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Vice President U Myint Swe hosts dinner for Vietnamese delegation led by Deputy PM



Vice President U Myint Swe hosts the dinner for Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee Communist Party of Viet Nam and Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Myint Swe hosted a dinner yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw for a Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee Communist

Party of Viet Nam and Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam who is paying a working visit to Myanmar.

The Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and members of the delegation were

welcomed by Vice President U Myint Swe at the Shwe San Eain Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Before the dinner, Vice President U Myint Swe extended greetings and the Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister

expressed words of thanks.

The dinner was also attended by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint, U Hla Kyaw, U Thar Oo, U Aung Htoo and U Maung

Maung Win, Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein, permanent secretaries and departmental officials.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

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World Blood Donor Day 2019 observed in Yangon

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attended the World Blood Donor Day 2019, observed at University of Nursing (Yangon) in the commercial city yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said, "His ministry provided blood donation centres around the country with K 2.94 billion worth of related aids in fiscal year 2018-19."

"The National Blood Center is supplying enough safe blood for 14 hospitals in Yangon Region, apart acting as a source of safe blood for other hospitals of the country," he said and added that according to the list, the country provided over 438,000 units of blood in 2018, and of them, 72 percent was donated by volunteers and 32 percent was used in Yangon Region.

"This year the World Health Organization (WHO) has developed the slogan "Safe blood for all" to raise awareness of the universal need for safe blood in the delivery of health care and the crucial roles that voluntary donations play in achieving the goal of universal health," he said.

Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint then gave a speech.

WHO Resident Representative Dr Stephan Paul Jost read out the message of the Regional Director for WHO Southeast Asia, and Dr Thida Aung, the Deputy Director-General of Department of Medical Services (National Blood Center) explained the functions of the NBC.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe presented certificates of honour to 11 volunteers between ages 18 and 27 for donation of blood for 27 times in a row. Of the 33 27-time consecutive blood donors, those 11 volunteers attended the ceremony.

Before the ceremony, the Union Minister visited National Blood Center in Yangon where he fulfilled the requirements in systematically accepting, checking, storing and documenting the donated blood and distributing it to hospitals, under computerized process.

During the inspection, Dr Thida Aung and Mr Hiro Konishi, a volunteer IT expert of Japan, reported on the work process of the centre, computer data storage system, and future work programs.

The Union Minister also visited the Department of Public Health Laboratory Science, and facilitated the functions of the



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the World Blood Donor Day 2019 Ceremony at University of Nursing (Yangon) yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

central health laboratory which started this month. He then observed the sites where laboratories, trainings, high security laboratory BLS3 and rooms for equipment will be built.

Deputy Director-General Prof Dr Htay Htay Tin of the Department of Public Health Laboratory Science reported on plans to build a new high security laboratory BLS3, with the loan from French Development Agen-

cy (AFD) of France, the efforts to develop the Department of Public Health Laboratory Science to be acknowledged by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) under the GMS Health Security Project being implemented with a loan from Asia Development Bank (ADB), functions of the central health laboratory, blood and genetics laboratory, parasitology division, virology division and

mycology division, the use of oncological instruments, service personnel affairs and general matters.

In response, the Union Minister said as lab results are important for ensuing effective treatment, the requirements of the Department of Public Health Laboratory Science would be given the first priority.—MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

National Health Network gives free health care to locals in Pyapon

A medical team headed by Dr. Tin Myo Win gave free medical services at Thiri Anawa hall in Pyapon District, Ayeyawaddy Region.

Team leader Dr. Tin Myo Win said: "This is the 86th time Myanmar Health Network has given free medical services around

Myanmar and this is the 8th time in Ayeyawaddy Region. We prioritize States. We came here with specialists. Health is the most important factor in a person's life. Bad health will affect education, economy, and society. This effort is what we can do to help them."

The team comprises of OGs,

general practitioners, pediatricians, surgeons, orthopedic, radiologists, dentists, ophthalmologists, otolaryngologists, and psychiatrists.

Patient Daw Tin Tin Mi from Pyapon Ward 9 said, "I came here for my slip injury. The doctor gave me medication and instructed

me to do hand exercises. The medication is effective and free. We are not rich so we would like to thank all the doctors and team members who came all the way here to give service to the poor. They made announcement by car, that 4 townships will be given free medical services. I got the information from a friend, so I registered for the treatment."

U Tun Aye from Kyaiklat Ward 5 said, "I came for my back pain. I am from Kyaiklat. They arranged bus transport for us and also provided food and drink. My doctor asked me about my pain carefully before giving treatment. He gave me medicine. The treatment is effective as he is a specialist. About 200 people from Kyaiklat came to get treatment."

National Health Network Member U Saw Win said: "When we go to ethnic regions, there is language barrier but volunteer youth interpret for the people who fear clinics, so they get to talk with doctors. This program will let us know what diseases are common among the people. We

report this to Ministry of Health and Sports. We sent the patients, who need surgery, to hospitals or clinics. We have donors. If there is no donor we have fund to hire cars to do the job. If one need two-week medication, we gave them a month medication. We mostly travel with our own arrangements. Patients who need surgery and long-term treatment are recommend to go to certain hospitals and clinics. The doctor ask the patient, who needs more attention or care, to come to their hospital. We also write letters and contact the hospital for them, so that they can easily get treatment."

About 2,000 people from Pyapon, Daydayal, Kyaiklat and Bogalay have registered and there is enough medications for 3,000. Plus, refreshment and transportation will be available for free.

The local youth and medical stuff of Pyapon Department of Health volunteer to help with anything they can.—Min Thit ■
(Translated by Alphonsus)



The medical team led by Dr. Tin Myo Win conducts the free medical services at Thiri Anawa Hall in Pyapon District yesterday. **PHOTO: YEHTUT**

Resource persons discuss China-US trade war, consequences of Yemen war



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers the speech at talk on global affairs under two themes - the China-US trade war and the war in Yemen and its ill consequences in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

TWO resource persons led the talk on global affairs under two themes - the China-US trade war and the war in Yemen and its ill consequences - at Shwe Oudaung Hall of the News and Periodicals Enterprise (Head Office) in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint gave the opening speech at the talk, led by U Aye Maung Kyaw, a senior researcher of Myanmar Studies Group (MSG), and U Moe Zaw Oo, an advisor of Peace Commission (PC).

The Union Minister said,

“The talk focuses on sharing opinions and knowledge in view of the possible international concerns and involvements.”

“Only a constant study and review of the latest developments in the world will ensure adaptation to global changes through broader opportunities and visions,” Dr Pe Myint pointed out.

The Union Minister invited open discussions and suggestions from the participants, and expressed his wish to jointly hold such talks in other places including Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, depending on local enthusiasm.

He suggested resource persons to lead such talks in the future also.

In his talks on the topic “China-US trade war”, senior researcher of Myanmar Studies Group U Aye Maung Kyaw discussed latest situation of the two global economic giants - the US and China, the strategic rivalry and a threat to security, China’s adaptation to the Japanese example, the comparison between the defence budgets of the US and China, the growth of Chinese GDP, the profits of the US banking industry, China’s poverty alleviation, comparison between

the exports of ASEAN member states and China, China’s share in world trade, the problem of economic espionage, the policies of US, foreign policies, and the profits of Huawei and its current problems.

Advisor of Peace Commission U Moe Zaw Oo explained the geographical situation and history of Yemen, international intervention in the country, general hardships of the ethnics of Yemen, and the ethnically rooted causes of the country in his talks under the topic -- war in Yemen and its ill consequences.

The two resource persons

also led the question and answer session that followed after the talk. Organized by the Myanmar Studies Group (MSG) of the Ministry of Information, the talk was also participated by officials of the ministry and MSG, guests, media persons and interested persons. Shwe Oudaung Hall, the venue of the talk, is available for any kind of literary activities including book launching ceremonies and literary talks and seminars. The hall will host a paper reading session on Myanmar to English translation in the coming August. — MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

Union Minister for NREC inspects training centres, state-own Saw Mill

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win inspected the pilot cultivation for bio-fuel at the 39-acre camp of the ministry in North Dagon, Yangon Region yesterday.

Following the visit, the Union Minister visited the Wood Based Technology Training Centre in the Panglong Street in the same township.

At the centre, the Union Minister heard report on train-

ings conducted by the centre since 2005 and measures currently taken, and gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited the Training School-3 of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise in the Oakkyin No. 8 Saw Mill in Hline Township.

At the meeting with the officials of the training school, officials reported on capacity building trainings for employees of the ministry conducted at the school.

Union Minister U Ohn Win also visited the Oakkyin No.8 Saw Mill and met with employees and officials.

At the meeting, he called for making profit from running the state-own business and ensuring work-site safety.

— MNA ■

(Translated Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister U Ohn Win inspects the pilot cultivation for bio-fuel in North Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Locals, volunteers take part in disaster drill at Phayangu Village, Thabaung

THE Thabaung Township Red Cross conducted a disaster drill on 14 June at Phayangu Village in the Shwenyaungpin Village-tract of the township, according to news released yesterday by the local Information and Public Relations Department.

Villagers, Red Cross members, and firefighters took part in the drill, which covered weather warning, preparedness for a

storm, and moving to cyclone shelters. They also carried out rescue operations and first aid.

