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President, First Lady attend State Counsellor's 74th birthday event



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cuts a birthday cake to mark her 74th birthday in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 June 2019. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U WIN MYINT and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attended the celebration of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's 74th birthday, held in the Hluttaw Hall I-12 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Other important figures attending the event included former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su

Lwin, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and wife Dr. Sein Sein Thein, and Union Minister U Min Thu from

the Office of the Union Government, Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and their wives.

Hluttaw representatives and other officials were also present.

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President U Win Myint accepts credentials from Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic



President U Win Myint shakes hands with Mr. Nicolaos Kaimenakis, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

H.E. Mr. Nicolaos Kaimenakis, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letters of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Pal-

ace, Nay Pyi Taw at 3:00 p.m. yesterday. Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, and Director-General U Min Thein of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

President U Win Myint accepts credentials from Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana



President U Win Myint shakes hands with Ms. Akua Sekyiwa Ahenkora, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 3:45 p.m. yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, and Director-General U Min Thein of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Myanmar Special Economic Zones Central Working Body coordinates ongoing tasks in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Coordination meeting of Myanmar Special Economic Zones Central Working Body (2/2019) was held yesterday at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of working body and Union Minister for Commerce, Dr. Than Myint, delivered an address.

The Union Minister said that this is the second meeting held in 2019 and cooperation would be made to find methods and procedures that can be implemented to foster notable development.

Out of three Special Economic Zones (SEZs), the Thilawa Special Economic Zone can

create numerous business opportunities due to its location, said the Union Minister.

He said there is gradual development in the SEZ, with a total number of 108 companies from 19 countries working there.

Moreover, negotiations are under way to implement processes in Dawei SEZ as well. Out of several former projects, experts are conducting surveys to assess construction of a two-way highway, said the Union Minister.

He said there is a great need to bring about regional development in Dawei SEZ and Taninthayi Region, and thus, these projects will be implemented as soon

as possible. The Union Minister said the framework agreement for beginning the initial stages of a deep sea port in Kyaukpyu SEZ has been signed on 8 November, 2018.

He said they will strive to make the process transparent to the public and gather their cooperation. At the same time, they will be cooperating with state/region governments to handle land compensation and relocation of local residents.

Next, central working body members and chairmen of the management committees from the Thilawa, Kyaukpyu and Dawei SEZs clarified the imple-



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint and attendees pose for the photo at the coordination meeting of Myanmar Special Economic Zones Central Working Body in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

mentation process and ongoing schemes. Departmental heads then engaged in discussions, after which, the Union Minister delivered the closing remarks.

Later in the afternoon, Union Minister Dr. Than Myint received Italian Ambassador Mrs. Alessandra Schiavo and her delegation.

They discussed matters

concerning creation of employment opportunities and cooperative measures to promote the bilateral trade and investment between the two countries, Myanmar's exports of value-added agricultural products to Italy, food safety, good packaging products, and innovation and technological cooperation. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

President, First Lady attend State Counsellor's 74th birthday event

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Attendees cordially welcomed the State Counsellor as she arrived at the Hluttaw Hall and extended their wishes for her birthday.

The State Counsellor first delivered the opening greeting, then sliced the birthday cakes and distributed them to the guests. She then hosted a luncheon for the guests and released doves as an act of charity on her 74th birthday.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor visited her birthday commemorations held at the President's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor and Ministry of



Office of the Union Government. There, she distributed her birthday cakes to the attendees as

they made birthday wishes for her. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi releases the white dove as a symbol of peace to mark her 74th birthday in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Yangonites celebrate State Counsellor's 74th birthday



People assembly to form a portrait of the State Counsellor to mark the 74th Birthday of the State Counsellor in Maha Bandoola Park, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

RESIDENTS and organizations across Yangon cheerfully celebrated State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's 74th birthday yesterday.

At 7:40 a.m., 740 people assembled to form a portrait of the State Counsellor at the Maha Bandoola Park downtown.

Ko Maung Maung Aye, the presenter, said this event was carried out by citizens who

admire the State Counsellor. They also wished her long life and supporters donated over K.10 million to the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. The donation was handed over to the foundation's executive committee member Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung.

Also in the evening, people gathered at the Botahtaung Pagoda to light 7,400 oil lamps for the State Counsellor's 74th

birthday. Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Nang Myint and Deputy Mayor U Soe Lwin were present as well.

Similarly, in the charitable spirit of Myanmar, residents of wards across Yangon organized food donations and commemorative events to celebrate the State Counsellor's birthday. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

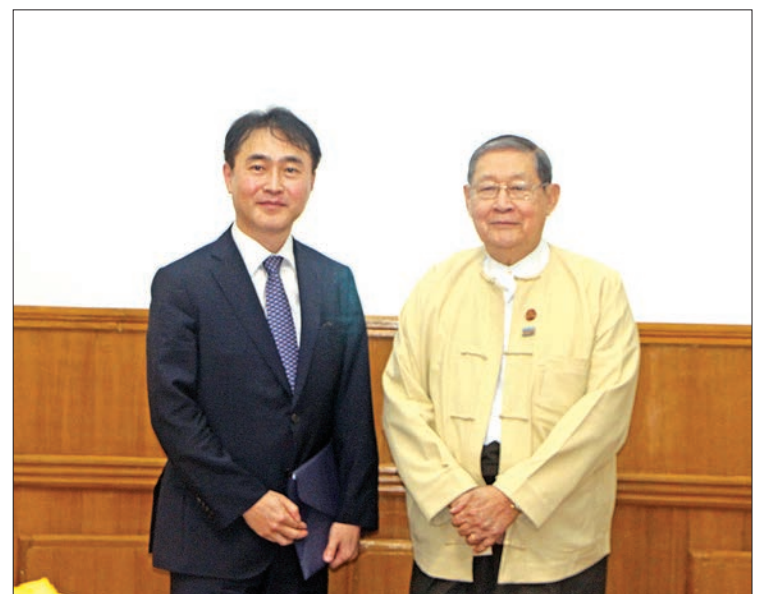
Union Minister U Soe Win receives Korean Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa

UNION MINISTER for Planning and Finance U Soe Win received Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa yesterday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to My-

anmar-Korea bilateral economic cooperation, financial affairs, insurance affairs and Korea-aided projects. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister U Soe Win meets with Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets local people in Ngathayauk, NyaungU Tsp

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visited a drinking water supply facility donated by the Central Command and Mitta Yayzin Rural Area Water Supply Society and donors in Ngathayauk, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

Following the visit, the Senior General met with local people in Ngathayauk and briefed them about regional development.

Speaking at the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the importance of producing local products meeting required quality standards and supplying the goods with modern packaging in attempts to get ac-

cess to local and foreign markets.

As increasing income of the people can lead to development of the region, the people should transport local products not only by road and but also by waterways using the Ayeyawady River to increase market share, said the Senior General.

The Senior General said he understood that the main challenge for the agricultural sector in the region was getting access to water supply, pledging to report the situation to the State and to find ways by which the Tatmadaw could help the farmers.

At the meeting, the Senior General presented food, Dentomec tooth pastes and tooth brushes to the local people.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets people in Ngathayauk, NyaungU Township in Mandalay Region. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Afterwards, the Senior General and his entourage visited the Myanandar Kyaukhti Pagoda of Bagan Bo Cho, who fought the

colonial rulers.

He offered flowers, water and lights to the Buddha Image at the pagoda and made cash do-

nation at the pagoda, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■



Vice Senior General Soe Win meets with Chair of the Board of China Electronic Technology (Group) Corporation (CETC) Mr. Xiong Qunli in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Vice Senior General Soe Win receives CETC chairman

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win received Mr. Xiong Qunli, Chair of the Board of China Electronic Technology (Group) Corporation (CETC) and party, yesterday afternoon, at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to bilateral military tech-

nology cooperation between the two Tatmadaws, cooperative measures for Myanmar Tatmadaw's development of electronics technology and formation of the Myanmar-China Joint Management Committee on Technological Cooperation, according to a statement issued by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

5th steering committee holds meeting on Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights

THE fifth steering committee meeting for the Myanmar-Denmark Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights was held yesterday at the Office of the Union Attorney-General in Nay Pyi Taw.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the bilateral cooperation in implementing the tasks of the Strategic Plan (2019-2023) of "Justice for Public" of the Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Coordinating Body.

"The Office of the Union Attorney-General laid down the Strategic Plan (2019-2023) of "Justice for Public" of the Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Coordinating Body and working for justice for all," said U Tun Tun Oo, the Union Attorney-General, at the meeting.

He also pledged to continue

cooperation in implementing the tasks of the plan.

The meeting was presided over by U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney-General, and Ms. Dorte Chortsen, Cherge d'affaires a.i. of Denmark Embassy.

The programme on the Rule of Law and Human Rights has been implementing under the Memorandum of Understanding-MoU signed by the Office of the Union Attorney-General and the Denmark Embassy in 2017.

Workshops on drawing laws, the code of ethics for prosecutors, and justice standards and training on legislation and legal research, and on implementation of human rights conventions were held in Myanmar with the support of Denmark Embassy.

The workshops on the human rights conventions and the



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo attends the fifth steering committee meeting for the Myanmar-Denmark Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

code of ethics for prosecutors were also held at the Kayah and Kachin states law offices this year.

Attendees at the meeting

discussed future plans to be implemented.

Also present at the meeting were officials from the Office of the Union Attorney-General, the

Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark and the International Commission of Jurists-ICJ.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Rakhine peace & stability committee meets experts, locals in Sittway

THE Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State met with officials from the National League for Democracy, Rakhine State Legal Support Group and Municipal Development Committee, experts on Rakhine and local elders at the State Cabinet's Guesthouse in Sittway yesterday.

The Committee Chairman U Aye Tha Aung, who is also Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, first delivered a speech. He said this meeting has brought individuals with political experience to figure out long-term and short-term solutions to Rakhine State's armed conflicts and stability.

He said this is the committee's third observation trip to Rakhine State. In the previous trips, the meetings invited monks, political parties, local elders, civil society organizations and experienced individuals to

share their perspectives and the true situation faced by the people in Rakhine State, said U Aye Tha Aung. He added that every comment was compiled into a report and submitted to the President.

