

PARLIAMENT

Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 15/2019

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

UEC Chairman receives Shwe Min Thar Foundation (Myanmar) Chairman

PAGE-5

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Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12th regular session holds ninth-day meeting



Hluttaw representatives seen at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE ninth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

Hluttaw to discuss ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement

At the meeting Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo explained about the benefit of Myanmar acceding

Hluttaw okays Yen 82.273-billion loan from JICA for urban development ...

to ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement in the 35th ASEAN Summit meeting that will be held in November 2019.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to

register their names.

Hluttaw approves Literature and Arts Copyright Bill

Next Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe obtained the decision and approval of the Hluttaw after submitting and proposing by paragraph the Literature and Arts Copyright Bill sent by the President with comments.

SEE PAGE-2

Union Chief Justice attends IXth St. Petersburg International Legal Forum

UNION Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo attended the IXth St. Petersburg International Legal Forum held from 14 to 18 May in the Russian Federation at the invitation of Russian Federation Minister of Justice Mr. Alexander Kononov and returned to Yangon on 19 May.

The Union Chief Justice was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Russian Federation Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nikolay A Listopadov and embassy officials, Yangon Region High Court Chief Judge and High Court Judges and Yangon Region judicial officials.

The legal forum was attended by international legal experts, people working in the judiciary sector, subject experts on related sectors and experts. Four days of discussions and talks on present day legal problems and matters were held. The Union Chief Justice also attended a separate meeting between Russian Federation Prime Minister Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev and forum attending sector wise heads of countries attending the forum held during the opening ceremony of the forum. While attending the forum the Union Chief Justice also met separately with the Hague Conference on Private International Law Secretary General Mr. Christophe Bernasconi. — MNA

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Overseas Works Management Committee holds coord meeting 1/2019 in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-4



LOCAL NEWS

First small industrial products, handicrafts expo to be held in Monywa

PAGE-6



BUSINESS

Myanmar hotel business developing rapidly: association

PAGE-7



Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 15/2019



Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the meeting 15/2019 of the Joint Committee on amending the 2008 Constitution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MEETING 15/2019 of the Joint Committee on amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Com-

mittee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, Joint

Secretary U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA (*Translated Zaw Min*)



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo meets with Russian Federation Prime Minister Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev in Russian Federation. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12th regular session holds ...



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo.



MP Dr. Myat Nyana Soe.



ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi.



Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing.



Union Minister U Thaug Tun.

FROM PAGE-1

Hluttaw put on record Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report, discussions and explanations

Following this Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi responded and explained in detail to the discussions and comments made by Hluttaw representatives on the Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report.

The Chairman of the Commission said that just 46 cases were completed by the Commission in a year, which was a low figure in comparison to the number of complaints received.

Of the 10,543 complaints, 46 were handled by the commission, while 1,795 were transferred to the respective region and state governments, and action could

not be taken on 2,824, he said.

This was due to shortage of human and technical resources, expertise, and experience, though the commission was working at its full capacity, he added.

The Chairman said the report in Chapter 5, entitled 'Future Work Process of 2019', will include the suggestions and recommendations made by the Hluttaw representatives that can be implemented. He requested the Hluttaw to put the Commission's 2018 Annual Report on record.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw putting on record the Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report, discussion of the Hluttaw representatives and the discussion and explanation made by relevant Union level organization members.

Hluttaw agrees on Yen 82.273

billion loan from JICA

Afterwards Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman U Aung Min read and submitted a committee report on the committee's findings and comment on Yen 82.273 billion loan from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) to conduct urban development projects sent by the President.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win provided explanations and discussion on the matter.

When the matter was voted upon by the Hluttaw, there were 521 for, 15 against and 7 abstentions. Accordingly an announcement was made that Hluttaw approves the loan and the departments and organiza-

tions implementing the project were to follow the comments and recommendations of Joint Public Accounts Committee as well as the discussion and suggestions made by the Hluttaw representatives.

Hluttaw approves bill amending Bar Council Act

Later Hluttaw representatives discussed a bill amending Bar Council Act that the two Hluttaws were in disagreement according to submission and proposal of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee by paragraph and then the Hluttaw approved the bill.

Fourth Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement

As a final agenda of the day Hluttaw representatives U Khin

Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency and U Than Soe @ Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency 4 discussed Myanmar acceding to fourth protocol amending the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement. Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaug Tun also discussed and explained for the Hluttaw to approve the matter.

After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval for Myanmar acceding to fourth protocol amending the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement.

The tenth-day meeting of the 12th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 23 May it is learnt. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) (*Translated by Zaw Min*)

Union LIP Minister inspects Namhkam, Muse border immigration gates

U THEIN SWE, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, inspected Naung Tein immigration outpost in Namhkam Township and Mahn Wein inspection camp in Muse Township in Northern Shan State on 18 May.

The Union Minister and entourage first visited the outpost near Naung Tein village in the morning. Officials explained the border conditions between Myanmar and China, how the citizens of both countries cross the Shwe Li River, and how relevant departments cooperate to ensure smooth travel for the local residents.

The Union Minister then gave instructions to carefully inspect all entries and departures through Naung Tein outpost, continued inspection to ensure extracting sand from the Shwe Li River doesn't alter its natu-

ral flow and affects the border demarcation, and educating the local people to prevent illegal immigration in addition to proper inspections. He also asked about the immigration processes in the nearby Mahn Haung outpost.

Afterwards, the Union Minister went to the township office for immigration and population and inspected the office and archive room. He then instructed the staff to be mindful of fire safety, preparing for the transition from pen and paper filing to the digital e-ID system, ensuring good communication with a plethora of people from different background as the office is located on the border, and urging continued cooperation among the staff in addition to fulfilling their assigned duties.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister travelled to



Union Minister U Thein Swe inspects border immigration outposts in Namhkam Township and Muse Township in Northern Shan State on 18 May. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mahn Wein inspection camp in Muse where cargo vehicles from Myanmar and China pass through.

He asked staff from each department about their duties and any challenges they were facing while giving coordination as necessary.

Next, the Union Minister

inspected staff handling immigration at Nan Taw gate and the entry and departures of people and vehicles through Sin Pyu gate.

He then replied to explanations from officials and urged all relevant departments to cooperate in ensuring people from both countries experience smooth

and pleasant immigration, and the need for officials from both sides to maintain close friendly relations.

From there, the Union Minister went to inspect Ho Saung outpost on the Myanmar-China border and gave instructions as necessary. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

TIDE opens 3rd Residential School in Yangon University

Yangon University held a ceremony for the opening of the 3rd Residential School by TIDE (Transformation by Innovation in Distance Education) at its Scientific Research Building

yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, spoke at the opening ceremony. He said the TIDE project is a collaboration between the

universities of Myanmar and the UK for developing the distance education system in our country.

He said the project aims to impart important skills that

will ensure job security for the 500,000 plus students who study via distance education in Myanmar. He said TIDE will develop the field of environmental science, an important field of study in Myanmar, and improve the curriculum to international standards.

The Union Minister said the processes for development which will be acquired from improving this subject matter will be applied to other subjects that support regional development and new idea on how to employ that will be given as well.

The TIDE project is supporting the endeavours of the Ministry of Education and will continue until September 2021, said the Union Minister. He added that they project will provide capacity building courses to over 300 faculty members and staff of 30 universities across the country.

The Union Minister also said TIDE is part of the UK Government's larger SPHEIR Project, which is headed by

the UK's Department for International Development and in cooperation with the British Council and Universities UK International.

Next, British Ambassador Mr. Dan Chugg, Academic Director Prof. Andy Lane of The Open University, and Yangon University's Rector Dr. Poe Kaung delivered separate speeches.

Later in the day, the Union Minister and entourage visited the 'World Metrology Day 2019' event at Melia Hotel, Yangon. The event is a collaboration between the Department of Research and Innovation and the Germany-based organization PTB.

World Metrology Day celebrates the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875. Representatives from 17 nations discussed on a common system of measurements which led way to the eventual establishment of the International System of Units. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivers the opening speech at the ceremony for the opening of the 3rd Residential School by TIDE at Yangon University in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Overseas Works Management Committee holds coord meeting 1/2019 in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Thein Swe addresses the coordination meeting for Overseas Works Management Committee of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

OVERSEA Works Management Committee of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held coordination meeting 1/2019 at the meeting hall of the ministry yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Committee Chairman Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, committee members who were Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Transport and Communications Deputy Ministers, permanent secretaries and officials from Union Auditor-General Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Central Bank of Myanmar, Ministry of Social

Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department and the ministry.

At the meeting Union Minister U Thein Swe said Certificate of Identity (CI) was issued to a total of 1,666,115 undocumented Myanmar workers in Thailand and their bio matrix data, iris scan and finger prints were scanned, recorded and stored at National Data Center in Nay Pyi Taw. It can be shared with other departments if requested, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister also explained about a coordination meeting between Myanmar-Thai government by experts on workers held at Phuket,

Thailand from 13 to 14 May, arrangements made to send Myanmar fishery sector workers to Thailand, Japan and Republic of Korea and memorandum of cooperation (MOC) signed with Japan on 28 March 2019 to send expert workers to Japan and other overseas workers related matters. Next Overseas Works Management Committee secretary Department of Labour Director General U Win Shein explained about works conducted by the committee from November 2018 to April 2019 and fund usage status. Committee members then discussed relevant ministries' works on migrant workers. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (42/2019) inaugurates



Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu delivers a speech at the inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (42/2019) in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

The inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (42/2019) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Wunzinmyintzar Hall of the

Ministry in Yangon at 10:00 a.m. today, with an opening remarks delivered by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present on the occasion

were retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Directors-General and responsible officials of the departments under the Ministry, senior diplomats, professors and instructors as well as trainees.