The drill was aimed at preparing local residents for disasters and making them more resilient, said an official who participated in the drill.

Yesterday’s drill was the first conducted in the township. — Myo Zaw Thein (Thabaung IPRD) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



PHOTO: MYO ZAW THEIN (THABAUNG IPRD)

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

Over 100 small Buddha statues found in collapsed pagoda in Ingapu

Over 100 small statues are discovered from a collapsed old pagoda in Ingapu, Ayeyawady Region, by villagers on 15 June.

The villagers found the different size of Buddha statues together with other ancient items when they cleared the bricks from the collapsed pagoda.

Among them, 50 statues are about four inches high while 33

are from one inch to nine inches high.

Small religious items and precious stones were also found at the site.

The items will be enshrined in the same pagoda when it is reconstructed, according to local police force which investigated the case.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Over 100 small Buddha statues discovered from a collapsed old pagoda in Ingapu, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MPF**



Officials oversee fumigation at a school in Pawyar Village, Pinlaung Township. **PHOTO: KHUNNAUNG (NAUNG TAYAR)**

Five dengue cases recorded at Pawyar Village in Pinlaung Tsp

A medical team from the Tikit Station Hospital and Rural Health Department in Pinlaung Township carried out a campaign on prevention and control dengue fever. During the campaign in Pawyar Village yesterday, five suspect patients

of dengue fever were recorded. The team carried out fumigation, throw out items that hold water and educate the residents to sop mosquitoes from laying eggs in water.—KhunNaung (Naung Tayar) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■

Sloping Agricultural Land Technology implemented on 36 acres of special Naga farmland

THE Sagaing Region Agriculture Department has implemented Sloping Agricultural Land Technology on 36 acres of special farmland in the Naga Self-Administered Zone of the region.

"Sagaing Region had 5.25 million acres of rain crops and 1.8 million acres of paddy fields in the last mini-budget period (April-September, 2018). To develop the agricultural sector in Naga, perennial pedigree seeds

are also being distributed in the region," said U Win Hlaing Oo, the head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department. Sagaing Region's Irrigation Department is providing water to 560,000 acres of farmland from 43 dams, reservoirs, lakes, and weirs. There are two reservoirs which protect 42,000 acres of land from possible flooding of the Chindwin River. "The Department of Irrigation and Water

Utilization Management constructed two reservoirs, 35 dams, seven bridges, and took up other maintenance works and preventive measures, with an allocated budget of over K4.18 billion," said U Soe Oo, the Sagaing Region Minister for Planning and Finance during a press conference on the third-year performance of the regional government.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) (Translated by Ei Mon) ■



Officials from Sagaing Region Agriculture Department is implementing Sloping Agricultural Land Technology on 36 acres of special farmland in the Naga Self-Administered Zone. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

Seven injured after vehicle overturns in Paung

SEVEN people, including a two-year-old girl, were injured on Saturday morning after the vehicle they were travelling in overturned on the Yangon-Mawlamyaing road in Monaing Ward, Paung Township, Thaton District, Mon State, according to a report filed by the police.

Around 11 a.m. on Saturday, a Hijet mini truck carrying six passengers overturned after the driver lost control upon running over a drain in front of a general store, located 66 feet from the road. The driver, 39, and passengers sustained minor injuries. The passengers included a 28-year-old Buddhist monk, a two-year-old toddler and her mother, an 18-year-old youth, a 57-year-old woman, and a 36-year-old man. They were immediately taken to the Township Public Hospital. Police have filed a criminal complaint against the driver for careless driving under Sections 337/279 of the Penal Code.—Ko Hein (Paung) (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Foreign demand hikes up price of sesame seeds

FOREIGN demand has driven up the price of sesame seeds (samon variety) in Yenangyoung Township of Magway Region, according to the sesame market.

“At present, sesame cultivated using irrigation water is being harvested. It is fetching a good price of K80,000 per basket on account of its quality. Last year, the sesame seeds were priced around K67,000,” said U Aung Htay, a sesame grower from Magway. “The newly harvested sesame is called summer sesame. An acre produces eight baskets of sesame seeds, with farmers earning K600,000 per acre. The higher the number of acres, the more they will earn,” said U Thein Thein, a grower from Yenangyoung.

In addition to foreign markets, Myanmar sesame seeds are sold in the domestic market as an ingredient in food and traditional medicine. The

Yenangyoung Township plans to cultivate 43,977 acres of monsoon sesame, 747 acres of winter sesame, and 1,061 acres of summer sesame, according to the Yenangyoung Agriculture Department.

Japan prefers black sesame seeds cultivated in Myanmar using good agricultural practices (GAP) and purchases them after quality assessment. Meanwhile, China purchases various coloured sesame seeds. Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also cultivated in Mandalay and Sagaing regions. Of the edible oil crops in Myanmar, sesame acreage is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation.—San Nyunt (Yenangyoung) ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Sesame field seen in the Sagaing Region. Because of its quality, sesame gets good price.
PHOTO : ZAYYADU (MAGWAY)

Individual imports from borders exceeds K38 bln in FY2018-2019

THE value of imports using the individual trading cards (ITCs) at borders touched K38.07 billion in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Between 1 October and 7 June, Myanmar bought a wide range of goods through 10 border trade camps, including Tamu, Muse, Myawady, Tachilek, Lwejel, Kanpaiktee, Kawthong, Reed, Mawtaung and Kengtung.

Among these border points, the individual imports were the highest, both in terms of volume and trade, at Myawady border gate, reaching nearly K24.4 billion in value, followed by Kawthong at K3.79 billion, Mawtaung at K7.8 billion, Kanpaiktee at K1.5 billion, Reed at K307 million, Tamu at K162 million, Tachilek at K46 million and Kengtung at K36 million. Individual imports were the lowest at Lwejel station, reaching over K6 million in value.

In the first week of this month, individual border traders exported domestic products worth nearly K182.3 million and

imported K580.5 million worth of foreign commodities, totalling almost K762.8 million.

Border merchants have individually traded with neighbouring China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh through 16 active land borders—Tamu and Reed gates with India, Sittway and Maungtaw gates with Bangladesh, Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpaiktee and Kengtung with China, and Myawady, Tachilek, Myeik, Kawthong, Mawtaung, Htikee, and Maese with Thailand.

According to the ministry, the total individual trade as of 7 June, was pegged at K45.56 billion in total, covering K7.49 billion in exports.

The Ministry of Commerce has issued ITCs to border merchants since the 2012-2013 FY. Since the programme was launched, 1,650 ITC holders are operating at the border crossings. The trade authorities have issued 126 cards to individual traders this FY.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Regional trade exceeds \$7 bln in seven months, reports Ministry of Commerce

THE value of Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries through its sea route and border gates was estimated at US\$7.08 billion in Oct-April period of the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry reported that imports in regional trade surpassed exports, with exports worth over \$2.6 billion and imports valued at \$4.47 billion.

Since April, Thailand topped ASEAN countries having the largest trade with Myanmar, valued at \$3 billion,

followed by Singapore in second place with \$2.23 billion. Indonesia was listed third, with a trade value of \$612.58 million, while Myanmar's trade with Malaysia reached \$535.68 million, ranking in fourth place. Viet Nam stood fifth with an estimated value of \$492.638 million.

Meanwhile, bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$97.093 million, and bilateral trade with Cambodia reached \$6.7 million, Laos and Myanmar trade value shows only one million while Brunei's trade with Myanmar were less than \$1 million.

The country's main export items include agricultural and fishery products, as well as minerals, while imports included food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles, and consumer goods.

Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was carried out mostly with its regional partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar-India trade up 19% in April

TRADE between Myanmar and India stood at US\$95.6 million this April, with \$33.7 million in exports and nearly \$61.9 million in imports, according to the Ministry of Commerce's monthly statistical report. The total bilateral trade went up by \$15.4 million or 19.2 per cent, in comparison with last April, when Myanmar-India trade was pegged at \$80.2 million, covering exports amounting to \$15.4 million and imports valued at \$64.7 million.

From 1 October to 7 April this FY, Myanmar's export to neighbouring India reached almost \$371 million, while the

bilateral import were \$506 million, totalling \$878 million.

Myanmar and India deliver goods mostly from marine routes. Border trade between the two countries is conducted through Tamu, Reed and Htantalan border points of entry. According to the ministry's trade data, border exports between the two countries this FY hit \$128.9 million, whereas border imports exceeded \$17.7 million.

India is one of Myanmar's top trading partners. The two countries inked a bilateral border trade agreement in 1994. The marketable products traded between the two countries

include ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other kinds of fruits and vegetables, plus human hair, fishery and forest-based products, medicines, oil-cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials to Myanmar. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, the bilateral trade this fiscal year saw no new investment from India. During the 2018 mini-budget period, India made an investment of \$19.9 million in Myanmar.—Swe Nyein ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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The photo taken by Wunna (Mandalay University) wins first prize at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



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The photo taken by Than Naing Oo (IPRD) garners second prize at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



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The photo taken by Kyaw Naing Lin (La Yeik Pyar) gets third prize at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Visitors seeing photos at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



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The photo taken by Than Naing Oo (IPRD) earns the consolation prize at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



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The photo taken by Kyaw Naing Lin (La Yeik Pyar) grabs the consolation prize at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



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The photo taken by Sai Thu (Taunggyi) wins the consolation prize at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



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The photo taken by Khin Maung Lwin grabs the consolation prize at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



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The photo taken by Ko Myint Than (Ngwe Kyel Min) gets the consolation prize at the Photo Contest of Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



People visit the award winning photos of the Cheerful Ethnic Traditional Festival. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



The sixth conference of the International Association Theravada Buddhist Universities being convened at the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ARKAR SOE**

Sixth conference of IATBU to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal in Nov. 2020

THE International Association Theravada Buddhist Universities-IATBU held its executive council meeting at the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy in Yangon yesterday in preparation for the IATBU's sixth conference in Khatamandu in Nepal in November 2020.

