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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with Indian Defence Secretary Mr. Sanjay Mitra at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## MNA jet XY-AGQ crew honored by State Counsellor, Union level officials

A CEREMONY to honor the crew of Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) Embraer 190 AR jet XY-AGQ flying flight UB 103 on 12 May was held at the Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UB 103 flying from Yangon to Mandalay on 12 May with a crew of 7 and 82 passengers was unable to deploy its nose landing gear on arrival at Mandalay but the captain successfully landed the plane without any injuries to anyone with minimum damage to the plane and the crew. This ceremony was held to honor their outstanding performance.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister from the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister from the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo and officials.

At the ceremony Union Minister U Min Thu delivered a speech on behalf of the State Counsellor saying that the State Counsellor was presenting a certificate of honor to the captain and crew of flight UB-103 for successfully and safely landing the aircraft and evacuating passengers after the occurrence of a serious problem with a potential for grave consequences.

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# State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Defence Secretary of India

STATE COUNSELLOR and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Sanjay Mitra, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 3:00 p.m. on 16 May 2019.

During the discussions, both sides exchanged views on matters pertaining to promotion of bilateral relations, maintaining security, peace and stability along the com-

mon border, capacity-building programmes for personnel of the Myanmar Tatmadaw and enhancement of cooperation in combating terrorism.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Eco-

nomics Relations and National Security Advisor to the Union Government U Thaug Tun, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— MNA

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Euro 35.7 mln AFD loan

THE eighth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12<sup>th</sup> regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where Euro 35.7 million loan from Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) to conduct all round repair works on 5 hydroelectric power stations was approved by the Hluttaw.

Hluttaw put on record MOFA usage of K 859.054 million from emergency fund

In the first agenda of the day, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin explained about Ministry of Foreign Affair (MOFA) using K. 859.054 million from K 9095.262 million emergency fund in the fiscal 2018-2019 Union Budget Law after which the Hluttaw put the matter on record.

Hluttaw explained about establishing diplomatic relations

Next, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin explained about establishing diplomatic relations with



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Republic of Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo and Togolese Republic after the cabinet agreed to have a good tie with them. After the Union Minister's explanation, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Hluttaw approves Euro 35.7 million AFD loan

Afterwards, Deputy Minis-

ter for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing explained about Euro 35.7 million loan from AFD to conduct all round repair works on 5 hydroelectric power stations and benefits to the country.

After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the loan.

Hluttaw approves Joint

Public Accounts Committee report 4/2019 and 6/2019

In the final agenda of the day Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun,

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained about Joint Public Accounts Committee reports on 2018 April to September six-month National Planning and Budget as well as responding to discussions made by Hluttaw representatives. After the Union level organizations' explanations and responses, Joint Public Accounts Committee member U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to approve and accept the Joint Public Accounts Committee report 4/2019 and 6/2019.

As the Hluttaw accepted and approved the reports by a vote, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the acceptance and approval of the Hluttaw and also announced putting the matter on record.

The ninth-day meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was scheduled to be held on Monday 20 May 2019 it is learnt.

—Mawsi, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

## Union Legal Aid Board donates law books to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat accepts law books from Union Legal Aid Board. PHOTO: MNA

A delegation led by Union Legal Aid Board Secretary donated law books to Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, U T Khun Myat at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw guest hall, yesterday. The books were written by author U Tun Kyi with a pen name of UTK. It was reported

that 3 publications of book namely "Law Diary", "Indispensable Law" and "Everywhere Law" totaling 2100 copies were donated to representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. U T Khun Myat received the donation and delivered word of

appreciation.

Secretary of Union Legal Aid Board U Khin Zaw and members U Kyaw Htay, U Mg Mg Hla Thaug, Daw Nan Khan Own and officials from Hluttaw office attended the event. —MNA ■ (Translated by Alphonsus)

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday afternoon to discuss the Tax Management Bill.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Bill

Committee deputy chairmen, Secretary, Joint Secretary and committee members, Joint Public Accounts Committee Deputy Chairman and committee members, officials from Union Supreme Court Office, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee convening in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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

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

“ As I continue to state, corruption is the major obstacle for the rule of law and needs to be addressed. Addressing corruption is essential to delivering good governance. It relies on the “tone from the top” and each of you here today must consider yourselves responsible for setting the appropriate tone in a clear and forceful manner and remove opportunities for corruption. Government organizations not only need to cooperate with the Anti-Corruption Commission but also implement E-government functions with great effort. Cleaning up corruption is not a program but a culture. It is a culture that needs collective effort by the government and the public for sustainable development of the country.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law in Nay Pyi Taw on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018)

## Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services receives Defence Secretary of India

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Service Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India Mr. Sanjay Mitra at the Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting matters relating to improvement in friendship and cooperation between the two militaries; status of standing and work-

ing on the five principles of peaceful co-existence; status of cooperation on border security, stability and development; status of army, navy and air force sector wise cooperation between the two militaries; and exchange of friendly visits were discussed according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Defence Secretary of India Mr. Sanjay Mitra in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

## Union Minister for Defence receives Defence Secretary of India



Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win holds talks with Defence Secretary of India Mr. Sanjay Mitra at the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India Mr. Sanjay Mitra and party at

Union Minister Office guest hall in Ministry of Defence yesterday morning.

At the meeting increasing cooperation between the two

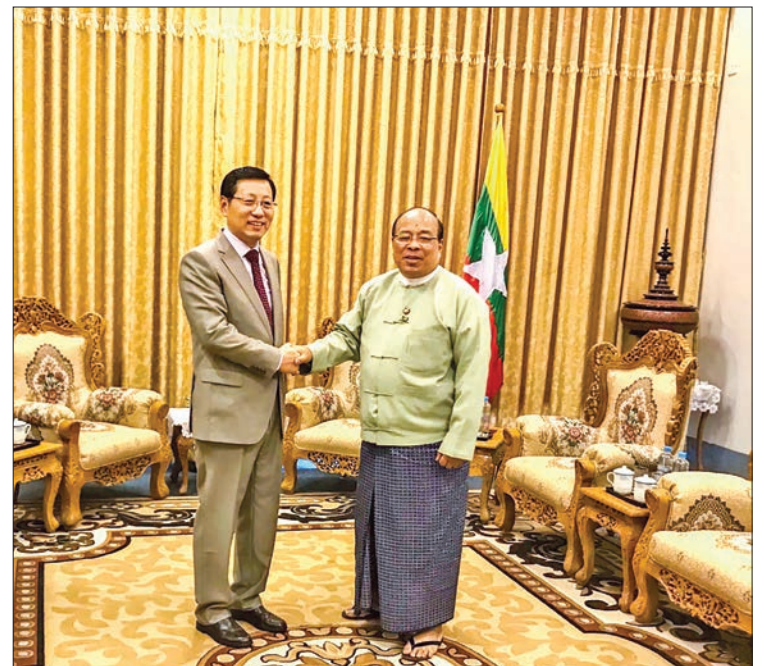
militaries, training and cooperation in the border region of the two countries were openly and cordially discussed.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives PRC Ambassador

U THAUNG TUN, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received H.E. Mr. Hong Liang outgoing Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar this morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the farewell call, they discussed further promotion of ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries as well as matters relating to trade and investment.—MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Tun shakes hands with outgoing Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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## MNA jet XY-AGQ crew honored by State Counsellor and union level officials

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Similarly Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung said the captain of the jet made a correct decision calmly while the crew followed the captain's decision systematically and calmly enabling the jet to be landed without any injuries to passengers and crew while causing minimum damage to the plane. It was also due to the passengers of the plane who followed the instructions and guidelines of the captain and the crew with trust that

the landing and evacuation of the plane was successfully conducted, said the Union Minister.

Next, a certificate of honor signed by the State Counsellor was presented to Chief Pilot U Myat Moe Aung, Co-pilots U Kaung Sat Lin and U Myo Thiha Aung, Senior Flight Attendant Daw Cherry Myint, Flight Attendants Daw K Ja Hsan Aung, Daw Khaing Zar Lin and Daw Ohnmar Aung by Union Minister U Min Thu.

Afterwards, Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung and U Ohn Maung, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Tin and U Kyaw



Union Ministers, Chief Pilot U Myat Moe Aung, MNA jet XY-AGQ crew members and attendees pose for the documentary photo at the ceremony to honor the crew of the JetXY-AGQ Myanmar National Airlines in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myo, Permanent Secretary U Soe Thein and MNA Chief Executive Officer U Than Tun presented the crew with gifts of honor and certificates of honor.

Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited Chairman U Tun Myint Naing then presented cash awards for the captain and crew of the plane to Chief Pilot

Myat Moe Aung who in return spoke words of thanks on behalf of the crew. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Lion Club from Japan donates films reels to Film Archive

A Japanese organization named Lion Club donated Film reel to Film Archive at Film Development Center on Golden Valley street, Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday. The event is reported to be the collaborative effort of Save Myanmar Film and Japanese embassy.

At the Event, Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion Division, U Thein Naing and Japanese Minister Consular Ms. Tomoko Yoshihiro delivered key note speeches.