U Aye Tha Aung said the committee's main responsibility is to meet every relevant person and compile a report without leaving a single comment or suggestion out. He said the committee also responds to consequences from armed conflicts to best of their abilities. He said this meeting has invited people with sufficient experience in politics and Rakhine affairs. He urged attendees to discuss all possible solutions to reduce conflicts in Rakhine State and ways to provide aid to innocent citizens caught in the negative consequences of conflicts.

Following the Chairman's speech, attendees began discussions on finding political



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung addresses the committee meeting in Sittway. PHOTO: MNA

solutions to Rakhine's armed conflicts, resettling IDPs to their homes and ensuring security, supporting their social, health and vocational matters, arranging for students in IDP camps to attend schools nearby, and short/long-term solutions to implement peace and stability in Rakhine State. The Chairman then delivered the closing

speech.

In the afternoon, U Aye Tha Aung and his delegation met with the State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, the state cabinet, State Hluttaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla and Hluttaw representatives at the State Cabinet's Guesthouse.

U Aye Tha Aung first delivered a speech and attendees then discussed current affairs

in Rakhine State, matters related to the IDPs, and state peace, stability and development.

U Aye Tha Aung and his delegation departed from Sittway to Yangon in the evening. They were seen off at Sittway Airport by U Nyi Pu and the state cabinet.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar's economy to grow at 6.5 per cent, says World Bank

MYANMAR'S economy is slowly regaining stability and picking up speed, according to a new World Bank report.

The World Bank's Myanmar Economic Monitor Building Reform Momentum report, launched on 18 June said Myanmar's economy is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2018/19.

Growth continues to be broad-based, supported by the industrial and service sectors. Industrial activities revived, supported by strong performance in the garment sector and construction activities, said the report.

Services remain the key driver of growth with momentum building in the wholesale

and retail sector supported by reforms. However, large disparities in welfare persist across the country, said the world Bank.

"Acceleration of the reform agenda as envisioned in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, along with targeted public investments and private sector participation, will lead to a consolidation of macroeconomic stability and help Myanmar maintain its momentum and meet its long-term growth targets," said Gevorg Sargsyan, Head of Office, World Bank Myanmar.

The report includes an analysis drawing on the Multidimensional Welfare Indicator (MDI), prepared with the government, which indicates that most of the

population in Myanmar faces overlapping disadvantages, with large disparities in welfare apparent at the state, region and township level.

With growth expected to rise to 6.7 per cent in 2020/21, the World Bank report projects a positive outlook for Myanmar's economy despite a deteriorating global environment, due to accelerated implementation of reforms, infrastructure spending and investment in sectors such as wholesale and retail, insurance and banking that are undergoing liberalization. The external risks to the economic outlook include slowing global and regional growth and escalation of trade tensions and possi-

ble revocation of preferential EU market access.

Inflation is expected to stabilize at 6.6 per cent in the medium term. The report notes that inflationary pressures could increase due to volatile global energy prices and the possibility that the government may increase electricity tariffs to bring them in line with the cost of power production.

"There are signs that market sentiment is rising due to the new laws being passed and starting to be implemented," said Hans Anand Beck, Lead Economist, World Bank Myanmar. "Keeping these reforms going will be critical to continued economic momentum, for

example through insurance liberalization, tax reform, and transparent investments in the power sector."

In the power sector, the report argues that Myanmar needs to invest twice as much and implement projects three times faster to meet growing demand.

The Myanmar Economic Monitor is a biannual analysis of economic developments, economic prospects and policy priorities in Myanmar. The publication draws on available data reported by the Government of Myanmar and additional information collected as part of the World Bank Group's regular economic monitoring and policy dialogue.—GNLM ■



Japanese Nippon BS Broadcasting Corporation team shoots travel scenes in Myawady. PHOTO: MNA

Nippon BS Broadcasting Corp makes travelogue documentary film in Myawady

A TEAM of the Japanese Nippon BS Broadcasting Corporation shot the scenes in Myawady yesterday for a documentary film about travelling passing through three trans-border route.

The team shot daily lifestyles of local people, cultural customs and shops of ethnic dresses, traditional food stalls and highway bus terminal in the border town with Thailand.

The shooting in Myanmar came after shooting at borders of Cambodia and Thailand.

Before travelling to Myanmar, they also filmed the Shwedagon Pagoda and Aungmyingalar Highway Bus Terminal in Yangon.

The film is a part of the travelogue channel of the Nippon BS channel. — MNA
(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

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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.

Application of YBS e-ticket prioritized

Yangon Region Transport Authority-YRTA is working to practice e-ticket system for YBS buses within a year.

The announcement came at the YATA's meeting with media (3/2019) at its head office in Tamway.

"For the mutual benefit of YBS passengers and YBS bus lines, YRTA is working, as their priority, towards bringing the application of YBS e-ticket into existence within a year," said Joint Secretary of YRTA U Hla Aung.

"Implementing e-ticket is one of the aims of YATA. Our priority is to meet this aim within a year. The idea is to bring mutual benefit for both passengers and Bus lines. There is also guidance from the Chairman concerning the e- ticket. What we will prioritize to implement this year is e-payment called e-ticket," he said.

"It is impossible to put e-ticket into application in a short time as it is a complex process and that it is necessary to take time and work through steps carefully. This meeting is held since the project involves law regarding financial matters and technical matters.

"It is hard to implement it quickly because this system involves not only the technology



YBS buses seen in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

but financial matters, which is why we need confirmation of the Central Bank of Myanmar according to Financial institution Law. As this has been done by Yangon Region Government, a tender winner company, Asia Star Mar Transport Intelligent is implementing it.

Yangon region Government has established a company by the name of "Yangon Payment Service (YPS)" to enter agreements and sign contracts with Asia Star Mar Transport Company.

"The credibility terms in the contract has been examined by

the Advocate General Office. As regulation dictates, YPS will have to get Service Level Agreement (SLA)"he said.

In e-ticket system, the cost of a trip will depend of how a far a passenger travels. For that, the technicians are working on the calculation as to fares of different travel distances.

"The fare will depend on travel distances. There will be two e-ticket machine (ETM) on each bus, one on entrance door and another on exit one. Passenger must check in when they board the bus and check out

when they disembark it. Bus fare will depend on travel distance. The technicians are working on the calculation on the basis of one Kilo trip" said U Hla Aung.

At the beginning, e- ticket as well as boxes will be in use. The boxes will be retained for a certain period of time considering the fact that some might have difficulty using card, according to the meeting.

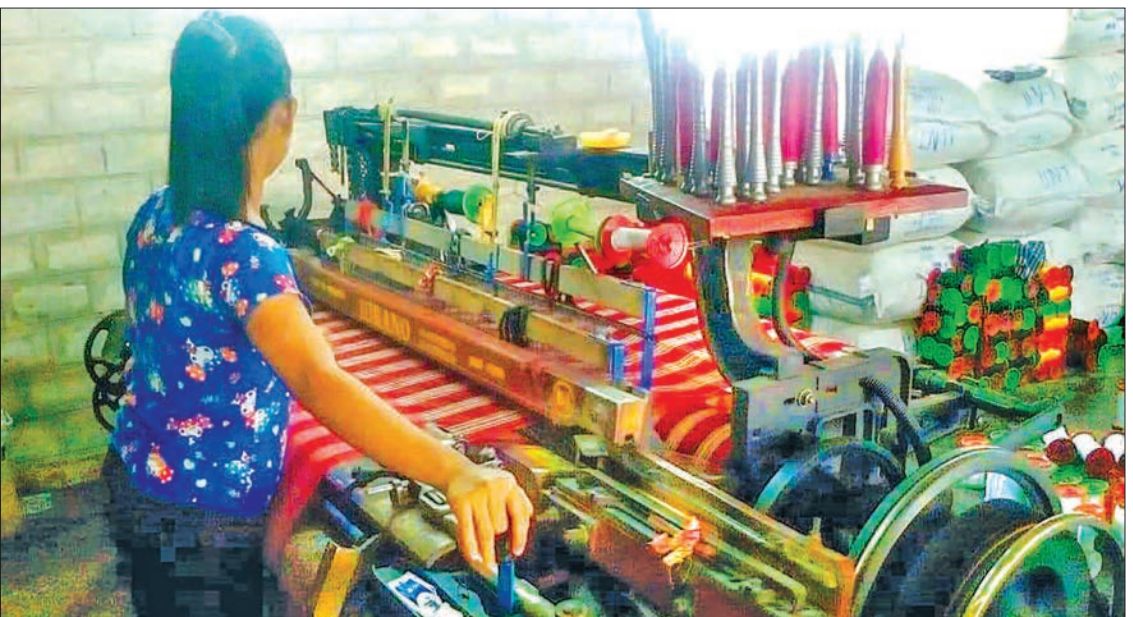
"By difficulty, it means delaying card purchase, not being accustomed to card use and others" said U Hla Aung. By Yaman-ya ■ (Translated by Alphonsus)

Kayah ethnic textiles fail to attract foreign buyers, rely on local demand

ALTHOUGH business is booming in the travel industry, Kayah ethnic textiles are enjoying a strong demand in the domestic market, but have failed to catch the attention of tourists according to Kayah ethnic weavers.

"Most Kayah woven products are made of cotton, and a complete Kayah costume fetches around K100,000. Locals generally choose fabrics other than cotton for daily wear. Tourists feel those fabrics are not suited to the weather in their home country so we are finding it difficult to sell these fabrics to foreigners," said a weaver. Earlier, there were few looms in Kayah State and Kayah ethnic textiles were usually produced in Amrapura Township. Forty years ago, looms began to be set up in Kayah State and the weaving business and distribution channels were commercialized.

"About 25 weavers can produce about 10 per day. The major difficulty the weaving industry is facing is retaining labor," said



A woman is weaving Kayah traditional fabrics on the loom. PHOTO: MMAL

U Nyunt Tin, who owns a Kayah weaving business.

