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President U Win Myint accepts K 100 million cash donation for the Eternal Peace Pagoda from Aye Myitta San Taung Ni Lay Parahita Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President, First Lady attend ceremony to donate K 100 mln for Eternal Peace Pagoda

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attended a ceremony held at Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township Aye Myitta San Taung Ni Lay Parahita Monastery yesterday morning to donate K 100 million to Eternal Peace Pagoda on the occasion of the birthday of Aye Myitta San Taung Ni Lay Parahita Monastery principal patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima.

The ceremony was graced by Sayadaws and sanghas led by Bago Region

Yedashe Township Swar town Satyone Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sasana and Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township Welgyi Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Addisavumsa. The ceremony was also attended by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, donors and officials.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Mr. Sun Guoxiang at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 June 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the People's Republic of China

State Counsellor, Chinese Envoy exchange view on China's continued constructive support in Myanmar

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on 24th June 2019 at 4 pm at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on China's continued constructive support in Myanmar government's endeavours to achieve peace and national reconciliation, and for Rakhine State.—MNA

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Cash contributed to construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda, missionary tasks in border and hilly regions



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko accepts cash donation for Eternal Peace Pagoda from donors. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CEREMONY to donate cash for the Eternal Peace Pagoda and missionary in border and hilly regions was held at the Vijaya Mingalar Dhamma Thabin Hall in Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, heads of departments, officials,

and donors took the Five Precepts from Shwe Parami Forest Monastery Sayadaw Sandadika, and the audience then listened to the members of Sangha reciting the parittas.

Next, Union Minister and Chief Minister presented offertories to the Members of the Sangha. At the ceremony, sayadaws, nuns and people donated K368.1 million for construction the Eternal Peace Pagoda and K197.6 million for

missionary tasks for border and hilly regions.

The donations were accepted by Union Minister, Chief Minister, Yangon Region Deputy Speaker, directors-general, and deputy directors general who in return presented certificates of honours to the donors. The ceremony came to an end with sharing merits by the congregation. — MNA

(Translation by TTN)

CBM Governor receives Mission Chief Mr Shanaka Jayanath Peiris from IMF



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung holds the meeting with Mission Chief Mr Shanaka Jayanath Peiris from International Monetary Fund in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received Mission Chief Mr Shanaka Jayanath Peiris from International Monetary Fund and party at CBM in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they discussed development of Myanmar's economic sector, the interest rate in banking sector, the foreign currency exchange

rate, and monetary policies, strengthening in financial sector, and human resources development. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

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

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 24/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 22 June.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 22 June.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 26 June issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court judges U Myo Tint and U Soe Naing sit at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday and passed judgement of one

criminal miscellaneous petition case (Certiorari) and seven civil miscellaneous cases (Certiorari) and heard five civil miscellaneous cases (Certiorari). —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Participants ready themselves for Tachilek literary festival



Teachers and students make rehearsal for opening ceremony of the Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek yesterday. **PHOTO: THAN TUN AYE (IPRD)**

GOVERNMENT officials, teachers and students made a test run of the Tachilek Children's Literary Festival before it opens today at B.E.H.S. Tachilek in Maka Ho Khem Ward yesterday.

The festival is jointly organized by the Information and Public Relations Department, Basic Education Department and the Tachilek District Management Committee.

Shan State Minister for Bamar Ethnic Affairs, Dr. Aung Than Maung, IPRD and departmental officials and teachers and students involved in the festival inspected the exhibition booths installed and practiced

their routines.

The Tachilek Children's Literary Festival will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and tomorrow. The festival will include numerous entertainment programmes, educational booths, competitions for poetry, storytelling, impromptu speaking, painting, origami, puzzle assembly, teamwork, timed shoe wearing and other games, literary seminars and roundtables. In addition, there will be displays of books published in 2018 for everyone to see. — Aung Min Han

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



A congregation led by President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho receives the Five Precepts from Satyone Monastery Addisavumsa Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sasana yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President, First Lady attend ceremony to donate K 100 mln for Eternal Peace Pagoda

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At the ceremony the President, First Lady and attendees first took the Five Precepts from Bago Region Yedashe Township Swar town Satyone Monastery principal patron Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sasa-

na and listened to Metta Sutra recited by the Sanghas.