Then, member of Tokyo Bunka Lions club Mr. Yoji Sugitani donated 110 film reels, Mr. Shinichi Tanaka from Kawasaki West Rotary Club, Kitayama House Industry Inc, 70, Mr. Kazuhito Sano from Sano Block

Industry Inc 20 and Mr. Yuhu Sano 10 .

Director U Thein Naing and Project Director of Save Myanmar Film received and presented certificates of appreciation.

U Toe of A One Film Also donated a reel.

The film reels were known to price at 300.000 Japanese yan.

It was reported that Myanmar Motion Picture Development opened film Archive in 1981, and now there are 9 16mm films, 11 black and white films, 127 color films, 22 phonograph record, 2984 news stories are under care.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Officials from Film Archive hand over Film reel donated by Lion Club Japanese organization at film development Center in Yangon, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Anti-Corruption Commission prosecutes former Judge of KhinU Tsp court, advocate, janitor of bribery

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has opened a case against advocate Daw Zarchi Win, Judge Daw Yi Yi Mon, and court janitor U Ye Wunna of KhinU Township for extorting money from the mother of the defendant in KhinU Court Case No. 319/17 (Forestry), Sagaing Region.

The defendant's mother appealed to the District Court after Daw Zarchi Win took the money and lost the trial.

The ACC investigated into the matter and discovered that

on the day of final hearing of KhinU Tsp Court Case No. 319/2017, charged under Section 42 (b) of The Forest Law, Daw Zarchi Win asked the defendant's mother to pay K3,020,000 for the township judge and court staff.

The ACC found that then Judge Daw Yi Yi Mon (who is currently the judge of Kyauktaga Township) abused her power after taking K2 million and passing judgement. She is charged with Section 56 of The Anti-Corruption Law.

Daw Zarchi Win and U Ye

Wunna are charged with Section 56/63 of the same law for aiding in extorting money from the defendant's mother.

U Ye Wunna is also charged with Section 57 of the same law for numerous instances of asking money from the defendant's mother during the trial period in 2017.

The cases have been opened in KhinU Police Station, Sagaing Region, yesterday, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Over K9.6 bln allotted for dam renovation in Magway Region

THE Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department is conducting a project to renovate dams in Magway Region in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with an allocated budget of K9.6 billion.

Of the total funds, K3.12 billion has been allocated from the national budget and K6.5 billion has been set aside from the regional budget. The money will be used to provide irrigation water for cultivation and water supply to local residents.

"We are currently carrying out renovation of dams in the villages to provide sufficient water for utilization and agriculture. To ensure sufficient irrigation water, renovation and maintenance works are undertaken every year, along with weekly and monthly reports," said U Thaug Htike, the director of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.—Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by La Wonn)

## Myanmar-Thai specialists conduct joint Laparoscopic-Endoscopic Surgery in Nay Pyi Taw

News : Myo Thu Hein  
Photo : Htein Nan Naw

UNDER the Laparoscopic-Endoscopic Surgery for ASEAN People Project, specialists, and nurses from Myanmar and Thailand were continuing the second day of cooperation in Laparoscopic-Endoscopic Surgery or “minimally invasive surgeries at Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed General Hospital.

The “minimally invasive” surgeries were jointly conducted by Laparoscopic-Endoscopic surgeons, experts and nurses from Rajavithi Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand and experts and nurses from Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed), Nay Pyi Taw Maternity and Gynecology Hospital and Nay Pyi Taw ENT Hospital.

Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) superintendent Dr. Pa Pa said endoscopic surgery uses small incision causing quick healing while allowing observation of other inner part of the body without requiring additional surgery of body parts and tissues and this method had been widely used in the world.

This cooperation will allow surgeons, specialists, anesthetics and nurses from Myanmar and Thailand to share latest surgery methods and information. Dr. Pa Pa added that the aim

was to allow cooperation and exchange of news and information as well as obtaining good surgical experiences.

Dr. Sa-ard Treepongkaruna of Rajvithi Hospital said effective Laparoscopic-Endoscopic surgeries will be jointly conducted under the Laparoscopic-Endoscopic Surgery for ASEAN People Project.

Prof. Dr. Mya Mya Aye from Nay Pyi Taw Maternity and Gynecology Hospital said the joint surgery conducted by Myanmar-Thailand maternity and gynecology specialists and surgeons include surgery using natural openings of women without the necessity of making incisions. Conducting such surgeries would raise the interest and capacity of new generation surgeons and doctors said Prof. Dr. Mya Mya Aye.

She added that Laparoscopic-Endoscopic surgeries were now being conducted in Nay Pyi Taw hospital with state-of-the-art equipment provided by Ministry of Health and Sports while Myanmar also has international level capable surgeons in Myanmar.

The cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand covers nine medical sectors and includes dialogues as well as medical operations. ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Prof. Dr. Mya Mya Aye.



Dr. Sa-ard Treepongkaruna of Rajvithi.



Medical Superintendent Dr. Pa Pa.



Surgeons perform laparoscopic surgery in Nay Pyi Taw hospital with high-level equipment in Nay Pyi Taw.



PHOTO: MNA

## PRC Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang, wife host farewell dinner in Nay Pyi Taw

THE PEOPLE’S Republic of China (PRC) Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar hosted a farewell dinner with his wife at Park Royal Hotel, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The farewell dinner was attended by Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife, Pyithu Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and wife, Union Ministers and wives, Union Civil Service Board Chairman and wife, Deputy Ministers, departmental officials and invited guests.

At the dinner, PRC Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win delivered

speeches of greetings.

Next, Union Election Commission Chairman, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Union Ministers, Union Civil Service Board Chairman and PRC Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang took commemorative group photo and then had dinner together. —MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Finland Red Cross Society team films an interviewing to a villager in Phayanni village. PHOTO: MNA

## Finland RCS makes documentary about disaster resilience in villages in Loikaw Township

A team from the Finland Red Cross Society is making a documentary about activities of villagers in Loikaw Township under the Disaster Resilience Project.

In cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross Socie-

ty, the team filmed villagers at Phayani Village using clay water pots, bednet, knee boots and toilets blocking the pathways for flies provided by the Finland Red Cross Society and businesses ran by working capital loans funded by the socie-

ty. Besides, the team will also conduct the similar shootings at Kani and Lehtwe villagers until 20 May.

The documentary is titled “Red Nose Day Campaign”. —MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

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

## Religious objects meant for Eternal Peace Pagoda displayed at Uppatasanti Pagoda for public obeisance

RELIGIOUS objects, along with two Buddha images carved from marble stones, meant for the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw were displayed at the Uppatasanti Pagoda yesterday for public obeisance.

The religious objects arrived in Nay Pyi Taw after a nationwide ceremonial procession.

On the pagoda platform, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and wives, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Religious Affairs and

Culture, departmental officials, teachers and students conveyed the religious objects into the pagoda cave after circling them around the pagoda in clockwise.

Afterwards, Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and wife, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and wives and departmental officials sprinkled the religious objects and Buddha images with scented water.

Shwe Parami Forest Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika also delivered a peace sermon at the pagoda later in the evening. - Han Lin Naing

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung convey the Diamond Orb to be fixed atop Eternal Peace Pagoda to the Uppatasanti Pagoda. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Attorney-General calls for greater adherence to rules during law officer meeting

THE 6<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting between the Union Attorney-General and law officers from Region, State and district levels was held the UAG's office yesterday morning.

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo first delivered a speech where he said the State or Regional Advocate's office need to focus on ensuring the bills drafted by government ministries are in line with the Constitution and the laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hlut-taw.

He said law officers study the existing laws and amended laws in detail and adhere to the Union Attorney-General By-law as if it were a law officer's



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the speech at the 6<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting between the Union Attorney-General and law officers from Region, State and district levels in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

guidebook. He urged careful attention to providing adequate information in submitting appellations.

He urged adherence to the

Tender Rules and Regulation Directive 1/2017 issued by the President's Office when engaging in tasks done with the Union budget. He also urged ad-

herence to the rules of finance management and declared that all legal offices should be free of any form of corruption. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Over half of YBS buses new, 60% owned by public companies: YRTA

By Nyein Nyein

WITH the Yangon Region Transport Authority allowing some bus operators to merge and form public companies, 60 per cent of YBS buses are now owned by public companies, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary, YRTA. In addition, more than half the YBS buses are new, he said.

At present, more than 2,700 of the 4,300 YBS buses are brand new, and 60 per cent of the total buses in service are owned by public companies, he said.

"The Omni Focus and Ludu Partner public companies are operating bus services, with a fleet of 500 buses each. The Parami Bus and Bandula Transportation Company are producing

vehicles under a semi-knocked down system. Over 100 bus lines are operating 4,300 buses on 123 routes. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million. Over 60 per cent of the buses are now owned by public companies, which were formed with investments from the Yangon Region government and bus operators," said U Hla Aung.

