department wise officials were to find results and solution on the meeting discussions, said Khu Oo Reh.

Next, resumption of monthly regular meeting, the format of the meeting between the State Government and KNPP as well as regional development, health, education and general matters were discussed.

The meeting discussed and approved work guideline on conducting state level regular monthly meeting between Kayah State government and KNPP as well as regional development, education and health matters and cooperation work processes.

KNPP Vice Chairman Khu Oo Reh, Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho and Peace Commission Secretary Lt-Gen (Retired) Khin Zaw Oo delivered concluding speeches.

The meeting was attended by Peace Commission member U Hla Maung Swe and advisor U Moe Zaw Oo, Ministry of State Counsellor's Office Director General U Zaw Htay, head of regional command (Loikaw) Brg-Gen Myo Thant Naing, state ministers Col. Min Wei, Dr. Aung Kyaw Htay and U Maw Maw, state government secretary U Nyi Nyi Min, KNPP Vice Chairman Khu Oo Reh, permanent central committee members, reserve central committee and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Tourism sector likely to grow in 2019: Union Minister U Ohn Maung

WITH tourist arrivals increasing by more than 23 per cent in the first two months of 2019 compared to a year ago, the tourism sector is expected to grow this year, according to the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung.

The number of tourists increased by 3.15 per cent in the third year, compared to the same period of the previous years.

Most of the tourists arriving

in Myanmar this year are from China, according to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population. The number of tourists from Europe is on the decline.

This year, the number of tourists coming to Myanmar on board ocean liners has declined by 15 per cent, while tourist arrivals through border gates have increased by 144 per cent, according to statistics from the Ministry. Between January and

March this year, the number of tourists visiting Myanmar jumped to 1,136,615 from 928,453 tourists in the same period of 2018, an increase of 208,162. Tourists are visiting Myanmar for different reasons – some are coming here to make investments and conduct business, while others are visiting the country to observe its culture, see archaeological sites, rest at the famous beaches, and indulge in

trekking and camping.

This year, the number of tourist arrivals reached 111,814 in January, 124,094 in February, and 119,625 in March.

Although the number of European and North American tourists has dropped this year because of the political situation in the country, tourist arrivals from China, Korea, Japan, and Asian countries have increased significantly.

This year, most of the tourists have come from China, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, the US, France, Singapore, Viet Nam, India, and Malaysia. They have mostly visited Yangon and Mandalay regions as well as Shan State.

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

Myanmar Tourism Bank opened to promote tourism sector

THE Myanmar Tourism Bank, set up to promote the tourism sector and provide financial services to tourism businesses, was inaugurated yesterday at a ceremony in front of the bank near Hotel Novotel on Pyay Road.

The initial capital of the bank is estimated at K22 billion, and five per cent of its annual profits will be donated for the development of Myanmar's tourism sector.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, deputy speaker of Yangon Region U Lin Naing Myint, MTB governor U Yan Win, and officials from the Myanmar Tourism Federation and associated organizations.

Union Minister U Ohn Maung said he was delighted



Myanmar Tourism Bank is opened yesterday to promote the tourism sector and provide financial services to tourism businesses. **PHOTO: GNLM**

with the setting up of the tourism bank, which can help contribute to the development of

Myanmar's tourism sector. "The Ministry is working with the Myanmar Tourism Federation and

its 11 associated organizations to promote tourism. The bank is expected to contribute to the

Ministry's efforts towards the creation of new tourist destinations and capacity-building of human resources," he said.

Afterwards, U Phyo Min Thein said the bank will provide banking and financial services, and offer products such as e-Payments. "The bank will also offer travel loans. It is preparing payment solutions to support the tourism sector's needs. In addition to the tourism sector, it will offer banking services to other sectors," he said.

The MTB is the first tourism bank in Myanmar. The bank is planning to open branches in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay city, and the Muse and Myawady border gates. It is slated to open ten branches within a year. —Myint Maung Soe/ San Kyaw Oo (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

G-to-G interaction only way to fix cattle export bottlenecks: LBV Dept

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT interaction between China and Myanmar is the only way to deal with bottlenecks in cattle exports, according to the Magway Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Keeping this in mind, the Myanmar government has already granted permission for the setting up of companies, purchase of export products, and transport of cattle, according to the department.

"Our export sector is dependent on the Chinese market. We export our products to China legally. But, when our products arrive in China, they say they are illegal. Therefore, we are now going to export cattle under a Government-to-Government system," said Dr. Maung Maung Soe Oo, the regional head of the department.

Myanmar exported 48,880 head of cattle last year, when the government granted permission for sale of cattle to other countries. In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, more than 300 companies have applied for permits to export 67,275 head of cattle to China. However, the companies have exported only 18,900 head of cattle so far because the Chinese traders have slashed the offering prices.



Cattles in the farm in Magway. **PHOTO: ZAYARTU (MAGWAY)**

"Chinese traders are offering just K1 million for a cow that is actually worth K2 million. The companies cannot bring the cattle back and have no choice but to dispose the cattle at a low price," said Dr. Maung Maung Soe Oo.

"The trading process — from the collection of cattle to obtaining the permission for export — takes more than one month. The authorities allow us to collect only 100 cattle at a time. Cattle feed costs around K200,000 per day. If companies have to spend on cattle feed for three months in a row because of the low return on investment, they will suffer financially. Chi-

nese traders buy cattle depending upon the body weight. They do not like to buy thin cattle. So, it is important to spend sufficient money on feed," he said.

The authorities have issued cattle export license to more than 300 companies in Magway region. There are around 5,000 companies holding cattle export licenses across the country, he added.

Currently, the number of heads of cattle in Magway region stands at 1,623,670. The region expects to export about 30,000 head of cattle annually. —Zayartu (Magway) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Glazeware industry surviving on popular appeal

THE glazeware industry in Sagaing Region is continuing to survive in Myanmar, according to local glazeware businesses.

"Glazeware businesses can be found in Nwenein, Shwetite, Shwegun, Magout, and Malar villages of Kyaukmyaung Township, Shwebo District. They have been operating as family businesses for generations," said U Tint, a glazeware entrepreneur from Nwenein village.