Next the President, First Lady and attendees donated offerings to the Sayadaws and Sanghas.

Afterwards, the President accepted K 100 million donated for Eternal Peace Pagoda by Aye

Myitta San Taung Ni Lay Parahita Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima and in return presented a certificate of honor to the Sayadaw.

The President then transferred the donated K 100 million to Eternal Peace Pagoda Construction Leading Committee

Vice Chairman Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min.

Later, the President, First Lady and attendees listened to a sermon delivered by Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township Welgyi Monastery principal patron Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta

Addisavumsa and shared merit for the donations made.

After the ceremony President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and attendees offered day meal for the Sayadaws and Sanghas.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

UEC starts to collect data for voters lists in June for 2020 general elections



UEC Member U Myint Naing explains about the work processes of the elections at the meeting with political parties and civil society organizations related with the elections sector in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Election Commission held a meeting with political parties and civil society organizations related with the elections sector in Yangon yesterday over compilation of voters list for the 2020 general elections.

Present at the meeting were U Myint Naing, Member of the Union Election Commission (Yangon Region In-charge), U Kyi Myint, Chairman of the Yangon Region Election Sub-Commission and party, departmental officials, representatives of 15 political parties in Yangon Region, representatives from 14 CSOs, Mr. Paul Gueri Obe of the International Foundation for Electoral System-IFES, chairmen and offi-

cial of the district and township election sub-commissions in Yangon Region.

First, UEC Member U Myint Naing briefed about existing works for the elections, the programmes for the compilation of voters list for the 2020 general elections and the role of political parties and CSOs in holding the elections.

Afterwards, Chairman of the Yangon Region Election Sub-Commission U Kyi Myint briefed about implementing the Strategy 2019-2022 while Secretary of the Yangon Region Sub-Commission about measures taken for collecting voters list in the Yangon Region. At the

meeting, UEC Member U Myint Naing answered to questions raised by those present. The UEC started its work on compiling voters list in June, 2019, for the 2020 general elections. According to the UEC, General Administration Departments in townships will collect data on residents living actually in wards or villagers as a first step for compilation of voters list. The UEC has stressed the importance of cooperation from the people in collecting the data for voters list. The political parties and CSOs pledged to cooperate in steps for compilation of voters list and electoral education process.— MNA *(Translated by GNLM)*

Myanmar Thaing (martial arts) Training School in Dagon Myothit (North) gets new training hall

A new training hall for the Myanmar Thaing (traditional martial arts) Training School was handed over to the Ministry of Health and Sports on 23 June.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe expressed thanks to the Shwe Taung Foundation which funded K400 million to the construction of the building in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region.

He said the ministry would also invite foreign athletes to learn and receive Myanmar traditional martial arts at the building.

The Union Minister also called for development of Myanmar Thaing or traditional martial arts through cooperation,

understanding and coordination with each other.

Afterwards, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint and U Aik Tun, donor and Patron of the Shwe Taung Foundation, explained the purpose of the donation.

The foundation handed over the training hall to U Myo Hlaing, Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department, and athletes of the Myanmar Thaing Federation demonstrated the martial arts skills.

The training hall is 120 ft long and 60 ft wide, and it includes two training grounds, one meeting room, one training hall and two office rooms.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

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Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives British Ambassador

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), Vice Senior General Soe Win, received British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Chugg at Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

According to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the two sides discussed how the Tat-

madaw adheres to the 2008 Constitution while performing their duties, cooperating with the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CT-FMR) to ensure there are no child soldiers in the Tatmadaw, and increasing relations between the militaries of both countries. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Vice Senior General Soe Win meets with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Chugg. PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint inspects the preparations for the Children's Literary Festival in B.E.H.S. Tachilek in Maka Ho Kham Ward, Tachilek. PHOTO: MNA

Union Information Minister inspects Tachilek literary festival preparations

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint visited B.E.H.S. Tachilek in Maka Ho Kham Ward yesterday to inspect the preparations for the Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek before it opens today and tomorrow.