The 12-week long part-time certificate course comprises the subjects related to diplomacy, negotiation skills, international law, international conferencing, international relations and economics. Basic Diplomatic Skills Course has been conducted since the year 2000, mainly for those who have to engage in international relations from private and public sectors, young graduates and those who want to learn more on those subjects. And it usually runs twice a year. —MNA

Filipino Foreign Secretary, wife arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

MR. TEODORO L. Locsin Jr., Philippines' Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and his wife arrived on official goodwill visit to Myanmar yesterday evening. The delegation is to attend the third meeting of the Myanmar-Philippines Joint Commission on Cooperation. The

delegation was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Soe Han, Director-General of the Political Department, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Philippines' Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. welcomed by officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNHCR delegation visits Maungtaw

A delegation led by Mr. Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, flew by Myanmar airlines to Sittway yesterday afternoon. They were welcomed at Sittway Airport by officials from the Rakhine State government and UNHCR.

The High Commissioner and delegation then went from Buthidaung to Maungtaw in the evening. The delegation held a meeting with the District Administrator and discussed about the implementation

process of the MoU signed between the Union Government and the UNDP and UNHCR and possible extensions, holding coordination meetings between the State government and UN agencies, accepting returning IDPs, and proliferating the benefits of holding an NVC card.

This is the second visit by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and his delegation to Rakhine State. —District IPRD (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi and District Administrator pose for a photo in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and Shwe Min Thar Foundation delegation pose for a documentary photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEC Chairman receives Shwe Min Thar Foundation (Myanmar) Chairman

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received Shwe Min Thar Foundation (Myanmar) Chairman U Myat Thu Win and party at the meeting hall of UEC Chairman's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they cordially discussed matters

related on difficulties faced by disabled persons in 2015 General Elections, suggestions for the 2020 General Elections and measures to be taken for promoting the role the people with disabilities in elections. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Myanmar-China Business Association launched



Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang, UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win and officials ceremoniously unveil Myanmar-China Business Association. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

THE Myanmar-China Business Association was launched the residence of the Chinese Ambassador in Yangon yesterday.

The Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Hong Liang, first spoke on the active cooperation between the two countries on the Belt and Road Initiative and how it ties in to the development and prosperity for both sides.

He said the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor was started under this framework and has opened a wide range of opportunities for cooperation in business and trade. Next, U Min Min, Director-General of the Trade Department under the

Ministry of Commerce, spoke of the bilateral trade situation between Myanmar and China.

Following that, UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win and Mr. Liu Ying, Chairman of the Myanmar-China Entrepreneur Association, delivered separate opening speeches.

Afterwards, Mr. Hong Liang, U Min Min and U Zaw Min Win, together with other officials, unveiled the signboard for the Myanmar-China Business Association and took a documentary photo together. —Min Thit (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Govt. takes steps to bring Phakant region migrant workers back on their feet

A coordination meeting on rehabilitation of Phakant region migrant workers was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Ministers and officials.

At the meeting Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye explained about rehabilitation works, formation of six sub-groups, work

coordination meeting 1/2018 of work group held in Nay Pyi Taw, 39 decisions made at the meeting set as future work processes of the six sub-groups and the reason for calling the meeting.

Next, Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe explained about security and rule of law works conducted in Phakant region, difficulties faced, future work processes and cooperation works to be conducted by all.

Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint, Dr. Ye Myint Swe and U Soe Aung, Kachin State minister for security and border

affairs also discussed and explained about sub-group wise works and future works.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye urged the meeting attendees to conduct sub-group wise field visits and meet with local and civil society organizations to review the effectiveness of prevailing laws, instructions and work processes. Suggestions in the day's meeting will be compiled and submitted to the security, stability and rule of law committee. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the coordination meeting for rehabilitating migrant workers in Phakant region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar-China Friendship Association holds 6th annual meeting

The Central Myanmar-China Friendship Association held their 6th annual meeting at Myanmar Sport Hotel in Thuwunna Football Stadium, Yangon, yesterday evening.

Speaking at the meeting, Yangon Region's Chief Minister, U Phyo Min Thein, said Myanmar and China are evolving from a Paukphaw relationship to a grand strategic relationship. He said associations like this support the social, econom-

ic and political aspects of the nation.

Next, the central association's Chairman, U Sein Win Aung, explained the reason behind the event. After that, donors handed over cash donations to the association which were accepted by Patron U Tin Oo, who gave honorary certificates in return.

In the second programme of the event, association secretary U Soe Myint Tun read

the annual report and officials from the branch associations of Mandalay, Lashio-Muse, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi reported on their respective association's undertakings. Next, joint-financial officer Daw Aye Thu explained the association's account report, association Vice Chairman U Myo Aung announced the future tasks, and the Chairman concluded the event with a closing speech.

Attending the event were the Deputy Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, Regional cabinet members, the patrons of the Central Myanmar-China Friendship Association, its officials, and invited guests.

Since its inception, the association has continually strived for social work and regional development and supported developing the human resource, cultural exchange, education, healthcare, businesses and provided help in times of natural disasters. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein addresses the 6th annual meeting of Myanmar-China Friendship Association. **PHOTO: MNA**

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First small industrial products and handicrafts expo to be held in Monywa

A SMALL Industrial Products and Handicrafts Expo, the first in the region, will be held at the Monywa Town Hall from 29 to 31 May, said U Lin Phyto Aung, Assistant Engineer, Sagaing Region Small-scale Industries Department.

There will be about 80 showrooms at the expo, exhibiting guitars, jade, textiles manufactured by handlooms, shampoos, Thanakha, cosmetics, clothes, personal goods, and food items.

"Products manufactured by small industrial entrepreneurs from Sagaing Region will be showcased at the expo, which is being organized with the aim of developing the small industry sector," he added.

"Local farmers who are cultivating only crops and Thanakha should not just be engaged in cultivation. They must also gain the technical know-how



Small industrial products and handicrafts will be exhibited from 29 to 31 May in Monywa. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

to produce goods with new designs so that they can penetrate a highly competitive market," said U Kyaw Moe, the chairman of Myanmar Thanakha Cultivation, Production, Export and Sales As-

sociation.

"Ayadaw Thanakha will be showcased at the first small industrial products and handicrafts expo. The small industrial products expo will expose small local

entrepreneurs to products manufactured by other entrepreneurs. We would also be able to share our good experiences at the expo," he added.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Sagaing authorities offering free vaccines for animals

TO prevent an outbreak of anthrax, blackleg or back quarter, and diphtheria, which are caused by intense summer heat and drastic weather changes, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Sagaing Region is offering free vaccines for animals, said Dr. Myint Soe, the head of the department.

"The weather is extremely hot these days. So, we have urged breeders to herd their cattle only in the mornings and evenings, and keep them in shade. We are providing vaccines for anthrax, blackleg or back quarter, and diphtheria free of charge in the region. We are also working with local breeders to ensure cattle have sufficient drinking water," said Dr. Myint Soe.

"The Monywa Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is raising awareness among local breeders about sprinkling water or using water-spraying fans in the breeding farms to combat intense heat. The department has also urged local breeders to keep fire hooks, sand, and buckets to prevent fire outbreaks in cattle farming areas and feed stores," said Daw Ei Ei Aung, the head of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Monywa Township.

"It is too hot at the livestock breeding farms. A fire just broke out in a Monywa poultry farm. We are also raising awareness among local farmers so that they inform us of fire outbreaks as soon as possible," she added.



A Veterinarian vaccinates the cattle to prevent an outbreak of anthrax. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MYONYWA)**

There is one cattle farming zone, one quail farming zone, and seven poultry farming zones in Sagaing region.—Myo Win Tun (Myonywa) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Strong winds devastated 19 houses in Pyuntaza Town

THE strong winds hit Ngargyieine village in Pyuntaza town, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region on 19 May around 5 p.m, leaving houses, roofs, trees and electric pillars destroyed.

"The wind blew on the evening of 19 May and it demolished the houses, the roofs of the houses and electric pillars are destroyed. Currently, the

accommodations are arranged for old people and children", said U Myo Myint, a villager.

The roofs of the 19 houses, a monetary and 12 electric pillars in the village had been destroyed by the strong wind according to a report. —Khin Maung Lwin (Nyaunglebin) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Houses are destroyed due to strong winds in Pyuntaza, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region. **PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG LWIN (NYAUNGLEBIN)**

Domestic oil prices on the rise amid global tensions

WITH oil prices fluctuating in the global market amid tensions in the Middle East and the escalating U.S.-China trade war, the prices of fuel in the domestic market have been on the increase, according to fuel traders.