The six conference which

will be held on 20, 21 and 22 in November next year will discuss how the Noble Eight-Fold Path of the Buddha can help the 17 sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

The IATBU has 46 members of universities and colleges from 10 countries.

The IATBU was established

in 2007.

The first conference was held in Poppa and the second in Sagaing, Myanmar.

The IATBU held its third conference in Thailand, the fourth in Indonesia and the fifth in Sri Lanka. —Yamanya

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Vietnamese Deputy PM arrives for working visit

A Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee Communist Party of Viet Nam and Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu, departmental officials and Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



The Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee Communist Party of Viet Nam and Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam is welcomed by officials.

PHOTO: MNA

Winners of “Cheerful ethnic traditional festival” awarded in Yangon

PRIZES were presented to winners of the photo contest “Cheerful ethnic traditional festival” at Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The contest was held under the arrangement of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) and the support of Myanmar Tourism Federation, (Myanmar Tourism Bank), TMW Enterprise Limited (Sony) and

Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Federation.

In his opening address, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said, “The Information and Public Relations Department in cooperation with Myanmar Photographic Society is holding photo contests twice a year. Beginning in 2003, the Independence Day commemorative annual photo competition

is being held at the start of a year. This year is the 17th contest. Since 2009, the mid-term photo contest has been held to showcase and enhance the nation's image. In 2018, the contest was held under the theme – Ethnic traditional cultural heritages. This year, it is held under the topic – Cheerful ethnic traditional festival. A total of 206 photographers sent 729 entries. “Veteran photographers of

Myanmar Photographic Society acted as judges in selecting the prize-winning works. The contest under the topic — Cheerful ethnic traditional festival – was held for the broader public and international awareness of the ethnic traditions and cultures. The other purposes of the contest include stronger ethnic amity through mutual understanding of their traditions and cultures.

“Thankfully, new generation photographers took part in the contest, and new faces are among the prize winners. In this regard, the contest has served as a springboard for the emergence of new generation photographers.

“The scope of media expands and its speed accelerates alongside technological development. Media development has pushed photographic, movie and video industries to the forefront. Thanks to the technological advancement quality images with artistic value come out through the harmonious arrangement of ingenuity and creativity.

“But every technology has its own dark side, because it can help produce fake news and camcorder lies. IPRD is organizing

workshops and trainings on new technology. But workshops and trainings jointly organized by veteran photographers of the MPA, departments, and private organizations will be more effective. The ministry will hold technological workshops and trainings in cooperation with the professionals.

“The contest will help improve the national image, enhance national peace and tranquility through a broader understanding of ethnic traditions and cultures and amity, increase national growth, and develop photography.”

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presented first prize to Wunna (Mann Tekkatho), second prize to Than Naing Oo (IPRD) and third prize to Kyaw Naing Lin (Layeikpya) and Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Naing Thet Lwin consolation prizes to Sai Thu (Taunggyi), Kyaw Naing Lin (Layeikpya), Than Naing Oo (IPRD), Khin Maung Lwin and Ko Myint Than (Ngwe Kyai Min).

Director-General of IPRD U Ye Naing presented certificates of honour to the supporters of the ceremony.—MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)



Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Nai Thet Lwin, and officials view award-winning photos displayed at the presentation ceremony in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Building trust and finding solutions

ETHNIC Armed Organization (EAO) signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat held a two-day informal meeting in Yangon last week.

The UPDJC Secretariat meetings are supposed to be held once a month but the last one was done back in July 2018, almost a year ago. It is heartening to see the secretariat members convene again, even if for an informal one.

We need to hold successive political dialogues on the discussion tables if we want our peace process to succeed and enable us to achieve our objectives. Even though the opportunity to conduct official talks is present, external unofficial meetings are continued to be held. This will not put us on the path to peace.

Eternal peace requires all EAOs to be onboard and therefore we must discuss with non-signatories to build trust and have them sign the NCA.

The recent meeting was also informal but we need to work towards holding official discussions if we want to make any progress. We need to build trust first and to do that we must have discussions between the organizations of different beliefs to discover a common objective we all share.

Eternal peace requires all EAOs to be onboard and therefore we must discuss with non-signatories to build trust and have them sign the NCA. After all, the NCA is a comprehensive agreement that ensures the fighting is halted to allow political dialogue to operate smoothly.

The UPDJC has a crucial role in ensuring a democratic federal republic is established in line with results from the political dialogues and with all the democracy, national equity and autonomy outlined in the 7-point roadmap of the NCA. The UPDJC's responsibility, accountability and willingness to work for the benefit of the people is fundamental in this endeavour.

However, we currently cannot fully implement the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong and agreements. We must not maintain a tight grip on our beliefs but instead engage in discussions to reach a middle ground.

The peace process is reaching its deadline and the fundamental federal principles and democratic principles must be finalized before 2020. This is the wish of all the people of Myanmar. We must hold successive peace talks and strive for the inclusion of all non-signatories and complete union agreements.

To that end, the government, the Tatmadaw, EAOs and political organizations must work together. We believe they will find a solution soon.



The month of Nayone holds religious examinations

By Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu)

THE 3rd month of the Myanmar Lunar calendar "Nayone ushers in the wet season monsoon. As the rain wind beating cloud blows from the north-west direction showers spray the scorched earth of Myanmar. In no time Myanmar's drylands become green carpets of grass. The environment is fragrant with the scents of jasmine flowers designated as the flora of this month.

May Hton is the astrological name of this month, derived from Pali word "Mihto-na" meaning a couple of man and woman. So astrological symbol of this month is a couple of man and women holding a rod and a harp. Three important events take place in this month.

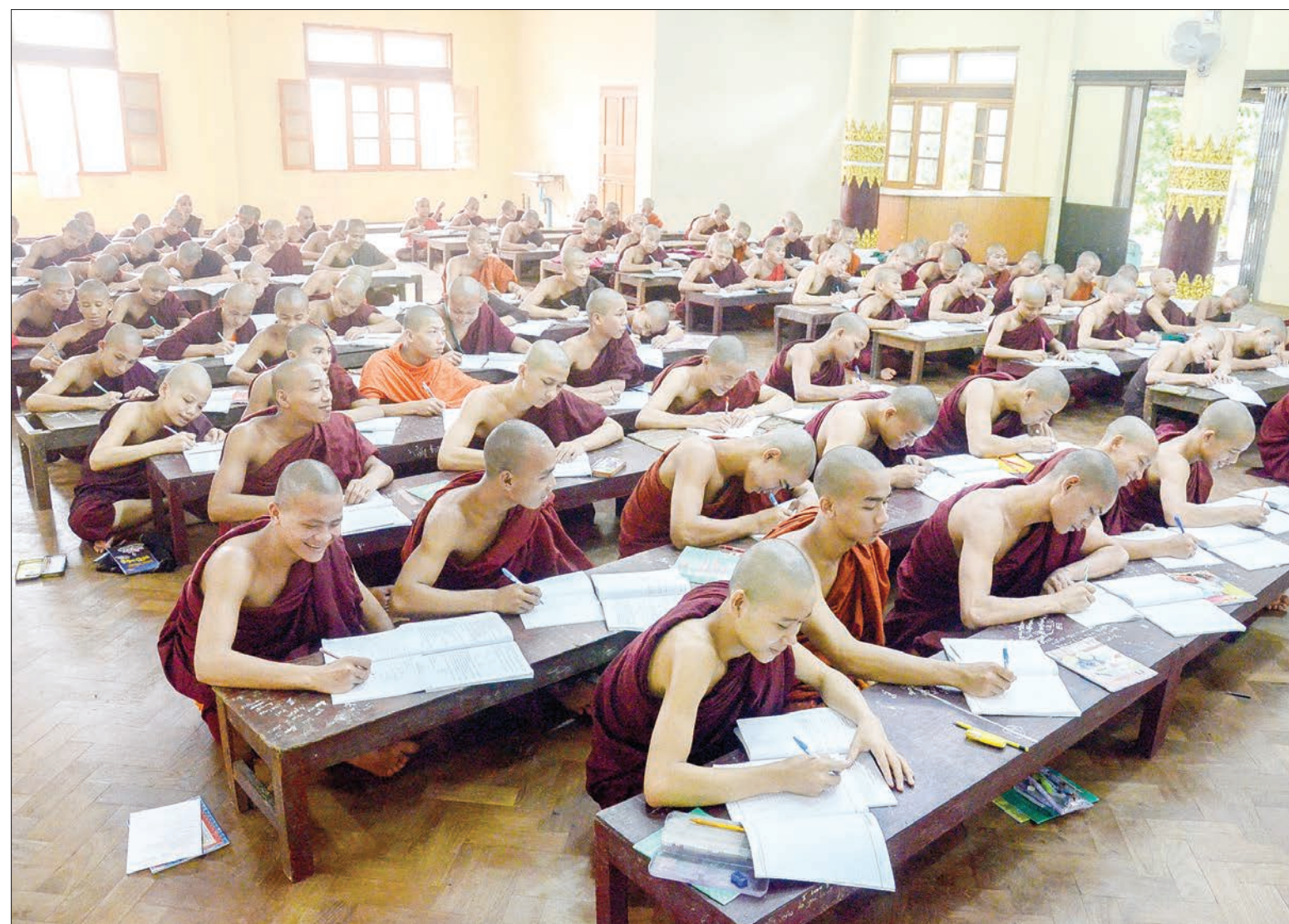
Firstly plowing ceremony of Myanmar kings to gather with farmers. It is called Le htun mingalar 'လယ်ထွန်မင်္ဂလာ'. The King himself ploughs in royal field so that there would be good rain good yield and good harvest.