The Union Minister for Information then visited the Tachilek Township Writers Association where he cordially greeted the writers and observed the Nay Thit Yi Nhyun Library within.

Next, the Union Minister

visited the district office of the Information and Public Relations Department where he observed the functions of the library and mini museum and the posters on display. Afterwards, the Union Minister handed out gifts to the young students reading in the children's reading room and handed over K500,000 to the IPRD to use in their library-related processes. —Aung Min Han

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Completion of irrigation facility in Bago Region (west) benefits 216285 acres

ACEREMONY to commemorate the upgrade completion of irrigation canal systems of North Nawin, South Nawin, Wegyi and Taung Nyo dams in Bago Region west was held at Paungde Township Wegyi irrigation canal project briefing hall yesterday morning.

At the event Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu said benefits from dams and irrigation canal systems in which the State had investment a lot of funds must be used effectively and systematically for the socio-economic development of the people in the region and all are urged to cooperate toward transferring this inheritance to the next generation.

Next, Region Chief Minister U Wiin Thein spoke of using irrigation water to plant crops that had market and could gain good income, follow GAP and organic systems to strive toward producing high value products that'll increase income of the farmers.



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu and officials unveil the project commemorative plaque in Bago Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Afterwards, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and JICA Chief Representative Mr. Masayuki Karasawa delivered speeches of honor and appreciation.

Later, Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Depart-

ment Construction 2 director explained about project implementation and a local farmer spoke words of thanks.

Union Minister, Region Chief Minister and officials from JICA then unveiled the project commemorative plaque by pressing

a button.

The project that used Japanese Yen 14,870 million to modify, concrete and brick line the canals, construct canal inspection roads, approach roads and canal buildings, repair and reconstruct bridges and siphons, purchase

and provide machineries for North Nawin, South Nawin, Wegyi and Taung Nyo dams in Bago Region Paukaung, Pyay, Thegon, Paungde, Nattalin and Zigon townships benefits a total of 216,285 acres. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Coord meeting on holding 72nd Anniversary of Martyrs' Day held in Yangon

A coordination meeting on holding the 72nd Martyrs' Day was held at the office at the Martyrs' Mausoleum yesterday.

The meeting was chaired by Thura U Aung Ko, Chairman of the Central Committee for Holding 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture.

Also present at the meeting

were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, who is also a Deputy Chairman of the committee, and officials of the departments concerned

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko acknowledged current efforts of the committee in preparation for holding the anniversary events at the Martyrs' Mausoleum, Bogyoke Aung

San Museum, the Secretariat and religious ceremonies dedicated to the fallen leaders of the country.

He urged the attendees to review the experiences of the previous year's ceremonies and to take lessons from weaknesses of last year's events to hold this year's events the best.

He detailed the programmes including welcoming



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko inspects the Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko inspects Martyrs' Mausoleum for holding the 72nd Martyrs' Day yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

relatives of martyrs, the flag hoisting and saluting ceremony at the Secretariat, preparation at the Bogyoke Aung San Museum and security.

Afterwards, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein discussed the undertakings of the work committee in detail.

On behalf of the Chairman of the Security Committee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko discussed the measures taken by the security committee.

After hearing the discussion of the sub-committees, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko coordinated the tasks of the sub-committees.

Following the meeting, the chairman and members of the central committee visited the Martyrs' Mausoleum and the Bogyoke Aung San Museum and inspected the renovations there in preparation for holding the 72nd Martyrs' Day. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Anti-Corruption Commission organizes workshop on accountability in Mon State

WITH technical support from UNDP, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Mon State Government jointly organized a workshop on administration and corporate responsibility in Mawlamyine yesterday.