At present, BM buses and Dina vehicles have been removed from Yangon roads, and their use as passenger vehicles has been prohibited, according to the YRTA. There are 18 public companies running YBS buses, including Yangon Bus Public Co. Ltd (YBPC), Yangon

Urban Public Transportation Public Co. Ltd (YUPT), Rapid City Bus Transportation Public Co. Ltd, Golden Yangon City Transportation Public Co. Ltd, Bandula Transportation Company, Omni Focus, Ludu Partner Company, Power Eleven, Trans Link, Shwe Lann Khin Company, Taikkyithar, Konbaung Yangon, Shwepyitha Thar, Khit Thit Bayintnaung Company, and City Liner. Aero Star and City Transit have also sought permission to run bus services as public companies.

The Yangon Region government has contributed K70 billion to YBPC and YUPT, according to the government's audit report.

The YRTA was formed

on 8 July, 2016 to improve the transport facilities in Yangon for the convenience of the public. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein was appointed as the parton of the transport authority, while Daw Nilar Kyaw, the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry, and Transportation, was made the Chairperson. In April, 2019, the number of members was increased to 22 from 16, with the YRTA appointing the Security and Border Affairs Minister as Deputy Chairman 1 and Yangon Mayor as Deputy Chairman 2, besides officials from related departments and organizations. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Over 20,760 Myanmar workers took up jobs in 8 countries in April

A total of 20,766 Myanmar workers officially took up jobs overseas in April, according to figures released by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The workers headed to eight countries, with a majority of them taking up jobs in Thailand.

Over 15,400 workers went to Thailand, over 4,400 headed to Malaysia, 447 to the Republic of Korea, and 307 to Japan. Some workers took up employment in Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Qatar.

Low employment rate and low salaries in the domestic mar-

ket have forced young workers in Myanmar to seek jobs overseas, with the number of migrant labourers touching 5 million, said an official from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

“Young people are struggling to find jobs in the domestic market. Fewer job opportunities and low-paid jobs are making them leave their home country for higher-paying jobs overseas. There is economic disadvantage from the loss of young workers,” said U Myo Aung, the Permanent Secretary of MOLIP.

Meanwhile, 24,048 local

job-seekers occupied domestic jobs in the respective states and regions. Yangon employed 15,309 workers, followed by Bago Region with 4,251, and Mandalay Region with 1,025 workers. The remaining regions and states saw an influx of less than 600 new employees.

The ministry is making concerted efforts to create more employment opportunities for both domestic and overseas job hunters through the online labour exchange management system.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Citizens looking for a job abroad seen in front of the office the Myanmar Passport issuing Board, Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Indian conglomerate to develop 50-acre container terminal at Ahlon Port

AN Indian conglomerate will develop a container terminal at the Ahlon Port at a cost of US\$290 million, according to iMyanmarHouse.com.

The container terminal will be developed by the Adani Group on more than 50 acres of land, said U Thant Sin Lwin, acting Director-General, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

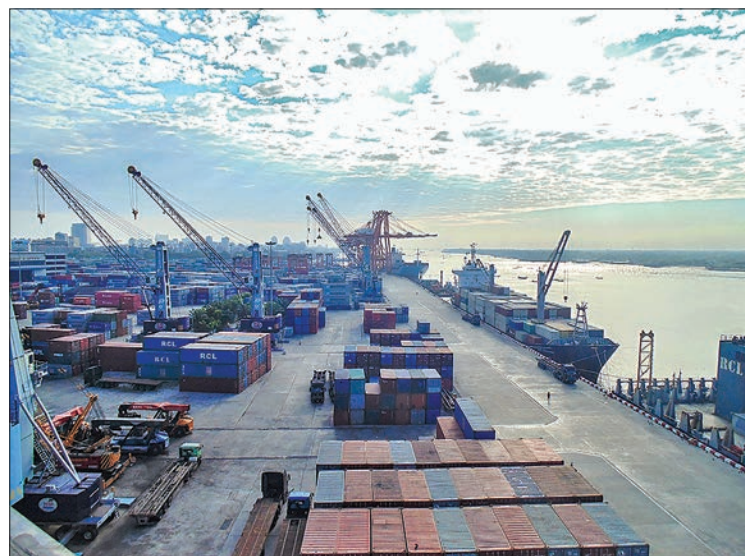
India is implementing the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which will link India and Myanmar by sea and road.

The project will connect Kolkata in India with the Sitway seaport in Rakhine State of Myanmar by sea.

A road to India's Mizoram state is also planned under the project.

Indian investors are eyeing Myanmar's energy, transportation, banking, insurance, and health service businesses.

According to data provided by the DICA, 30 Indian listed companies have brought in \$763.5 million into the country so far.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



The container yard of Myanmar Industrial Port in Ahlon Township. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

## Two Japanese utilities to buy stakes in Myanmar's power plant operator

TAKAMATSU, (Japan) — Shikoku Electric Power Co. and Chugoku Electric Power Co. said Thursday they will buy a 28.5 percent stake each in Toyo Thai Power Myanmar Co. as they seek to bolster their overseas operations.

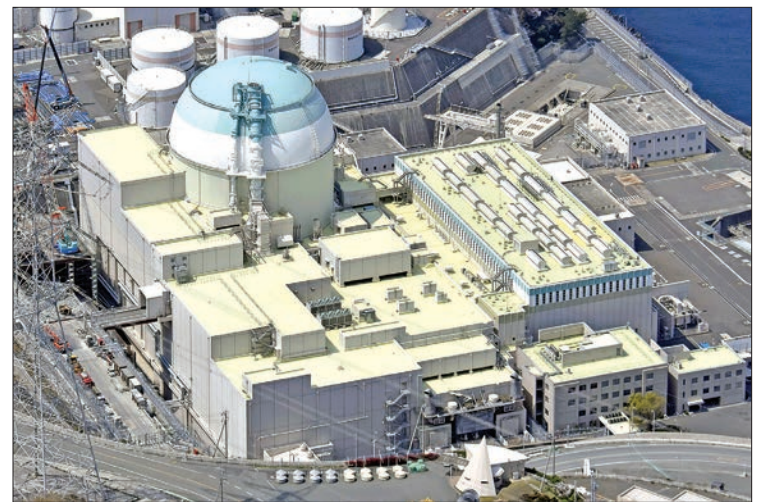
The two electric power companies declined to provide the value of their stake in the company, which runs a gas-fired power plant in Yangon. But a Shikoku Electric spokesman said it will cost 4 billion yen to 5 billion yen (\$36.4 million to \$45.7 million).

The electricity produced at the plant will be supplied to Myanmar's Electric Power Generation Enterprise until May 2043.

As the recent deregulation of Japan's power industry is

intensifying competition, the two utilities aim to strengthen their overseas businesses. Demand for power generation is expect-

ed to be strong in Myanmar as the country currently faces severe power shortages.—Kyodo News ■



File photo taken on 2 April, 2018, shows No. 3 reactor of Shikoku Electric Power Co.'s Ikata nuclear power plant in Ehime Prefecture, western Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## DICA declares voluntary dissolution of 170 companies

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, in a recent notification, has declared the voluntary winding up of 170 domestic companies, under the Myanmar Companies Law.

At a recent DICA meeting, held in April-end, the companies were allowed to get their names struck from the register as they have been liquidated voluntarily. The companies were registered between 1990 and 2018, and belonged to the trading, technology, manufacturing, travel and tourism, and service sectors.

Last year, the DICA asked companies to register and re-register on the MyCO web-

site, starting 1 August, under the Myanmar Companies Law. More than 14,000 new companies registered and re-registered on MyCO in the past nine months (Aug-April), taking the number of registered companies to 62,000. Over 90 per cent of companies filed online applications for registration, while the rest filed applications manually, according to data from the DICA.

The DICA had set a six-month deadline for registration and re-registration of companies. The registration process started from 1 August, 2018 and was to end on 31 January, 2019. Then, the deadline for re-registration of old companies was ex-

tended to 30 March. Companies were allowed to re-register for a fee if they could furnish sufficient reasons for restoration of their company status. The DICA had announced that companies that failed to re-register by the new deadline would be struck off from the register list.

Over 60,000 companies were previously registered in Myanmar and all companies were notified to re-register on MyCO. By the time the deadline closed, 46,377 old companies had re-registered on MyCO, while over 10,000 companies had failed to re-register on the system.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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# Future of coffee, our cash crop, is bright

**A**FTER being ranked a speciality coffee globally, Myanmar coffee has begun fetching a reasonable price in the international markets. But, there is a lot that needs to be done to develop the sector.

According to the global coffee quality specification, a coffee is considered special grade if it gets a cupping score of 80 and above. Coffee produced in Pyin Oo Lwin, Ywangan, and Thandaung in Myanmar has scored between 84 and 90, while coffee produced in Chin State has scored 96, giving it special quality status.

The coffee sector in Myanmar still lags in terms of development due to weaknesses in processing technology compared with Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam, shortcomings in information sharing, and a small market share, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio at the Coffee Forum 2019 in Mandalay on Wednesday.

To develop the sector, we must seek loans from local and foreign sources for farmers.

We also need to set up a business model where companies can guarantee prices in the market and offer to buy the produce from the farmers.

Only then will farmers live with dignity from their work, while consumers will be faithful and satisfied with the quality.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar exported about 762 tonnes of coffee and earned about US\$ 2.9 million, while it imported instant coffee worth about \$44 million.