"Nowadays, Kayah ethnic patterns are being produced on silk, which is popular among buyers. Foreigners mostly prefer cotton to Kayah ethnic textiles. There are not many Kayah ethnic designs and weavers haven't worked on any new designs," he

added. "Kayah ethnic textiles are woven with the help of machines, and handmade textile businesses can be seen in some ethnic villages. Ethnic textiles usually rely on demand from the local market. We do not rely on new techniques and create new designs while maintaining traditional motifs. The Kayah ethnic longyis for men

are bestsellers in the market," said Daw Buu Myar.

The price of women's traditional costumes ranges from K8,000 to K30,000, depending on the type of fabric used, such as silk or cotton. Longyis for men cost between K6,500 and K10,000.—IPRD ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Application forms for Mya Yee Nandar low-cost housing to be sold till 30 Jun

The sale of application forms for the Mya Yee Nandar housing complex, which is being implemented by the Mandalay City Development Committee, will be on till 30 June, according to MCDC. The committee began selling the forms on 17 June for K500.

The MCDC has built a total of 456 apartments in the complex. There are 19 six-storey apartment buildings in the complex, with each apartment measuring 661 square feet. The sale of some apartments has been cancelled because buyers could not be contacted, and the unsold units will be sold to civil service personnel from six townships of Mandalay Region as well as retired service

personnel. The housing project is aimed at improving the living standards of the people, according to the MCDC.

The application forms can be purchased at the Dhammayon in the compound of the Mandalay City Development Committee office between 26th and 27th streets and between 71st and 72nd streets, according to the MCDC. The completed forms can be submitted from 1 July onwards.

The Mya Yee Nandar low-cost housing complex is located in the Mya Yee Nandar Ward of Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



About 2,000 affordable apartments to sell in Mandalay Region during the year 2019.
PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Myanmar-ROK trade reaches \$563 mln in Oct-Apr

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea in the first seven months of the 2018-2019 fiscal year stood at US\$563 million, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's exports to South Korea were relatively higher than imports in the October-April period, with exports recorded at \$305.29 million and imports valued at \$258 million.

Myanmar exports rice and broken rice, coffee, mangoes, pulses, apparel produced on cut-make-pack basis, shrimp, and sesame oil, among other things,

to South Korea, while it imports capital goods such as machinery and equipment, raw industrial goods such as fertilizers and garment materials, and consumer goods such as cosmetics.

The value of bilateral trade between the two countries was \$424.7 million in the last mini-budget period, \$798.4 million in the 2017-2018FY, \$866 million in the 2016-2017FY, \$657 million in the 2015-2016FY, \$862 million in the 2014-2015FY, \$1.57 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$623 million in the 2012-2013FY, and \$667 million in the 2011-2012FY.

Six South Korea-listed enter-

prises have brought in capital of \$72.4 million into the country in the current FY. South Korea is Myanmar's sixth-largest investor. Multinational corporations from South Korea, such as Posco, Daewoo, Samsung, and Hyundai, have already grabbed a market share in Myanmar.

In addition, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has provided grant aid for sustainable rural development and capacity building in public service, technology, education, and building of fundamental infrastructure.—GNLM ■ (Translated by EMM)

Weak automotive supply chain infrastructure hindering CKD assembly: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

ONLY vehicles assembled under the semi-knocked down system (SKD) are entering the local market, and a weak automotive supply chain infrastructure is the main challenge to completely-knocked-down (CKD) assembly, said U Thant Sin Lwin, acting Director-General, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

"The infrastructure and supplies for implementing a CKD system are still lacking. The CKD assembly should eventually move to full-scale production with all auto parts that are available locally. Currently, most vehicles are being assembled under the SKD system," said U Than Sin Lwin.

Local auto manufacturers are using the SKD system.

In a press statement, Toyota Myanmar Co. Ltd (TMY), which was established this month, plans to assemble the Toyota Hilux model from 2021.

The TMY assembly plant will be developed in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) located in southern Yangon, with an estimated capital of US\$52.6 million. The plant will employ about 130 people. It is slated to begin operations in 2021, and is expected to produce 2,500 units of Toyota Hilux under the semi-knocked down format. In addition, Singapore automaker SC Auto is planning to produce 600

buses in Myanmar every year. The buses, produced by SC Auto (Myanmar) Co. Ltd, will be sold in Myanmar and foreign markets, said Ms. Rachel Lee, the managing director of SC Auto.

SC Auto Myanmar has set up a factory on 4.65 acres of land in the Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, and has started production. The factory also has a sales and service center. Buses will be completely manufactured and assembled in the country. The factory will also provide auto parts. SC Auto Myanmar has currently employed 100 locals. Some of them underwent training at the SC Auto factory in Singapore.

Meanwhile, Daewoo plans to locally produce 500 buses under the SKD system, said Dr. Kyaw Kyaw Aung, the managing director of Daewoo Bus Myanmar. The Daewoo factory was set up in March, 2017 in Htaukkyant on 4 acres of land leased by the Ministry of Industry, with a staff strength of 250.

"At present, the Myanmar Investment Commission is allowing auto businesses to assemble units under the SKD system. Once the CKD system is developed, SMEs that produce auto parts will emerge and develop," said U Thant Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. ■

(Translated by EMM)

Cement price rising in Yangon due to supply shortage



Workers working with cement mixer used on construction site. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Cement price is rising in Yangon due to lower imports from Thailand, according to local shops selling cement, brick, sand, and stone.

The construction materials shops are selling cement import-

ed chiefly from Thailand. The price of cement has been on the rise as there have been lower supplies of cement from the neighboring country because of poor weather conditions.

"The price of cement usually

increases by K100 or K200 whenever there is a shortage of supply from Thailand. Currently, the cement price has increased slightly," said a local cement, brick, sand, and stone shop owner.

These days, building businesses have suspended construction activities on account of the monsoon. Earlier, cement cost K5,500 per bag, but now the price is ranging from K5,900-6,500 per bag.

"Our sales have been normal because we have regular customers. There are also some people who have purchased cement for minor repairs at home," said a local cement shop owner.

The demand for construction materials depends on the number of apartments sold.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Laying the foundation for future capabilities

MYANMAR youths these days are less prone to engage in physical exercises and more likely to spend time playing online games or watching television.

While there is nothing inherently wrong with immersing your mind in the digital world, in fact, it is the evolution of newspapers and encyclopaedias into a more interactive format; prolonged exposure can be unhealthy for computer users, youths in particular.

Meanwhile, cigarette smoking has tripled and tobacco consumption has doubled while alcohol indulgence has increased thrice, with youths under 14 already beginning to drink liquor.

This data was gathered from a comparison between the school healthcare surveys from 2007 and 2016. In just ten years, there has been a marked increase in negative habits that ruin young people's health. We must keep in mind that these results were published three years ago and these percentages would have most likely increased further today.

Youths require a safe and healthy learning environment to develop themselves into capable citizens that will serve as the backbone of the nation's future. With that vision in mind, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports organized the National Seminar on Strengthening Health Promotion School from 12 to 13 June.

Youths require a safe and healthy learning environment to develop themselves into capable citizens that will serve as the backbone of the nation's future. With that vision in mind, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports organized the National Seminar on Strengthening Health Promotion School from 12 to 13 June.

Held in Nay Pyi Taw, the two-day event led with the theme for 'Physically and Mentally Fit Youth for the Brighter Future'. The seminar focused on methods for dissuading students from bad habits and promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

This encompassed ensuring schools and universities are free of drugs, no one uses

cigarettes, tobacco or quid, combating alcoholism and its negative consequences, lowering traffic accidents, reducing excessive electronic gaming among students, encouraging habits for healthy living, and including reproductive health in school teaching.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also addressed the seminar where she highlighted the need to emphasize rule of law to implement national peace and stability. She pointed out that enforcement for regulating tobacco products was still weak despite laws existing to curtail it.

The State Counsellor called for innovative teaching strategies to captivate youths as they were naturally inclined to pay attention to new and interesting developments. She also encouraged students to regularly participate in their school's physical education classes and sports competition. Not only would this make them physically healthier, it would greatly substitute their screen time and foster sportsmanship and teamwork among the youths.

Teachers and parents must adapt their ways of thinking to embrace the changes in the education system. There is still apprehension against gender, sexual and reproductive education. We must accept that globalization is bringing foreign cultures into our homes and rather than shun their ideas it would be beneficial for us to embrace the advantages they could provide us in the areas of intellectual and perhaps in all round development.

The student demographic is a sizeable force in our national population and will grow up to be a powerful resource as well. Every parent and guardian must encourage and support the younger generation to keep an open mind and strive for physical and mental growth together. We believe this will lay the foundation for strong capabilities in the future.

Stop the Flow of Irregular Outmigration for Employment

By Lokethar

MYANMAR has its share of irregular outmigration of unskilled labour particularly those crossing the borders, many illegally, to seek employment in the neighbouring countries. Despite the legal channels available to them, many innocent persons, particularly from the rural areas, seem to place their trust on "illegal recruiters/brokers" who promise them high paying jobs in the receiving country. These "illegal recruiters/brokers" charge exorbitant fees so that the potential migrant has to borrow money at high interest rates to pay them or they are held in debt-bondage to the brokers and employers. Many of the jobs promised are actually non-existent and the workers are "sold" up on arrival to counterpart brokers in the destination country who try to place them in any job "employers" give them.



Illegal Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand are handed over to Myanmar authorities in Kawthoung on 18 June 2019. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (Kawthoung)

It seems that some Licensed Service Agents, by using services of "illegal recruiters", are in fact reaching out to and "persuading" the potential migrant worker to migrate. It should be the other way round, that is those who seek

to migrate for overseas employment should connect with the nearest Licensed Service Agent, possibly with the advice of the Labour Exchange at which he/she was registered as an "overseas job seeker" or from Migrant Information Centers of the Department of Labour.

The management of migration

should of course include, among other measures, taking effective action to prevent "illegal recruitment" of workers for overseas employment. Action is being taken against the unlicensed recruiters under the present 1999 Law relating to Overseas Employment. However, the provisions relating to "illegal recruitment"

and the penalty for infringement of such provisions need to be more explicitly expressed in the law. It would better deter the "illegal recruiters" and thus stem the tide of the increasing irregular labour outmigration for employment, particularly cross border migration to neighbouring countries.