Oil prices seesawed in the global market over the past week, with the price of Brent crude oil rising yesterday to US\$72.92 per barrel, while WTI crude was priced around \$63 a barrel. Oil prices reached their highest level in the first five months of this year, showing an increase of 18-34 per cent, depending on the quality of oil, according to fuel stations. On 20 May, Octane 92 was priced at K850-900, Octane 95 at K920-970, diesel at K1,000, and premium diesel at K1,020, according to the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association. Last year, tracking the

increase in global crude oil prices and the weakening of the Kyat against the US dollar, domestic oil prices hit a high, with Octane 92 priced at K1,065, Octane 95 at K1,115, diesel at K1,085, and premium diesel at K1,105 on 10 October, 2018.

Thereafter, domestic oil prices touched a low, with Octane 92 reaching K695, Octane 95 priced at K760, diesel at K870, and premium diesel at K875 on 1 January, according to the local oil market.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while 10 per cent is produced locally. Myanmar imports 200,000 tons of gasoline and 400,000 tons of diesel every month, primarily through Singapore. There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importers in Myanmar. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mango growers troubled over rising cultivation costs



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MANGO growers in Sagaing Region said they are facing difficulties due to an increase in the price of various inputs, such as fertilizers, insecticides, and farming gear. “The problems faced by mango growers include an increase in the prices of fertilizers, insecticides, and farming equipment. In addition, the poor state of agricultural roads is making it difficult to transport mangoes to the market,” said U Kyaw Myint, a mango grower from Depayinkwe Village.

He said his village needed a sale centre, where only growers who have been awarded Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certificates, can sell quality products. That would attract more attention from merchants of such products and encourage other local growers to cultivate crops under the GAP system, U Kyaw Myint added. In Sagaing Region, seven mango growers were the

first to obtain GAP certification in 2017. Nineteen mango growers got GAP certificates the following year, and 14 mango growers were awarded the certificates this year.

“In Depayinkwe Village alone, there are roughly 3,000 mango plantations run by about 300 farmers, and they estimate that approximately 10,000 mangoes are likely to be produced this season,” U Kyaw Myint added.

Ko Hmway, another mango grower, said growers are getting a good price for mangoes this season, especially in the export market. However, they are facing high cultivation costs. Currently, the price of fertilizers, farm trucks, and pumping machines is increasing in the market, he said.

At present, a 15-kg box of mangoes is priced at about K12,000 in the market. Last year, growers received only K10,000 per box, he added. —Win Oo, Myo Win Tun (Trans: Khaing Thanda)

Myanmar hotel business developing rapidly: association

WITH the increase in the number of tourists visiting Myanmar every year, the country’s hotel business is developing at a rapid rate, said U Kyaw Khaing, the Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Hotelier Association.

“The Myanmar Hotelier Association was formed in 2002. The association is the main supporter of the development of the hotel industry. Myanmar has about 1,312 hotels, including 1,286 private hotels and 26 foreign joint-venture hotels, with over 70,000 rooms. This is one of the developments of the hotel industry in Myanmar,” said U Kyaw Khaing at a press conference on Food and Hotel Myanmar.

There are about 19 hotel zones in Myanmar, including Shan North and Shan South in Shan State, Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha in Patheingyi zone, Mandalay zone, Bagan zone, Sagaing zone, and Inle zone.

A total of 3.5 million tourists visited Myanmar in 2018. The association aims at improving tourist flow and targets to increase arrivals to 7 million across the country by 2030.

Altogether 21 countries will participate in the Food and Hotel expo, which will be held in Myanmar soon. The expo will help educate entrepreneurs from the hotel industry on food



Melia Hotel in Yangon. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

preparation and related technology. —Myint Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)

Regional trade exceeded \$6 bln in Oct-Apr: Commerce Ministry

THE value of Myanmar’s regional trade with ASEAN countries through the maritime routes and the border gates was estimated at US\$6.06 billion in the first seven months of the current fiscal year 2018-2019, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Imports surpassed exports in regional trade, with exports crossing \$2.25 billion and imports valued at \$3.8 billion, according to the Ministry.

Since April, Thailand has topped the list of ASEAN coun-

tries having the largest trade with Myanmar, valued at \$2.6 billion. Singapore is placed second with a trade value of \$1.94 billion, followed by Indonesia with trade value of \$531.6 million, Malaysia with \$4,280 million, and Viet Nam with \$422 million.

Meanwhile, bilateral trade with the Philippines has reached \$85.4 million, Cambodia \$6.19 million, and Laos only \$1.18 million, while Brunei’s trade with Myanmar is below \$1 million.

The country’s main export

items include agricultural and fishery products, as well as minerals, while imports include food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles, and consumer goods. Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar has been conducting external trade mostly with its regional partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, has remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Malaysian businessmen to visit Myanmar for investment promotion

By Nyein Nyein
BUSINESSMEN from Malaysia, the eighth largest foreign investor in Myanmar, will soon meet with officials of the Myanmar Investment Commission to discuss the potential for investment in the country, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

“The Malaysian businessmen will be coming to Myanmar to observe successful Malaysian businesses in the country and explore potential investment opportunities. Therefore, a

business meeting will be held to apprise the Malaysian businessmen of Myanmar’s laws and by-laws,” said an official from the DICA.

That meeting will be jointly held by the MIC and the Malaysian Embassy. Further details regarding the meeting have not been revealed yet.

Since 1988 till April-end, 2019, Malaysia has invested US\$1.9 billion in Myanmar. The manufacturing sector has raked in the largest share of investments — \$729 million — from

Malaysian-listed enterprises, followed by the real estate sector with estimated capital of \$428 million, and the petrol and natural gas sector with \$397 million, according to the DICA.

In addition, Malaysia has invested \$256 million in the transportation sector, \$52 million in the hotels and tourism sector, over \$76 million in the agriculture sector, over 21 million in the livestock and fisheries sector, and \$0.2 million in other services sector.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Cancer is preventable, and we must work together to eliminate it

HERE are diseases that get transmitted from one person to another and there are diseases that arise due to prolonged periods of poor dietary choices, such as consuming excessive junk food, and unhealthy lifestyle choices, such as sitting in front of a computer screen all day. The latter are classified as noncommunicable diseases.

Some statistics show that 59 out of 100 deaths in Myanmar are caused by non-communicable diseases. This group of diseases includes hypertension, coronary artery disease, cancer, mental illness, alcoholism, cigarette addiction, drug addiction, diabetes, stroke, chronic lung disease and respiratory diseases, deafness, snake bites, and accidents. Among them, coronary artery disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung disease are the most widespread.

Cancer is prevalent not only in Myanmar, but around the world. Globally, it ranks second in terms of fatalities. In 2018, 18.3 million people around the world were diagnosed with cancer, with the number of deaths reaching 9.6 million. There were 69,554 new cancer cases in Myanmar in 2018, and 51,059 deaths. Statistics show one in every five

men and one in every six women have cancer, and 70 per cent of all those who die of cancer are from low-income and middle class families.

Cancer can be caused due to poor lifestyle or it can be hereditary. It can also be caused by air pollution and unhealthy food choices in urban settings. A third of cancer cases can be prevented. Early diagnosis and treatment saves around 3.7 million people every year.

Many developed countries only allow sale of safe and healthy food to citizens. They ban consumables that are harmful to public health outright, and conduct regular checks. As a result, their people are free from cancer and enjoy long, healthy lives. Myanmar may not be a developed country, but it should envisage freedom from all illnesses and offer protection accordingly.

The common citizens are restricted in choosing nutritious and healthy food due to low income, which prompts them to choose cheap, filling, and unhealthy food instead. Consuming such food on a daily basis can lead to the onset of cancer. Vendors need to sell food that is healthy. This will earn them merit and attract good fortune to them.

We urge all stakeholders in the food industry, both from the private and public sectors, to emphasize freedom from cancer and health protection of the public.



Coffee industry, at the threshold of a new era

By Tun Tun Naing,
Than Zaw Min

ARABICA coffee, produced in PyinOoLwin region of Mandalay Region and Ywangan region of Shan State has reached the Speciality Coffee level. As coffee of the country is fetching reasonable prices in the global market, foreign exchange from coffee export will rise alongside the development of the country's coffee sector. Additionally, coffee farmers as well as entrepreneurs will gain more benefits," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio at the Myanmar Coffee Forum 2019 held in Mandalay.

At present, the country's coffee sector lacks development, if compared with other Southeast Asian coffee exporters including Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam, because of the weakness in processing technology, sharing information and smaller market.

Increasing offers and orders

The country is exporting the coffee produced in PyinOoLwin and Ywangan regions to China, Chinese Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and Germany. Additionally, the US is offering to buy coffee from Myanmar. So, Myanmar coffee has a share in the global market and has become cash-earning organic export item. The original place of coffee is Ethiopia where the berry plants are first found in the 13th century. Later coffee spread to Egypt and Yemen. After the 15th century, England, Brazil, Australia, the US, Indonesia and India were growing coffee. Brazil first grew coffee in 1727; and Viet Nam, in 1857. According to records, Myanmar first grew coffee in 1885.