The figure shows that we have a big market for coffee at home, and we need to provide protection to local coffee producers so that imported products do not hurt their businesses.

In today's commodity market, coffee ranks second after oil and petroleum. Just as rice and lentils are the main agricultural produce and export commodities of Myanmar, coffee is a high quality crop and can generate a considerable foreign income for the country.

Thus, everyone must work together to achieve our target of increasing coffee acreage up to 200,000 acres, with a production target of 600,00 tonnes of high-quality coffee by 2030.

Chin State, which has a huge potential for investors, has emerged as a high grade coffee land, producing coffee of above 96 grade. A grade of more than 80 is considered a special grade globally.

Chin State has more than 560 acres of coffee plantations at present. Annually, the acreage is expected to increase by 220 acres. By 2021, there will be a total of 1,220 acres under coffee cultivation.

To expand and plant high-quality coffee such as Arabica and Robusta, we must work together to tackle current challenges and chart out good strategies for developing the coffee sector as soon as possible.

# Plan safety measures to avoid attacks from dangerous animals

By San Lwin (Fisheries Department)

**O**VER the years, news on the fatal cases of death due to the attacks of crocodiles, wild elephants, and deadly consumption of pufferfish appeared very few and only on occasional intervals, but the regrettable and unfortunate incidents are taking more columns in the daily newspapers in February and March of 2019.

An angry and annoyed crocodile attacked and killed a villager in Bogalay Sutkyun Village in February 2019.

Unknowingly and mistakenly consuming toxic pufferfish, two adorable kids died out of six family members in Labutta areas in March 2019.

Running helplessly for safety for life from a wild and weird elephant, the elder sister was crushed to death, but the younger brother survived in Kawthoung District in March 2019.

With regards to life frightening and hostile incidents by the wildlife animals, the records show that the danger of crocodiles is common in the surrounding of Meinma Hla Kyun in Bogalay Township.

Bogalay area is the home for the crocodiles of saltwater species, and that the mating season usually will begin in February till April. A female crocodile can lay up to 60 eggs at a time. These eggs are large, with a hard shell. They take about three months to hatch. Both sexes can be very territorial as well as aggressive in nature during this period of time.

Risk of attacks run high at the time of mating period and time of lay up of eggs. Therefore, the period turns the area into in danger zone, a time to be alert for the hazard by the workers in fisheries sphere.

### Safety measures in collective term

In order to avoid from the attack of crocodiles, fishery workers should move and work in groups as much as possible.

Available statistics showed

Year	place	number	remark
2013	Shwepyi Aye Village, Bogalay	1	1 dead
2014	Yanmakha Village, Bogalay	1	1 dead
2015	Yaykamyin Chaung, Bogalay	1	1 dead
2016	Salaungkya Chaung, Bogalay	3	1 dead; 2 survived
2017	Kyaughtaukwere, Bogalay	1	1 dead
2018	Shwepyiaye, Bogalay	5	1 dead; 4 survived
2019	Sutkyun Village, Bogalay	1	1 dead



Crocodiles normally live in saltwater. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

For many years, Myanmar maintains and preserves the largest numbers of elephants after India in the Asian Continent. However, the existing number is alarmingly down and the animals are in near extinct.

Therefore, the villagers residing near to the pathway of elephant's habitats and trails must stay in alert from the danger of elephants.

For many years, Myanmar maintains and preserves the largest numbers of elephants after India in the Asian Continent. However, the existing number is alarmingly down and the animals are in near extinct.



A herd of wild elephants raid villages in search of food. PHOTO: THWE THWE TUN

India in the Asian Continent. However, the existing number is alarmingly down and the animals are in near extinct.

The two main historical factors behind the decline of elephants was demand for ivory and changes in land-use and it still pose a serious threat to the species. But there has been an upsurge in poaching and illegal ivory trafficking in recent years.

Therefore, elephants are being enlisted as endangered species in the country.

Under the amended law, those who are caught commercially breeding protected wildlife could be punished by up to three years imprisonment and or a fine up to K500,000 (US\$320), while those caught for hunting, selling, having in possession, carrying or transferring protected endangered wildlife or their parts face up to five years imprisonment and or a fine of K1 million.

The killing, poaching, hunting, hurting, collecting, selling, possession without approval, carrying or transferring of protected endangered wildlife under total protection or under protection and control against international trade or their parts or derivative materials is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment.

Following after the killing stuff namely toxic mushrooms, the pufferfish is the number two largest killer among the cases of toxic food consumption in the country.

The family includes many

familiar species which are variously called pufferfish, puffers and balloon fish, and they are salt-water species.

All pufferfish species found in Myanmar have heavy toxic called Tetrodotoxin (TTX) embedded in the liver and on the skin tissue. Most of the unfortunate victims in Myanmar happened to have eaten the liver and eggs. Some people curved out the belly portion of the puffer fish before cooking and consumption.

A close friend of the writer told that the Japanese chef delicately prepares very poisonous and very delicious puffer fish. That is why Japanese chefs must train for years before serving the notoriously poison pufferfish to the public. For more than 45 years, chef Sasaki has served this potentially lethal delicacy to patrons in his Tokyo restaurant.

Many consumers in Japan died of toxic annually due to eating pufferfish. One should have to be excused over the death of the victim consuming unknowingly and mistakenly the toxic fish, but those who ate them knowing the risk were the fools who rushed into death in creepy and weird way.

### One should not take the risk on sheer luck

Proverbs are profuse in Myanmar with warnings such as that of roaming in the jungle where tigers haunt; and that of stepping on the thorny spikes believing on hero's luck.

It is advisable that never to risk life in the tigers' habitat and also stay away from the trail of sharp thorny spikes. Better stay away from tigers' trails and avoid wetlands where crocodiles crawl.

Warning boards on the dangers of crocodiles are erected by the Environmental Conservation Department in many villages especially in Meinma Hla Kyun in Bogalay Township.

Myanmar has common saying that luck preserves and keeps properties while critical thinking saves life from danger.

The writer of this article sincerely urges all concern in the communities and villages residing near the habitats of crocodiles and wild elephants to stay away from the dangers of wild animals.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Order 19/2019  
13<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1381 ME  
(16 May 2019)

## Resignation of Kayin State Minister approved

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 264 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 52 (b) of Region or State Government Law, Dr. Tin Win Kyaw, State Minister for Social Affairs of the Kayin State Government has been permitted to resign of his own volition starting from 1 June 2019.

Sd/  
Win Myint  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Head of service organization confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Thaug Kyaing, Director-General, Department of Marine Administration under the Ministry of Transport and Communications on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

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Abortion rights supporters and opponents mark the anniversary of the decision in Roe vs Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in the US. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Republicans bid for US Supreme Court showdown over abortion

WASHINGTON (United States) — Republican-led legislatures in state after state are passing bills restricting abortion access in a bid to eventually challenge the 1973 US Supreme Court ruling allowing a woman to terminate a pregnancy.

Opponents of abortion rights are hoping that the moves will prompt the nation's highest court, which now has a conservative majority, to overturn its landmark decision in the case known as Roe vs Wade.

The latest state to pass abortion restrictions — in fact, the toughest in the entire US — is Alabama, where Republican Governor Kay Ivey on Wednesday signed a bill that places a near-total ban on ending a pregnancy, even in cases of rape and incest.

Under the bill doctors who perform abortions could face between 10 and 99 years in prison.

Ivey said that for now, the law may be unenforceable because of

Roe vs. Wade.

But “the sponsors of this bill believe that it is time, once again, for the US Supreme Court to revisit this important matter, and they believe this act may bring about the best opportunity for this to occur,” Ivey said in a statement.

The law is now scheduled to take effect in six months, but it is widely expected to be challenged in court.

Last week, the Republican governor of Georgia signed into law a ban on abortion from the moment a fetal heartbeat is detected. Georgia thus became the sixth US state to outlaw abortion after roughly six weeks of gestation.

Ohio, Mississippi, Kentucky, Iowa and North Dakota have enacted similar laws, while electoral powerhouses Florida and Texas are considering following suit.

All of the state bans have either been blocked by a judge or are headed for the courts, and

some of their backers have said — as Ivey mentioned — that they want the issue to go all the way to the nine-member Supreme Court.

The Republican bid to force a showdown over Roe vs Wade comes as President Donald Trump is ramping up for a 2020 re-election campaign with abortion as a hot-button issue.

The Supreme Court has previously reaffirmed a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, but some anti-abortion activists believe the time may have come to turn the tables.

Since taking office, Trump has appointed two conservative justices — Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh — and liberal members of the court are outnumbered five to four.

Conservative-leaning Chief Justice John Roberts is seen as the potential swing vote if the constitutionality of abortion eventually comes before the court. — AFP ■

## Sudan protesters vow to press on after talks suspended

KHARTOUM (Sudan) — Sudanese protesters voiced regret Thursday at an army decision to suspend crucial talks on installing civilian rule but vowed to press on with a sit-in despite being targeted in fresh violence.