The number of irregular un-

skilled migrant workers far exceed the migrant workers who go through the Licensed Service Agents. This is also partly due to the time taken to authenticate and process the "Job Offers". If the time and cost of legal recruitment and placement of migrant workers into jobs in the destination countries could be reduced, many more

of those seeking overseas employment would go legally through the Licensed Service Agents.

This could be possible if a new law is enacted in which "illegal recruitment" including effective punishment for such recruitment is clearly expressed and the process of sending workers for overseas employment by the Licensed Service Agents are more streamlined.

Perhaps the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is already in the process of enacting a new law to regulate overseas employment as was mentioned at the coordination meeting on labour matters held some time back at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw. If so, may I humbly suggest to the drafting committee to take into account my suggestions mentioned above.

I would, at the same time like to advise those seeking overseas employment to register themselves at the nearest Labour Exchange and consult the staff of the Labour Exchange and/or Migration Information Centres of the Department of Labour about legal and hence safe migration.

By Maung Mayu (Buthidaung)

Rakhine People and Customary Storytelling

MOST young people in our society show fewer respects for their elders. Most of them don't know how to bend their bodies while walking in front of the ward elders and teachers. That sort of behavior is hardly seen nowadays. Paying less respect by the youth shows a weakening of moral character. Books and literary works could mainly help develop the moral character of today's youth. But there are very few bookshops and libraries in townships in Rakhine State. That is why the most effective and best way for the culture of the new generation is to practice customary storytelling. It is not only the easiest for everyone but also a Rakhine tradition.

Storytelling as fables

These stories are also known as fables. These fables are said to have descended from Rakhine people. The Rakhine Vaseli enjoyed absolute tranquility. At that time, there were no crimes, thus creating absolute tranquility in the royal palace. During that peaceful time, Queen Danda Devi used to tell stories to the royal attendees. With reference to Danda Devi, these stories are termed as fables. Therefore, customary storytelling flourished in the Rakhine Kingdom many years ago. It has flourished in Rakhine State before the advent of radios and videos. The elderly such as grandfathers and grandmothers used to tell stories to children at bedtime, to a group of kids in a moonlit night and under shady trees drinking cups of tea.

Nowadays the world is growing faster day by day.

With a progressive world, things have materialized day in, day out. Today, youths have been imbued with a desire for materialized things. They are gradually far away from traditional culture, replacing storytelling with video games. That might be the reason why Rakhine customary storytelling has gradually disappeared.

Traditional storytelling by the name of kyache (small tiger) and hnache (small cow) and mayhtwemay and kyatchemay and ngabyanye (lazy man) has not known for the new generation. Children love to listen to these stories which are comprised of things noteworthy, emulations, avoidance of evil things and humor. Literature encourages one's heart whereas a branch of literature dealing with knowledge does to one's brain. Storytelling involves both branches and listening to storytelling helps the development of children's brains but also making a healthy heart. A young man imbued with heart and soul will become an outstanding youth without wavering of moral character.

Telling customary stories to a new generation will instill deterrent principles of shame and fear for the benefits of human societies. Telling customary stories will introduce the history of Rakhine people which is not included in the Myanmar textbooks. The history would reveal how King Maryu established Rakhine Danyawaddy; King Sandathuriya in third Danyawaddy Era invited Lord Buddha respectfully and Thanwe town was flying in circles. These stories instill knowledge about the history of our people into



Grandfather telling children a story.

a new generation.

One thing one has to take into account is that storytelling involves the attractions of the listeners. In order to make children interested in storytelling, rise and fall of voices must be accompanied by spirited and forceful gestures so that children should keep the stories in their memory. Therefore, deterrent principles of shame and fear and nationalism should be strengthened in their minds.

Getting good habits

If children listen to stories repeatedly, they tend to improve listening skills. Listening skills are closely related to speaking skills; listening to stories inter-

estingly would pave the way for reproducing them in front of the public without the slightest hesitation. These oratorical skills are found in world-famous people such as Oprah Winfrey and Martin Luther King. So we need for a new generation to maintain the strong moral character and increase of knowledge and culture and instill patriotism. The people especially Rakhines are strongly urged to practice storytelling to become world-famous orators. As storytelling is on the verge of extinction, the people especially Rakhines should try to revive the customary storytelling for future generations.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)

The Seasonal flu symptoms

- Fever (temperature over 38 °C)
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)

မိမိတို့အထက်ပါရောင်စွန်းရောင်ဝါရောင်ကူးရောဂါများစားနေရသည်ဟု သံသယရှိပါက နီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနနှင့် ဆေးရုံ/ဆေးခန်းများတွင် ရောက်ရှိ၍ သတင်းပေး၍ ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ဆိုင်ရာဝန်ထမ်းများနှင့် ကျန်းမာရေးအသိပညာဖြန့်ဖြူးတင်ဆောင်ရေးဌာနမှ ပူးပေါင်းထုတ်ဝေသည်။ (ရန်ကင်း ၂၀၁၉)

“ရာသီတွင် ကူးစက်ရောဂါ မိမိကစ၍ ကာကွယ်ပါ။”

- Coughing/ sneezing into a cloth handkerchief
- Wash your hands often.
- Keep your distance.

Take to a nearby hospital or clinic.

ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ဆိုင်ရာဝန်ထမ်းများနှင့် ကျန်းမာရေးအသိပညာဖြန့်ဖြူးတင်ဆောင်ရေးဌာနမှ ပူးပေါင်းထုတ်ဝေသည်။ (ရန်ကင်း ၂၀၁၉)

မြန်မာ့အလင်းစာတိုက်သည် ကျန်းမာရေးအသိပညာဖြန့်ဖြူးတင်ဆောင်ရေးဌာနနှင့် ပူးပေါင်းထုတ်ဝေသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးစာတိုက်

စာအုပ်၊ စာပေ၊ ဖွဲ့ပုံနှင့် စာအုပ်ငယ်များ ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

(တက္ကသိုလ်လမ်း)

၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၂၅) ရက် (အင်္ဂါ)၊ ဝမ်းပူလမ်း၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီအထိ ပတ်ပတ်လည် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

အခြေစိုက်ရာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ မဟာတိုင်းရင်းကွက်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်လမ်း။

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Yangon govt to help YCDC retain lease on Bayintnaung depot

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Government will help the Yangon City Development Committee to retain its lease on the Bayintnaung commodity depot, which was developed on Tatmadaw-owned

land, said Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

YCDC's lease agreement with the Tatmadaw expires in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

"Before the lease expires as per the tenancy agreement, the regional government will

help the YCDC renew it. We will send a letter to the Tatmadaw, requesting lease negotiation," said the Chief Minister of Yangon Region. He made the remarks during a press conference on 18 June.

The Tatmadaw gave the

land for the depot to the YCDC on a 30-year lease. The YCDC, in turn, has been renting out shops at the depot. The Bayintnaung depot has established itself as a strong market. The businesses in the depot have forwarded a request against being moved out.

The Bayintnaung depot is a wholesale market for basic commodities, from where food flows across Myanmar. There are more than 1,150 shops in the depot, which is large enough to accommodate 350 bus stations. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Greenpeace sounds alarm over plastic pollution in rivers

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Greenpeace on Wednesday raised the alarm over microplastics in rivers after finding the pollutant in all the rivers it tested in Britain, calling it a "problem of enormous complexity".

"We ignore this problem at our peril," warned David Santillo, senior scientist with the Greenpeace Research Laboratories at the University of Exeter.

"Once microplastics are in the river, they become impossible to remove again, so we have to solve the problem at the source."

Researchers from the NGO tested 13 rivers earlier this year, casting nets in 30 rural and urban areas. They found 1,271 pieces of

15 different types of plastic, nearly half of which were polyethylene, and included items from degraded straws to microbeads.

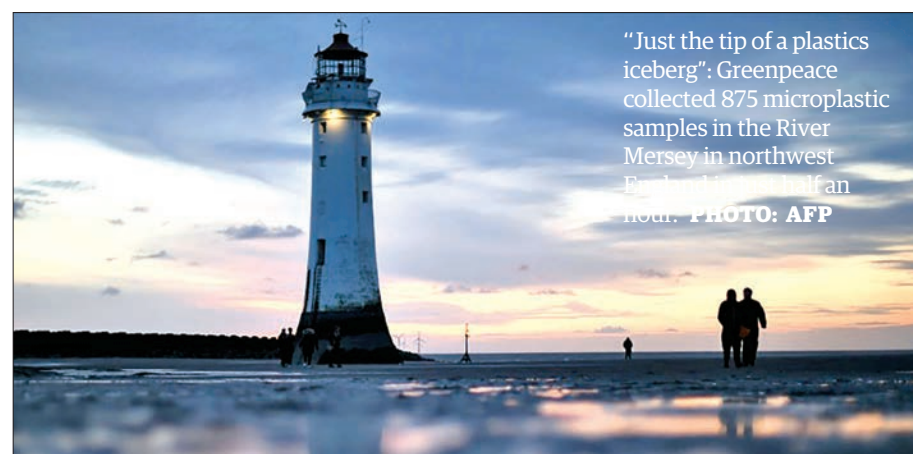
Only two of the "relatively rural" 30 areas did not test positive, Greenpeace said in its report, published Wednesday.

"We are witnessing just the tip of a plastics iceberg," it said. The nets were only able to collect samples that were no deeper than 10 centimetres (four inches). The impact of microplastics on freshwater fauna has yet to be determined, the study says.