Coffee growing has gained extra public interest after the first Coffee Forum was held in



Coffee Plants are seen at Coffee Farm in Ywangan.

Nay Pyi Taw in May 2017. There has been increased in coffee sown acreage in the country. Because of the improvement in quality, it has become exportable. Myanmar Speciality Coffee now has its own place in the global market. As Myanmar sees brighter prospects for its Arabica coffee, the country has been concentrating on catching up with its neighbours in technology and quality, and on extending global market.

high-yield crop, Kayin and Mon states and Taninthayi Region are extending Robusta coffee cultivation as their weather is suitable for the plant. They are going to export Robusta coffee to earn foreign exchange.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw suggested means to increase the income of coffee farmers through brisker sales. He said, "As Myanmar is just a developing



Department in running education campaigns and courses for farmers and in setting up model plots region wise. We have already established some model plots in Kayin State. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will help solve the problems of the business, and provide necessary cooperation to extend the export market and to develop the local coffee business," the Deputy Minister explained.

Appropriate technology

But the local coffee business calls for greater cooperation be-

tween the Government and the private business sector, so that appropriate technology can be applied in producing quality coffee during the post-harvest processing, semi wash method can be conducted broadly, especially in the higher elevations, where water supply may be difficult, and small holders or farmers who own less land with low-coast agricultural equipment.

Local coffee businesses will be more successful if there is a link

between the farmers and the ADB, NGOs and SMEs, which they can turn to for loans, besides the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank. Moreover, this success also depends on organizing farmers into business groups or cooperatives, setting up a trust fund for them and provision of all-round assistance through correct and effective methods.

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(Translation: TMT)



COFFEE BEANS



COFFEE BEANS ARE DRIED UNDER THE SUN.

country, its people are relying only on Pyawbwe brand instant coffee. So the country should extend cultivation of Robusta coffee as it is exportable, and may have higher local demand."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has promised coffee farmers that it will apply innovative ideas in distributing high-yield quality coffee strains. In accord with the promise, the ministry will conduct awareness courses for coffee farmers, and provide assistance for coffee entrepreneurs and farmers in all the different stages of the coffee business chain starting from cultivation to production of finish goods.

"We will join hands with foreign technicians, apart from local experts of the Agriculture

Local coffee businesses will be more successful if there is a link between the farmers and the ADB, NGOs and SMEs, which they can turn to for loans, besides the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank.

More sown acreage

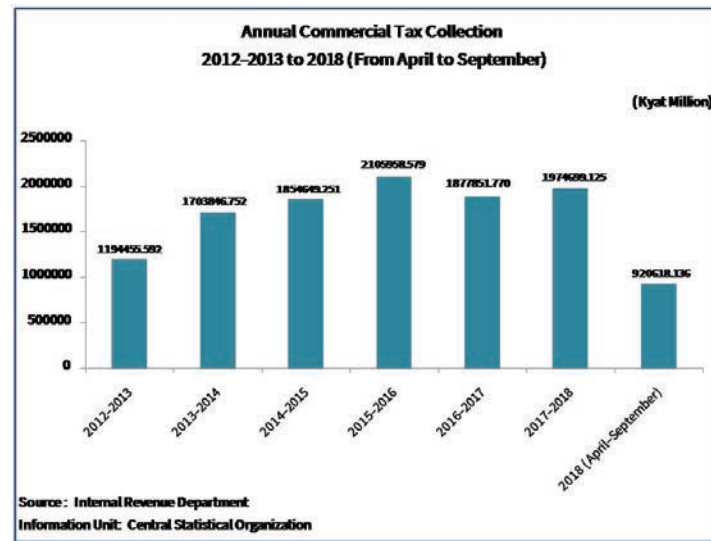
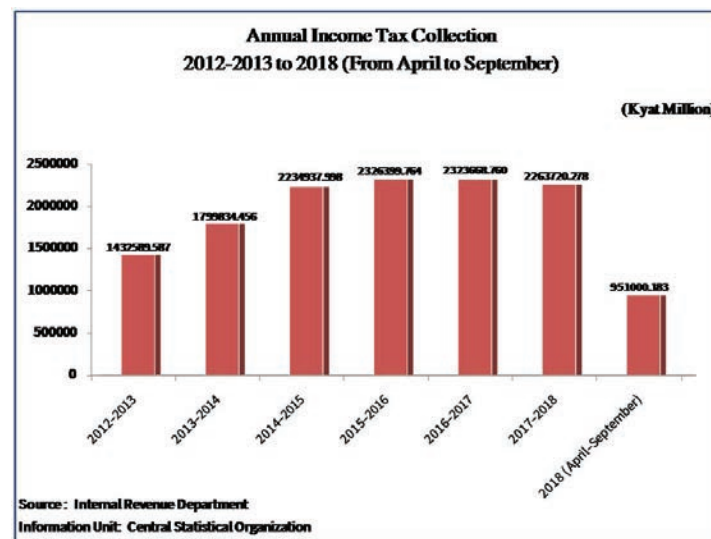
Like the country's Arabica coffee, the Robusta coffee also has bright prospects. As it is a

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

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 19/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 18 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 18 May.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 22 May issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM



Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

Doctors start halting support for vegetative Frenchman

REIMS (France) — Doctors in France on Monday began removing the life support for a quadriplegic man who has been in a vegetative state for the last decade, in a hugely controversial case that has drawn in Pope Francis.

The dispute over the fate of Vincent Lambert, 42, who sustained severe brain damage after a traffic accident in 2008, has split his own family and become a subject of political tension in France ahead of European Parliament elections this weekend.

His parents, avowed Catholics, have repeatedly launched court action to keep him alive, putting them at odds with Lambert's wife and five siblings who believe the most humane course is to let him die.

A last-minute request Monday to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, eastern France, to halt the decision pending a review by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was rejected.

The court had already re-



The parents of Vincent Lambert, Pierre and Viviane, have filed several last-ditch challenges to the court decision. **PHOTO: AFP**

fused a similar request in April and said Monday there was “no new evidence” that would justify a new hearing.

Following a final judicial ruling to end the nutrition and hydration Lambert receives, doctors started halting his life support at the Sebastopol Hospital in the northern French city of Reims.

Medical sources told AFP that under these conditions it

would mean that Lambert dies within days or a week.

The case has re-ignited a contentious debate over France's right-to-die laws, which allow so-called “passive” euthanasia for severely ill or injured patients with no chance of recovery.

Critics say the decision on Lambert is akin to killing a handicapped person, and Pope Francis weighed in on Monday in favour of keeping him alive.

“Let us always safeguard life, God's gift, from its beginning until its natural end. Let us not give in to a throwaway culture,” the pontiff said.

French President Emmanuel Macron rejected calls by Lambert's parents and others to intervene, saying “the decision to stop treatment was taken after a constant dialogue between his doctors and his wife, who is his legal representative.”

Lambert's wife Rachel said Monday that “to see him go, is to see him as a freed man.”

“Everyone can have their own opinion and convictions... but above all can we now have our privacy,” she told RTL radio.

- ‘As peaceful as possible’ -

Vincent Sanchez, the doctor treating Lambert who has been the target of the parents' anger, said in a message to the family that the “halting of treatments” and “profound and continued sedation” had been initiated.

In the message seen by AFP, he urged everyone to “rally around him (Vincent Lambert) so these moments are as peaceful,

intimate and personal as possible.”

The family has been torn asunder by the case.

“They are monsters! Monsters!” said his mother Viviane, 73, as she came to the hospital on Monday. The day earlier she had organised a demonstration outside with her husband Pierre, 90.

An emotional video of Viviane comforting her son in his room, telling him not to cry as he appears to blink away tears, was later posted on the website of the conservative Valeurs Actuelles magazine.

And one of Lambert's cousins, Helen Liaud, told journalists outside the hospital that she would start a hunger strike, calling the decision “unacceptable in a country like France.”

“It means that we can... kill all handicapped people who can't feed themselves,” she said.

But Lambert's wife, five of his siblings and his nephew Francois have all backed the decision to begin switching off the systems, agreeing this is the humane path given his condition. —AFP ■

DR Congo PM appointed under ‘political agreement’ with Kabila

LUBUMBASHI (DR Congo)—DR Congo President Felix Tshisekedi on Monday named a government veteran, Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba, as the next prime minister, a move that came nearly four months after his inauguration.

Ilunga Ilunkamba was appointed under “the political agreement” between Tshisekedi and his predecessor Joseph Kabila “regarding the creation of a coalition government,” presidential spokesman Kasongo Mwema Yamba Yamba said. Ilunga Ilunkamba, whose government career spans decades, replaces Bruno Tshibala, who had been appointed by Kabila in 2017. Ilunga Ilunkamba's aides gave his age as 78. Tshisekedi was sworn in on January 24 after elections that marked the Democratic Republic of Congo's first peaceful transition of power since the vast country gained independence from Belgium in 1960. But the vote was marred by allegations of rigging, and Tshisekedi is struggling to push through with pledges of reform.