Army generals and protest leaders had been expected to come to an agreement on Wednesday over the make-up of a new body to govern Sudan for three years. The issue is the thorniest to have come up in ongoing talks

on reinstating civilian rule after the generals took over following the ouster of longtime autocratic president Omar al-Bashir last month. But in the early hours of Thursday, the chief of Sudan's ruling military council, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, announced the talks had been suspended for 72 hours as security in Khartoum had deteriorated.

He demanded that protesters dismantle roadblocks in Khartoum, open bridges and railway

lines connecting the capital and “stop provoking security forces”.

The Alliance for Freedom and Change, the group that is leading the protest movement and negotiating the transfer of power with the army rulers, called the move “regrettable”. “It ignores the developments achieved in negotiations so far... and the fact that Wednesday's meeting was to finalise the agreement, which would have stopped the escalations such as roadblocks.” — AFP

## ‘Cyber warriors’ sway Indian election

NEW DELHI (India) — India's election watchdog says it has forced Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to take down hundreds of posts during the country's election but experts say it is just a drop in an ocean of misinformation that has engulfed voters.

The ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party and opposition Congress party have thrown armies of “cyber warriors” into a bitter social media war for the six weeks of voting that ends Sunday. The arch-rivals accuse each other of deploying social media dark arts such as automated bots and trolls to bombard voters with messages, fake and real.

No blow has been too low

in the war of words and videos between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and opposition leader Rahul Gandhi. Real-life insults traded by the two — Gandhi calling Modi a “thief”, Modi deriding his opponent as “pappu”, or fool — get shared thousands of times on WhatsApp and Twitter within minutes. But so do photoshopped images of longtime foe Pakistan's flag at Gandhi rallies, or Modi eating with Imran Khan, prime minister of Pakistan. The origin of these images is unknown, but both have been debunked by AFP fact-checkers during this campaign. And experts say the fake news on a host of apps is swaying votes. — AFP ■



Volunteers for an Indian political party's social media team work in “war room” headquarters in New Delhi ahead of national elections. **PHOTO: AFP**

## HIV outbreak sparks panic in southern Pakistan

RATO DERO (Pakistan) — Parents nervously watch as their children wait to be tested for HIV in a village in southern Pakistan, where hundreds of people have been allegedly infected by a doctor using a contaminated syringe.

Dispatched to keep order, police scan the anxious crowd as families hustle into one of five different screening rooms set up in the last month in the village of Wasayo, on the outskirts of Larkana in Sindh province.

Health officials say more than 400 people, many of them children, have tested HIV positive in recent weeks as experts warn of a surge in infection rates across Pakistan, due to the use of unsanitary equipment and rampant malpractice — often at the hands of quack doctors.

Anger and fear continue to swell in the desperately poor

village hit hard by the epidemic, which authorities say could be linked to either gross negligence or malicious intent by a local pediatrician.

“They are coming by the dozens,” says a doctor at the makeshift clinic, beset by a lack of equipment and personnel to treat the surging number of patients.

Mukhtar Pervez waits anxiously to have her daughter tested, worrying a recent fever may be linked to the outbreak. For others, their worst fears have already become a reality.

Nisar Ahmed arrived at the clinic in a furious search for medicine after his one-year-old daughter tested positive three days earlier.

“I curse [the doctor] who has caused all these children to be infected,” he says angrily. — AFP ■

## EU fines five major banks 1 bln euros for currency

BRUSSELS (Belgium)— The EU's powerful anti-trust authority on Thursday fined five major banks — including Barclays and Citigroup — more than a billion euros for collusion in the massive foreign exchange currency market.

The European Commission sanctioned Barclays, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Citigroup, JPMorgan and Japan's MUFG Bank a total of 1.07 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) after finding that traders colluded to fix exchange rates using electronic chat rooms, a statement said. The commission said Swiss giant UBS received no fine as it revealed the collusion to the authorities.

"These cartel decisions send a clear message that the commission will not tolerate collusive behaviour in any sector of the financial markets," said EU



With collusion between traders, clients may not have gotten the best rates. PHOTO: AFP

Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager. "The behaviour of these banks undermined the integrity of the sector at the expense of the European economy and consumers," she added.

The decision involves two cases of forex manipulation,

with the first known as "Essex Express 'n the Jimmy" because all the traders (except Jimmy) lived in the county to the east of London, the commission said. The other one was called "Three-way banana split", though the EU's executive arm did not ex-

plain why. "Some of the traders created the chat rooms and then invited one another to join, based on their trading activities and personal affinities, creating closed circles of trust," the commission explained. The collusion took place between 2007 and 2013, roughly the years of the financial crisis and has been sanctioned by other authorities, including the US. Except Japan's MUFG, the banks cooperated with the commission and in return received lighter fines than the EU's maximum amount. "We are pleased to resolve this historical matter, which relates to the conduct of one former employee. We have since made significant control improvements," said a spokesperson for JPMorgan. Several of the banks, including Barclays, had already provisioned for the fines in earlier filings. — AFP ■

## Iran accuses US of 'unacceptable' escalation in tensions

TOKYO (Japan) — Iran Thursday accused the United States of an "unacceptable" escalation of tensions and said Tehran was showing "maximum restraint" despite Washington's withdrawal from a nuclear deal with world powers.

Tensions were already high after President Donald Trump walked away from the accord a year ago.

But they have been ratcheted up significantly in recent weeks with the US deploying an aircraft carrier strike group and B-52 bombers to the Gulf over alleged threats from Iran.

"The escalation by the United States is unacceptable," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in Tokyo Thursday where he is holding

talks with Japanese officials. "We exercise maximum restraint... in spite of the fact that the United States withdrew from JCPOA last May," he added, referring to the agreement on Tehran's nuclear program known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. He added that Tehran remains "committed" to the deal, and said continuing assessments showed Iran was in compliance with the multilateral agreement.

Zarif's comments came hours after the US ordered non-emergency staff evacuated from its Baghdad embassy due to an "imminent" threat from Iranian-linked Iraqi militias.

The move added to growing fears that the long-time rivals could be on course for conflict despite both sides stressing they

have no desire for war.

Trump, however, predicted Iran would "soon" want to negotiate and denied there was any discord in the White House over moves that critics say could lead to war in the Middle East.

"I'm sure that Iran will want to talk soon," the president tweeted. He also blasted media reports of White House turmoil, saying "there is no infighting whatsoever. Different opinions are expressed and I make a final and decisive decision." Opponents of Trump say hardliners led by national security advisor John Bolton, who has long advocated toppling the Iranian regime, are pushing the country into war.

### 'Imminent threat'

Despite international scap-

ticism, the US government has been pointing to increasing threats from Iran, a long-time enemy and also a rival of US allies Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Senior State Department officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the threat came from Iraqi militia "commanded and controlled" by Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. "It is directly linked to Iran, multiple threat streams directly linked to Iran," said one official. "This is an imminent threat to our personnel," said a second official. "There is no doubt in my mind that under the circumstances, a partial ordered departure (from the embassy) is a reasonable thing to do."

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Tuesday insisted the showdown with the United States was a mere test of resolve. "This face-off is not military because there is not going to be any war. Neither we nor them (the US) seek war," he said.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo echoed that sentiment, saying in Sochi, Russia: "We fundamentally do not seek a war with Iran." Despite the insistence that neither party wants conflict, world powers have rushed to urge calm and voiced concern over the escalating tensions. Washington says it has received intelligence on possible attacks by Iranian or Iranian-backed forces, possibly targeting US bases in Iraq or Syria. — AFP ■



The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) is among forces which the Pentagon has dispatched to reinforce security after alleged threats from Iran. PHOTO: AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New York Mayor de Blasio joins 2020 race to 'take on' Trump

NEW YORK — New York Mayor Bill de Blasio jumped into the increasingly crowded White House race Thursday, defying hostile media and dismal polls to cast himself as the Democrats' best chance of unseating the "con artist" Donald Trump in 2020.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> prospective Democratic challenger to Trump, de Blasio kicked off with a frontal attack on the Republican president, dubbing him "Con Don" for claiming he is on the side of working Americans. — AFP ■

### HK court trims prison term for HK democracy activist

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's appellate court on Thursday shortened by one month a three-month prison sentence meted out to democracy activist Joshua Wong last year for a contempt of court conviction.

Wong, 22, one of the student leaders of the 2014 "Occupy" movement calling for democratic change, and 15 other activists were convicted in January last year for obstructing police during the 79-day demonstration. After serving six days in prison, he was released on bail to appeal the sentence. — Kyodo News ■

### Toyota to offer self-driving technology to ride-hailing firms in Asia

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp. is considering offering autonomous driving technologies to ride-hailing firms, sources close to the matter said Thursday, in its latest push to become a company offering not only cars but also various mobility services.

The Japanese automaker is planning to supply a new driverless system to be developed with U.S. ride-hailing giant Uber Technologies Inc. to companies such as Grab Taxi Holdings Pte Ltd. of Singapore and ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd.'s Ola of India, the sources said. — Kyodo News ■

## UK's major new rail project should be cheaper and slower: House of Lords

LONDON —The planned High Speed 2 (HS2) railway project in the United Kingdom should aim at a lower speed and terminate outside the heart of London to save “out-of-control” costs, a House of Lords report said on Thursday.