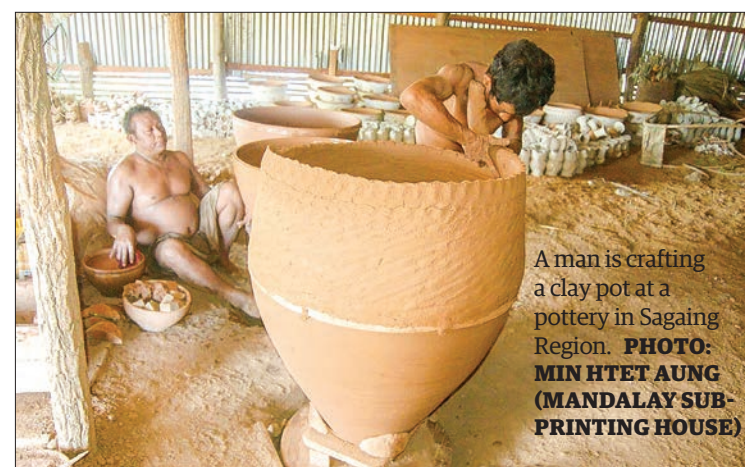
"Natural clay and Myanmar handicraft arts are the additional inputs in our glazeware. As glazeware are currently being sold as handicraft products, the industry will not fade and will survive in the future," he added.

Five villages of Nwenein, Shwetite, Shwegun, Magout, and Malar have jointly set up a tourism committee to boost tourism and improve their livelihoods.

"Every year, more than 2,000 tourists visit Sagaing Region's glazeware businesses. The villages they visited did not offer any added attractions besides the glazeware businesses. So, the villages could not earn any additional income through the tourism sector. Therefore, the villagers from the five villages are now trying to make arrangements for accommodation and setting up souvenir shops for tourists," said U Soe Soe from Sagaing Region's Tourism Development Committee.

Most villages in Sagaing region are involved in the glazeware industry. Men can earn K5,000 per day and women can earn K4,000 per day in the glazeware industry. Professionals can earn about K10,000 per day. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



A man is crafting a clay pot at a pottery in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Teaching children about diversity through quality education

ACOUNTRY'S stability and state of development depend on its human resource and how willing its citizens are to serve the nation. For developing its human resource, Myanmar has committed to providing quality education, and for this, much investment is required.

The 2015 National Education Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 38/2015 - Law Amending the National Education Law) prescribes setting aside 20 per cent of the total national expenditure on education, and efforts have been made to increase the annual education spending.

To successfully implement the National Education Strategic Plan (2016-2021), cooperation among students, parents, teachers, school managements, partners in education, and local and international partner organizations is vital.

We need to raise our future generations under an education system that teaches them how to think, and encourages them to accept and respect others.

Education plays a crucial role in efforts towards peace, security, stability, justice, human rights, equality, democracy, natural environmental conservation, and poverty alleviation.

Myanmar has adopted the National Education Strategic Plan to reach the goal of sustainable development, provide inclusive and equal educational opportunities, and promote life-long learning.

The country is also working to realize its goal of ensuring all school-age children

come to school and reducing the dropout rate.

The Ministry of Education has introduced the KG-12 system and a new curriculum suitable for the 21st century to do away with the practice of learning lessons by heart, to teach manners and civic responsibility, provide vocational education, physical education, and knowledge of art and culture, and to encourage innovative ideas.

Training has been conducted for teachers, new schools opened, learning opportunities extended, the number of ethnic languages in schools taught brought up to 54, non-formal educational activities provided in 81 townships, institutes of higher learning upgraded, more vocational and technical institutes opened, and a higher education system that encourages research and development and ways to make the world a better place established.

To survive and thrive in the world, it is important not only to remember facts and data but also to think, assess, and solve problems. It is important to wean students from the practice of rote learning and encourage meaningful learning and critical thinking.

At the same time, morals, ethics and civic duties must be taught in schools so that training is provided for acquiring good habits. Valuing and respecting time is a habit that helps inculcate discipline. We need to teach our youth to value and respect time. Everyone must be made aware that to value and respect time is to value our society and our neighbourhood.

We need to raise our future generations under an education system that teaches them how to think, and encourages them to accept and respect others.

With the help of quality education, we can instil in our children the belief that diversity is a part of nature.



By Maung Tha
(Archaeology)

ALL people in all countries of the world have had evidences of tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage traditionally through past generations. That is why UNESCO has put every year items of tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage in the Lists of World Heritage, the Memory of the World and Intangible Cultural Heritage in accordance with criteria set by the Members of UNESCO.

Future generations have continued to maintain cultural heritage of an ethnic group in a group so that other nationals could put a value on it. The tourism industry has flourished as the foreign tourists tend to study tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage of a country.

The scope of intangible Cultural Heritage Tangible assets of Cultural Heritage are vividly seen to exist and evidences of intangible Cultural Heritage are difficult to understand or measure. People have usually maintained a piece of broken pot, big buildings and City Walls as tangible Cultural Heritage as well as maintaining intangible Cultural Heritage such as staff morale and goodwill for future generations.

The UNESCO has measured tangible assets in accordance with OUV criteria and stone inscriptions, hand-written manuscripts, invaluable books and newspapers, photographs and paintings are being recorded as



Buddhist nuns line up as they receive donation from the local people in Hopong. PHOTO: KHUN ARKAR TUN (KYAUK TA LONE)

the Memory of the World. UNESCO has put one Myanmar tangible item on the lists of World Heritage and four items on the Memory of the World.

Arrangements are being made for Myanmar intangible Cultural Heritage to be able to put on the lists of World Intangible Cultural Heritage.

World intangible Cultural Heritage has five fields:

1. Oral traditions and Expressions including Language
2. Performing Arts

3. Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events
4. Knowledge and Practices concerning the Nature and Universe and

5. Traditional Craftsmanship

Oral traditions and languages include fables, riddles, proverbs, legends and languages. Performing Arts has songs, dances, folktales, folk dance, music and traditional plays. Social practices and Rituals include social custom, Traditions and

Festivals, Weddings and act of Burying dead bodies, pagoda festival and sports. Knowledge of Nature and Universe has Astrology, worshipping, tattooing, traditional dishes and medicinal formulae. Traditional looms, weaving on backstrap looms, the ten traditional arts and crafts, musical instruments, all traditional paraphernalia, pottery and traditional handicrafts are included.

Myanmar and Intangible Culture

The UNESCO established its Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2008 and 429 items have been acknowledged on the Lists up to 2017 including 25 from the Southeast Asian countries. The upgrading in Myanmar of Intangible Cultural Heritage has been carried out by Organizing Committees at the National, Regional and State levels; the Chairman of the National Committee is the Union Minister for the Religion Affairs and Culture. The respective Committees concerned collected as many as 1800 items of Intangible Cultural Heritage: 78 items of Oral traditions; 461 items for Performing Arts; 561 festivals for Social Practices and Rituals; 104 for Knowledge for the Nature and Universe; 596 items for Traditional Craftsmanship including 393 items from the



Pa-O ethnic people celebrate annual religious ceremony in Hopong in 2018. PHOTO: KHUN ARKAR TUN (KYAUK TA LONE)

Hopong and Intangible Culture

ilem and Laikha Town, north of Minkin town and north of Hsihseng town. The area of Hopong is 2.48 square miles by itself.