Secondly on the full moon of this month Lord Gotama Buddha delivered Maha Thamaya Sutta "to Bramas and devas of all Universes". So Nayone Full Moon is yearly celebrated as Maha Thamaya Sutta Day.

Thirdly it is in the months of Nayone that religious examinations are held for Buddhist monks and lay students. In this article, the writer wishes to touch upon only the religious examination as the other two events need separate articles. In Myanmar Language, the word "Kyaung ကျောင်း" has three meanings. Firstly training domestic animals, training children. Kyaung means a school as well as a monastery. There is no separate word for school and monastery. Residences of monks are called Phongyi Kyaung teaching schools are called Sarthin Kyaung. Myanmar literary education originated in monasteries where monk teachers give Three Rs education to children free of charge regardless of race, religion, creed, and social status. Reading, Writing and Arithmetics are taught by monks teachers and train in Buddhist morals,

esthetics and civic duties. There 3 Sasans in Buddhism knows as Tipitaka Literally Three Baskets [Bodies] namely (1). Pariyatti Sasana [Acquisition of a sound knowledge of the Dhamma, the Law, and religious literature and scriptures through intensive and extensive learning. (2). Patipatti Sasana which means "being accomplished in knowledge". (3). Previda Sasana which means the acting according to knowledge communicated and acquired.

The first Sasana Pariyatti is primarily unimportant because Buddhism is literate religion. We may trace the history of the beginning of religious examinations and festivals through Myanmar archaeology and history and literature. But in this article, the writer wishes to touch upon the significance of religious examinations and its festivals till today. Monks are confined in their resident



Buddha novices learning in a monastery in Sagaing. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Successful candidates are free to choose monkhood for life or being reverted to layman and to accept a job offered by the King.

In addition to prescribed curriculums and syllabuses and textbooks, rigid examination rules and conduct, supervision and evaluation of results are very systematic and rigid. Basically there are four gradings in Examinations. (1). Pahtama Nge [yxrif] Lower Grade (2). Pahtama Lat [yxrvwf] Middle Grade (3). Pahtama Gyi [yxrBuD:] Higher Grade and (4). Pahtama Kyaw [yxrasmf] Highest Grade. All must go through three types of examinations (1). Recitation by heart

monasteries during rain retreat devoting to learning and practicing Buddhism. At the end of the learning period, they are tested by rigid examinations, oral, mental and written by their monk teachers thoroughly and rigidly in the month of Nayone the end of their academic terms. The style and proceedings of these examinations can be watched and studied by anyone citizen or stranger separate examinations centers and halls are built at Nay Pyi Taw capital city. In Mandalay you can till see the Thudhamma Zayats [Examinations halls outside the palace city at the foot of Mandalay hill].

(2). Oral examination and (3). Written examination. Successful candidates are showered with lavish rewards. A big puja ceremony was held by the King, his court and the people. In the courtyard pandals were put up. Their Majesties and the court made public appearances to honour successful candidates who were carried on palaguines [Sediar chair] carried by men. Gold ornamental umbrellas were shading the awardee monks. Their Majesties after listening to the speeches of Head monks of Buddhism did libation ceremony of dropping scented water from gold ewers, calling upon god of Earth to witness the great deed. Next successful candidates lined up to receive cash and title from His Majesty. King Mindon awarded silver kyat[Rupee] 1000 each for Lower Grade 1500 each for Higher Grade 2500 each for the Highest Grade. In addition, the privilege of tax immunities was granted

to their parents and the nearest relatives.

Successful candidates are free to choose monkhood for life or being reverted to layman and to accept a job offered by the King. Just as those who choose lifelong monkhood could become Royal monk Teacher and Sangha Yaza Sasanabaing Sayadaw. So also those reverted to laymen can rise from lower grade clerk to minister [Wun Gyi] Myanmar royalty Kings, Queens, Princes, Princesses, Aristocracy clerk to Minister including Armed forces land and water were recruited from the products of monastic education. This tradition of monastic education, religious examination and recruiting for royal or public administration and series has been carried out without fail despite changes in Myanmar history. Even during the Second World War, under the Japanese Fascist Occupation, this tradition was faithfully carried out. Till today religious examinations are held in the style of tradition.

Recently media reports of Religious Examinations for Tipitaka titles are spread home and abroad. Monks who can recite every word and any line and every page of Tipitaka or monks who can do so either one or two Pitaka. Some are young or middle age monk. Among five Theravada Buddhist Countries today Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, Myanmar deserves pride and honour for producing such Buddha Sana Azani.

TIPITAKA TITLES

1. *Tipitakadhara* = Bearer of the *Tipitaka* (recitation or oral),
2. *Tipitakadhara Tipitakakawida* = Bearer of the *Tipitaka* ('oral' and 'written'),
3. *Maha Tipitakakawida* = Passing the 'oral' and 'written' with distinction,
4. *Dhammabhandagarika* = Keeper of the *Dhamma Treasure*.



အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးအလွဲသုံးမှုနှင့် တရားမဝင်ရောင်းဝယ်မှု တိုက်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့ ၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လ ၂၆ ရက်

#HealthJustice JusticeHealth Health for Justice Justice for Health

"ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် တရားရေး မူးယစ်ကင်းမဲ့ လက်တွဲဖို့"

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 16th June, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 17th June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7-9)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th June, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th June, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

From apples to almonds, India hikes tariffs on US goods

NEW DELHI (India) — India on Sunday imposed higher tariffs on 28 items imported from the US, in retaliation to Washington's recent withdrawal of trade privileges for New Delhi.

The increased duties apply to products including almonds, apples and walnuts, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said.

India would "implement the imposition of retaliatory duties on 28 specified goods originating in or exported from (the) USA", it said in a notification.

The list initially included 29 goods but artemia, a kind of shrimp, has been removed from the list. India is the number two market of California almonds and Washington apples.

The trade tensions come despite efforts from Washington to boost ties with India as a counterweight to China, and assertions made by both US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Nar-



A worker harvests almonds on 29 August 2018. India, which Sunday imposed higher tariffs on 28 items imported from the US, is the number two market of California almonds and Washington apples. **PHOTO: AFP**

endra Modi about their good relationship. The stage for the row was set last year after Washington refused to exempt India from higher steel and aluminium tariffs, in keeping with Trump's decision to act against countries with which it has a large trade deficit.

India responded by saying it would raise import taxes on a slew of US goods. But it delayed raising tariffs several

times, hoping for negotiation to tackle the sticky trade issue. However Trump's decision this month to strip New Delhi of its preferential trade status appears to have prompted the latest Indian move. According to the new tariffs, import duty on walnut has been hiked to 120 per cent from 30 per cent and on chickpeas and lentils it has been raised to 70 per cent from 30 per cent currently.— AFP ■

Russia's central bank eyes launching its own digital currency

MOSCOW — Russia's Central Bank is considering plans of launching its own digital currency, but this is not expected to happen in the near future, the regulator's chairperson Elvira Nabiullina said.

"Indeed, Central Bank Digital Currency cannot be immediately implemented, however many central banks, including Russia's Central Bank, are studying such a possibility," Nabiullina told a student conference in Skolkovo.

According to her, reliable technologies are important for implementing this project. "If national currency that works in the entire country is concerned, this does not refer to any private assets, and certainly, this requires a technology that would ensure reliability and uninterrupted operations. These technologies should be mature, including blockchain technologies," she stressed.

When switching to digital currencies, there should be the understanding whether the society is ready to abandon cash. "This will be more convenient, this is digital money for people, for citizens. Are we ready as a society to give up cash?"

"Some countries have really become almost cashless, but in many countries cash is still popular. This is not because people want to carry out certain dubious operations. People often appreciate their privacy and anonymity. Certainly, the circulation of non-anonymous digital currencies implies that a society should be ready for this," Nabiullina noted. The Central Bank chief recommended that the project's authors should compare and study the advantages of digital currency over other technologies, for example, an express payment system.— Tass ■

Fall in cobalt price pushes DR Congo to reform economy

KINSHASA (DR Congo) —The Democratic Republic of Congo's new leadership is under mounting pressure to diversify the country's economy from its dependence on raw materials following the plunge in the price of cobalt.