Mon State Chief Minister's speech

Firstly, the Mon State Chief Minister delivered a speech where he extolled Mon State's active participation in teaching the general public about eradicating corruption. He said this will contribute to creating a corruption-free society in the country.

The Chief Minister said implementing transparency, accountability and responsibility will aid government departments and organizations in reducing losses in government revenue. He called for cooperation in visibly reducing corruption and increasing the Good Governance Index.

ACC Chairman's speech

Following this, ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi also delivered a speech. He said this workshop is



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi delivers the speech at the workshop on administration and corporate responsibility in Mawlamyine yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

held with Sections 4(b) and 4(c) of the Anti-Corruption Law in mind. He said these laws place duties on the ACC to ensure the emergence of clean governance and good administrative system and to increase integrity and responsibility in public administration.

The ACC Chairman said accountability, transparency and response are the central components of a good administrative system and important elements of democratic transition.

He said accountability is

more than just adhering to established laws and procedures and involves placing public interest and benefit first when interacting with the people, departments and organizations.

U Aung Kyi said successfully implementing corporate governance practices will bring numerous benefits to the private sector and attract more investors. He also expressed his hope that civil society organizations will practice transparency and accountability while encouraging government and private cor-

porations to do the same.

Workshop commences

The workshop then began with Mon State Minister for Planning, Finance, Immigration and Population, U Wunna Kyaw, and Dr. Tin Maung Than discussing under the heading 'Responsible Administration Sector', U Win Myint Aung, UMFCCI representative and Director of City Mart Group, on 'Responsible Economic Sector', ACC Office Director Daw Aye Myat Mon on 'Responsibility in Public Services', local

businessperson U Moe Kyaw on 'Responsible Businesses', local CSO representative Daw Yi Mon Su, Executive Director of National Enlightenment Institute, on 'Responsible CSOs', and UNDO representative U Zaw Min Naung on 'Dangers and Possibilities of Corruption'.

Later in the afternoon, attendees asked questions during the Q&A session and the Chief Minister concluded the workshop with a closing speech. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



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Fisheries Dept to release over 300,000 fingerlings into 610 acres of monsoon paddy in Sagaing Region

THE Sagaing Region Fisheries Department plans to release over 300,000 fingerlings into 610 acres of monsoon paddy fields in eight townships in the region in the rainy season.

"We plan to implement mixed farming of fish and paddy in eight townships during this monsoon season. Fingerlings from YeU, Shwebo, and Ingvingone hatcheries will be released in paddy fields," said U Tun Tun Win, the head of the Sagaing Region Fisheries Department.

The department will release 32500 fingerling into 65 acres of monsoon paddy fields in Kawlin Township, 30000 fingerling into 60 acres of monsoon paddy fields in Htigyaing Township, 60000 fingerling into 120 acres of monsoon paddy fields in YeU Township, 5000 fingerlings into 10 acres of monsoon paddy fields



Sagaing Region Fisheries Department officials releasing of fingerlings in paddy filed in Daze Township. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYARDINE)**

in Taze Township, 25000 fingerling into 50 acres of monsoon paddy fields in Debayin Township, 0.300 lakh fingerlings into 60 acres of

monsoon paddy fields in Wetlet Township, 32500 fingerlings into 65 acres of monsoon paddy fields in KhinU Township, and 90000 in-

gerling into 180 acres of monsoon paddy fields in Shwebo Township this year.—Win Oo (Zayardine)
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Agriculture Department inspects fields in Mindon Township for FAW

THE Mindon Township Agriculture Department conducted an inspection of corn fields around Zeetaw and Minywakine villages of the township, located in Magway Region, for FAW (Fall Army Worm) infestation at 10 a.m. on 24 June.

Officials from the department discussed ways and techniques to control FAW with local farmers after it was discovered in the corn fields during the inspection.