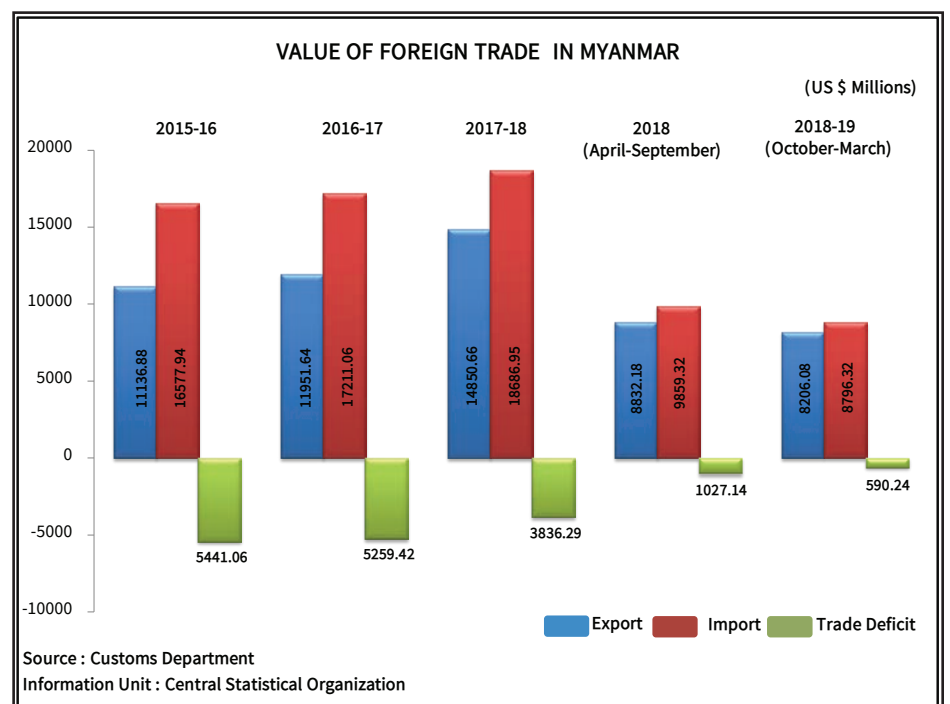
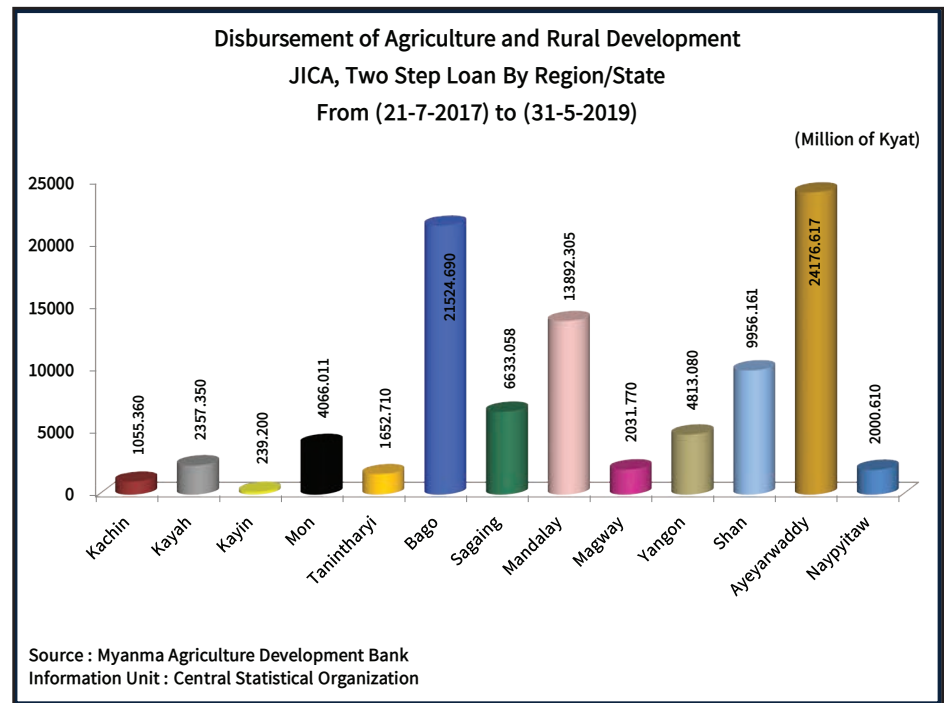
The River Mersey in northwest England was the most polluted, with 875 microplastic samples collected in half an hour.

That makes it even more proportionally polluted than the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch", which is recognised as one of the most plastic-polluted expanses of water on earth, Greenpeace said. It called on the British government to set legally-binding targets to reduce the production of single-use plastic packaging by at least 50 percent by 2025. A ban on the sale of cosmetic and personal hygiene products containing microbeads in the UK came into force in January 2018.

Greenpeace urged for an extension of the ban to include other products such as sunscreen, lipstick and other household products.— AFP ■



"Just the tip of a plastics iceberg": Greenpeace collected 875 microplastic samples in the River Mersey in northwest England in half an hour. PHOTO: AFP



Arctic could face another scorching annus horribilis

COPENHAGEN (Denmark) — Scientists say 2019 could be another annus horribilis for the Arctic with record temperatures already registered in Greenland — a giant melting icicle that threatens to submerge the world's coastal areas one day.

"It's possible that we could break the records set in 2012 for both lowest Arctic sea ice extent ... and for record high Greenland ice sheet melt," warned Ruth

Mottram, a climatologist at the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI).

"It is very much dependent on weather conditions this year."

A striking photograph of the early ice melt taken last week by a DMI scientist in northwestern Greenland has gone viral.

While researching oceanographic moorings and a weather station, Steffen Olsen snapped a picture of his sled dogs pushing

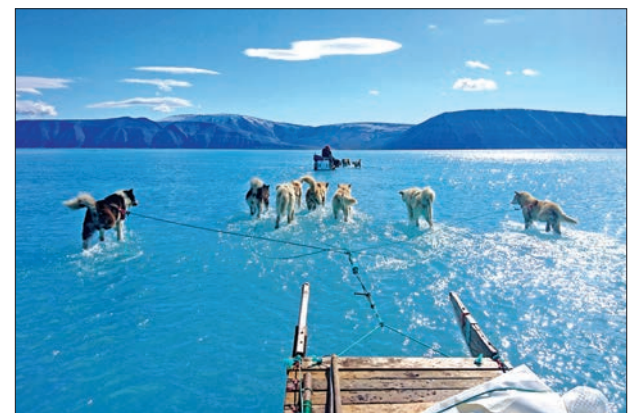
through a fjord, the sea ice submerged under several centimetres (inches) of meltwater.

Under a bright blue sky, with a snow-free mountain in the background, the dogs appear to be walking on water.

"The picture is striking ... because it really visualises how the Arctic is changing," Mottram told AFP. Locals who accompanied Olsen's expedition "didn't expect the sea ice

to start melting that early. They usually take that route because the ice is very thick, but they had to turn back because the water was deeper and deeper and they couldn't advance, she said.

On 12 June, the day before the photograph was taken, the closest weather station, in Qaanaaq, registered temperatures of 17.3 degrees Celsius (63.1 Fahrenheit), just 0.3 points lower than the record set on 30 June, 2012.—AFP■



Sled dogs wade through water on melting sea ice during an expedition in North Western Greenland, as shown in this 13 June, 2019 image by Steffen Olsen of the Centre for Ocean and Ice at the Danish Meteorological Institute. PHOTO: AFP

Japan tanker hit by mine resembling Iran's: US army

TOKYO—A Japanese tanker attacked in the Gulf of Oman last week was damaged by a limpet mine resembling Iranian mines, the US military in the Middle East said on Wednesday.

“The limpet mine that was used in the attack is distinguishable and it is also strikingly bearing a resemblance to Iranian mines that have already been publicly displayed in Iranian military parades,” Commander Sean Kido of US Naval Forces Central Command said.

Kido told reporters in the UAE emirate of Fujairah that the US military has recovered “biometric information” of the assailants on the Japanese ship *Kokuka Courageous* including “hand and finger prints.”

This information “can be used to build a criminal case,” Kido told reporters.

Two oil tankers were partially damaged in an attack close to the Iranian coast on 13 June, just outside the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

“Right now, there is an ongoing joint and combined investigation with our regional partners into the attacks on motor vessel *Kokuka Courageous* as well as motor vessel *Front Altair*,” Kido said.

Kido said that based on NAVCENT assessment, Jap-



A picture taken during a guided tour by the US Navy (NAVCENT) shows the damage of Japanese oil tanker *Kokuka Courageous* off the port of the Gulf emirate of Fujairah on June 19, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

anese tanker *Kokuka Courageous* was damaged by a limpet mine that was attached to the skin of the vessel.

“The limpet mine was placed above the water, and it does not appear that the intention was to sink the vessel,” he said.

He reiterated US claims that an Iranian Revolutionary Guard patrol vessel approached the Japanese ship and removed an unexploded limpet mine from the hull.

The two vessels have already been towed safely to the UAE coast.

Iran has categorically denied any hand in the attack, the second on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman in a month.

On 12 May, four tankers, two of them Saudi, were damaged in a “sabotage attack” off the coast of Fujairah.

Kido said a US military team quickly arrived on the Japanese ship on 13 June and was able to examine the site

where the limpet mine was attached to the ship as well as the site where the damage occurred.

“The damage at the blast hull is consistent with a limpet mine. It is not consistent with an external flying object striking the ship,” Kido said.

In addition, the team was able to recover fragmentation caused by the detonation of the limpet mine, which was composed of aluminium as well as composite material. —AFP ■

‘Credible evidence’ linking Saudi crown prince to Khashoggi murder: UN expert

GENEVA (Switzerland) — There is “credible evidence” linking Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a UN expert said Wednesday, calling for sanctions on the prince’s personal foreign assets.

The allegation regarding Prince Mohammed’s possible direct role in Khashoggi’s execution last October was detailed in a new report by the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard.

Callamard, an independent human rights expert who does not speak for the United Nations, also called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to initiate a formal criminal investigation into the case. Khashoggi, a Washington Post



Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor and critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October. PHOTO: AFP

contributor and critic of Prince Mohammed, was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Riyadh initially said it had no knowledge of his fate. It later blamed the murder inside the consulate on rogue agents.

Saudi prosecutors have absolved the crown prince of responsibility.

But Callamard said her inquiry had “determined that there is credible evidence, warranting further investigation of high-level Saudi Officials’ individual liability, including the Crown Prince’s”.

The UN expert noted that international sanctions issued so far in response to Khashoggi’s killing “simply fail to address the central questions of chain of command and of senior leadership’s responsibilities for and associated with the execution”. Given “the credible evidence into the responsibilities of the Crown Prince for his murder, such sanctions ought also to include the Crown Prince and his personal assets abroad, until and unless evidence is provided and corroborated that he carries no responsibilities for this execution,” she added.