Situated 3541 feet above sea level, Hopong Town has a population of Pa-O, Shan, Kachin, Kayal, Kayan, Chin, Bamar, Rakhine, Intha, Danu, Lishaw, and Palaung with a large majority of Pa-O and Shan ethnic people. According to the statistics compiled up to September, 2017, Hopong has a population of 103241: 70776 Pa-Os and 23394 Shans; among the population, 103075 are the Buddhists.

Intangible Culture of an area is closely related with the religion.

The Buddhists have successively lived in Hopong, letting Intangible Culture flourish with an inclusion of traditional festivals of lily chandeliers. With 6 wards, 22 village tracts and 292 villages, Hopong has as many as 101 pagodas with Thirimingalar Hmwedaw Pagoda standing as the most significant one among them.

Traditional Festivals of Lily Chandeliers As it is well-known festival, people worship Buddha with lights. Every ward in Hopong is filled with multi-colored lights, thus getting the name of the lights. Lighted candles festooned atop bamboo sticks are somewhat like lilies, damsels go around the wards of the town. In Shan State, Kalaw, Aungban and Hopong towns in turn celebrate yearly the festivals of lily chandeliers.

Hopong's lily chandelier festival celebrate two times every two years; it is usually held a week for five days after Taunggyi Hotair Balloon Festival together with Hopong's Hmwedaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival. PaO ethnic nationals celebrate a lily chandelier festival on the full-moon of Tabauang which is also their national day.

Hopong's Hwedaw Pagoda popularly known as Thirimingala Shwechantha Pagoda in which Buddha's relics were believed to be enshrined by Bagan King Alaungsithu. The height of original Pagoda is 12 taungs (one taung is roughly 36 inches) and during the reign of King Badon (1782-1819) in Konbaung Era, the original Pagoda was enclosed up to the height of 80 taungs by Hopong Mayor Kyunkyar.

SEE PAGE-10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 6 May 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 7 May 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly wide spread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Kayin states and isolated in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of rain or thundershower in Taninthayi Region and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 May 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 May 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 May 2019: Partly cloudy.



Myanmar Government, UNODC begin meeting for second review cycle on UNCAC implementations



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi addresses the the Meeting on Myanmar's Country Review Report for UNCAC Implementation Review Cycle 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Anti-Corruption Commission and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Myanmar held the Meeting on Myanmar's Country Review Report for UNCAC Implementation Review Cycle 2 at Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi said Myanmar signed the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) on 20 December 2012, the Anti-Corruption Law was enacted on 7 August 2013, and the ACC was established on 25 February 2014.

Myanmar was reviewed by

Thailand and Burundi in Review Cycle 1 while it reviewed Togo and Cambodia, said U Aung Kyi. He said they have successfully implemented the recommendations from the first cycle.

The second review cycle will review the implementation of preventive measures and the criteria for asset recovery outlined in the UNCAC, said U Aung Kyi. He said they conduct knowledge sharing projects, seminars, educational shorts and news releases to combat corruption. He said they have published the ACC's code of ethics, especially the Strategic Plan against Corruption (2018-2021)

where they set annual projects for implementation.

U Aung Kyi said it will be invigorating to know that Corruption Prevention Units (CPU) are now tasked at every Union Ministry in following with the Political Will of the Union Government. He said they collaborate with domestic and international organizations for combating corruption as well as with regional anti-corruption groups. U Aung Kyi urged everyone to cooperate on publishing the country review report in the second cycle just as they had done in the second cycle.

Next, UNODC County Office

representative Ms. Marie Pegie Cauchois and UNODC HQ representative Mr. Jason Reichelt delivered separate speeches.

The meeting then began with attendees discussing publishing the country report for review cycle 2. The meeting will continue today and tomorrow.

The secretary and members of ACC, Union Civil Service Board member U Than Tun, the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein, and officials from UNODC and various union ministries attended the meeting. —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. 17/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 4 May.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 4 May.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 8 May issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. —GNLM

Advertise with us/

Hot Line : 018604530

Hopong and Intangible Culture



The annual religious ceremony in Hopong. **PHOTO: KHUN ARKAR TUN (KYAUK TA LONE)**

FROM PAGE-9

The compound of the Pagoda with 200 taungs within was

covered with great walls. The Pagoda was named in 1923 as Thirishwemingala Chantha Pagoda by monks and laypersons

to bring good omens for the benefits of the region. Pagoda festivals are yearly held on 6th Waning of Tazaungmon and 6th

Waning of Tabaung.

During the nights, PaO and Danu nationals wear traditional costumes and go around the wards of Hopong town by holding a series of lights.

PaO women wearing black clothes, Shan, Danu and Intha ethnic women wearing traditional costumes, walk around with bamboo sticks festooned atop with multi-colored lights. At that time, young men wearing their national dresses, played music and danced along the procession.

Outstanding character of the Festival

Every young man in Hopong is in the habit of participating by offering lights to the Buddha during the cold evening of Tazaungmon.

A young man during the lighting procession tries to drag the hands of a girl he is in love by revealing his love to her; that is one of the peculiar characteristics in Hopong. If a girl gently accepts his offer, thereby visiting her house and

getting a chance of falling in love with her.

If a girl strikes back, there is no chance of making friends with her, a local explained. Every Myanmar ethnic people has the kinds of traditional lovely habits.

The people of Hopong Town end their traditional tours of Lily chandeliers in the compound of Thirimingala Shwechantha Pagoda where they worship and stay up for some time singing and dancing and then they go home; they have maintained that tradition for a long time. The traditional tours of multi-colored lily chandeliers which were candlelit atop bamboo sticks are now replaced with dry cell batteries.

The tour of multi-colored candle lights is an outstanding symbol for Hopong, however. It definitely attracts local and foreign tourists so that it will last as intangible culture for a long time.

Translated by Arakan Sein

Thai King praises 'unity' in speech on final coronation

BANGKOK — Thailand's newly-crowned King MahaVajiralongkorn praised a show of "unity" at his first public address on the final day of an elaborate coronation Monday, speaking to a sea of supporters and witnessed by the head of the junta that has led the divided country since a 2014 coup.

Walking onto a wooden balcony to the roar of the crowd, Vajiralongkorn said he was "truly happy" with the display.

"I want the unity shown here with this goodwill to be an encouraging sign for everybody, all sides to perform their duties for the prosperity of our country," he said. Thousands waiting below shouted "Long live the king!", waved Thailand's national flag and wore yellow hats — the colour representing the king's birthday.