The report, published by the Economic Affairs Committee, reckoned the final cost of the project could significantly exceed the original budget of 56 billion British pounds (71.67 billion US dollars) — which means the second phase of HS2 might not

be built.

The first phase, due to be completed by 2026, will link London and Birmingham, and the railway will eventually extend to Manchester and Leeds in northern England by 2033. The railway network is being designed to initially operate at a speed of 360 kilometers per hour.

“If costs overrun on the first phase of the project, there could be insufficient funding for the rest of the new railway. The northern sections of HS2 must not be sacrificed to make up for overspending

on the railway’s southern sections,” said Lord Forsyth of Drumlean, chair of the Economic Affairs Committee.

The report reiterated the committee’s 2015 recommendation that the government should properly assess the savings that could be made by lowering the speed of the trains and terminating at Old Oak Common in west London rather than at Euston Station, one of the city’s main rail terminals, which would require expensive tunneling.—Xinhua ■

## UN chief concerned nuclear ‘coffin’ leaking in Pacific

SUVA (Fiji)—UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres raised concerns Thursday that a concrete dome built last century to contain waste from atomic bomb tests is leaking radioactive material into the Pacific.

Speaking to students in Fiji, Guterres described the structure on Enewetak atoll in the Marshall Islands as “a kind of coffin” and said it was a legacy of Cold War-era nuclear tests in the Pacific. “The Pacific was victimised in the past as we all know,” he said, referring to nuclear explosions carried out by the United States and France in the region.

In the Marshalls, numerous islanders were forcibly evacuated from ancestral lands and resettled, while thousands more were exposed to radioactive fallout. The island nation was ground zero for 67 American nuclear weap-



A huge concrete dome built over a crater left by one of the 43 nuclear blasts on Runit Island photographed in 1980. PHOTO:AFP

ons tests from 1946-58 at Bikini and Enewetak atolls, when it was under US administration. The tests included the 1954 “Bravo” hydrogen bomb, the most powerful ever detonated by the United States, about 1,000 times bigger than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Guterres, who is tour-

ing the South Pacific to raise awareness of climate change issues, said Pacific islanders still needed help to deal with the fallout of the nuclear testing.

“The consequences of these have been quite dramatic, in relation to health, in relation to the poisoning of waters in some areas,” he said.—AFP ■

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS Ministry of Construction INVITATION FOR BID

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of “Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 MY-P17”. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for the construction of the projects listed below for “Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2(MY-P17).”
2. The Department of Highway (DoH), Ministry of Construction now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of the work below:

IFB No	Project ID	Works
DOH-05A	Mandalay-Dagaung-Bamaw-Myitkyina Road in Sagaing Region {Lot 1: 141.920 km - 160.108 km}	18.188 km x 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-05B	Mandalay-Dagaung-Bamaw-Myitkyina Road in Sagaing Region {Lot 2: 163.22 km - 190.840 km}	27.62 km x 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-06	Gangaw-Aika Road in Magway Region {Lot 3: 9.000 km - 21.345 km}	12.345 km x 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-07A	Hanmyintmo-Myogyi-Ywargan-Aungpan Road in Southern Shan State {Lot 4: 33.420 km - 51.820 km}	18.400 km x 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-07B	Hanmyintmo-Myogyi-Ywargan-Aungpan Road in Southern Shan State {Lot 5: 51.820 km - 63.440 km}	11.620 km x 5.5 m wide Penetration Macadam Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures

3. Selling of Bid Documents: (20.5.2019) to (27.5.2019)
4. Submission of Bids: (12:00) noon on (11.7.2019)
5. Opening of Preliminary Examination (13:30) hours on (11.7.2019)  
Check for Bids:
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidder at the address below and upon payment of a non- refundable fee of: Fifty Thousands Myanmar Kyat (ks. 50,000/-)
7. Interested eligible Bidder may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of Project Inspection and Quality Control Department (Construction), Department of Highways, Ministry of construction, Building No.(11),NayPyiTaw.  
Contact Person: DAW KHIN SAN NYUNT OO  
Phone No: 09-5084576 / 09257728844 / 09450330580  
E-mail address: pwhqairfield@gmail.com, dohjica.sector@gmail.com, aungthurawin.thipaw@gmail.com

### IN-MARKET CONSULTANT FOR THE SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD (STB)

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) would like to invite qualified Myanmar-based individuals (and companies) to pitch for the services of an in-market consultant for STB.

The consultant will be required to represent some of STB’s key efforts in the Myanmar market, and deliver Services including:

- **Travel trade and Corporate Engagement:** Execute the annual Singapore Myanmar Incentive Travel Forum, a B2B platform, and conduct sales calls to corporates to encourage large group visits to Singapore for Meetings & Incentive Travel.
- **Consumer Activations:** Support STB in executing in-market consumer activations.
- **B2B Destination Product Update:** Plan the Destination Product

The period of appointment is up to 24 months (one year with an option to renew for another one year) from June 2019 to June 2021.

For more details on STB’s submission requirements and to receive a copy of the full scope of work, please contact the following by 20 May 2019:

Mr. Nicholas Lim  
Singapore Tourism Board  
Email: nicholas\_lim@stb.gov.sg  
Tel: +65 6831 3893



# ‘More than human’: Wonders of AI on show in London

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Managing the health of the planet, fighting discrimination or boosting innovation in the arts; the fields in which Artificial Intelligence can help humans are countless, and an ambitious London exhibition aims to prove it.

Under the title “AI: more than human”, the immense Barbican cultural centre brings together more than 200 installations, exhibits and projects by artists, scientists and researchers from all over the world. From Thursday until August, visitors will be able to take a journey from the long-held dream of creating artificial life to the reality of today’s most cutting-edge

projects.

An immersive space by Japanese collective team-Lab forms one of the most intriguing exhibits, with art and science combining to let the visitor leave their mark on an evolving digital wall projection.

There are also robots of all shapes and sizes, from Sony’s small dog Aibo — whose first version from 1999 has now evolved into an AI model — to a large mechanical arm that prepares and serves cocktails. Other exhibits explore the complex systems that keep big cities ticking over and push forward research into medical conditions from cancer to blindness.

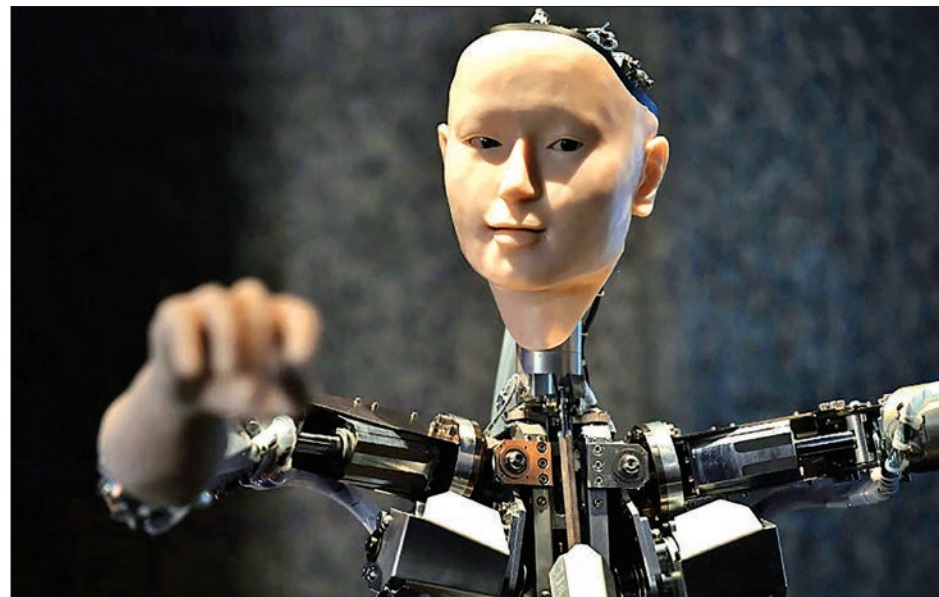
The current limits of

AI are investigated, including racial bias in some facial recognition software. Properly designed AI can help prevent harm, Francesca Rossi, head of ethics at IBM Research, told AFP.

“If the machine can understand this concept of bias, then it can alert us if it sees that there is bias in our decision making,” she said.