In addition, the Township Officer also urged agri shops to sell the required pesticides. — Chinkalay (Mindon)



Officials from Township Agriculturae Department inspect in corn field. **PHOTO: MINDON IPRD**

Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office to observe 12th anniversary



Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office.

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications will celebrate the 12th anniversary of the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office at 9 a.m. on 27 June in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office was launched on 27 June, 2007. It is situated on the Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Region.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications has set up 1,390 post offices across Myanmar, and they provide not just postal services, but also addi-

tional services using IT, including financial services through banking agents, delivery services for online shopping businesses, and sale of e-tickets for the Myanmar National Airlines.

For the anniversary celebrations, the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office and stamp collectors will jointly hold a stamp exhibition and sale of commemorative envelopes, stamps, and scarcity stamps. Admission to the event will be free. —

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar fresh chili price climbs on strong demand from China, Thailand

THE PRICE of Myanmar fresh chili is on the rise on account of good demand from China and Thailand, said U Khin Han, the chairman of Kitchen Crops Producers and Exporters Association.

“There are two varieties of fresh chili grown in the delta region—tharmoe and deemore. We are purchasing fresh chili and transporting it in cold storage cars. If we dry the fresh chili, we will be able to sell it for about K24,000-25,000 per viss (1 viss=1.6 kg). Currently, we are only exporting fresh chili. So, dry chili is being imported from India and Viet Nam. These days, the price of chili has increased slightly,” he added.

“Last year, fresh chili was fetching K1,500-2,000 per viss. Now, the price of fresh chili has increased to K8,500. Currently, fresh chilies are hard to find in the market. So, the Ministry of Commerce has been asked to import fresh chili via the border for local consumption,” he said.

“We have already asked the Commerce Ministry to issue Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certification and grant permission to import fresh chili. We cannot make a decision on behalf of the government. They are making arrangements to hold a meeting in Kyaukse Township. Then, they will arrive at a decision. If they give permission to import

fresh chili, the price will decline slightly. If not, the price of fresh chili will rise to K10,000 per viss,” said U Khin Han.

“Although China and Thailand have been buying chili from us for years, the volume of trade earlier was not as high as now. They were mainly purchasing chili from Viet Nam and India previously. I have heard that currently they have not been able to purchase chili from the two countries. That’s why they have been buying chili from us. One trader is purchasing 15 or 20 truckloads of chili at a time. Growers do not need to dry the chili,” he added.

China has been purchasing Myanmar chili



A farmer harvests chillies at the field in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

since the last week of February. Fresh chili from delta regions such as Maubin, Hinthada, Wakema, and

Shwelaung townships is entering the Bayintnaung Commodity Depot. Fresh chili from the central re-

gions will also enter the market soon. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Baskets made of male bamboo enjoying good demand, say weavers



A villager weaving the bamboo thin strip baskets in Taungtha Township. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG HTEIN (KYAUKPADAUNG)

BASKETS woven from male bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) in West Tadar Village, Tadar Village-tract, Taungtha Township, Myingyan District, are selling well in the market, said U Thaug Kyi, a local basket maker.

“The bamboo baskets are made only from male bamboo, which is found in the forest. The baskets are woven using bamboo strips. Our baskets are of better quality than other bamboo baskets. Male bamboo baskets can be used on both sunny and rainy days. The rims of the baskets

are also made of bamboo. The baskets produced in West Tadar Village are famous in the region,” said U Kyaw Min, a local male bamboo basket maker.

“In our village, there are only 15 homes that manufacture bamboo baskets. Male bamboo baskets are made in two sizes. The large-sized basket costs K3,500, while the small one is priced at K2,500. We split the bamboo and then cut it into strips in the early morning. Then, we weave the baskets before the bamboos get dry,” said U Thang Kyi.