Before the remarks, junta chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha addressed the king from the ground, pledging "loyalty to his majesty and the great Chakri dynasty with our lives".

Vajiralongkorn was accompanied by Thailand's new Queen Suthida, whom he married in a formal ceremony days before the coronation.

The 66-year-old is the 10th



Thailand's King MahaVajiralongkorn said he was 'truly happy' with the country's display of unity after his coronation. PHOTO: AFP

king in the Chakri dynasty and ascended the throne in late 2016 after the death of his beloved father BhumibolAdulyadej.

Not as well known, Vajiralongkorn spends a great deal of time in Germany and has been divorced three times.

The monarchy is shielded by some of the world's harshest lese majeste laws, making any criti-

cal discussion about the king all but impossible. But wall-to-wall coverage and social media posts of the ceremony provided rare glimpses into the private lives of the ultra-guarded royal family.

After Monday's address, the king's fashion designer daughter Princess Sirivannavari was seen capturing the moment on a smartphone and waving to the

crowd. Over the weekend she took to Facebook to post personal shots of her and her family members, garnering more than 120,000 shares. The king's eldest sister Princess Ubolratana has long used Instagram as a way to communicate with fans.

She drew headlines in February when she tried to stand for prime minister with an anti-junta

party. The king thwarted the bid with a royal command and the party was later dissolved.

Though she was seen hugging the king at the ceremony, she was asked in the comments section of a photo she posted Saturday why she did not receive a royal title during the event.

"Because my work is in this style," she said. "It's more convenient and effective this way."

The three-day coronation — the first one in 69 years — cemented Vajiralongkorn's position at the top of one of the world's richest monarchies.

He was crowned with the 7.3-kilogram (16 lbs) Great Crown of Victory Saturday after sacred purification rites.

On Sunday, the king was carried through Bangkok's historic old quarter on a gilded palanquin flanked by royal guards in a colourful seven-hour procession.

The royal ceremonies were wedged between a disputed election in March and the expected announcement of poll results later this week. The arch-royalist junta that seized power in 2014 in a coup has claimed the popular vote, but a coalition of "pro-democracy" parties say they have a lower house majority.— AFP ■

Malaysia sends ex-Goldman banker to US over 1MDB charges

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) — A former Goldman Sachs banker has been extradited from Malaysia to the United States to face charges linked to the multi-billion-dollar 1MDB scandal, Malaysia said Monday.

Huge sums of public money were stolen from Malaysian state fund 1MDB and used to buy everything from yachts to artwork, in a scheme allegedly overseen by former premier NajibRazak and his cronies.

Goldman's role is under scrutiny as the Wall Street bank helped arrange \$6.5 billion in bonds for 1MDB.

Authorities in Malaysia accuse former employees and some of the bank's subsidiaries of stealing \$2.7 billion during the process, and investigators believe cash was laundered through the US financial system.

Malaysian Ng Chong Hwa — a former managing director at the bank charged in both Malaysia and America over 1MDB — was extradited to the US on Friday, Malaysian attorney-gen-

eral Tommy Thomas said. Thomas said in a statement that an agreement had been reached for "a temporary surrender by Malaysia of Roger Ng for a period of 10 months to enable him to be extradited to the US, and for the US prosecution to proceed first".

"Roger Ng was temporarily surrendered to the US on 3 May, 2019, and shall be returned to Malaysia to face our charges as soon as the proceedings in the US are concluded," he added.

Ng, more commonly known as Roger Ng, had been in custody in Malaysia since November when the US unveiled 1MDB-linked charges against him and lodged an extradition request.

Malaysia later filed its own charges against Ng over the scandal. Ng asked to be sent to the US but Malaysia initially insisted he remain in the country until legal proceedings there had been completed.

Malaysia and the US have also charged former Goldman partner Tim Leissner for his part in the controversy.— AFP ■

Indonesian police arrest seven, kill one over terror attack plot

JAKARTA — Indonesian police have arrested seven militants and killed another who were allegedly involved in a plot to launch terror attacks, targeting mass gatherings held in connection with last month's elections, a police spokesman said Monday.

National Police spokesman DediPrasetyo told a press conference that the arrests took place over the weekend in Bekasi, near Jakarta, and in Bitung in North Sulawesi Province.

Five militants were nabbed in Bekasi, while another was shot dead there as he was about to explode a bomb, Dedi said, adding that two others were arrested in Bitung as they were on the way to hook up with other militants elsewhere on Sulawesi island.

All eight are believed to be members of JamaahAnsharut-Daulah, or JAD, a militant network linked to Islamic State.

Dedi said the militants intended to target mass gatherings, especially the protest rallies that have been taking place almost

daily in Jakarta relating to the presidential and legislative elections that took place on 17 April.

Many such rallies are organized by supporters of presidential candidate PrabowoSubianto, who appears set to lose the election, with participants alleging irregularities in vote counting that will last until 22 May.

"This group wanted to use the election momentum, particularly in Jakarta, and planned to launch attacks during protest rallies that lead to anarchic actions," Dedi said. "They were planning suicide bombings and other bomb attacks to trigger other terrorist groups to do the same."

Dedi said those arrested over the weekend are members of JAD's branch in Lampung Province on Sumatra Island, including the branch's leader Abu Faizah. He called that branch, set up in 2014, "well-structured, more radical and more militant" than other branches.

Dedi said Abu Faizah had been involved in bombings in

Central Jakarta in January 2016 in which eight people died, including four attackers, and a riot by Islamist detainees in Depok in West Java Province in May last year that claimed the lives of five policemen and an inmate.

He and another militant detained over the weekend had already assembled some triacetone-triperioxide bombs, made from commonly available household ingredients, of the sort that has been used in past terror attacks in the country.

Indonesia disbanded JAD last year, a year after the US State Department declared it a terrorist organization.

Aman Abdurrahman, who is now in prison, set up JAD in 2005 to accommodate Islamic State supporters in the country, spread its teachings and launch jihad, or holy war. He was sentenced to death last year for inspiring the bomb attacks in Central Jakarta in January 2016 as well as four other attacks in the country.—Kyodo News ■

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for usWe appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

'Walking bazaar' festival planned at Yangon Zoo

A 'WALKING BAZAAR' festival will be held at the Yangon Zoological Garden from 17 to 19 May, according to Wonder Fest EMILY.

The festival will be organized jointly by the EMILY Management Service and the Zero Group. The festival will help attract more visitors to the Yangon Zoological Garden, said Dr. Yee Mon Thu, the founder of EMILY Management Service.

"There is only one zoological garden in Yangon region. People prefer to spend their leisure hours there. Therefore, we will hold the 'walking bazaar' festival in the Zoological Garden.