Economic experts currently visiting the country have a sobering figure on which to base their work: over the past year the price of cobalt on the London Metal Exchange has tumbled from \$80,000 to \$28,000.

The DR Congo is the world's top producer of cobalt, a key component for rechargeable batteries needed for smartphones and electric cars.

But economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa's largest country is on the same roller coaster as the global cobalt price. "GDP growth increased to 5.8 per cent from 3.7 per cent in 2017 ... driven by a sharp increase in cobalt prices," the International Monetary Fund said earlier this month in a report of DR Congo's economy.

"GDP growth is projected to decelerate to 4.3 per cent in 2019 based on the assumption of a slowdown in mining activity in the context of lower cobalt prices," it added.

In another sign of the DR Congo's heavy reliance on min-

ing and metals exports, that deceleration comes amid growth more than doubling in the rest of the economy thanks to public investment and post-election optimism.

Either way, the DR Congo's GDP is tiny for the size of the country and its population. At less than \$40 billion for 81 million inhabitants in 2017, according to World Bank figures, that translates into less than \$2 per day per person on average.

The IMF mission "focused on policies that would lead to diversifying the economy and tackling high levels of poverty and unemployment in the context of a rapidly expanding population," according to the report.

Diversification and transformation of the nation's economy is also the theme of the sixth French Kinshasa week organised by the Franco-Congolese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

With 80 per cent of the DR Congo's export revenues generated by the mining sector this "creates a vulnerability due to the volatility in the prices of its main raw material exports" noted the organisers.

Liberalisation

They said possibilities in

numerous other sectors needed to be explored for growth opportunities: agriculture and food, textiles, tourism, communications, transportation services, forestry, energy, pharmaceuticals and recycling.

France is keen to promote an initiative recently unveiled by President Emmanuel Macron to provide 2.5 billion euros (\$2.8 billion) in financing to 100,000 African startups as well as small and medium-sized companies

by 2022.

But the best intentions in business development must confront the problems of doing business in what is a weak state because of patchy tax revenue collection amidst endemic corruption. One economic analyst, who spoke on condition of anonymity said "fifty per cent of the containers that enter the Matadi river port don't pay customs duties".

The IMF urged the new

president Felix Tshisekedi "to expedite the adoption of the proposed anti-corruption law" and the creation of an independent anti-corruption commission.

The IMF also expressed concern about low tax collection. Reforms in some areas are moving ahead, albeit slowly. The insurance sector has been liberalised with three operators licensed to take over from the former state monopoly Sonas.— AFP ■



A man watches a conveyor belt loaded with chunks of Raw cobalt after a first transformation at a plant in Lubumbashi on 16 February 2018. The DR Congo's economy is highly dependent on cobalt. **PHOTO: AFP**

Damaged tankers reach safe waters after Gulf attacks

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates)—Two damaged tankers arrived safely Sunday to locations off the Emirati coast after they were rocked by explosions in Gulf waters, in an incident Saudi Arabia blamed on its regional arch-rival Iran.

The Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous was carrying highly flammable methanol through the Gulf of Oman on Thursday when it came under attack along with the Norwegian-operated Front Altair — the second assault in a month in the strategic shipping lane.

US President Donald Trump has said the operation had Iran “written all over it” — rejecting Tehran’s vehement denial — and its key Gulf ally Saudi Arabia has also lashed out against Tehran.

In his first public comments since the attacks, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in remarks published Sunday that he would not hesitate to tackle any threats to the oil-rich kingdom. “We do not want a war in the region... But we won’t hesitate to deal with any threat to our people, our sovereignty, our territorial integrity and our vital interests,” he told pan-Arab daily Asharq al-Awsat.

He said Iran had responded



A file image shows the Kokuka Courageous, which was carrying highly flammable methanol out of the Gulf towards Asia when it was attacked Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

to a visit to Tehran by Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “by attacking two tankers, one of which was Japanese”.

Abe had been on an unprecedented visit to the Iranian capital in a bid to defuse tensions between Washington and the Islamic Republic when the attacks took place. The US military on Friday released grainy footage it said showed an Iranian patrol boat removing an “unexploded limpet mine” from the Japanese vessel.

The crew of the Kokuka Cou-

rageous saw a “flying object” before a second blast on board, the operator’s head said Friday.

The vessel’s Singapore-based BSM Ship Management said in a statement Sunday that it had “arrived safely at the designated anchorage” and that its crew were “safe and well”. A damage assessment and preparations for transferring the ship’s cargo would start once authorities had completed “security checks and formalities”, it added.

Strategic waterway

The other ship, the Front Altair, was under safe tow by tug boats towards an area off the coast of the eastern Emirati port of Fujairah. “First inspections are under way and no hot spots have been identified following the fire,” the vessel’s owners said in a statement Sunday. It said all crew members were in Dubai, where they will “assist with the debrief to the owner’s legal team and the appropriate authorities, before returning home”.—AFP ■

2 strong quakes hit off of New Zealand’s north coast

SYDNEY—Two strong quakes struck near an uninhabited island chain off the northeast coast of New Zealand on Sunday, according to the United States Geological Survey. The first, with a magnitude of 7.2, occurred at 10:55 a.m. local time 103 kilometers northeast of LEsperance Rock, a volcanic reef 250 meters in diameter that forms part of the Kermadec Islands, the USGS said. The focus of the quake was 34.4 km deep, according to the USGS. Later in the day, a second quake with a magnitude of 6.3 struck roughly 10 km to the south of the first quake, the USGS said. The latter quake, which occurred at 5:17 p.m. local time, was at a depth of 35 km, it said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii has not issued a tsunami warning for the latest earthquake. —Kyodo News ■

Israel PM’s wife Sara Netanyahu convicted of misusing public funds



Sara Netanyahu, wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, leaves the Magistrate’s Court in Jerusalem on 16 June 2019, following her conviction of fraudulently using state funds for meals. PHOTO: AFP

JÉRUSALEM—An Israeli court Sunday convicted the wife of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of fraudulently using state funds for meals, under a

plea bargain which saw her admit to lesser charges.

Sara Netanyahu was found guilty of exploiting the mistake of another person and ordered

to pay a fine and compensation, in a deal approved by Jerusalem magistrates’ court justice Avital Chen. Netanyahu was also fined 10,000 shekels (\$2,800) and ordered to reimburse the state a further 45,000 shekels, the latter of which she will pay in nine installments, at her request.

“The deal reached between the sides is worthy and appropriately reflects the deeds and their severity on the criminal level,” Chen said in his ruling.

The 60-year-old, a high-profile presence at her husband’s side throughout his long tenure in office, was initially charged in June 2018 with fraud and breach of trust for buying catered meals despite the presence of a cook at the minister’s official residence.

The amended indictment, approved Sunday, dropped the graft charges.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourist drowns in Lake Geneva during storm: police

GENEVA (Switzerland)—A woman has drowned in Lake Geneva when her sightseeing boat sank as a violent storm battered parts of Switzerland on Saturday, police said. A man who was in the same boat was able to swim to another vessel from where he fired “two flares”, Joanna Matta, police spokeswoman for the canton (region) of Geneva, told AFP. The man told officers that the woman had been “passing through Geneva” and that the storm had taken them “by surprise”, Matta said.—AFP ■

Ukraine’s new president visits troubled Mariupol

MARIUPOL (Ukraine)—New Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday made his first official visit to the major trading port city of Mariupol, where he observed joint military exercises in the Sea of Azov. The city which is about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the frontline of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, which was seized by Russian-backed separatists, was celebrating the fifth anniversary of its liberation from the rebels. “We must now thoroughly redistribute the maximum of our attention to the Donbass,” Zelensky, 41, told journalists at the port, referring to the region controlled by the rebels.—AFP ■