The country's politics remain



Inauguration day: Outgoing president Joseph Kabila and successor Felix Tshisekedi mark DR Congo's first-ever peaceful transition of power. Kabila still overshadows the national political scene, wielding clout acquired during 18 years in office. **PHOTO: AFP**

overshadowed by Kabila, who amassed extensive clout after 18 years in power. His political allies retain the upper hand in parliament, provincial assemblies and governorships across the unstable country. His men also play a major role in security services.

Ilunga Ilunkamba, speaking to the press after meeting Tshisekedi, said, “I would like to thank

his excellency, Joseph Kabila Kabange, who proposed me as prime minister and assured me of his trust.” He vowed to throw himself into ensuring the “harmonious governance of the coalition.”

Tshisekedi told him the priorities would be “social, meaning education, health, security and establishing peace,” he said.—AFP ■

Japan, US to hold ministerial trade talks later this month

TOKYO —Japan and the United States plan to hold ministerial-level trade talks later this month, with tariffs on agricultural and industrial products expected to top the agenda, government sources said Monday.

The talks will likely be held before Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump in Tokyo set for 27 May. Before economic revitalization minister Toshiimitsu Motegi and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer sit at the negotiating table, the two countries will hold working-level talks on Tuesday afternoon in Washington, according to the sources.

As Trump pushes what he calls fair and reciprocal trade, Japan and the United States launched negotiations in April. Since then, Motegi and Ligh-

thizer have met twice.

Still, differences remain in the negotiations, and Abe and Trump, who is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on Saturday as a state guest for a four-day visit, will not likely be able to strike a trade deal.

Under such circumstances, the two leaders are unlikely to issue a joint statement following their discussions, according to the sources.

To coordinate various policies ahead of Trump's visit to Japan, the first since November 2017, Foreign Minister Taro Kono spoke to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo by phone on Monday night, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry.

The phone conversation lasted about 20 minutes, the ministry said, without providing further details. —Kyodo News ■

99% of Pacific megaquake predictions likely to prove wrong: survey

TOKYO — Japanese seismologists believe that nearly 99 per cent of their predictions related to massive earthquakes in the Pacific off central and western Japan are likely to prove wrong, a survey conducted by Kansai

University showed Sunday.

While the government estimates there is a 70 to 80 per cent chance of a magnitude 8 to 9 quake occurring along the Nankai Trough within the next 30 years, the survey underscores the

increasing difficulty of precisely predicting the timing, location and strength of imminent quakes, based on observational data.

The survey covering 138 people, including members of the Seismological Society of Japan,

received responses from 90 individuals.

Respondents were asked whether the four stages necessary to release a prediction could be cleared: that there is abnormal activity in advance; that the abnormality is observable; that heightening risks could be quickly assessed; and that such an assessment could be announced immediately.

The questionnaire found an average of 5.8 percent of predictions could go all the way to release, while only 19.7 percent of those were likely to contain accurate information.

The massive earthquake in northeastern Japan in 2011 and other quakes have convinced many experts in Japan that it is impossible to predict earthquakes just prior to their occurrence.

The government has also revised its quake countermeasures policy to reflect findings based on actual quake data rather than predictions.

But Yoshinari Hayashi, a Kansai University professor who

conducted the survey, said the difficulty of predicting quakes has not been fully recognized by government officials and the public.

“We should first focus on preparing disaster mitigation measures for sudden earthquakes,” Hayashi said, noting it is a “mistake” to prepare for disasters based on the premise they can be predicted.

Naoshi Hirata, who chairs the government’s Earthquake Research Committee, said, “I understand that expectations for earthquake predictions are high but they are currently difficult.”

“Even if we don’t know when an earthquake will occur, we can alleviate the damage by utilizing measures based on scientific knowledge,” the University of Tokyo professor said.

The Nankai Trough extends from off the coast of central Japan to the southwest. The quake could produce massive tsunami waves, resulting in over 300,000 deaths and economic damage totaling 220 trillion yen (\$2 trillion), according to a government estimate.—Kyodo News ■



Police officers conduct an annual disaster drill in Kawasaki near Tokyo based on the scenario of a massive earthquake originating in the Nankai Trough in the Pacific rocking wide areas in central and western Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Philippine loans a pair of eagles to Singapore for preservation

MANILA — The Philippines signed on Monday a wildlife agreement with Singapore that paves the way for the country to loan a pair of male and female Philippine eagles to the city-state, a move that Philippine officials hope will help preserve one of the rarest eagles in the world.

The Philippine eagle, also known as the monkey-eating eagle, is a giant bird of prey that can only be seen in four islands in the Philippines — in the main Luzon island, Samar and Leyte provinces in the central Philippines, and Mindanao island in the southern Philippines. It is considered to be one of the largest and most powerful among forest raptors.

Philippine Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu announced the wildlife loan agreement is signed between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines and Wildlife Reserve Singapore (WRS) took place on Monday.

Under the 10-year renewable agreement, the Philippines will ship 15-year-old male eagle

named Geothermica and 17-year-old female eagle named Sambisig to the Jurong Bird Park in Singapore on June 4. The eagles will be shown to the public at Asia’s largest bird park in July.

Cimatu said Geothermica and Sambisig will play a crucial role as ambassadors for Philippine biodiversity once they are brought to Jurong Bird Park being operated by WRS.

Aside from breeding and the display of the birds, he said Singapore will also collaborate with the Philippines on preserving the eagles.

Cimatu said the eagle is “very near extinction” and needs to be protected and preserved. Singapore has experts who can help in looking after the eagles, he added.

The agreement also said the birds and their offspring will remain owned by the Philippine government. However, their chicks can be sent back to the Philippines, while the parents might stay longer in Singapore, the agreement added.—Xinhua

Bomb blast hits tourist bus near Egypt pyramids

GIZA (Egypt) — A bomb blast hit a tourist bus near Egypt’s famed Giza pyramids on Sunday, wounding some of them, including South Africans, in the latest blow to the country’s tourism industry.

The roadside bomb went off as the bus was being driven in Giza, also causing injuries to Egyptians in a nearby car, medical and security sources said.

Security and medical sources in Egypt said 17 people were injured, without giving a breakdown of their nationalities. No deaths were reported.

South Africa said in a statement that the “bus explosion” injured three of its 28 citizens who were part of the tourist group.

They would remain in hospital while the rest would return home on Monday, said the statement from the department of international relations.

“A device exploded and smashed the windows of a bus carrying 25 people from South Africa and a private car carrying four Egyptians,” the security source said.

Video footage captured by AFP showed the bus and car with broken windows on the side of the road. According to the security source, the wounded were being treated for scratches caused by

the broken glass. Sunday’s incident comes after three Vietnamese holidaymakers and their Egyptian guide were killed when a roadside bomb hit their bus as it travelled near the Giza pyramids outside Cairo in December.

It also comes just little more than a month before the African Cup of Nations hosted by Egypt is to kick off. Egypt has been battling an insurgency that surged especially in the turbulent North Sinai region following the 2013 military ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, who was replaced by former army general Abdel

Fattah al-Sisi. In February 2018, the army launched a nationwide operation against militants, focusing mainly on the North Sinai region.

Tourism recovery

Some 650 militants and around 45 soldiers have been killed since the start of the offensive, according to separate statements by the armed forces.

Since first being elected in 2014, Sisi has presented himself as a bulwark against terrorism, promising stability and increased security.—AFP ■



A picture taken on 19 May, 2019, shows vehicles damaged during a bomb blast near Egypt’s famed Giza pyramids. A bomb blast hit a tourist bus wounding at least 17 people, including South Africans, in the latest blow to the country’s tourism industry. The roadside bomb went off as the bus was being driven in Giza, also causing injuries to Egyptians in a nearby car, medical and security sources said. PHOTO: AFP



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporters attend a rally as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (not pictured) delivers a speech during a rally ahead of Phase VI of India's general election in New Delhi on 8 May 2019. PHOTO: AFP

India shares hit record high over Modi election victory forecasts

NEW DELHI — Indian shares hit a record high Monday after exit polls from the country's marathon election indicated a new term for Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While opposition parties refused to concede and the country faces a nerve-jangling three day wait until the official count begins, most media polls said Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies would secure enough seats to form a new government after the world's biggest election.

The seven rounds of voting over six weeks ended on Sunday with about 65 per cent of the 900 eligible voters taking part, the election commission said.

India's share and currency markets soared on the back of the polls.

The Bombay Stock Exchange Sensex index had its biggest one-day gain in nearly six years -- 3.75 percent -- to close at a record high 39,352 points while the Indian rupee strengthened to 69.63 to the dollar from its Friday close of 70.22.

Traders called the polls boost to Modi a vital sign of stability for one of the world's fastest growing major economies.

"This ends a significant political uncertainty," said Sujana Hajra, an economist at AnandRathi securities in Mumbai.

Modi fought an acrimonious campaign framed around his tough national security stance rather than the economy. The

opposition had attacked his handling of India's finances particularly the withdrawal of most cash notes in 2016 and new taxes.

The prime minister and other top BJP leaders made no immediate claim of victory.

But party spokesman G.V.L. Narasimha Rao said the polls "clearly show a huge positive vote for the leadership of Narendra Modi who has served the country with unmatched dedication".