We plan to display some personal goods and open some food courts at the festival," she said.

"The festival will feature shops selling products for children, school uniforms, stationery, and utensils, mon-



Visitors seen at Yangon Zoological Garden. PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR

soon products, food, clothes, and books," she added.

The festival will also in-

clude games, entertainment programs, magic shows, and well-known food outlets, ac-

ording to Wonder Fest EMILY.— Pwint Thitsar ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fifth Global Traffic and Road Safety Week campaign launched

By Aye Yamone

THE 5th UN Global Traffic and Road Safety Week campaign was launched on 6 May by the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. At a ceremony yesterday, the chief minister pressed a button to formally open the campaign, which ends on 12 May.

"During the campaign week, we will raise awareness on road and traffic safety. We will reward those who follow traffic rules and regulations, and take legal action against violators. The number of people injured in traffic accidents will reduce when people follow

traffic rules and regulations," said U Hlan Kyint Man, the Director of the Road Transport Administration Department under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

As part of the campaign, activities will be conducted in eight separate groups from 6 to 8 May. The activities will include awareness talks on board buses, and at YBS stations and gates for passengers and bus drivers with regard to safe driving. In addition, people will be encouraged to stop cars at traffic lights. A reward and punishment system will also be introduced during the campaign.

"Some people violate traffic rules and regulations merely because they are not aware of the rules. Therefore, we will conduct awareness talks and hold discussions with participants. After the awareness talks, we will take legal action according to the 2015 vehicles law against those who continue to violate traffic rules," said Police Major Myo Aung Myint from the traffic police force.

The main objective of the campaign is to protect city dwellers against fatal road accidents caused by people failing to abide by traffic rules and regulations. According to surveys, 95 per cent of road

accidents are caused by human error.

On average, about 14 people die every day in road accidents in Yangon, while about 1.6 people are killed in accidents in Yangon region daily.

Records show that most accidents are caused either by drunk or reckless drivers. Some people lose their lives because they are not wearing helmets when riding or driving motorbikes.

More than 1.3 million people die on the world's roads each year. In Myanmar, over 5,000 people die in traffic accidents every year. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

33 Illegal teak lumbers seized in Reedhorda Town in Chin State

AUTHORITIES seized the 33 illegal teak lumbers on Sunday in Reedhorda town in Chin State according to the Police Force.

Acting on a tip, a comprising team searched the SINO 6-wheel truck (5N/----) near Tiddim township during the gate operation. They

confiscated the 33 illegal teak lumbers weighing three tons on the vehicle being driven by U Kyin Swan Mone, 26 with a passenger, 26 from Kalay township.

Action is being taken against the two suspects in the case under Section 43 (A) of the Forestry Law by

the Tiddim Township Police Force.—Township IPRD ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Two suspects with sized illegal teak lumbers in in Reedhorda town in Chin State. PHOTO: MPF



Save Nature to save ourselves, UN report pleads

PARIS (France) — Humanity is rapidly destroying the natural world upon which our prosperity — and ultimately our survival — depends, according to a landmark UN assessment of the state of Nature released Monday.

Changes wrought by decades of pillaging and poisoning forests, oceans, soil and air threaten society “at least as much as climate change,” said Robert Watson, who chaired the 132-nation meeting that validated a Summary for

Policymakers forged by 450 experts.

One million animal and plant species face extinction, many within decades, they reported.

Alarmingly, the accelerating pace at which unique life-forms are disappearing — already tens to hundreds of times faster than during the last ten million years — could tip Earth into the first mass extinction since non-avian dinosaurs died out 66 million years ago.

In the short term,

humans are not at risk, said Josef Settele, a professor at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Germany and co-chair of the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). “In the longer term, it is hard to say,” he told AFP. “If humans do go extinct, Nature will find its way, it always does.”

Halting and reversing these dire trends will require “transformative

change” — a sweeping overhaul of the way we produce and consume almost everything, especially food, the report concluded.

“We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality-of-life worldwide,” said Watson.

The pushback from “vested interests,” he added, is likely to be fierce.

“We will agree on the best ways to enhance the place of biodiversity on



The accelerating pace at which unique life-forms are disappearing could tip Earth into the first mass extinction since non-avian dinosaurs died out 66 million years ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

the international stage,” said at a meeting of G7 French environment minister Francois de Rugy and environment ministers in eastern France.—AFP ■

Millions hungry as drought grips Somalia: charity

NAIROBI (Kenya) — Drought has left nearly two million Somalis in desperate need of food, a humanitarian agency warned Monday, as poor rainfall pushes communities to the brink across East Africa.

The Norwegian Refugee Council said hundreds of thousands of children were already suffering malnutrition in Somalia and millions had abandoned their homes in search of food in the arid, conflict-torn nation.

“The humanitarian situation has deteriorated at an alarming rate as a result of the drought,” Victor Moses, the council’s country director in Somalia, said in a statement.

The failure of the so-called long rains that usually sweep East Africa between March and May has caused widespread crop failures and heaped immense pressure on livestock-dependent communities in the greater region.

Somalia is enduring its third-driest long rains season since 1981.

The United Nations estimates that 1.7 million people are going hungry, with that figure expected to grow by another half a million come July.—AFP ■

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Regarding the above subject, AKA YARZAR Company Limited would like to distribute the following products which have been registered by Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, manufactured by Shandong Binnong Technology Co., Ltd and originally distributed by BHIJAKA TRADING CO. If any enquiry or objection, please contact Pesticide Registration Board within 14 days from announcement.

Sr	Tade Name	AI	Registration Type	Type of Pesticide	Registration Number
1	BNS Glypho	Glyphosate Isopropylamine salt 41% W/W SL	Provisional	H	P 2017-3644

AKA YAZAR CO., LTD Ph-09455557862

CALL FOR UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG (PADANG STATE UNIVERSITY) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS - INDONESIA ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Yangon and Universitas Negeri Padang (UNP) offer scholarship to Myanmar nationals. UNP is a university that owns one of the best Faculties of Education in Indonesia. The university, located in Padang, West Sumatera Province, was converted from IKIP Padang (Institut Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan Padang/Padang Teaching and Education Institute) and was established on 23 October 1954.

The change to UNP was determined by the Presidential Decree No. 93 on August 24, 1999. The transformation enables UNP to open as well non education study programmes under Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Literature and Arts, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Sports Science and Faculty of Economics (FE).

For the Postgraduate Program (S2), UNP currently has six Study Programs, namely Educational Administration, Social Sciences Education, Language Education, Educational Technology, Environmental Sciences, and Counselling Guidance. UNP also carried out a Doctoral Program (S3) for Education.