4 killed in Saudi-led airstrike in northwestern Yemen

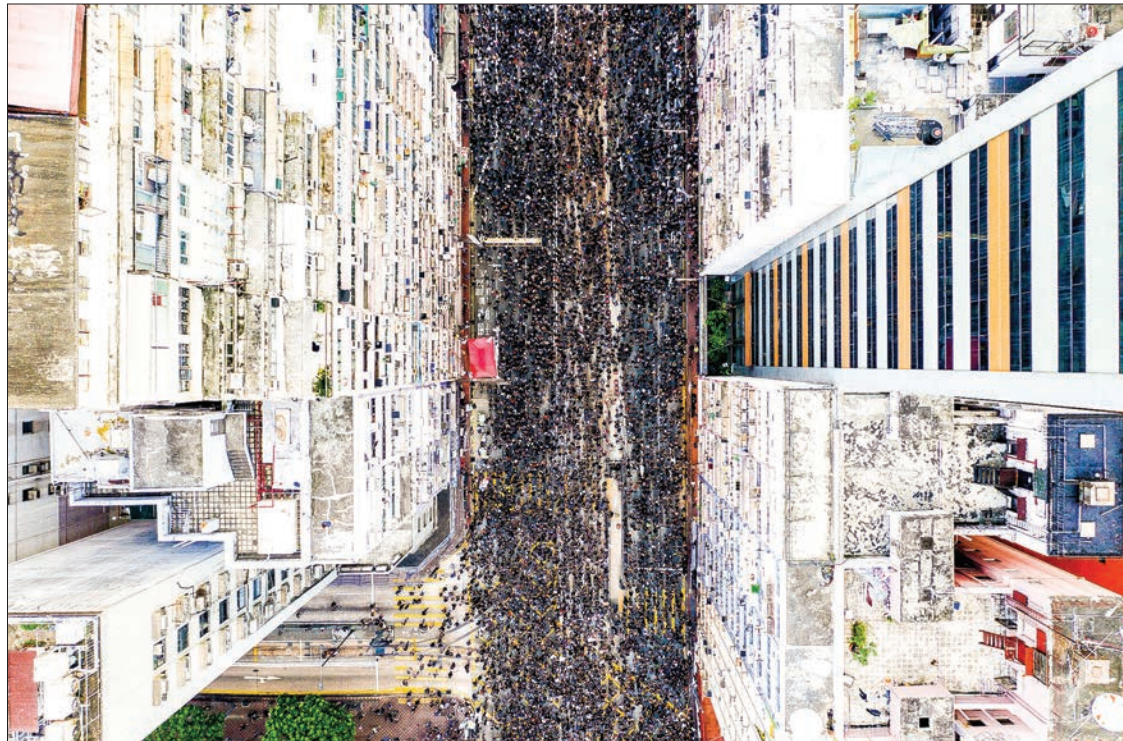
SANAA—A woman and her three children were killed when a Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a house in Yemen’s northwestern province of Hajjah on Sunday, local residents and a medical source said. The attack that hit the family’s house in Jar area in Abs district also injured a girl, they added. The Saudi Arabia-led military coalition has been fighting Iran-allied Shiite Houthi rebels since March 2015 in support of the Yemeni internationally-recognized President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Saudi Arabia has witnessed more drone and ballistic missile attacks launched by the Houthis recently, which wounded 26 people at Abha airport last week alone.—Xinhua ■

Massive demonstration chokes Hong Kong as extradition anger boils

HONG KONG (China)—Hundreds of thousands of protesters choked Hong Kong's streets for a second straight Sunday in a defiant rebuke of a reviled extradition law, piling pressure on the city's embattled pro-Beijing leader despite a weekend climbdown. The show of force saw huge crowds marching for hours in tropical heat, calling for the resignation of chief executive Carrie Lam, who paused work on the divisive bill Saturday saying she had misjudged the public mood.

Thronged of black-clad protesters snaked their way for miles through the city's streets to the city's parliament—a repeat of a record-breaking demonstration last Sunday that organisers said more than a million people attended. As night fell the huge crowds were still marching, but they had also taken over multiple major thoroughfares, with the police seemingly ceding the streets to the jubilant masses. Critics fear the Beijing-backed law will entangle people in China's notoriously opaque and politicised courts and damage the city's reputation as a safe business hub.

Although Lam offered a



Hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people marched through the streets to protest against a controversial proposed extradition law. PHOTO: AFP

rare concession on Saturday, she stopped short of committing to permanently scrapping the unpopular law. Her gesture was swiftly rejected by protest leaders who called on her to resign, shelve the bill entirely and apologise for police using tear gas and rubber bullets earlier in the week. "The pro-democracy

group will not stop at this point, they want to build on the momentum against Carrie Lam," political analyst Willy Lam told AFP. "They will keep the heat on and ride the momentum."

Anger at police

The international finance hub

was rocked Wednesday by the worst political violence in decades as tens of thousands of protesters were dispersed by baton-wielding riot police. Many placards in the crowd Sunday accused police of using excessive force. "You're supposed to protect us not shoot at us," read one banner. Nearly 80 people

were injured in this week's unrest, including 22 police officers, with both sides showing a willingness to escalate their behaviour to levels unseen before in the usually stable business hub.

One man died late Saturday when he fell from a building where he had been holding an hours-long anti-extradition protest. He had unfurled a banner on scaffolding attached to an upscale mall, but fell when rescuers tried to haul him in. Police said they suspected the 35-year-old man was suicidal. Throughout the day, demonstrators queued for hours to leave flowers and tributes where he fell. The extradition furore is just the latest chapter in what many see as a battle for the soul of Hong Kong.

'Restore calm to the community'

For the last decade the city has been convulsed by political turbulence between the pro-Beijing authorities and opponents who fear an increasingly assertive China is stamping on the city's unique freedoms and culture enjoyed since the handover in 1997. —AFP ■

Man flees with pistol after stabbing police officer in western Japan

OSAKA—A police officer was stabbed and his pistol was stolen Sunday in Osaka Prefecture, western Japan, where leaders from the world's major economies will gather this month for a Group of 20 summit.

The male suspect fled the scene in the city of Suita and has yet to be apprehended, authori-

ties said. The gun was loaded with five bullets when it was stolen.

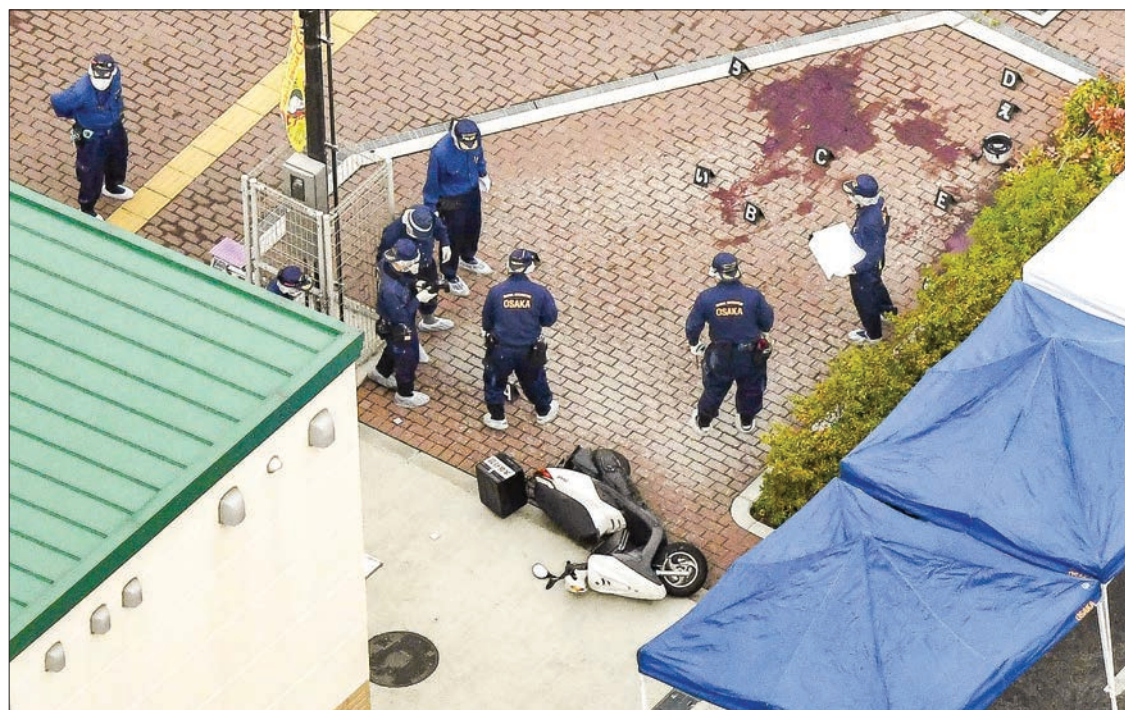
The 26-year-old officer, Suzunosuke Kose, was found at a police box with serious injuries and a knife embedded in the left side of his chest. He was wearing a stab vest. Emergency services were notified of the incident at around 5:40 a.m., according to

police. Kose was apparently attacked after two fellow officers left the police box to respond to an emergency call reporting a home break-in. A pay phone about 800 meters south of the police box was used to make the call, which the police believe was a false report.

The suspect is thought to be

around 30 years old and is about 170-180 centimeters tall. Surveillance camera footage, later released by the police, showed a man in a whitish hat and glasses loitering around the police box, located in front of Hankyu Railway's Senriyama Station, around 4:15 a.m. to 5 a.m. The incident occurred as the prefectural police have been stepping up security in the nearby city of Osaka, where the G-20 summit will be held on June 28 and 29.

The stabbing shocked local residents and led some nearby universities to cancel open campus events. "The police officers here are all nice. I hope the suspect will be caught before the gun is used," a 49-year-old woman said. A male university student saw the injured officer in the police box while he was out on a walk around 6 a.m. "He looked like he was writhing in pain," the 22-year-old said. A 31-year-old mother of two, said, "Listening to the constant police sirens from the morning was a chilling experience," adding, "It's terrifying to think that someone may be wandering around with a gun." —Kyodo News ■



Investigators check around a police box in Osaka Prefecture where an officer found knife embedded in the left side of his chest. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Heat stroke kills 43 people in India's eastern state Bihar

NEW DELHI—Heat stroke has claimed 43 lives in India's eastern state of Bihar, state-run broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) reported Sunday. The worst-hit district in the state is Aurangabad where around 30 people have died so far. Nearly seven deaths have been reported from Gaya district and six from the Nawada district, the report said.