No finding on ‘guilt’

Callamard carried out her human rights inquiry on her own initiative as part of her mandate as a special rapporteur.

She stressed that “no conclusion is made as to guilt,” within her findings that were based on a large body of evidence, including CCTV footage from inside the consulate of the killing itself. “The only conclusion made is that there is credible evidence meriting further investigation, by a proper authority, as to whether the threshold of criminal responsibility has been met,” she said.

She added that she had found evidence that “Khashoggi was himself fully aware of the powers held by the Crown Prince, and fearful of him.”

—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Erdogan says Egyptian ex-president Morsi was ‘killed’

ISTANBUL (Turkey) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday said his close ally Mohamed Morsi was “killed” and accused Egyptian authorities of failing to intervene to save the ex-president.

“Morsi was struggling on the floor in the courtroom for 20 minutes. Authorities unfortunately did not intervene to save him,” Erdogan said during a televised speech in Istanbul. “Morsi was killed, he did not die of natural causes.” —AFP ■

Opposition leaders grill Abe over controversial pension report

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday met a barrage of criticism about his government’s handling of a controversial pension report as he faced off with opposition party leaders in a rare Diet debate ahead of an upper house election this summer. In the first leaders’ debate in parliament in a year, opposition party leaders took issue with the government’s reluctance to address concerns about the reliability of the public pension system squarely, amid Japan’s rapid graying population. — Kyodo News ■

Kate and William’s police convoy hits UK pensioner

LONDON (United Kingdom) — An 83-year-old woman was in a serious condition in a British hospital on Wednesday after being hit by a motorbike in the convoy carrying Prince William and his wife Kate.

The royal couple were travelling from their central London home to Windsor, west of the capital, on Monday when a police outrider collided with the pensioner. Kensington Palace said they were “deeply concerned and saddened” and had contacted the woman, identified as “Irene”. Their Royal Highnesses have sent their very best wishes to Irene and her family and will stay in touch throughout every stage of her recovery, the palace said. —AFP ■

Battle heats up to tackle Boris Johnson and be British PM

LONDON (United Kingdom) — The battle to make the two-man shortlist to become Britain's prime minister, which will almost certainly include Boris Johnson, heats up on Wednesday when another contender will be eliminated.

After a fractious TV debate, in which Brexit figurehead Johnson managed to avoid any trademark gaffes and emerged largely unscathed after an onslaught from his four remaining rivals, the Conservative Party's 313 MPs will vote once again to remove the candidate with the least support.

The former foreign minister grabbed more votes than his three nearest challengers combined in Tuesday's second-round, and the only question appears to be who will eventually join him in the final two to face the party's 160,000 members.

Johnson had ducked out of the first TV debate on Sunday and has carefully stage-managed his media engagements in a contest that remains his to lose.

He cast himself Tuesday as the one politician able to bring Britain successfully out of the European Union and therefore deliver the Brexit that UK voters called for three years ago.

"We must come out on 31 October because otherwise I'm afraid we face a catastrophic loss of confidence in politics," said Johnson in the hour-long BBC question-and-answer session



Brexit figurehead Boris Johnson has carefully stage-managed his media engagements in a leadership contest that remains his to lose. **PHOTO: AFP**

with voters.

"I think the British people are thoroughly fed up."

But neither he nor the others raised their hands when asked by the BBC to do so if they could "guarantee" that Brexit will happen by 31 October.

Frantic search for leader

Tuesday's debate did little to alter a growing sense that Johnson would need to make an error of monumental proportions not to win at this stage.

The Guardian newspaper called Johnson's performance "sober and sensible". "Still the clear front-runner, still almost certainly the next PM," it wrote.

Johnson picked up 126 of the 313 Conservative MPs' votes cast Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt won 46 votes and environment minister Michael Gove 41.

International development minister Rory Stewart continued his against-the-odds challenge by nearly doubling his support base to 37. Interior minister Sajid Javid scraped through with exactly the 33 required to make the third round. Britain is frantically searching for a leader after Prime Minister Theresa May stepped down last month over her repeated failure to deliver Brexit on time.

Her successor will be saddled with both resolving Britain's deepest political crisis in generations and setting the terms of how it deals with the rest of Europe for decades to come.

—AFP ■

Ecuador denies Galapagos Islands will host US military base

QUITO (Ecuador) — Ecuador President Lenin Moreno insisted Tuesday the United States would not be installing a military base on the Galapagos Islands, a day after the government revealed that American aircraft would be able to use an airstrip there.

"There are not, nor will there be, foreign military bases in the country," Moreno wrote on Twitter, expressing his commitment to preserving the Galapagos Islands.

Defense Minister Oswaldo Jarrin caused a stir on Monday when he revealed that an air surveillance agreement signed with Washington would allow US planes to refuel or temporarily be stationed at the San Cristobal airport.

Jarrin said those planes would be taking part in surveillance to combat drug trafficking and illegal fishing, but would only use the airstrip "once a month, for no more than three days."

Moreno stressed that "aerial surveillance is a joint activity between several countries to protect this world heritage" site that lies around 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) off Ecuador's Pacific coast.

"Peace, sovereignty and national security are our legacy," added the president.

Jarrin had been called before Congress' international relations commission to explain the US agreement, while several lawmakers voiced concerns

over Ecuador's sovereignty and the impact on the environment.

The Galapagos Islands are best known for their unique flora and fauna, which inspired naturalist Charles Darwin to write his landmark 1859 study on evolution, "On the Origin of Species."

They are home to species of tortoises, iguanas, birds and fish found nowhere else.

Ecuador's constitution, adopted in 2008, prohibits the installation of foreign military bases in the country.

Moreno's predecessor, Rafael Correa decided in 2007 not to extend beyond 2009 the lease of a US base in the Manta fishing port, which was used to carry out anti-drug trafficking flights.

However, since last September, US planes started taking off from the southwestern coastal town of Guayaquil on missions to combat drug trafficking and illegal fishing following a new pact signed between Quito and Washington.

Relations between the two countries were tense during socialist Correa's decade in power from 2007-17 but have improved since Moreno took over.

Correa has lived in Belgium since 2017 and sources close to the former president claim he has requested political asylum there.

He is wanted in his homeland on suspicion of kidnapping, a charge he has dismissed as "political persecution." —AFP

France's Sarkozy to go on trial after final appeal fails

PARIS (France) — France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy is to go on trial facing charges of corruption and influence peddling after losing his final bid to avert appearing in the dock, sources close to the case said Wednesday.

The Court of Cassation, which rules on questions of law, said Tuesday that a trial was justified for Sarkozy as well as his lawyer Thierry Herzog and former judge Gilbert Azibert. The ruling was Sarkozy's last hope of preventing the trial coming to court and the French judicial authorities have now approved sending the case to a criminal tribunal, according to a source close to the case.

The trial will begin in the

next months in Paris although a date has yet to be set, added the source who asked not to be named. Sarkozy, 64, is not the first ex-president to be prosecuted — his predecessor Jacques Chirac was given a two-year suspended sentence in 2011 for embezzlement and misuse of public funds during his time as mayor of Paris. But it is the first time in the history of modern France that a former leader will face explicit corruption charges in court.

'Up to the court'

The influence-peddling case centres on conversations between Herzog and Azibert that were tapped by investigators looking into claims that Sarkozy accepted illicit payments from

the L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt for his 2007 presidential campaign. They suspect Sarkozy and his lawyer were seeking information on developments in the case, with Sarkozy offering Azibert a plum job in Monaco in exchange.

The inquiry also revealed that Sarkozy and Herzog often communicated via mobile phones obtained under false identities — with Sarkozy using the name Paul Bismuth. He was cleared over the Bettencourt allegations in 2013, and has argued he should not face trial because Azibert never got the Monaco job.

But investigators believe the deal fell through because Sarkozy and his lawyer learned their phones were being tapped.

Sarkozy's defence lawyers, basing their arguments on a European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling, have argued that such wiretapped transcriptions can be used only against lawyers

and not their clients. "It will be up to the court now to say if a French institution can free itself of a decision by the ECHR," Sarkozy's lawyer Jacqueline Laffont told AFP. —AFP ■



Sarkozy has faced several legal investigations since failing in his 2012 re-election bid. **PHOTO: AFP**

Xi pens friendship letter to North Korea before rare visit

BEIJING—Xi Jinping will burnish China's fragile alliance with North Korea by making his first trip to Pyongyang as president this week — and on Wednesday he sealed their friendship in ink, offering a "grand plan" for regional stability.

Xi, who will be the first Chinese president to visit Pyongyang in 14 years, penned a rare front-page opinion piece in North Korea's official newspaper, touting their "irreplaceable" bond on the eve of this two-day trip.

Xi is visiting the country on Thursday and Friday at the invitation of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as both men face their own protracted negotiations with US President Donald Trump.

With his visit, Xi can show that China still has some influence on its Cold War-era ally and play a role in efforts to convince Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programme.

It could also give the Chinese leader some leverage when he meets Trump to discuss the US-China trade war at the G20 next week in Japan.

For Kim, having his powerful next-door neighbour visit will serve as a reminder to Trump that Xi will have his back if the nuclear talks fail for good.

In the opinion piece in the Rodong Sinmun — the official mouthpiece of the North's ruling Workers' Party — Xi said Beijing was willing to draw up a "grand plan" with Pyongyang to achieve permanent stability in East Asia.

He also vowed that Beijing would play an active role in "strengthening communication and coordination with North Korea and other relevant parties" to push forward negotiations on the Korean Peninsula. At subway stations in Pyongyang, commuters crowded around newsstands to read Xi's article.

It appeared on page one of the Rodong Sinmun, in the bottom right-hand corner. The whole of the top half of the front page



Kim Jong Un has travelled to China four times, but Xi Jinping's trip to North Korea will be the first by a Chinese president in 14 years. **PHOTO: AFP**

was devoted to an editorial calling on citizens to uphold the works of Kim's father and predecessor, Kim Jong Il, in building up the Workers' Party. "This op-ed is an extremely unusual event," said Ahn Chan-il, a North Korean defector and researcher in Seoul.