UNP and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Education and Training Cooperation in Yangon, on 7 December 2018. One of the implementations of the establishment of the MoU is that UNP provides Bachelor’s Degree and Master’s Degree scholarships for Myanmar Students. Those eligible will study in UNP, preferably in the Faculty of Education, as it is the most acknowledged. The scholarship aims to encourage closer cooperation between Indonesia and Myanmar.

Eligibility for the Scholarship

A. Applicants should:

1. Be nationals of Myanmar;
2. Be under 20 years old for the Bachelor’s Degree Programme and 35 years old for the Master’s Degree Programme;
3. Provide a Curriculum Vitae;
4. Provide a copy of high school certificate of graduation;
5. Provide a copy of university certificate of graduation and have a GPA at least 3 out of 4 to apply for the Master Programme;
6. Have at least a TOEFL Score of 550 or IELTS score of 5.5;
7. If the required documents are in Myanmar Language, provide an authenticated English translation of each document by the authorized institution.

B. The Scholarship Package

1. Return economy airfare between Myanmar and Padang, Indonesia;
2. Tuition fees and basic medical insurance;
3. Indonesian Language Course;
4. Monthly stipend to cover living expenses equivalent to local living cost;
5. Accommodation; and
6. Support for research project/thesis expenses.

C. How to apply

Provide all the required documents concerning the requirements as indicated by point A and submit them to the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia not later than 20 May 2019. Once fulfilled, the Embassy in cooperation with UNP will contact the applicants to share information on how to proceed. For more information, please contact Ms. Sylvia Masri, First Secretary for Information and Socio-cultural Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Yangon.

Tel: (951) 254465, 254469, 229750, ext. 105

Fax: (951) 254468

E-mail: pensosbud@kbriyangon.org

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V DENSA LEOPARD

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DENSA LEOPARD VOY. NO. (19044) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301928

TRADEMARK CAUTION

THE CENTRAL BOULEVARD CO., LTD. of Units 1906-07, 19 Floor, Sule Square, No. 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

MARGA
CLEAN WATER
INITIATIVE
Reg.No.4/18611/2019

In respect of “Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions. (Int’ Class 35); and Insurance; financial affairs; monetary affairs; real estate affairs. (Int’ Class 36); and Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities. (Int’ Class 41); and Legal services; security services for the physical protection of tangible property and individuals; personal and social services rendered by others to meet the needs of individuals (Int’ Class 45).”

Fraudulent or unauthorized use, or actual or colorable imitation of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Thant Zin Aung, H.G.P,
For **THE CENTRAL BOULEVARD CO., LTD.**
C/o **Polaris Partners Myanmar Co. Ltd.**,
Unit 19-10, Sule Square Office Tower,
Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon, The Republic of
the Union of Myanmar
polarispartners.gp@polaris.com.mm
Dated 7 May 2019

Advertise
with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

Beijing slams US warship sail-by in South China Sea

BEIJING (China) — China said two US warships sailed near disputed islands in the South China Sea without permission on Monday in the latest US challenge to Beijing's territorial claims in the region.

The Chinese navy asked the US vessels to leave after they entered waters adjacent to Gaven and Chigua reefs in the Spratly Islands, which Beijing calls Nansha, the foreign ministry said.

The move comes on top of trade tensions as President Donald Trump said Sunday he would raise tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods on Friday because talks were moving “too slowly”.

“The relevant actions of the US warships violated China's sovereignty and undermined peace, security and good order in the relevant sea areas,” ministry



China warns to take firm action against any country that violated its territorial sovereignty after Washington sent a warship into disputed South China Sea waters. PHOTO: AFP

spokesman GengShuang said at a press briefing.

“The Chinese side expresses strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition” to the operation, Geng added, noting that the ships had entered “without permission”.

The US Navy regularly conducts “freedom of navigation operations” to challenge Beijing's vast claims in the sea.

The People's Liberation Army identified the two US ships as the USS Preble and the USS Chung-Hoon, both guided-missile

destroyers.

Air and sea forces were deployed to identify and ask the ships to leave, a spokesman for the PLA's Southern Theatre Command said on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform.

“The (Southern) Theatre troops will maintain a high degree of alert and take all necessary measures to resolutely defend the sovereignty of the country and resolutely safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea,” said the spokesman, Li Huamin.

Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the sea, including on the Spratlys.

China claims nearly all of the sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Viet Nam all claim parts of it.

“China has indisputable sov-

ereignty over the South China Sea islands and its adjacent waters. No matter how provocative foreign warships are, this fact cannot be changed,” Li said.

Geng said the situation in the sea was “constantly stabilising” due to the “joint efforts” of Beijing and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

“Under such circumstances, China urges the US to stop such provocative acts, to respect China's sovereignty and security interests, and respect the efforts of regional countries to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea,” he said.

“At the same time, China will continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard national sovereignty and safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea.”—AFP ■

Palestinians say truce reached with Israel to end deadly escalation

GAZA CITY (Palestinian Territories) — Palestinian leaders in Gaza agreed to a ceasefire with Israel on Monday to end a deadly two-day escalation in violence that threatened to widen into a fourth war between them since 2008.

An Israeli military spokeswoman declined to comment on the deal, but there appeared to have been no rocket fire or Israeli strikes in the hours after it was due to take effect, an AFP correspondent in Gaza said.

Israel also lifted restrictions on civilian movements in communities around the Gaza border on Monday morning.

Egypt brokered the agreement to cease hostilities from 4:30 am (01:30 GMT), an official from the strip's Islamist rulers Hamas and another from its allied group Islamic Jihad said on condition of anonymity. An Egyptian official also confirmed the deal on condition of anonymity. It came after the most serious flare-up in violence between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza since a 2014 war. The escalation began Saturday with massive rocket fire from Gaza, drawing waves of Israeli retaliatory strikes, and continued throughout Sunday.

At least 23 Palestinians, including at least nine militants, were killed. Four Israelis civilians were killed.

Sensitive time

The flare-up came as Hamas sought further steps from Israel toward easing its blockade under a previous ceasefire brokered by Egypt and the United Nations.

Israel at the same time faced pressure to restore calm and put an end to the rockets hitting communities in the country's south.