Moreover, 70 people are undergoing treatment in various hospitals in these districts, with many of them undergoing treatment with the symptoms of severe headache, dizziness and dehydration. State Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has expressed grief and announced an ex-gratia payment of 400,000 Indian Rupees (around 5,715 U.S. dollars) to the next of the kin of the deceased. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that there will be no relief from intense heat wave conditions for the next two days. —Xinhua ■

Palestinians say medic shot in border clashes succumbs to wounds

RAMALLAH (Palestinian Territories)— A Palestinian medic has succumbed to his wounds a month after being shot during clashes along the Gaza border, Palestinian officials said.

Mohammed al-Jdaili, 36, died after being hit by Israeli fire, the Palestinian health ministry said Monday. The Palestinian Red Crescent organisation said in a statement he had been hit in the face by a rubber-coated bullet “while performing his humanitarian duties” in northern Gaza on 3 May.

Since the injury he had been receiving treatment in Hebron in the occupied West Bank, it said. There was no reaction from the Israeli army. Palestinian official news agency Wafa said the father of four was hurt while treating wounded people near the border fence in Jabalia in northern Gaza. Palestinians have

been gathering along the heavily-guarded Israeli border fence since March 2018, demanding Israel end the crippling blockade of the strip. The Jewish state accuses the strip’s Islamist rulers Hamas of orchestrating the often-violent protests.

On the day Jdaili was hit two Israeli soldiers were injured by gunfire. It sparked a two-day flare up, with hundreds of rockets fired from the strip towards Israel and dozens of targets struck by the Jewish state in response.

At least 294 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in Gaza since March 2018, the majority in the border clashes, according to an AFP toll. Six Israelis have been killed. According to the World Health Organization three other Palestinian medics have been killed during the border protests.—AFP ■

Far-right AfD fails to win its first German mayor seat

BERLIN — The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party lost its bid to capture its first mayor’s office in the country in a bellwether election on Sunday ahead of three key regional polls.

In a run-off ballot in Goerlitz, Octavian Ursu, 51, a Romanian-born classical musician from Chancellor Angela Merkel’s centre-right CDU party, drew 55.1 percent of the vote against 44.9 for the AfD’s Sebastian Wippel, 36, an ex-policeman.

The contest for Goerlitz’s city hall was seen as a litmus test for three upcoming state elections

in the ex-communist east, with the future of Merkel’s fragile right-left coalition potentially on the line.

The AfD made strong gains in Goerlitz’s economically struggling Saxony state in May’s European elections and hopes to beat Merkel’s CDU party in the upcoming regional poll.

With a population of 55,000, Goerlitz on the Polish border boasts a quaint historic town centre that has turned the town into a tourist magnet and attracted top Hollywood directors.

Goerlitz has served as a location for films such as “The Grand Bu-

dapest Hotel,” “Inglorious Bastards”, “Around the World in 80 Days” and “The Reader”. But many of its young citizens have turned their backs on the

town due to a lack of job opportunities. Wippel had won the first round three weeks ago with 36.4 per cent against Ursu’s 30.3 per cent.—AFP ■



Germany’s conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) candidate Octavian Ursu (R) won the mayoral run-off in Goerlitz, defeating the anti-immigrant AfD party’s candidate. PHOTO: AFP


Notice for Changing of Tender Closing Date for Medical Equipment

Ministry of Health and Sports, Department of Medical Services has already invited open tender for Medical Equipment of NYSH in (2018-2019) Budget Year.

Now the tender closing date is changed to (9-7-2019), 12noon instead of (20-6-2019), 15:00 hour. Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supply Division, Department of Medical Services, Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports.

For detailed information, please contact the phone No. 067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar.

Procurement and Supply Division
Department of Medical Services
Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar


PTTEP


Submission of EIA Study of M9 East Appraisal and Exploration Drilling in Block M9 by PTTEPI

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI) plans to develop appraisal and exploration drilling campaign in the eastern part of Offshore Block M9 with objective to confirm (or deny) and to indicate the presence of hydrocarbon reservoirs, and could serve the development of the existing Zawtika gas field. The proposed appraisal and exploration drilling will be up to 12 wells. The wells will be drilled in 2019.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the proposed activity has been prepared by PTTEPI and Artelia Eau & Environment (Artelia), and was submitted to Environmental Conservation Department (ECD). The report is publically viewable at the following locations:

- PTTEPI’s office in Yangon: 3rd Floor, Vantage Tower, 623 Pyay Road, Kamayut Township 11041, Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
- Dawei, Yebyu and Myeik Township Administrative Department Offices, Tanintharyi Region.
- On PTTEPI’s website as follows: www.pttep.com

Feedback on the report can be submitted to PTTEPI in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: tinnilarsoe@pttep.com


PTTEP

Submission of EIA Study of M11 Exploration Drilling in Block M11 by PTTEPI

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI) plans to develop exploration drilling campaign in the Offshore Block M11 with objective to confirm (or deny) the presence of hydrocarbon reservoirs. The proposed exploration drilling will be up 1 well. The well will be drilled in 2019.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the proposed activity has been prepared by PTTEPI and Artelia Eau & Environment (Artelia), and was submitted to Environmental Conservation Department (ECD). The report is publically viewable at the following locations:

- PTTEPI’s office in Yangon: 3rd Floor, Vantage Tower, 623 Pyay Road, Kamayut Township 11041, Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
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- On PTTEPI’s website as follows: www.pttep.com

Feedback on the report can be submitted to PTTEPI in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: tinnilarsoe@pttep.com

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1239 W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1239 W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (923S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (923S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1012 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1012 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS
(S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Natma Taung

ASEAN Heritage Park

By Maung Yin Kyay

NATMA Taung known locally as Khaw Nu M' Cong and in the past as Mt. Victoria is situated in southern Chin State Mindat, Matupi and Kanpetlet townships covering an area of 275.35 sq. miles (176,202 acres) at an altitude of more than 10,200 ft. above sea level. The area covered with mountain mists contains Buran (Rhododendron arboretum) tree that produces the state

About 1,500 visitors came every day. The majority stay in Kanpetlet at an elevation of more than 4,500 ft. and then climb the Natma Taung. So the six hotels in Kanpetlet hotel zone as well as motels and inns were always full of visitors. Some stay in their friends or relatives houses too said a Kanpetlet local Chin ethnic national Ko Ki Nine.

Even before 4 a.m. in the chilling misty morning, Kanpetlet came to life with the sounds of cars and motorcycles warming up to start the journey up Natma Taung. Cars were permitted up to the 10 mile station at an altitude of 9,000 ft. above sea level and from there on the area became a restricted national park area where no cars except for specially permitted one were allowed. Visitors can proceed to the top of the mountain by foot or by motorcycles.

Most of the visitors hike up the mountain while enjoying the natural beauty and the sounds of the birds. Some



Natma Taung ASEAN heritage park. **PHOTO: MAUNG YIN KYAY**



PHOTO: SAN LWIN. (FISHERIES DEPARTMENT)

flower of Chin State, Cherry and pine trees.

Natma Taung had more than 800 tree species and is an area where degradation of natural environment was kept at a minimum level. Surveys found 23 amphibians, 65 reptiles and 77 butterfly species as well as rare cats, bear, mountain goats, pangolins, monkeys and the region's own White-browed Nuthatch as well as 289 different species of birds.

Natma Taung had become a national park in 2010 and numbers of visitors reached the peak number during the New Year transiting from 2018 to 2019.

This Christmas and the New Year was the time when most visitors came to our Kanpetlet town. Visitors came under the arrangement of travel companies as well as on their own. People from nearby areas of Magway, Minbu and Pakokku also came by motorcycles.

women and children who prefer an easier way up and down took a motorcycle ride offered by the locals at K 5,000 for ascent and K

5,000 for descent. This bike ride had its fair share of accidents resulting in scratches, cuts and bruises but still those who want