"For Kim, he needed a public endorsement from Xi, so that he could tell his people that 'look, someone as powerful as Xi has our back'," Ahn told AFP.

'In the same boat'

The trip by the leader of the North's key diplomatic ally and main provider of trade and aid has long been awaited, and comes after Kim travelled to China four times for meetings with Xi.

China and North Korea have worked to improve relations in the past year from a low point as Beijing backed a series of UN sanctions against its Cold War-era ally over its nuclear

activities.

Russia and China on Tuesday blocked an American initiative that aimed to halt fuel deliveries to North Korea, which Washington accuses of exceeding its annual limit for 2019, diplomatic sources said.

Hu Jintao was the last Chinese president to visit Pyongyang in 2005, when he met Kim's father, Kim Jong Il.

Xi, who will be given the honour of a state visit, will pay homage at the capital's Friendship Tower.

In recent days soldiers and workers have been sprucing up the tower, a monument to the Chinese troops who saved the North from defeat during the Korean War.

On Wednesday, workers repainted white lines on the pavements of central Pyongyang, trimmed grass verges and added fresh coats of pesticide to trees, as broom-wielding students swept away dirt.—AFP ■

Four charged with murder over MH17 crash

NIEUWEGEIN (Netherlands) — International investigators on Wednesday charged four people with murder over the 2014 shooting down of flight MH17 above rebel-held eastern Ukraine in which 298 people were killed.

The Dutch-led team said it was going to prosecute Russian nationals Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinskiy and Oleg Pulatov, and Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko over the downing of the Malaysia Airlines plane.

Relatives of the victims said they had been told the trial of the men for murder would start in March 2020, although they are likely to be tried in absentia as Russia does not extradite its nationals for prosecution.

Russia has vehemently denied all involvement in the downing of MH17, while Girkin on Wednesday said Ukrainian separatists were also not implicated.

"Today we will send out international arrest warrants for the first suspects that we will prosecute. They will also be placed on national and international wanted lists," Wilbert Paulissen, chief constable of the Netherlands National Police, told a press conference.

Dutch prosecutor Fred Westerbeke said

they were the "four who will be held accountable for bringing the deadly weapon, the BUK Telar, into eastern Ukraine."

The same investigation team said in May 2018 that the BUK anti-aircraft missile which hit the Boeing 777 had originated from the 53rd Russian military brigade based in the southwestern city of Kursk.

The airliner travelling between Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur was torn apart in mid-air after being hit by a missile over territory in eastern Ukraine held by pro-Russian separatists on July 17, 2014, investigators say.

Wreckage was spread over a wide area in an incident that plunged relations between Moscow and the West, already tense over the conflict in eastern Ukraine, deep into crisis.

'I'm satisfied'

Prosecutors said Girkin was a former colonel in Russia's FSB intelligence agency who was the self-declared minister of defence in the separatist administration in eastern Ukraine. Dubinskiy was a former minister from the Russian military intelligence agency GRU, Pulatov was an ex-soldier in Russia's Spetsnaz special forces unit and Kharchenko a Ukrainian separatist.

A number of telephone intercepts were played that prosecutors said showed the four were involved. Relatives of those killed aboard MH17 welcomed the news.

"It's a start. I'm satisfied," Silene Fredriksz, whose son and daughter-in-law were killed in the disaster, told reporters. "I am happy that the trial is finally going to start and that the names have been announced."—AFP ■



The Joint Investigation Team named the four suspects who they said would be tried for murder next year. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (129 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (129 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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.

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2	Sunfos 40.8 %EC	Chlorpyrifos 40.8% EC	Full	F2011-755
3	Sunfosrin 55%EC	Chlorpyrifos 50% + Cypermethrin 5% EC	Full	F2011-751
4	Sun Traz 20EC	Amitraz 20% EC	Full	F2016-1069
5	Sun Nil 5 SC	Fipronil 5% SC	Full	F2016-1071
6	Sun-E-F 15 WDG	Ethoxysulfuron 15% WDG	Full	F2016-1077
7	Pretilasum 300 EC	Pretilachlor 30% EC	Full	F2016-1076
8	Sun One 500 SC	Iprodione 50% SC	Full	F2016-1074
9	Sunstoxin 56 TB	Aluminium Phosphide 56% Tablet	Full	F2016-1079
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A trader works ahead the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on 18 June 2019 located at Wall Street in New York City. PHOTO: AFP

Global stocks rally on G20 hopes, dovish ECB

NEW YORK (United States) — Global stocks scored strong gains Tuesday on twin investor-friendly developments: upbeat comments from the US and China on trade ahead of the G20 Summit and an ECB statement hinting at an interest rate cut.

Hopes were raised that long-running trade talks between Washington and Beijing may yet yield an agreement after US President Donald Trump said he had a “good” conversation with China’s Xi Jinping and would hold an “extended meeting” at the Group of 20 summit in Japan later this month.

Xi said the countries “will both gain by cooperating, and lose by fighting,” according to a readout by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV. US stocks opened the session higher amid enthusiasm over dovish central bank statements, but Trump’s comments on the G20 further lifted the market. All three major US indices climbed one percent or more. Paris and Frankfurt each gained around two percent, boosted especially by ECB chief Mario Draghi, who promised further action if the economy fails to gain traction.

“Further cuts in policy interest rates and mitigating measures to contain any side effects remain part of our tools,” Draghi told the ECB’s annual economics gathering in Sintra, Portugal. “Super Mario is back!” said IG analyst Chris Beauchamp in summary at the market action.

“Despite only having a few months left to his tenure, the head of the ECB has handed his successor a firmly dovish bias, as he leaves the door open to more QE (quantitative easing stimulus) and renewed negative rates at the ECB in order to try once again to kick-start the eurozone economy.”

Awaiting the Fed

Draghi’s comments came as the US Federal Reserve kicked off a two-day policy meeting.

Although the Fed is not expected to cut interest rates on Wednesday, investors have been heartened by more dovish comments lately from central bankers and will be analyzing Fed Chair Jerome Powell’s statements for clues on future steps, which they hope will signal a clear willingness to boost the economy.

Trump has repeatedly crit-

icized the Fed and pressured Powell to cut rates, and on Tuesday lashed out at Draghi’s statements, saying an ECB cut would “unfairly” harm US goods competing with a cheaper euro.

The dollar rose against the euro following the Draghi remarks, but retreated against the pound and yen. BK Asset Management’s Kathy Lien said the dollar could fall if Powell’s adopts a more dovish tone than at the May press conference, when he dismissed talk of easing. But if “Powell puts on a brave face, emphasizes the areas of strength in the US economy ... we could see a significant recovery in the greenback,” she said.

Among individual companies, embattled aerospace giant Boeing shot up 5.4 per cent after it announced the sale of 200 of the 737 MAX planes to International Airlines Group.

The announcement at the Paris Air Show comes as Boeing’s global fleet of 737 MAX planes remains grounded following two crashes that killed 346 people. Boeing has said it is making progress with regulators on having an upgraded plane recertified.

—AFP ■

SoftBank Group to boost AI-related investment with new fund

TOKYO — SoftBank Group Corp.’s Chairman and CEO Masayoshi Son said Wednesday the company will accelerate investments in artificial intelligence-related startups with its new fund.

Son said at an annual shareholders’ meeting in Tokyo that the company has injected 3 trillion yen (\$28 billion) into the \$100 billion Vision Fund and will set up a new vehicle, the Vision Fund 2, on a similar scale in the near future. The investment period for the existing fund is set to end in November 2022 in principle.

He did not elaborate on the envisioned fund, but said many investors under the existing scheme have shown interest in joining the new entity. The Vision Fund was founded in 2017 with partners including Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund.

“The Vision Fund has gained more profits than any other venture capital in the world,” Son said on the company’s investment business, referring to its large stakes in ride-hailing business Uber Technologies Inc. and co-working space operator WeWork

Companies Inc.

In the year through March this year, the company earned more than half of its operating profit from its fund management operations.

SoftBank Group said it plans to double the number of technology firms it invests in through the current Vision Fund to up to 150 in a year or two from about 75.

“I would like to be like a conductor of an orchestra to lead each entrepreneur,” said Son.

As for the proposed merger between Sprint Corp., a subsidiary of the Japanese telecommunications and investment conglomerate, and T-Mobile US Inc., Son said, “The (U.S.) Justice Department is now working on our application. I strongly hope for its approval.”

The merger deal between the fourth- and third-largest wireless carriers in the United States is currently under review by the Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission. Last month, the FCC chief said he endorses the merger deal. —Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 18 December 2018, shows logo of SoftBank Group Corp. at its headquarters in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Canada inflation up in May on broad price increases

OTTAWA (Canada) — Canadians paid more for nearly everything — except gasoline — in May compared to a year earlier, pushing inflation up 2.4 per cent, the government statistical agency said Wednesday.

The broad-based gains topped economists’ expectations, following a 2.0 per cent average price increase the pre-

vious month. “Prices increased year over year in all eight major components in May, with six components growing at faster rates and two components growing at the same pace compared with April,” Statistics Canada said in a statement. The main contributors to the 12-month change were passenger vehicles and car insurance premiums, mort-

gage interest costs, air travel and fresh vegetables, which saw a whopping 16.7 per cent price hike blamed on bad weather in source regions. Those gains were partly offset by lower gasoline prices, which declined 3.7 per cent. The costs of Internet access, travel accommodations, and computer and video equipment also fell in the period. —AFP ■

Hong Kong stocks surge on trade hopes

HONG KONG (China) — Hong Kong stocks rallied more than two percent Wednesday, fuelled by hopes for a trade breakthrough after Donald Trump said he would meet Xi Jinping at the G20 next week.

The Hang Seng Index jumped 2.56 per cent, or 703.37

points, to 28,202.14.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index climbed 0.96 per cent, or 27.64 points, to 2,917.80, while the Shenzhen Composite Index, which tracks stocks on China’s second exchange, rose 1.48 per cent, or 22.20 points, to 1,526.77. —AFP ■

OPPO introduces Reno Series in Yangon



YANGON— On Thursday 13th June at Radio Bar, OPPO Myanmar launched the revolutionary new OPPO Reno Series. Featuring unparalleled camera performance in an elegant package, Reno series was unveiled to media in collaboration with celebrities Paing Takhon, Phone Thiri Kyaw and Yamin May Oo and photographer Ko Kaung Myat Thu as a special guest.