### Inserting human values

Although the idea of decoding the human brain and imitating its functions was born in the mid-1950s, AI only exploded in 2010 thanks to very fast state-of-the-art processors that allow the analysis of huge amounts of data. —AFP ■



Under the title “AI: more than human”, London’s Barbican centre is bringing together more than 200 installations, exhibits and projects by artists, scientists and researchers from all over the world. PHOTO: AFP

# Japan tests next-generation Shinkansen bullet train

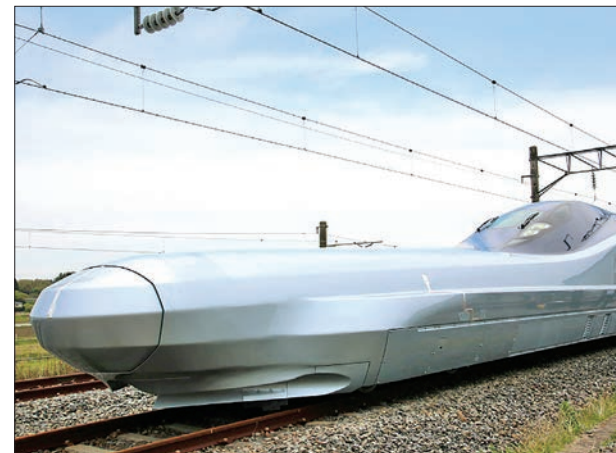
TOKYO (Japan) — A prototype of Japan’s next-generation Shinkansen bullet train, set to be the fastest train on wheels when it enters service, reached speeds of 320 kilometres (198 miles) per hour on a test run Thursday.

The train, code-named ALFA-X, will eventually hit 360 kilometres per hour when it begins to take passengers in about a decade, according to East Japan Railway.

Production of the 10-car train with a long nose-shaped head finished in early May at a cost of 10 billion yen (\$91 million).

Thursday’s trial run between Sendai and Morioka, two cities in northern Japan, was the first open to the media since tests started last week.

“We successfully conducted the test run



The new train is set to be the world’s fastest on wheels. PHOTO: AFP

today and will continue testing the train for about three years,” a company spokesman said.

The firm plans to introduce the train in 2030-31 when Shinkansen services will be extended to Sapporo, the biggest city on the nation’s northern island of Hokkaido.

“We will try to shorten travelling time with the next-generation Shinkansen,” said Kazunori Koyama, an official

in charge of the testing. Japan is a pioneer in high-speed rail networks, hailed for their punctuality and safety measures, including the emergency stop system, which can automatically slow down speeds before a major earthquake strikes.

The ALFA-X will reach the world’s fastest commercial speed for a wheeled bullet train, according to the company. —AFP ■

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### RE: Announcement for Change of Capital Investment

Effective from beginning of May 1, 2019,  
As a company, the capital is licensed at 2.0 million USD.  
In fact, 1.72 million USD have been realized as capital until now.

We have been steadily increasing sales since our initial plan, but the growth rate is lower than originally planned. Due to the recent US-China tariff issue, demand has been sluggish to stop the automotive industry.

Therefore, we are currently looking at the timing for additional capital investments. If necessary, we will consider increasing the capital to Max.

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (014N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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.

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## China formally arrests Canadian ex-diplomat, businessman: report



China's detention of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor on suspicions of espionage has inflamed tensions between Ottawa and Beijing.  
**PHOTO: AFP**

BEIJING (China) — China has formally arrested two Canadians who have been detained for months on national security grounds, a Canadian newspaper reported on Thursday, in a case that has inflamed tensions between Ottawa and Beijing.

A Canadian government source told *The Globe and Mail* that neither Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat, nor Michael Spavor, a China-based businessman who organised trips to North Korea, have been formally charged with any crime.

"Canada strongly condemns their arbitrary arrest as we condemned their arbitrary detention on Dec. 10," the Canadian foreign ministry said in a statement to the newspaper.

Though no link has been officially made, the detention of Spavor and Kovrig is thought to be in retaliation for Canada's December 1 detention on a US extradition request of Meng Wanzhou, a top executive of Chinese telecom giant Huawei who is accused of violating Iran sanctions.

The men were first accused of activities that "endanger China's security" — a phrase often used by Beijing when alleging espionage. China later announced it suspected Kovrig, who works for the International Crisis Group think tank, of spying and stealing state secrets and alleged that Spavor had provided him with intelligence. Spying charges could expose them to tough prison sentences.

### 'Unacceptable' conditions

Both men have been denied access to lawyers and allowed only monthly consular visits.

The latest such visit came earlier this week.

No details of the men's detention or health conditions were provided due to Canadian privacy laws, but officials said they would press for further access to both detainees. China has also never announced where the men are being held.

A group of Canadian parliamentarians had earlier complained to Chinese officials that Kovrig and Spavor have been denied access to lawyers, and remain in "completely unacceptable" detention conditions.

Meng is allowed to live in her Vancouver mansion, although her mobility is limited. She made her latest court appearance last week as she fights extradition to the United States. She has been ordered to wear an electronic ankle and hand over her passports after being released on bail in mid-December on a Can\$10 million (US\$7.4 million) bond.

Two other Canadians convicted of drug trafficking, meanwhile, have been sentenced to death. Canada has called the death penalties for Fen Wei and Robert Lloyd Schellenberg "cruel and inhumane".

Beijing also recently blocked Canadian shipments of canola and pork worth billions of dollars.

Ottawa has rallied the support of a dozen countries, including Britain, France, Germany and the US, as well as the EU, NATO and the G7, in its diplomatic feud with China. Washington, meanwhile stepped up its battle against Huawei on Wednesday, effectively barring the company from the US market and restricting US sales to the firm. The United States has urged allies to shun Huawei's 5G technology, warning that it could serve the interests of Chinese intelligence services.—AFP ■

## Citing safety, US cuts air links to Venezuela

WASHINGTON (United States) — Citing safety concerns, the United States on Wednesday suspended all passenger and cargo air services to Venezuela.

The announcement follows the decision in March by American Airlines, the largest carrier providing services, to suspend flights to the crisis-stricken South American nation. The decision came at the request of the De-

partment of Homeland Security following an assessment of conditions in Venezuela, the Department of Transportation said in a statement. An order released by the Transportation Department cited "reports of civil unrest in an around the airports" and said the US Transportation Security Administration had been unable to gain access to Venezuelan airports for security assessments.

The State Department has urged Americans not travel to Venezuela and temporarily suspended US embassy operations, withdrawing diplomatic personnel. Earlier this month, the Federal Aviation Administration prohibited most US-certified aircraft and pilots from flying below 26,000 feet (7,900 meters) over Venezuelan territory, also on safety grounds.—AFP ■

## 2 yrs sought for mother over suspected fatal abuse of girl by father

CHIBA (Japan) — Prosecutors asked a court on Thursday to sentence a woman to two years in prison as she pleaded guilty to complicity in her husband's assaults on their 10-year-old daughter who died this Janu-

ary near Tokyo in a case that has attracted international attention.

Nagisa Kurihara, 32, is accused of failing to stop her husband Yuichiro, 41, from assaulting their daughter Mia

and following his instructions not to feed her from around 22 January. Mia was found dead inside the bathroom of their home in Noda, Chiba Prefecture two days later.—Kyodo News ■

## Five killed in Shanghai building collapse

SHANGHAI (China)— Five people were killed on Thursday when the roof of a Shanghai commercial building caved in upon construction workers who were renovating it, the city government said.

The accident occurred at around 11:30 am (0330 GMT) in a central Shanghai neighbourhood, trapping around 20 people, according to fire rescue officials.

Official sources provided differing tallies of the numbers of people pulled out of the rubble throughout the day, but both the city government and the national emergency ministry now quote a death toll of five.

A verified social media account run by China's emergency ministry showed pictures of rescue personnel digging blood-

ied and dust-coated workers out from amid piles of rubble, toppled concrete pillars and shattered wooden beams.

Authorities did not give details on the severity of the injuries suffered by survivors.

Police quickly sealed off the area with a huge security presence, preventing journalists from getting close. The building had previously been used as a dealership for Mercedes-Benz cars, the fire rescue bureau said.

It was being redeveloped as a mixed-use arts and innovation site, according to Chinese media reports. A local resident told AFP she was taking a nap when her bed suddenly began shaking, as if in an earthquake had struck. She then heard a loud bang.

"I thought it was an explo-

sion at first," said the woman, who declined to give her name or to comment further.

Chinese media reports said the structure was around 3,000 square metres (32,000 square feet) in area. Aerial pictures on social media appeared to indicate that the roof of about half of the building collapsed.

China has seen numerous building collapses in recent years, typically blamed on the country's rapid growth leading to corner-cutting on construction, and the flouting of safety rules.

At least 20 people were killed in 2016 when a series of crudely-constructed multi-storey buildings that were packed with migrant workers collapsed in the eastern city of Wenzhou.—AFP ■



Rescue personnel pulled bloodied and dust-coated workers out from rubble in Shanghai following the roof collapse. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Australian former PM Bob Hawke dead

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australia's longest-serving Labor prime minister Bob Hawke died Thursday aged 89.

"Today we lost Bob Hawke, a great Australian — many would say the greatest Australian of the post-war era," his second wife Blanche d'Alpuget said in a statement.

"He died peacefully at home."

The son of a preacher, Hawke led his country during the 1980s, a period during which he seduced the nation with his everyman appeal while beginning deregulation of the economy, including floating the dollar.

From negotiating with Frank Sinatra to ensure the crooner's 1974 Sydney concerts went ahead to shedding tears over bloodshed in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, Hawke was a huge presence on Australia's political landscape.

Never voted out by the public, which forgave him his faults, he won four elections on the run beginning in 1983, and only left office following a party room coup.

To many he was a quintessential Australian "larrikin" — a beloved rogue.

His death comes days before Australians go to the polls.