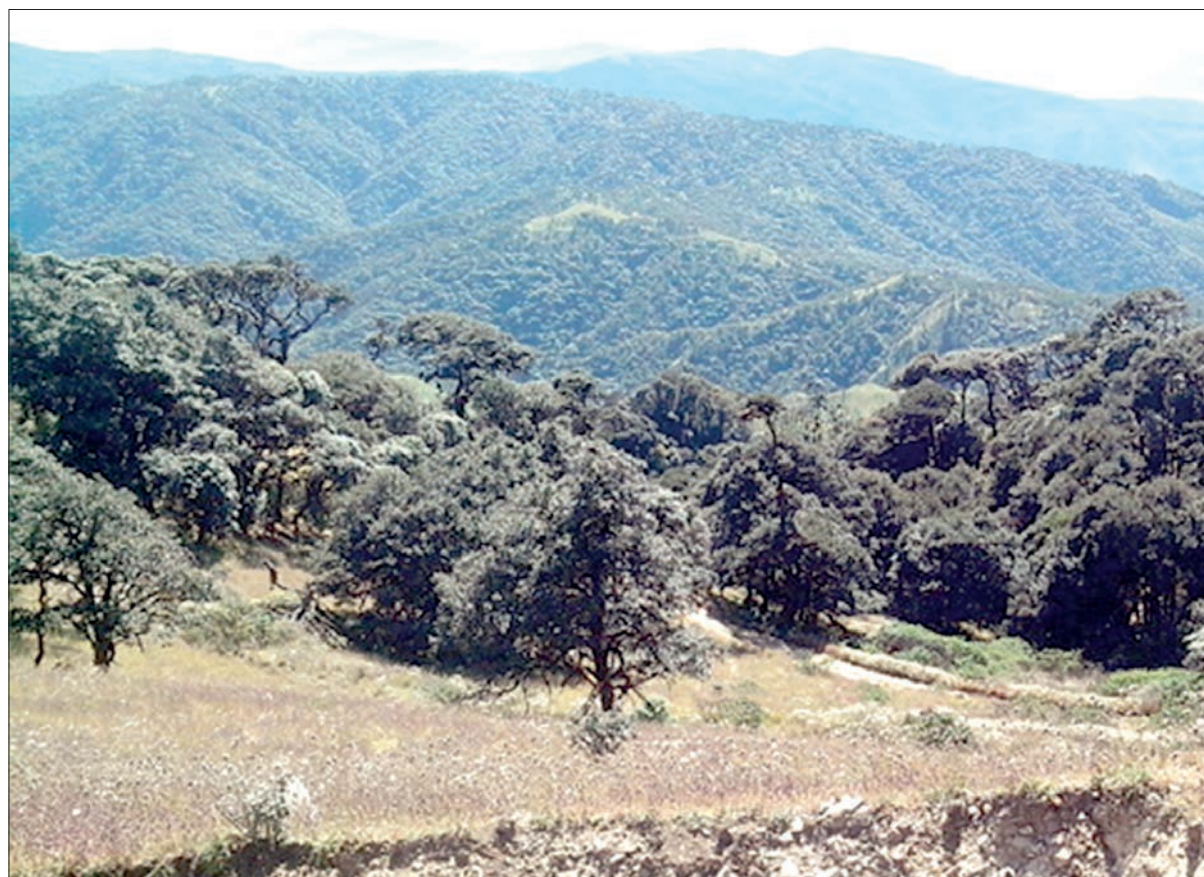


PHOTO: NANDA



er from extinction, Forest Department had strictly prohibited peoples from picking the flowers or even breaking off the branch of the tree. This was a timely conservatory move. Forest Department had also started a campaign on reducing usage of plastics and had setup trash bins along the way. However, it was a sorrowful sight to see discarded plastic bags and water bottles littering many locations along the path. It looks like more still need to be done.

Just past the 9,000 ft. elevation is a small ice covered pond measuring 20 ft. by 15 ft. attracting visitors taking pictures and inspecting it.

It was a unique experience to walk the natural path surrounded by small bamboo clusters and shrubs and all the tiredness was taken away by the splendid sight awaiting the climbers at the mountain top.

Natma Taung region situated at an elevation above 10,000 ft. is not a proud natural heritage for Myanmar only but also for ASEAN region as well. Visitors coming by car to the area from all over Myanmar must pass through Kazunma town at the junction of Pathein-Monywa road in Magway Region Seikpyu Township to Saw town where all will stop briefly before ascending up the road to Kanpetlet town at an elevation of 4,500 ft. through breath taking sights.

At Kanpetlet, they'll be entertained by old Chin women with tattoos on their cheek who'll play the pipe with their noses! They can also buy Chin clothes weaved in traditional looms as souvenir. In the evening they can enjoy traditional Chin moon shine liquor and Gayal meat pounded together with chillies beside a born fire. Gayals from Chin mountain ranges belong to the same species (Gavarus) of bison and banteng. These beasts were usually bred for meat and could also be found living in the wild between 2,000 and 10,000 feet above sea level.

All are invited to come and enjoy these as well as the natural beauty of Natma Taung.

Translated by Handytips

from Kanpetlet area were also gaining a sizable income from this.

The path to the top of the mountain from 10 mile station was about 3 miles 4 furlong long and there were no shops or stalls along the way so it is important for visitors to bring along sufficient food and water. The hike up the mountain took about three to five hours and those who attempt it need to have enough stamina to complete it.

However, all along the way was irresistible photo ops and for most who attempted the way up would find the hike well worth it.

Rhododendron flower, the Chin State national flower is normally red in colour and can be found all along the mountain path but beyond an elevation of 10,000 ft. rare white and yellow colour flowers can also be found. Locals were said to have produce wines from their national flower.

To preserve the state flow-



to take the motorcycle ride were always more than the available motorcycles so there was a considerable waiting time. Locals

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ

Buffet Restaurant

No-26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Ph: 09 777 799101. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammzedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Thet Htar Thuzar wins FLEET Mauritius International 2019 title

MYANMAR'S Thet Htar Thuzar won the championship title in the women's singles series of the FLEET Mauritius International 2019, held in Ebene, Mauritius, by beating Finland's Airi Mikkela yesterday.

Organized under the supervision of the World Badminton Federation, the International Badminton Tournament was held from 13 to 16 June.

Thet Htar Thuzar defeat-

ed Mauritius' Lorna Bodha by 21-3 and 21-10 in the Round of 32 stages.

She also beat Malaysia's Kasturi Rakhkrishnan by 21-19 and 21-12 in the Round of 16.

In the quarter final, Thet Htar beat Kate Foo Kune of Mauritius by 21-19 and 21-16.

In the semifinal, she drubbed India's Sai Uttejitha Rai Chukka 13-21, 21-19, and 21-16.

In the final, Thet Htar Thu-

zar achieved a decisive win over Finland's Airi Mikkela with a score of 21-10 and 21-19.

Thet Htar Thuzar has already won three other international titles: the Egypt International Badminton Series, held in October, 2018, Uganda's Badminton International Series, held in February, 2019, and the 2019 Future Series of Kenya.—Shine Htet Zaw ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar's badminton star, Thet Htar Thuzar, training ahead of the FLEET Mauritius International 2019. PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN

Myanmar Judo athletes head to Japan for special training

SIX Judo athletes from Myanmar and an interpreter flew to Japan from the Yangon International Airport yesterday to undergo special training, jointly organized by the Myanmar Judo Federation and the Judo Federation of Ja-

pan. The athletes were seen off by the Chairman of the Myanmar Judo Federation, U Tun Tun, and other officials.

The Myanmar athletes will stay in Japan for two weeks and will undergo Judo training in the

style of Myanmar and Japan.

The trip is aimed at preparing the athletes for the upcoming 2019 SEA Games, which will be held in the Philippines, said officials.—Saw Thein Win ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Six Judo athletes (in front) pose for a group photo with officials from the Myanmar Judo Federation at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. The athletes will undergo special training in Japan ahead of the SEA Games. PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN

AFF Futsal Cup 2019: Myanmar's MIU hoping to make it to the finals

THE Myanmar Imperial University Futsal Club, which will be representing Myanmar at the ASEAN Football Federation Futsal Cup 2019, is hoping for a place in the final, said officials from the team.

The AFF Futsal Cup 2019 is scheduled to be held from 18 to 23 June in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. A total of six teams, divided into two groups, are participating in the championship.

Myanmar's MIU has been placed in Group B with Melaka United of Malaysia and Down Town Sport club of Cambodia.

Meanwhile, Thailand's PTT

Chonburi Bluewave F.C. has been placed in Group A with Sanvinest Sanatech Khanh Hoa from Viet Nam and Black Steel F.C. from Indonesia.

"We want to make it to the final and that is an ambition shared by all of us. We finished third in the previous tourney in Indonesia. So, we must try as hard as we can to reach the final this time," Phyo Maung Maung, the owner of MIU, told the media.

Team MIU has stood third thrice at the AFF Futsal championship: in 2015, 2016, and 2018.

MIU is the most popular and

successful futsal club in the Myanmar Futsal League. The team has won the Myanmar Futsal League title three times along with other domestic cups.

The AFF recently renamed the AFF Futsal Club Championship as the AFF Futsal Cup 2019. This year will be the sixth edition of the championship.

The first championship was held in 2014, and was won by Indonesia's IPC F.C.

Thailand's Thaiport F.C. won the championship title in 2015, 2016, and 2017, and Thailand's Bangkok BTS F.C. won the title in 2018.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Yangon United beat Rakhine United 4-0 in Round 2 of MNL

YANGON United won their Round 2 match of the Myanmar National League 2019 against Rakhine United by four goals yesterday in Yangon, their home stadium.

The goals for Yangon were netted by Kaung Htet Soe, Miller, Sylla, and Than Paing.

With speedy attacks, Yangon dominated the early minutes of the first half and created some goal opportunities.

Kaung Htet Soe scored the opening goal for Yangon United at 11 minutes, aided by an assist from Miller.

Ten minutes later, Miller kicked a foul ball directly into the net, scoring the second goal for Yangon United.

The first half ended with Yangon United leading by two goals.

With stable play, Yangon United retained their tempo in

the second half, while Rakhine United put in more efforts to equalize the result with a massive midfield, creating several chances.

But, Yangon United managed to breach Rakhine United's defence and scored again at the 78th minute. Striker Sylla scored the goal for Yangon, kicking the ball past the Rakhine United keeper.

Ten minutes before the match ended, Yangon United's Than Paing came in as substitute player and scored the final goal at 90 minutes.

At the final whistle, the score was 4-0 in favour of Yangon United.

With the win, Yangon United are now leading the table, with 23 points from 12 matches played. The team will next play Shan United at the Taunggyi stadium on 23 June.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Yangon United's Miller (No. 6) tries to clear the ball from Rakhine United players (red) yesterday during their second round match of the Myanmar National League at the Yangon United Sports Complex. PHOTO: MNL