"That people reward good performance has once again been proved by the overwhelming public mandate. This is a slap for the abusive opposition that made baseless charges and spoke lies," he added. Most polls predicted the BJP would lose some seats but still form a government.

The BJP won 282 seats of parliament's 543 elected seats in its 2014 landslide triumph and with allies had 336 seats. Leading polls projected the BJP-led alliance winning between 282 and 313 seats this time.

Modi referendum

The opposition Congress party was predicted to double its 2014 tally of 44 seats — a historic low since India's independence in 1947 — but still fall far short of a claim to power. The party pointed to the unreliability of polls in previous elections.

Mamata Banerjee, head of the regional Trinamool Congress party that dominates in West Bengal state, dismissed the forecasts as "exit poll gossip".

While the opposition attacked Modi's handling of the economy and failure to create jobs, the vote increasingly became a personal referendum on one of India's most popular and divisive prime ministers ever.

The 68-year-old leader went to scores of rallies across the country to fire up his Hindu base and turn the campaign into a debate on national security following tit-for-tat air raids with Pakistan in March. Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi traded insults throughout the campaign.

Gandhi, 48, attacked Modi over alleged corruption in a French defence deal and the plight of farmers, as well as on the economy. Modi's government has fallen short on creating jobs for the million Indians entering the labour market every month, while the shock introduction of a sudden ban on high-denomination cash in 2016 disrupted business and Indian banks are struggling with huge bad debts.

Hostilities spilt over again on the final day of voting. Tens of thousands of security forces guarded polling booths in West Bengal state on Sunday where the BJP has made a push against Trinamool Congress. An improvised bomb was thrown at one Kolkata polling station and security forces intervened to stop supporters of the BJP, communists and other parties from blockading voting booths across the state capital.—AFP ■

Bangladeshi suspect in 2016 terror attack that killed 22 held in Iraq

Dhaka — A Bangladeshi academic believed to have played a role in planning a July 2016 terror attack in Dhaka that killed 22 people, including seven Japanese, is being detained in northern Iraq, a Bangladesh intelligence official said Monday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said information received through informal channels suggests that Mohammad Saifullah Ozaki, who once taught at Japan's Ritsumeikan University, is being held in the Kurdish city of Sulaymaniyah.

Ozaki, alias Sujit Debnath, was among 10 Bangladeshi militants who surrendered to the Kurds in the former Islamic State stronghold of Baghouz, Syria, af-

ter it fell to the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces on March 15, according to the information.

Aside from the Dhaka attack, he also is believed to have played a role in recruiting Bangladeshi youths for fight for Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

On the night of 1 July, 2016, five militants stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka's posh Gulshan area and took several dozen people, including 18 foreigners, hostage. Twenty hostages, including seven Japanese and nine Italians, were killed as the terrorists sprayed them with bullets indiscriminately and slit their throats. Two policemen were also killed in the incident, as were all the militants.—Kyodo News

Australia's conservatives secure majority government: ABC

SYDNEY — Australia's ruling conservative coalition is set to secure a governing majority in its shock election victory over the centre-left Labor Party, the national broadcaster ABC projected Monday.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Liberal-National coalition will hold at least 77 seats in the 151-member lower house, one more than needed to govern on its own, ABC's election analysts projected.

The coalition will not hold a majority in the Senate, the upper house, meaning it will need the support of independents and minor parties to pass legislation.

A number of close races across the vast island continent

were still to be officially decided following Saturday's vote, with the formal count by the Australian Electoral Commission not expected to conclude until later this week.

Among Morrison's first tasks following his victory was forming a new cabinet after several moderate ministers chose to retire from politics rather than contest the election.

Morrison has indicated he will also make promised income tax cuts a priority once the parliamentary numbers are confirmed.

His stunning win has prompted soul searching within Labor, which was leading all the opinion polls in the two years prior to Saturday.—AFP ■



Australia's newly elected Prime Minister Scott Morrison (c) arrives to deliver a victory speech with his family after winning the Australia's general election in Sydney on 18 May, 2019. Australia's ruling conservative coalition appeared to secure a shock election win on 18 May, with the party predicted to have defied expectations and retained power. PHOTO: AFP

Traumatized by conflict, animals find haven in Jordan

JERASH (Jordan) — For more than a year after being moved to a Jordanian wildlife reserve from war-torn Syria, two bears, Loz and Sukkar, would cover whenever planes flew by, traumatised by past bombardments.

They are among dozens of animals that have been rescued from regional war zones, including the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip, and brought to Jordan's Al Ma'waFor Nature and Wildlife.

The sanctuary located in Jerash province north of Amman was set up by the Princess Alia Foundation, named after the king's sister, in cooperation with the international animal welfare organisation Four Paws. Sukkar (sugar in Arabic) and Loz (almond) are Asian black bears, now aged nine, who were trapped by war in the Mag-

ic World Zoo outside Syria's second city, Aleppo, before being rescued in the summer of 2017.

"When they were brought here they were terrified by the sounds of aircraft, especially helicopters and for more than a year they would hide in a room inside their pens each time they heard planes go by," said caretaker Khaled Ayasra. The black bears are among 26 animals — eight lions, 12 lionesses, two Bengal tigers and four bears — who live in the sprawling 1.4-square-kilometre sanctuary in a wooded mountainous region.

Most were rescued from Syria, where the conflict has raged since 2011, as well as the conflict-riddled Gaza Strip where Israel has fought three wars since 2008 with the territory's Islamist rulers, Hamas. —AFP ■



One of four bears living in Jordan's Al Ma'waFor Nature and Wildlife sanctuary which cares for animals rescued from war zones. PHOTO: AFP

Sinking feeling: Philippine cities facing 'slow-motion disaster'

MANILA (Philippines) — When Mary Ann San Jose moved to Sitio Pariahan more than two decades ago, she could walk to the local chapel. Today, reaching it requires a swim.

The main culprit is catastrophic subsidence caused by groundwater being pumped out from below, often via unregulated wells for homes, factories, and farms catering to a booming population and growing economy.

The steady sinking of coastal towns and islets like Pariahan in the northern Philippines has caused Manila Bay's brackish water to pour inland and displace thousands, posing a greater threat than rising sea levels due to climate change.

"It was so beautiful here before... Children were playing in the streets," San Jose said, adding: "Now we always need to use a boat."

Most of the former residents have scattered to other parts of the region. Just a handful of families remain in Pariahan, which had its own elementary school, a basketball court and a chapel before the water flowed in.

These days just the flooded chapel, a cluster of shacks on bamboo stilts where San Jose lives with her family, and a few homes on a bump of land remain.



Areas north of Manila like the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan have sunk four-six centimetres (1.5-2.4 inches) a year since 2003, according to satellite monitoring. PHOTO: AFP

The children that live there commute 20 minutes by boat to a school inland and most of the residents eke out a living by fishing.

The provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan — where Pariahan is located — have sunk between four and six centimetres (1.5-2.4 inches) annually since 2003, according to satellite monitoring.

"It's really a disaster that is already happening... It's a slow-onset disaster," explained Narod Eco, who is part of a group of scientists tracking the problem.

Threat to lives

By comparison, the UN estimates average sea level rise globally is about three millimetres per year.

The creeping bay waters put people and property at risk, while the threat is amplified by high-tides and flooding brought by the roughly 20 storms that pound the archipelago every year.

Some areas have raised roads in an effort to keep up with the sinking, creating odd scenes where the street surface is at the height of door knobs on roadside buildings.

At least 5,000 people have been forced out of the mostly rural coastal areas north of Manila in recent decades as the bay water has moved further inland, regional disaster officials told AFP.

The sinking is very likely permanent because

the ground in the hardest hit areas is mostly clay, which sticks together after the water is pulled out.

The fate of towns such as Pariahan provides a preview of the problems that may await some of the capital's 13 million people.

Sections of Manila along the shore of the bay are sinking too, with excess groundwater pumping being the most likely cause, Eco, the researcher, told AFP. The subsidence there though is at a slower rate than the northern coastal communities, potentially due to less pumping or differences in the soil, he added. A moratorium on new wells in the greater Manila area has been in place since 2004. —AFP ■

Germany's far-right AfD warms to climate change denial

BERLIN (Germany) — They deny global warming, oppose wind farms, defend diesel engines and coal mines, and mock teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg as a green "cult" leader.

Politicians of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) have discovered climate change denial in their campaign for European Parliamentary elections.

In times of bitter social polarisation, the AfD has

trained its sights on those voters who see ecological issues as an elitist concern that kills jobs and hurts industry. It has become the AfD's third major issue after it protested eurozone bailouts and then Europe's migrant influx — both of which have lost much of their potential to energise angry voters.

"We would be crazy to ignore this topic," party leader Joerg Meuthen told the Spiegel daily. "As a politician, you have to address

the issues that people worry about."

Stella Schaller of Berlin's Adelphi environmental policy think-tank said the AfD was indeed addressing an issue on many voters' minds, but with "an anti-liberal, anti-scientific ideology".