Media, OPPO fans and OPPO senior management

celebrated in style as OPPO announced pricing and availability information for this revolutionary new device. Both new OPPO Reno series smartphones feature beautiful designs, a pivot rising front-facing camera, with the Reno 10x also offering unrivalled zoom performance.

The premium OPPO Reno 10x Zoom offers the same great screen, pivot-rising camera and superior performance as offered with the Reno, while also

giving users the opportunity to see their world in spectacular detail, even from hundreds of meters away, thanks to its additional 10x Hybrid Zoom lens.

The Reno 10x Zoom offers unrivalled camera performance with zero rear camera bulge, something that has never been achieved before in a smartphone, especially not those with 3 camera lenses, including a wide angle, a main 48MP sensor (Sony IMX 586), plus the previously mentioned world's first periscope telephoto lens.

Reno

The OPPO Reno smartphone features stunning design that feels good in the hand, excellent low-light camera performance and the entertainment features desired by Myanmar consumers, such as a pivot rising selfie camera structure, 48MP Highest Pixel Sony IMX 586 main camera with ultra-night mode 2.0, 8/128GB RAM/ROM, 3765 mAh battery with VOOC 3.0 rapid charging and mobile gaming features. —GNLM

Grab, Myanmar Insurance partnered for Personal Accident Insurance

GRAB has partnered with Myanmar Insurance (MI) for its group personal accident insurance (PAI) scheme which covers driver-partners and passengers in the case of an unfortunate accident during a Grab Taxi, GrabThon Bane or GrabBike ride.

As the first ride hailing company to procure a group PAI policy in Myanmar, covering four-wheel, three-wheel and two-wheel motorbike taxis in Yangon, Mandalay and Bagan as of 1 September.

The partnership is also significant in light of the ongoing liberalisation of Myanmar's insurance sector which has seen five foreign insurance companies granted provisional licences in April 2019 to issue life insurance policies through wholly-owned life insurance subsidiaries.

The lack of awareness in the country is a challenge for the insurance industry's expansion. Myanmar's insurance penetration is very low, with only a 0.07 per cent share of GDP, while the insurance density is close to \$1. Only 86 in 1,000 people have insurance coverage, while road-related deaths and injuries in the country is expected to grow.

"Our Personal Accident Insurance scheme is an extension of Grab's long-term commitment to driver and passenger welfare. We are aware that many taxi drivers in Myanmar do not have life or health insurance policies and we are glad to be able to provide them with insurance coverage while they work," said Cindy Toh, Country Head, Grab Myanmar.

Grab's group PAI policy

offers coverage for drivers and passengers in the event of accidental death, permanent dismemberment and bodily injuries as a result of accidents. This coverage includes total personal accident benefits for the driver or passenger of up to US\$7,500 per person, subject to aggregate limits including US\$10 million per accident in Myanmar. Each incident will be evaluated individually by Myanmar Insurance.

In the case of an unfortunate accident during a Grab trip, Grab advises driver-partners and passengers to contact the Grab 24/7 hotline and the police immediately. Grab will assist claimants with the insurance claim process which includes: Collation of the necessary documents such as claim form, medical certificates, original copies of final hospital/medical bills, medical reports (if any), police report/accident report and proof of Grab booking, submission of documents to Myanmar Insurance and Chubb for review and processing, disbursement of the claim amount to the claimant.

"I am really grateful that Grab is looking out for us and offering us drivers with insurance coverage in the event of an accident while I'm working, and for the passengers too. For most of us drivers, we think about getting motor insurance for our vehicle to follow the law, but we don't consider the importance of getting health insurance coverage for ourselves," said Ko Tun Aye Kyaw, a Grab driver-partner of nearly a year.—GNLM

Thief saws off Marilyn Monroe statue in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (United States) — A statue of Marilyn Monroe that sat atop an artwork in Hollywood that celebrates women in film has gone missing in what authorities are calling the "Marilyn caper of 2019."

The statue, which illustrates the legendary actress in her iconic pose from "The Seven Year Itch," was perched atop the Ladies of Hollywood Gazebo on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Authorities said a witness saw a man climb the Eiffel Tower-shaped structure late Sunday and use a saw to remove the statue. Police said investigators had recovered some prints at the scene but had yet to make any arrests on Tuesday. The artwork located at the beginning of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, features large statues of Mae West, Dorothy Dandridge, Anna May Wong and Dolores Del Rio — women from different cultures who influenced the film industry.

The statue of Marilyn Monroe striking a pose in her flying skirt sat atop the installation. —AFP ■



In this file photo taken on 14 June 2019 a revolver believed to be the gun Dutch 19th century painter Vincent Van Gogh used to kill himself on 27 July 1890 is on public display at Paris' Drouot auction house. PHOTO: AFP

Gun 'that ended Van Gogh's life' sells for nearly triple estimate

PARIS (France) — The revolver with which Vincent van Gogh is believed to have shot himself sold for 162,500 euros (\$182,000) at a Paris auction on Wednesday — nearly three times the estimate.

Billed as "the most famous weapon in the history of art", the rusty 7mm Lefauchaux revolver was bought by a private collector with a telephone bid. The troubled Dutch painter died in July 1890 and experts believe he shot himself with the revolver in a field near Auvers-sur-Oise, a village north of Paris where he spent the last few months of his life. Discovered by a farmer in 1965 in the same field, the gun has previously been exhibited at the Van Gogh

Museum in Amsterdam. But the sale was hit by controversy on the eve of the auction as the Van Gogh Institute, which looks after the village inn where the artist spent his last days, condemned the sale. "Nothing suggests that the remains (of the gun) are formally linked with the death of Van Gogh," it said in a statement, deploring the "commercialisation of a tragedy which deserves more respect". While Art Auction, which sold the gun, said there is no way of being absolutely certain it is the fatal weapon, they insisted tests showed it has been in the ground for 75 years, which would fit. The Dutch artist had borrowed the gun from the owner of the inn.—AFP ■



Myanmar athletes head to Thailand for SEA Rowing and Canoeing Championship

A team of athletes from Myanmar left for Pattaya City, Thailand yesterday to compete in the Southeast Rowing and Canoeing Championship, which will be held from 20 to 23 June.

The team, led by coaches, was seen off by the President of the Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation, U Thaung Htike Min, and officials.

Six countries — Myanmar,

host Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Viet Nam — will be participating in the championship, said officials.

Events under the men's category include LM 1X, LM 2X, and M2, while events in the women's category include LM 1X, LM 2X, W2, they added. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar athletes and officials gather for a group photo before leaving for Thailand at Yangon international airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Yangon United ties with Shan United 1-1 in U-19 MNL 2019



Yangon's youth defender (black) attempts to clear the ball past Shan United's striker Thurein Tun (White) during their U-19 MNL match yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon.

PHOTO: MNL

THE Week 15 match between Yangon United and Shan United in the U-19 Myanmar National League 2019, held yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Both teams played energetically right from the start. Yangon United had prepared well for yesterday's match, and exhibited a flawless defence and good tackling skills.

With tremendous support from fans, Yangon United made the opening goal at the 4th minute. The goal was scored by Yangon youth player Than Toe Aung.

The first half ended with Yangon United leading by one goal.

In the second half, both teams changed tactics and stepped up their play. Shan

United finally scored the equalizer at the 70th minute. The goal was scored by Pyae Phyo Wai, with skilful play, managing to trick Yangon United's defense and take the ball past a shocked Yangon keeper.

Shan United made repeated efforts to score more goals in the later minutes.

But, the efforts of Shan United's strikers were in vain, as Yangon United's defenders and midfielders were too strong, making it difficult to pass the ball further than the midfield.

When the final whistle was blown, both teams were tied at 1-1.

Although the match ended in a draw, Shan United is still leading the standing table with 41 points. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

J-League coaches pick youths for Dreams Come True project

A team of coaches from J-League club Cerezo Osaka visited the National Football Academy in Yangon yesterday and selected talented young players for the Dreams Come True project, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Seventy-six youths from the National Football Academies of Yangon, Mandalay, and Patheingyi participated in the selection.

Of them, five players were

selected — Tun Lin Aung, Aung Ko Min, Aung Kyaw Min, and Zin Myo Tun from the National Football Academy of Mandalay, and Kyaw Thura Oo from the National Football Academy of Patheingyi.

The Cerezo Osaka coaching team will continue to hold selections in other ASEAN countries, said officials.

The selected youths will be inducted into a team named the ASEAN Academy Football Club

in Osaka City in Japan on 9 August, said officials.

The ASEAN Academy Football Club, which will comprise talented ASEAN youths, will play against the Cerezo Osaka Academy Football Club on 10 August, under the Dreams Come True Project, they said.

The selected youths will also get a chance to watch a J-League football match on 11 August, officials added. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Simmons reveals tensions in Afghanistan World Cup camp

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) — Afghanistan's World Cup campaign was plunged further into crisis on Wednesday as coach Phil Simmons promised to lift the lid on simmering tensions with chief selector Dawlat Ahmadzai.

Ahmadzai has laid the blame for Afghanistan's five defeats in as many World Cup matches at the door of former West Indies all-rounder Simmons and his coaching staff.

The former bowler has accused Simmons of failing to prepare the team properly for their second appearance at the global showpiece event.

But now Simmons has promised to shine a light on troubles within the camp, including revealing details of the controversial decision to replace Asghar Afghan as captain less than two months before the start of the World Cup.

"I am in the middle of a World Cup and trying to get our team to perform to the level we expect," Simmons, who is standing down as Afghanistan coach at the end of the tournament, wrote on Twitter.

"But at the end of the World Cup I will tell the Afghanistan people about the part that Mr

Dawlat Ahmadzai had to play in our preparation and his part in the dismissal of Asghar Afghan."

Asghar was replaced as captain of the team in all three formats in April, with Gulbadin Naib picked to skipper the side at the World Cup. —AFP ■



Afghanistan's Rashid Khan (left) and head coach Phil Simmons attend a training session at Old Trafford. **PHOTO: AFP**