The Labor party posted a tribute on Twitter to one of their most fondly-remembered characters.

"Vale Bob. We will remember him. In solidarity, forever. May he rest in peace."

"When you would go out campaigning with Bob you were... absolutely mobbed," recalled Hawke cabinet member Susan Ryan.

"He was extremely popular with the women voters. They really, really liked to get near him and to touch him and to get him to sign the autographs and so forth.

"And the men liked him too because he was a sportsman and he had been a very effective trade union leader. So he was certainly Mr. Popularity."

When Australia won the America's Cup yacht race in 1983, a jubilant Hawke sporting a white blazer printed with the words 'Australia', memorably said: "Any boss who sacks a worker for not turning up today is a bum."

Nonetheless, he helped forge a consensus between labour unions and business, and used his appeal to win broad support for economic reforms which sometimes saw critics accuse him of moving the Labor Party to the right.—AFP ■



Bob Hawke had an everyman image and would chug down beers with cricket fans, but he was also possessed of a fearsome intellect. PHOTO: AFP

## OBITUARY

### ASLEEP IN JESUS

#### U Than Htun Aung @ Albert Swan Aged (82)

U Than Htun Aung, grand son of (U Tampeya and Daw Mya Yee) of Taunggi, son of (U Swan-Daw Than Shin) son-in-law of (Dr. Robin Krasu-Dr. Phyllis Krasu), beloved husband of Daw Stella Aung, father of Daw Aye Aye Than (Unicef-Nigeria)- U Myo Khine (Retd: Engineer), U Tun Zaw (Innox Myanmar)- Daw L Roi Jar (Beauty Specialist), Daw Swe Swe Lay (Giant Steps for Autsim)- U Htun Htun Myint (Behaviour Therapist), grand father of Myo Paing Aung, Su Michelle Sin and Ricky Khaing, brother of (Dr. Pe Than Myint) – Daw Penny Myint, Daw Thin Thin Swe- (U Chit Swe Kyaing) passed away peacefully on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Thu Kha Kabar Hospital at 9:40 pm. Funeral Service will be held in Yay Way Christian cemetery at 3:00 pm 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Memorial Service will be held at above residence at 5:00 pm on (19/5/2019) Sunday.

Bereaved Family

## Eiffel Tower celebrates 130<sup>th</sup> birthday

PARIS (France) — The Eiffel Tower has celebrated its 130th birthday in Paris, with the city marking the anniversary with a light show at the famed monument.

Built for the 1889 World's Fair, the tower — which soars to 324 metres in height and weighs 7,300 tonnes — still attracts nearly seven million visitors every year.

Despite calls for its demolition in the years after the exhibition, it soon became the most iconic feature on the Paris skyline and is France's most visited monument.

"The Eiffel Tower is a must," said Laurie, a tourist from Canada.

Christophe Girard, overseeing cultural affairs at Paris's city hall said the recent fire at Notre-Dame



A picture taken on May 15, 2019 shows the Eiffel Tower during a light show celebrating the 130th anniversary of its construction, in Paris. Built for the 1889 World's Fair, towering at 324 meters and weighing 7300 tons, the Eiffel Tower attracts nearly seven million visitors every year. PHOTO: AFP

Cathedral — which destroyed its spire and most of its roof — had awakened people to "the importance of our heritage", and that

it "can disappear or be damaged". The tower was the tallest structure in the world for 41 years until the construction of the Chry-

ler Building in New York in 1930. A section of stairs from the tower sold for almost 170,000 euros last year.—AFP ■

## Lights out! Japan city to shut red-light zone during G20

TOKYO (Japan) — Sex workers in Osaka will be shown the red light as the city seeks to clean up its image before hosting world leaders for the G20 summit in June.

All 159 members of the TobitaShinchi association, which represents businesses in the red-light district, will close their doors during the Group of 20 meeting to avoid

causing "disruption," an association official told AFP. "Because the summit is a huge event, we thought that even a minor bit of trouble between our customers could be a source of disruption, and have decided to close our operations voluntarily," he said.

Trouble between customers tends to break out in part because of alcohol

consumption in the district, he added.

TobitaShinchi was once known as the largest neighbourhood of licensed brothels in Japan, but to circumvent anti-prostitution laws, many establishments now operate as 'Japanese-style restaurants'.

The association took a similar measure in 1995, when Osaka

hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, with some but not all neighbourhood businesses closing during the meeting, the official said. Japan will host the G20 summit in Osaka on June 28-29, with US President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping among the world leaders expected to attend.—AFP ■

## ASEAN athletes arrive in Yangon for 16<sup>th</sup> SEA Bodybuilding, Physique Championship

ATHLETES from ASEAN nations arrived in Yangon by air yesterday for the 16<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Championship.

The athletes were welcomed by officials from the Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation (MBPSF) at the Yangon International Airport.

The SEA Bodybuilding and Physique Championship will be held at the Myanmar Convention Center (MCC) in Yangon on 18 and 19 May. It is being organized under the supervision of the World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation (WBPSF), the Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation (ABBF), and the South East Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation (SEABPF).

Contestants from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and athletes from AMI Gym are participating in the championship, said officials.



Athletes from Thailand arrive at the Yangon International Airport yesterday ahead of the 16<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian (SEA) Bodybuilding and Physique Championship. **PHOTO: MNA**

“Myanmar is being represented by 46 athletes — 32 men and 14 women. Over 100 athletes are taking part in the competition,” the officials added.

International referee from MBPSF, U Nay Lin, said that Myanmar has held world and ASEAN-level Bodybuilding and Physique Championships in for-

mer times. This time, with more men’s, women’s doubles, men’s singles, and women’s singles events, the competition will be intense, he added.

There will be 22 events in total, including Women’s Model Physique, Women’s Athletic Physique, Women’s Fitness Physique, Men’s Sport Physique,

Men’s Fitness Physique, and mixed pair events, along with an award for Mr. South East Asia 2019 in the championship.

At the 15<sup>th</sup> SEA Bodybuilding & Physique Championship in Cambodia last year, Myanmar won two gold medals and two silver medals.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

## Dala Township team crowned MFF U-10 grassroots tournament champions

THE Dala Township team were crowned the champions of the AFC U-10 Grassroots Tournament 2019 (Yangon Region), which was held yesterday on the artificial turf of the National Football Academy in Yangon.

In the final match, the Dala Township team played against the Hlaing Township team. The score was 1-1 at the final whistle, and the match was decided through a penalty shoot. The Dala Township team won the penalty kick and were declared as winners of the tourney.

The awards ceremony was convened after the final match. At the ceremony, the technical advisor to the Myanmar Football Federation, U Aye Maung Gyi, presented the trophy to the winning team, while the headmaster of the National Football Academy, U Aye Cho, presented medals and certificates of honour to the Dala Township players.

The Deputy Director of the Sports and Physical Education



The Dala Township U-10 team celebrate their victory at the MFF U-10 Grassroots Tournament 2019 finals held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

Department (Yangon), U Aung Than, presented medals and certificates of honour to the second placed team, Hlaing Township. The coach of the Myanmar U-22 football team, U Chit Naing, presented medals and certificates of honour to the third placed Shwe

Pyitar Township team.

The Director of the Grassroots section of the MFF, U Bhone Nyunt Ko, presented medals and certificates of honour to the fourth placed Kawhmu Township team and participating referees.

The Grassroots Tournament 2019 for Yangon Region was held on 15 and 16 May. Twenty-four teams of kids under the age of 10, divided into six groups, from 24 townships of Yangon Region, participated in the tourney.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## General Aung San Shield 2019: Quarter Finals to showcase derby match

THE General Aung San Shield 2019 has reached the quarter final stage, with a much-anticipated derby match between two national league stars Yadanarbon F.C. and Sagaing United F.C. scheduled to take place at the Aung San Stadium in Yangon on 20 May.

Eight teams have reached the quarter finals of the tourney.

In the quarter finals, Shan United will play against Hantawady United at the Aung San Stadium in Yangon at 3:30 p.m. on 19 May. The match will be broadcast live on the MWD Channel.

Magwe F.C. will take on Rakhine United at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon at 3:30 p.m. the same day. The match will be streamed live on General Aung San Shield’s Facebook page.

On 20 May, the derby match between Yadanarbon and Sagaing United will take place at 3:30 p.m. on 20 May. The match will be live-streamed on General Aung San Shield’s Facebook page.

Meanwhile, Southern Myanmar F.C. will face Yangon United F.C. at the Thuwunna Stadium at 3:30 p.m. the same day, and the match will be broadcast live on the MWD Channel, said a source with the General Aung San Shield’s organizing committee.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## ‘Exhausted’ Thiem rages at organisers after falling to Verdasco in Rome

ROME (Italy) — World number four and last year’s French Open finalist Dominic Thiem, blasted tournament organisers for keeping competitors hanging around all day when play was washed out midweek as he was dumped out of the Italian Open second round on Thursday by Spaniard Fernando Verdasco.

Austrian Thiem, who had received a first round bye as the fifth seed, lost 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, in the final warm-up tournament before the start of Roland Garros on 26 May.—AFP ■