"The past two months have seen a significant increase in the number of Facebook posts from the AfD on the environment, climate and energy," she told AFP. —AFP ■

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration process of ARS brand household pesticides produced by EARTH (THAILAND) CO., LTD. are transferring from Excel United International Co., Ltd. to GREENLINE MYANMAR GROUP COMPANY LIMITED.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	ARS Odorless 1 (Aerosol)	Cyphenothrin 0.1% + d-tetramethirin 0.178% + Permethrin 0.25% w/w	Provisional	P2017-3586
2	ARS Gold Plus (Aerosol)	Cyphenothrin 0.15% w/w + Imiprothrin 0.03% w/w	Provisional	P2017-3588
3	ARS Mat 12 (Electric Mosquito Repellent)	D-allothrin 5.33% w/w + Piperonyl Butoxide 1.33% w/w	Provisional	P2017-3590
4	ARS Rat Killer (Rat Bait)	Warfarin 0.05% w/w Bait	Provisional	P2017-2341

Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice.

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Ukraine's new president Zelensky says ceasefire first priority

KIEV (Ukraine) — Ukraine's new President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday used his inaugural speech to announce his first priority was ending the five-year conflict with Moscow-backed separatists in the east of the country that has claimed over 13,000 lives.

A month after scoring a landslide victory against incumbent Petro Poroshenko amid widespread public discontent with the political establishment, the 41-year-old comedian has become Ukraine's youngest post-Soviet president.

"Our first task is a cease-

fire in the Donbass," Zelensky said during the ceremony in parliament in Kiev, referring to the eastern region, prompting a round of applause.

"We didn't start this war but it is up to us to end it," he said.

He reiterated Ukraine does not recognise Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea nor the separatists' self-proclaimed republics in the industrial east.

"Crimea and Donbass are Ukrainian land," Zelensky said, adding that Ukraine had lost not just territory but the hearts and minds of people living there, who "are not strangers, they are ours,

Ukrainians."

He also announced that he would dissolve parliament, in order to call early parliamentary elections, which had originally been scheduled for October.

"People must come to power who will serve the public," Zelensky said after wrangling with hostile lawmakers whom he has called "petty crooks".

Critics had questioned whether Zelensky would be able to govern without a parliamentary majority. Even setting a date for his inauguration took weeks of negotiations with lawmakers.

In a hard-hitting speech,



Zelensky used his inaugural speech to announce that he is dissolving parliament. **PHOTO: AFP**

Zelensky called for the sacking of the head of the state security service, prosecutor-general and defence minister — which has to be approved by parliament.

Defence Minister Stepan Poltorak and the head of the SBU security service Vasyl Grytsak swiftly tendered their resignations.—AFP ■

Trump: if Tehran attacks, it will be 'official end of Iran'

WASHINGTON (United States) — President Donald Trump issued an ominous warning to Iran on Sunday, suggesting that if the Islamic republic attacks American interests, it will be destroyed.

"If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again," Trump said in a tweet.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have been on the rise as the United States has deployed a carrier group and B-52 bombers to the Gulf over what it termed Iranian "threats." This account has been met with widespread skepticism outside the United States.

The White House has sent mixed signals in recent days, amid multiple US media reports of infighting in Trump's cabinet over how hard to push Washington's arch foe Iran.

The Trump administration has ordered non-essential diplomatic staff out of Iraq, citing threats from Iranian-backed Iraqi armed groups, and sent an aircraft carrier and heavy B-52 bombers to the region.

On Sunday, a Katyusha rocket was fired into Baghdad's Green Zone housing government offices and embassies including the US mission. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack.

According to US media reports, Trump's long-hawkish national security advisor John Bolton is pushing a hard line on Iran, but others in the administration are resisting. Trump himself said recently that he has to "temper"



On tensions with Iran, President Donald Trump said recently that he has had to 'temper' his hawkish national security adviser John Bolton. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bolton. Iran's foreign minister downplayed the prospect of a new war in the region on Saturday, saying Tehran opposed it and no party was under the "illusion" the Islamic republic could be confronted.

"We are certain... there will not be a war since neither we want a war nor does anyone have the illusion they can confront Iran in the region," Mohammad Javad Zarif told state-run news agency IRNA at the end of a visit to China. Iran-US relations hit a new low last year as US Trump pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed unilateral sanctions that had been lifted in exchange for Tehran scaling back its nuclear program. Saudi Arabia called Sunday for emergency regional talks to discuss the mounting Gulf tensions, saying that it does not want war with Iran but is

ready to defend itself. It comes days after mysterious sabotage attacks on several tankers in highly sensitive Gulf waters and drone strikes on a Saudi crude pipeline by Yemen rebels who Riyadh claimed were acting on Iranian orders.

King Salman invited Gulf leaders and Arab League member states to two emergency summits in Mecca on May 30 to discuss recent "aggressions and their consequences", the kingdom's official SPA news agency reported late Saturday.

Saudi Arabia's minister of state for foreign affairs, Adel al-Jubeir, said Sunday his country does not want to go to war with Iran but would defend itself.

Saudi Arabia "does not want a war, is not looking for it and will do everything to prevent it," he said.—AFP ■

32 dead in Tajikistan prison riot

DUSHANBE (Tajikistan) — At least 32 people were killed in a prison riot in Tajikistan, including 24 members of the Islamic State jihadist group and three guards, authorities said Monday.

Five inmates and the three guards were initially killed by prisoners in the riot that erupted on Sunday evening, and the others died in clashes with security forces trying to restore order, the justice ministry said in a statement.

The prison in Vakhdat, 17 kilometres (11 miles) east of the capital Dushanbe, holds 1,500 inmates.

The ministry said the rioters first stabbed to death three guards, and then five other inmates "in order to intimidate" the others.

They then took other prisoners hostage before opening fire on the jail's medical facilities.

"Following a reprisal operation, 24 members of this group were killed and 35 others arrested. The hostages were freed" and calm restored to the prison, the statement said.

Two of the prisoners murdered by the rioters were well-known activists of the banned opposition group Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan, the local prison service said.

Among the leaders of riot, authorities identified Bekhruz Gulmurod, the son of the former head of Tajik special forces who became a member of the IS leadership in Syria and was killed there in September 2017.

The 20-year-old was sentenced to ten years in prison in July 2017 for attempting to join IS in Syria. He was previously detained at Dushanbe airport before boarding a flight to Istanbul.

Authorities said the prison was now functioning normally, with the "situation currently under control."

The prison is a short drive from Dushanbe, with residential neighbourhoods nearby. It houses inmates convicted of various crimes, including terror and extremism charges, and is secured by armed guards.

Families of inmates gathered near the prison on Monday to find out if their relatives were safe. In November 2018, another riot claimed by IS left 26 people dead in Khujand, a city in the northeast of the country. That riot was initiated by a former IS member seeking to spark a mass escape.

Tajikistan, an impoverished mountainous country of just under 9 million people bordering Afghanistan, has suffered severe conflict since it gained independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Tens of thousands of people were killed in Tajikistan during a five-year civil war in the 1990s when rebel groups including Islamists rose up against the government.

Authorities in the majority-Muslim country have said that more than 1,000 Tajiks, including a high-ranking police officer who defected in 2015, joined IS in Syria and Iraq in recent years.—AFP ■

FOOD & HOTEL MYANMAR-FHMM to hold 6th exhibition in June

FOOD & HOTEL Myanmar (FHMM) 2019, the 6th International Exhibition for Food & Drink, Hotel, Bakery, Restaurant & Food Service Equipment, Supplies & Services, will be held from 5 to 7 June 2019 at Fortune Plaza in Yangon.

The event expects 7,500 visitors and they have a chance to get new ideas and new business opportunities by exploring products, services, and equipment for coffee & tea, wine & spirits, hospitality & retail, spa & lifestyle, and also food & beverage products and

ingredients. These solutions come from over 80 exhibitors from 18 countries and 4 international pavilions, including Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, USA, and Philippines, and visitors can meet leading suppliers like Arctic Sun, Aroma Gourmet, Bara Stainless, Bery Callebaut, California Milk, Element, Fabbri, Global Silk Road, Hario, KCG, Kewpie, aTKorea, Lavazza, Mulwara, Potatoes USA, Premium, Simplot, Sithar Coffee, USDA, U.S.Meat, USA Poultry and many more.

FHMM 2019 is the best event for food and hospitality businesses to discover advanced solutions, develop professional skills. Play a part in developing Myanmar's tourism industry and economy at FHMM 2019 at Myanmar Expo (ME) in Yangon from 5-7 June 2019.

Visitors can register onsite directly at the exhibition during the show days, Wednesday 5th June to Friday 7th June 2019, opening hours 10am to 6pm every day at the Myanmar Expo in Yangon.—GNLM

Camila Morrone: From doubling up with dad to Hollywood's next big thing

CANNES (France) — Unless you are a battle-hardened follower of Leonardo DiCaprio's love life, or you spend your life on catwalk model feeds on Instagram, you will not have heard of Camila Morrone.

But not for long. The Argentinian model-turned-actress is one of the big discoveries of the Cannes film festival, lighting up a small US indie film about a 17-year-old girl looking after her traumatised, opioid-addicted Iraq veteran father.

"Mickey and the Bear" has already had the Hollywood Reporter comparing the triple talents that the film reveals — Morrone, debut director Annabelle Attanasio and James Badge Dale, who plays the father — to "Leave No Trace" and "Lean on Pete", "the two finest films of 2018".