It commemorates its Memorial and Independence Days later this week and is due to host the Eurovision song contest in Tel Aviv from 14-18 May, which is expected to draw thousands to Israel. On the Gazan side, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began Monday. Palestinian officials in Gaza accused Israel of not taking steps to ease its blockade as promised under previous ceasefire deals. The Islamic Jihad official said the new truce agreement was again based on Israel easing its blockade. Among the steps, he said, were the relaxing of limits on fishing and improvements in Gaza's electricity and fuel situation. Israeli opposition politicians — and at least one from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's own party — criticised the agreement. Former military chief Benny Gantz, who challenged Netanyahu in Israel's April 9 general elections, called it “another capitulation to blackmail by Hamas and terrorist organisations.”—AFP ■

Cambodia's economy grew 7.5% in 2018: World Bank

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's economy grew at a “better-than-expected” 7.5 per cent in 2018, driven by rapid expansion of exports and a construction boom, but the potential loss of EU trade benefits is of concern, the World Bank said in a report Monday.

In its biannual Cambodia Economic Update, the bank said exports of garments, footwear and travel goods — which account for more than two-thirds of total merchandise exports — recorded a five-year high, rising by 17.6 per cent in 2018, up from 8.3 per cent in 2017.

To support the ongoing con-

struction boom, manufacturing of building materials, furniture metals and plastic products also increased rapidly, it said.

But the World Bank cautioned that if strong growth is to be sustained in the medium term, it is important to improve the investment climate and reduce the cost of doing business.

It cited “heightened uncertainty” about the potential end of duty-free market access to the European Union for Cambodian exports.

The European Union, which accounts for more than one-third of Cambodia's exports, in February started a process

that could lead to the temporary suspension of the country's preferential access for failing to respect core human rights and labor rights.

In a related development, 20 major international brands that source from Cambodia, including Adidas, Nike and Gap, have sent a joint letter to Prime Minister Hun Sen expressing concern “that the labor and human rights situation in Cambodia is posing a risk to trade preferences.”

In the letter dated 2 May, they cited the EU move and the introduction in the US Congress of bills that would require the US government to review Cambodia's Generalized System of Preferences benefits and warned that the loss of such trade benefits could affect many companies' sourcing decisions. They urged the government to “demonstrate real progress toward respecting trade unions and civil society.”

Among the issues previously raised by the companies — in a 1 November letter to Commerce Minister Pan Sorasak that went unanswered — are the freedom of workers to represent and speak for themselves without fear of retaliation of retribution and ongoing criminal charges against labor leaders, they said.—Kyodo News ■



Workers at a Japanese firm's plant in Cambodia. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Flames and thick smoke were pouring from the aircraft as it landed. PHPTP: AFP

41 dead as Russian plane bursts into flames on landing

MOSCOW (Russia) — A Russian passenger plane erupted in a huge ball of fire and black smoke after making an emergency landing at Moscow's busiest airport, killing 41 people including at least two children.

Dramatic footage that went viral on social media showed Aeroflot's Sukhoi Superjet 100 aircraft crash-landing and then speeding along the runway at Sheremetyevo international airport on Sunday, flames pouring from its fuselage. Passengers could be seen leaping onto an inflatable slide at the front and running from the blazing plane as huge black columns of smoke billowed into the sky. Investigators said 41 people had died. "There were 78 people including crew members on board the plane," which was bound for the northwestern city of Murmansk, Russia's Investigative Committee said in a statement. "According to the updated info which the investigation has as of now, 37 people survived."

Eleven people were injured, Dmitry Matveyev, the Moscow region's health minister said earlier in the day.

'Horror before our eyes'

Witness Alyona Osokina said

she was inside the terminal when she suddenly saw a plane on fire rushing along the runway.

"The blaze was devouring the plane," she told Rain TV.

Osokina said that fire engines had arrived quickly but could not immediately put out the blaze. "This horror and tragedy happened before our eyes," she said, adding that those who managed to flee the plane then walked towards the airport.

"I believe they were in a state of deep shock."

The jet — carrying 73 passengers and five crew members — left Sheremetyevo at 6:02 pm (1502 GMT), and the crew issued a distress signal shortly afterwards, officials said.

"After the take-off, the crew reported an anomaly and decided to come back to the departure airport. At 6:30 pm, the aircraft made an emergency landing," the airport said in a statement.

Aeroflot, Russia's flagship carrier, said the plane had to return to the airport "due to a technical reason" and its engines caught fire upon landing. Previous reports had said the fire broke out in mid-air.

The jet reportedly managed to land on its second attempt,

hitting the ground with its landing gear first and then its nose.

Flight tracking site Flightradar24 showed the jet looping once in the air before landing.

The plane's fuel tanks were full and a much bigger death toll could have been a real possibility, aviation experts said.

Investigators said they were looking into various lines of inquiry and it was premature to draw any conclusions about the cause of the accident.

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered his condolences to the victims' loved ones and said the investigation "should be as thorough as possible", according to the Kremlin.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev ordered a special committee to investigate the disaster.

The Murmansk region — where many of the casualties are believed to be from — will go into a three-day period of mourning beginning Monday.

Some flights have been diverted to other Moscow airports or Nizhny Novgorod, some 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of the Russian capital.

Numerous Aeroflot flights are expected to be affected in the coming days.—AFP ■

Christian-Muslim clashes rock Easter attacks town in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) — Sri Lanka's Roman Catholic Church appealed for calm and an alcohol ban Monday after clashes between Christians and Muslims in a town scarred by the Easter suicide attacks.

Hundreds of security forces entered Negombo to impose a curfew after dozens of Muslim-owned shops, homes and vehicles were attacked.

St. Sebastian's church in the town 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of capital Colombo was one of three churches and three hotels hit by jihadist suicide bombers on 21 April killing 257 people.

"I appeal to all Catholic and Christian brothers and sisters not to hurt even a single Muslim person because they are our brothers, because they are part of our religious culture," said Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, archbishop of Colombo.

"Therefore please avoid hurting them and try to create a better spirit of understanding and good relations between all the communities of Sri Lanka," he said in a video message to the country.

Liquor ban sought

The cardinal visited Negombo, held talks with clerics at a mosque and appealed to the government to shut bars in the Catholic-dominated town known as "Little Rome", said his spokesman Father Edmund Tilakaratne.

"As a temporary measure, the cardinal asked the government to order the ban on liquor sales in Negombo area," Tilakaratne told AFP. In another televised appeal, Ranjith appealed to Christians, Buddhists and Muslims to show restraint.

Negombo suffered the highest death toll in the Easter Sunday attacks that were claimed

by the Islamic State group. The bomb at St. Sebastian's killed more than 100 worshippers.

A top police officer said two arrests were made after the latest clashes and more suspects had been identified through CCTV footage. The officer said all will be prosecuted under emergency laws approved after the Easter attacks. "At least three people were injured in the clashes," the officer told AFP. "Although we have arrested only two suspects at the moment, many more have been identified and we will go after them."

The officer said an alcohol-fuelled dispute between two groups degenerated into the clashes. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in a statement the government will compensate those who lost property in the night-time clashes.