Morrone, who is 21, regards Al Pacino — who dated her actress mother Lucila Sola for years — as her "stepfather", and went to the most famous high school in the world, Beverly Hills 90210.

She might not seem the obvious candidate to play a slightly chubby girl living on the breadline in a trailer in a beautiful but polluted former mining town in Montana. Yet the actress — whose warmth and smouldering catwalk self drew comparisons with Sophia Loren — pulled it off and then some, putting on weight and bringing an earthy groundedness and strength to the part of a teenager who also had to be mother, wife and nurse.

Their lives might be worlds apart, but Morrone said she could identify with Mickey. "I could relate to being a 17-year-old girl



Camila Morrone, 21, says she regards Al Pacino — who dated her actress mother Lucila Sola for years — as her "stepfather". **PHOTO: AFP**

and taking on more than I could handle," she told AFP in Cannes.

"I didn't grow up overly privileged," she insisted.

"My parents were struggling actors who had a hard time getting work. That's why I hesitated about getting into acting, I had seen them going through that."

She was the odd one out in a class of rich kids. "I was able to tap into that" to play Mickey, scrabbling to make ends meet while dreaming of escaping her trailer for college in California.

'My dad and I shared a bed'

"I lived in a studio apartment with my dad for many years when he was struggling... so I understand that relationship. My dad and I shared a bed until I was 15 because I had no other room to sleep in."

Yet fame and wealth were all around her. "I was born in

Hollywood, I went to Beverly Hills 90210, so I grew up around all of that stuff. Nobody on the planet has what I grew up around."

But getting under the skin of a small-town girl was harder, she said. "Once I got to Anaconda (where the film was shot) that fear went away. Meeting people there and getting to understand their lives" when there are so few jobs, opened her eyes. With so little work many locals join the military. "The amount of veterans in the US is wild, and Montana has the second-most per capita, after Alaska," Morrone said.

"There are lots of people in Anaconda with missing limbs having come back from war," she said.

"Heroes like Hank in the film come back as a broken shell of a man with physical and emotional damage. People's families suffer, home life is different and we show this reality.— AFP ■

Mega charitable trust launched to focus on China education development

BEIJING — A mega charitable trust has been launched to support education development worldwide, especially in China.

The charitable trust is financed by donations of stocks worth over four billion Hong Kong dollars (about 509.6 million U.S. dollars) by Chinese philanthropist Charles Chen.

Chen had earlier set aside 2.5 billion Hong Kong dollars in 2016 to establish Yidan Prize, the world's largest international prize in education research and development.

The trust will promote the implementation of global premium education projects, in China in particular, as well as support pioneering projects in development and innovation of education in China, according to a statement released Monday by the Chen Yidan Foundation.

The foundation will facilitate the application of the prize's projects, with a specific focus on those which can serve Chinese society's needs and support education development, the state-

ment said, adding that quality and effects will be prioritized over quantity and speed during the process.

Total donations of the Tencent co-founder so far neared 10 billion Hong Kong dollars, according to the foundation.

Different countries have their own traditions and approaches in education, while generally speaking, education should be people-oriented, which is what China advocates, Chen said. When it comes to technology and education, Chen believes that in an increasingly tech-savvy world, it is crucial to nurture people's love and respect toward each other and make them understand their own traditions and culture. Chen, who is convinced that education is a fundamental driving force for social development, decided in 2013 to devote himself wholly to a charitable career focused on education. He has financed the development of many pioneering education institutions such as the non-profit private university Wuhan College.—Xinhua ■

'Now our watch is ended': History-making 'Game of Thrones' wraps

LOS ANGELES (United States) — After eight epic years, 47 Emmys, two dead dragons and lots of sex, "Game of Thrones" has said an emotional goodbye to devotees worldwide of one of the most popular shows in television history.

The blood-spattered tale of noble families vying for the Iron Throne wrapped with the 73rd and final episode of a ratings juggernaut that has demolished audience records worldwide and redefined weekly "event TV" for the instant-gratification Netflix generation.

And while millions watched at home — some nursing a bittersweet goblet of Dornish wine, one would hope — thousands celebrated and mourned the show's denouement in bars, banqueting halls and backyards from Alaska to Armenia.

"It was even more intense than a football finale," said Ewald Klautky, 52, one of around 200 fans gathered in Brennan's Irish bar in west Los Angeles, where guests were enjoying a blue whisky cocktail called "The Night King." —AFP ■



"Game of Thrones", the blood-spattered tale of noble families vying for the Iron Throne wrapped with the 73rd and final episode. **PHOTO: AFP**

General Aung San Shield: Sagaing, Yangon United advance to semifinals



The Yangon United F.C. celebrating their win against Southern Myanmar F.C. yesterday. **PHOTO: MNL**

By Kyaw Khin

SAGAING UNITED and Yangon United advanced to the semifinals of the General Aung San Shield after beating their opponents in separate quarter final matches yesterday, according to the tourney's Facebook Page.

Sagaing United beat Yadanabon F.C. 1-0 at the Aung San Stadium yesterday, earning a place in the semifinal.

The two teams did their

best in the first half, which ended with no goals scored by either team.

In the second half, the two teams worked hard to score. Sagaing United's Wai Phyo Thu was dismissed from the field by the referee. He got a red card for playing too roughly.

Seven minutes after his dismissal, Sagaing United made their first goal, the only goal scored in the match. It was scored by Captain Aung Win Hlaing.

Sagaing United had won against the Yadanarbon F.C. in the knockout stage of the 2018 General Aung San Shield.

Meanwhile, Yangon United beat Southern Myanmar 5-4 yesterday to advance into the semifinal. Both teams were initially tied 0-0. Later, in a penalty shoot, Yangon United beat their opponents with a score of 5-4.

Sagaing United and Yangon United will now meet in the semifinal of the General Aung San Shield. ■

Kroos pens new Real Madrid deal until 2023

MADRID— Germany international Toni Kroos has extended his contract with Real Madrid until 2023 ahead of an expected summer overhaul at the club, the Spanish giants said Monday.

The 29-year-old midfielder has won 12 titles in five seasons in Spain, lifting the Champions League trophy in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Kroos has scored 13 goals in 233 appearances for Real since arriving from Bayern Munich in 2014 after helping Germany win

the World Cup in Brazil.

Real finished third in La Liga this term, 19 points behind champions Barcelona after registering their lowest points haul in 17 years, ending with a limp 2-0 home defeat to Real Betis on Sunday.

Coach Zinedine Zidane has promised changes to the squad ahead of next season, with Gareth Bale, goalkeeper Keylor Navas, Nacho, Sergio Reguilon, Isco and Marcos Llorente all tipped to leave the club.—AFP ■



In this file photo taken on 05 May, 2019 Real Madrid's German midfielder Toni Kroos acknowledges spectators at the end of the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and Villarreal CF at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. Germany international Toni Kroos has extended his contract with Real Madrid until 2023 ahead of an expected summer overhaul at the club, the Spanish giants said on 20 May, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nadal can't wait to return to new-look Roland Garros

ROME — Defending French Open champion Rafael Nadal said Sunday he can't wait to hit the clay courts of Roland Garros after claiming his first title this season and ninth Italian Open trophy.

Nadal defeated world number one Novak Djokovic 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 for a record 34rd Masters, leaving his vanquished foe to label the Spaniard as "the number one favourite for Roland Garros".

"I am going to be there with time enough, as always," said 32-year-old Nadal, who wants to capture a 12th trophy in Paris.

"I'm going to repeat my normal routines. For sure I can't wait to be there and have the feeling, see the stadium, watch all the new great things



Rafael Nadal (R) of Spain poses with Novak Djokovic of Serbia after winning the ATP Masters tournament final tennis match at the Foro Italico in Rome on May 19, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

that Roland Garros is doing," the 17-time Grand Slam winner said of the rebuilt Philippe Chatrier Centre Court.

"I saw a picture. Looks

great. Still open, still not closed. Is a different stadium, but the feeling probably will not be very different.

"This year, I don't see a

big difference. The wind is going to be the same as always. Court is still big."

His first title this season, and particularly on his favourite clay surface, is a huge boost for the Spaniard.

"Happy to reach that level in the last tournament before a Grand Slam," said Nadal.

"But, as I said, for me I don't want to talk about Grand Slams now. I never did in the past. Important title, now's the moment to keep going."

Djokovic —winner at the Madrid Open last week — gave an error-strewn display in his 54th meeting with second-ranked Nadal, having spent six hours on court in his previous two matches.

"For me, the most important thing is to feel myself playing well and feel myself

healthy, with the energy that I need," said Nadal.

"If that happens, experience is that I am going to fight for titles sooner or later."

The 32-year-old had not dropped a set all week before the final taking a 6-0 set from four his five rivals.

"During the last couple of weeks, every day and every week have been better. And here we are finally with this great trophy, an important victory."

Nadal pulled out of Indian Wells with a knee injury, and had not gotten past the semi-finals in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid.

"After Indian Wells, there have been some tough moments for me in terms of recovering again," he said.—AFP ■