Unverified video circulating on social media showed mobs throwing stones at Muslim businesses, destroyed furniture inside homes, shattered windows and overturned vehicles. AFP was unable to immediately verify the footage.

A few hundred extra troops and police were deployed late Sunday as authorities imposed a night-time curfew in the town.

The government blocked access to WhatsApp, Facebook and other social media platforms for several hours to prevent what it called the spread of rumours and videos aimed at instigating unrest. The curfew was lifted on Monday morning and social media was working again by noon Monday. Sri Lanka's main international airport is located in the area, but police said there was no disruption. Muslims make up around 10 per cent of Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka's 21 million population and Christians about 7.6 per cent.—AFP ■

Five militants killed in premature blasts in Afghanistan

KABUL — At least five Taliban militants were killed in two separate premature blasts on Sunday, the Afghan government said Monday.

In one incident, four militants were killed after an improvised explosive device (IED) they were planting in Gulran district of western Herat province detonated, the Presidential Information

Coordination Center (Tawhid Center) said in a statement.

In southern Zabul province, Taliban militants "wanted to plot a land mine in Shajoy district of Zabul province, which detonated on themselves and resulted in the killing of a mine plotter and wounding three others."

Taliban militants have been using IEDs to make roadside

bombs and landmines for targeting security forces, but the lethal home-made weapons also inflict casualties on civilians.

On Sunday, three children were killed and two others wounded in an IED explosion in Gulran.

The militant group has not made comments on the report yet.—Xinhua ■



Extra troops and police have been deployed to Negombo and a curfew is in effect. PHOTO: AFP

Fixtures released for second round of 2018-2019 MFF Women's League



The matches for the second round of the 2018-2019 MFF Women's League will be held from 7 May to 9 June. **PHOTO: MWL**

THE fixtures for the second round of the 2018-2019 MFF Women's League were released yesterday, according to Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

There will be seven weeks, from Week No.8 to Week No.14, in the second round of the 2018-2019 MFF Women's League. Each week will have four matches. All the matches will be played at 4p.m. on their respective days.

Fixtures for Week No.8

The matches of Week No.8 will be on 7 and 9 May.

On 7 May, the Sport & Education team will play against the Gandamar team at Aung San Stadium, while the Thitsar Arman team will compete against the University team at South Dagon ground.

On 9 May, the YREO team will take on the Myawady team at South Dagon ground, while the Zwekapin team will compete against the ISPE team at Aung San Stadium.

Fixtures for Week No.9

The matches of Week No.9 will be on 12 and 13 May.

On 12 May, Zwekapin will play against Sport & Education at Aung San Stadium, while Gandamar will compete against Myawady at South Dagon ground.

On 13 May, ISPE will take on University at South Dagon ground, while YREO will compete against Thitsar Arman at Aung San Stadium.

Fixtures for Week No.10

The matches of Week No.10 will be on 17 and 18 May.

On 17 May, Thitsar Arman will play against ISPE at Aung San Stadium, while University will compete against Gandamar at South Dagon ground.

On 18 May, Myawady will take on Zwekapin at South Dagon ground, while Sport & Education will compete against YREO at Aung San Stadium.

Fixtures for Week No.11

The matches of Week No.11 will be on 22 and 23 May.

On 22 May, YREO will play against Gandamar at Aung San Stadium, while Zwekapin will compete against University at South Dagon ground.

On 23 May, Sport & Education will take on Thitsar Arman at South Dagon ground, while Myawady will compete against YREO at the Aung San Stadium.

Fixtures for Week No.12

The matches of Week No.12 will be on 27 and 28 May.

On 27 May, Sport & Education will play against Myawady at the Aung San Stadium, while Thitsar Arman will compete against Zwekapin at South Dagon ground.

On 28 May, University will take on YREO at South Dagon ground, while Gandamar will compete against ISPE at the Aung San Stadium.

Fixtures for Week No.13

The matches of Week No.13 will be on 1 and 2 June. On 1 June, YREO will play

against Zwekapin at Aung San Stadium, while Myawady will compete against University at South Dagon ground.

On 2 June, Gandamar will take on Thitsar Arman at South Dagon ground, while ISPE will compete against Sport & Education at Aung San Stadium.

Fixtures for Week No.14

The matches of Week No.14 will be on 6, 7 and 9 June.

On 6 June, University will play against Sport & Education at Aung San Stadium, while Gandamar will compete against Zwekapin at South Dagon ground.

ISPE will compete against YREO at Aung San Stadium on 7 June, while Myawady will take on Thitsar Arman on 9 June at Aung San Stadium.

After playing the first round, Myawady team stands in the first place, followed by ISPE in the second place and Thitsar Arman in the third place. — Kyaw Zin Tun



Marathon man Kipchoge to again target two-hour barrier

PARIS (France) — Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge will again target the mythical two-hour marathon barrier in a special race to be held between late September and early October, likely in London.

Kipchoge went close to smashing the barrier when he came in 25 seconds off the mark in a staged race around Italy's Monza race circuit in 2017.

"Running the fastest ever marathon time of 2:00:25 was the proudest moment of my career," Kipchoge said.

"To get another chance to break the magical two-hour mark is incredibly exciting. I always say that no human is limited, and I know that it is possible for me to break this barrier."

Kipchoge, 34, last week won his fourth London marathon, has now won 11 of the 12 marathons he's contested and set a world record of 2:01:39 when winning the Berlin marathon in 2018.

"I learnt a lot from my previous attempt and I truly believe that I can go 26 seconds faster than I did in Monza two years ago," he said.

The venue for the "INEOS 1:59 Challenge" is still to be decided, with a number of options that offer a flat-looped circuit being investigated for the event.

"A London venue is being considered," organisers said. —AFP



Sekope Kepu was a runner-up with Australia at the 2015 World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

Veteran Wallaby Kepu joins London Irish for Premiership return

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Australia's most capped prop Sekope Kepu will join London Irish for their return to the English top-flight next season, the club announced on Monday.

Kepu, 33, has made 103 appearances for the Wallabies since his debut in

2008 and will join the Exiles after they gained promotion to the Premiership after one season in the Championship.

The front-rower will head to west London after the World Cup in Japan later this year having played for the NSW Waratahs in Super Rugby

and Bordeaux-Begles in the French Top14.

"I'm excited at the opportunity to join London Irish as they return back to the Premiership next season.

I was very impressed by the facilities at Hazelwood and the new stadium taking shape in west London, so as

a player, it is an exciting time to be joining the club," Kepu said.

Irish will leave their Madejski Stadium home at the end of the campaign for a new ground in Brentford.

The length of Kepu's contract with his new club was not disclosed.—AFP