“It is not easy to

find male bamboo in the forest. Sometimes, we find enough bamboo to make just four baskets. So, we have to venture into Taungtha, Kyaukpadaung, and Ngathayauk townships for male bamboo. Sometimes, we can’t find male bamboo. Now, male bamboos have become rare in the forest because of forest fires,” he added. Male bamboo baskets enjoy a good demand in Kyaukpadaung, Taungtha, Pakokku, and Ngathayauk townships. —Maung Maung Htein (Kyaukpadaung) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar earns \$2.4 bln from agro export as of 14 June

MYANMAR’S earning from export of agricultural products in the current 2018-2019 Financial Year has touched US\$2.45 billion, up by over \$260 million or nearly 12 per cent, compared with the same period last 2017-2018 FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

From this time last year, the country’s export of agricultural commodities was pegged at \$2.19 billion in total.

The country saw no export of agro products from the public sector between 1 October and 14 June. Only

private companies could export the same to international buyers during the period.

As an agriculture commodity-producing country, Myanmar globally sells a wide variety of agro products, covering rice, beans and pulses, onion, garlic, ginger and other kitchen crops, watermelons, mangoes, avocados, cucumbers and other profitable fruits and vegetables, rubber and other raw materials of agriculture.

Within 257 days of this FY, the country also export-

ed \$305 million worth of animal products, \$584 million worth of marine products, \$1.13 million worth of minerals, \$123 million worth of forest products, over \$6.43 billion worth of manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products amounting to over \$795 million.

When compared with the corresponding period last FY, the country’s export sector saw an increase in value by \$11.8 billion. —Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade at Hteekhee gate tops \$1.6 bln

TRADE between Thailand and Myanmar through the Hteekhee border gate has picked up dramatically in the current fiscal year, crossing US\$1.6 billion in the period between 1 October and 14 June, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Normally, the Myawady gate sees the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. In the October-June period, trade surge at the Hteekhee border gate, with exports touching \$1.6 billion and imports valued

at \$25.8 million.

The rise in exports through the Hteekhee border gate has helped boost the total Myanmar-Thailand border trade to \$2.7 billion, which is more than twice the value registered in the previous FY. During the same period in the 2017-2018FY, Thailand-Myanmar trade was pegged at just \$1.2 billion. Of the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachilek, Myawady, and Myeik gates have witnessed a small decrease in trade in the current finan-

cial year, while the remaining gates have registered an increase in trade.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics, and food products from the neighbouring country. —Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

ASEAN support, a much welcomed boost

DURING the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, a few days ago, ASEAN Leaders discussed Rakhine State affairs and the Summit Chairman issued a statement.

The Chairman's Statement reaffirmed ASEAN Leaders' support for Myanmar's efforts to bring peace, stability, harmony and reconciliation among the various communities in Rakhine State, as well as to ensure sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State.

With ASEAN strengthening their support for Myanmar's efforts in bringing peace, stability and development into Rakhine State, we believe that the international community will soon see the actual situation in the region.

oment.

With regard to the humanitarian situation in Rakhine, the ASEAN Leaders reaffirmed, in the Statement, their support for a more visible and enhanced role of ASEAN to support Myanmar in providing humanitarian assistance, facilitating the repatriation process and promoting sustainable development.

They agreed for the Secretary-General of ASEAN to go further with the recommendations contained in the Preliminary Needs Assessment, including those that focus on capacity-building, dissemination of information and support to the provision of basic services in Rakhine State.

The complications in Rakhine are not something new and while there are numerous difficulties, the UEHRD is taking care of the state's issues because equity among the states and regions is necessary for forming a federal republic.

A democratic federal republic is the path the Union Government is heading towards and this incorporates bringing equity to all the people of the country. This will fulfill the basic requirements of the people.

With ASEAN strengthening their support for Myanmar's efforts in bringing peace, stability and development into Rakhine State, we believe that the international community will soon see the actual situation in the region and lend their assistance in speeding up the Union Government's implementation to bring about a better nation.



Let mobile libraries mushroom nationwide

Dr. Aung Aung Min (Retired Rector)

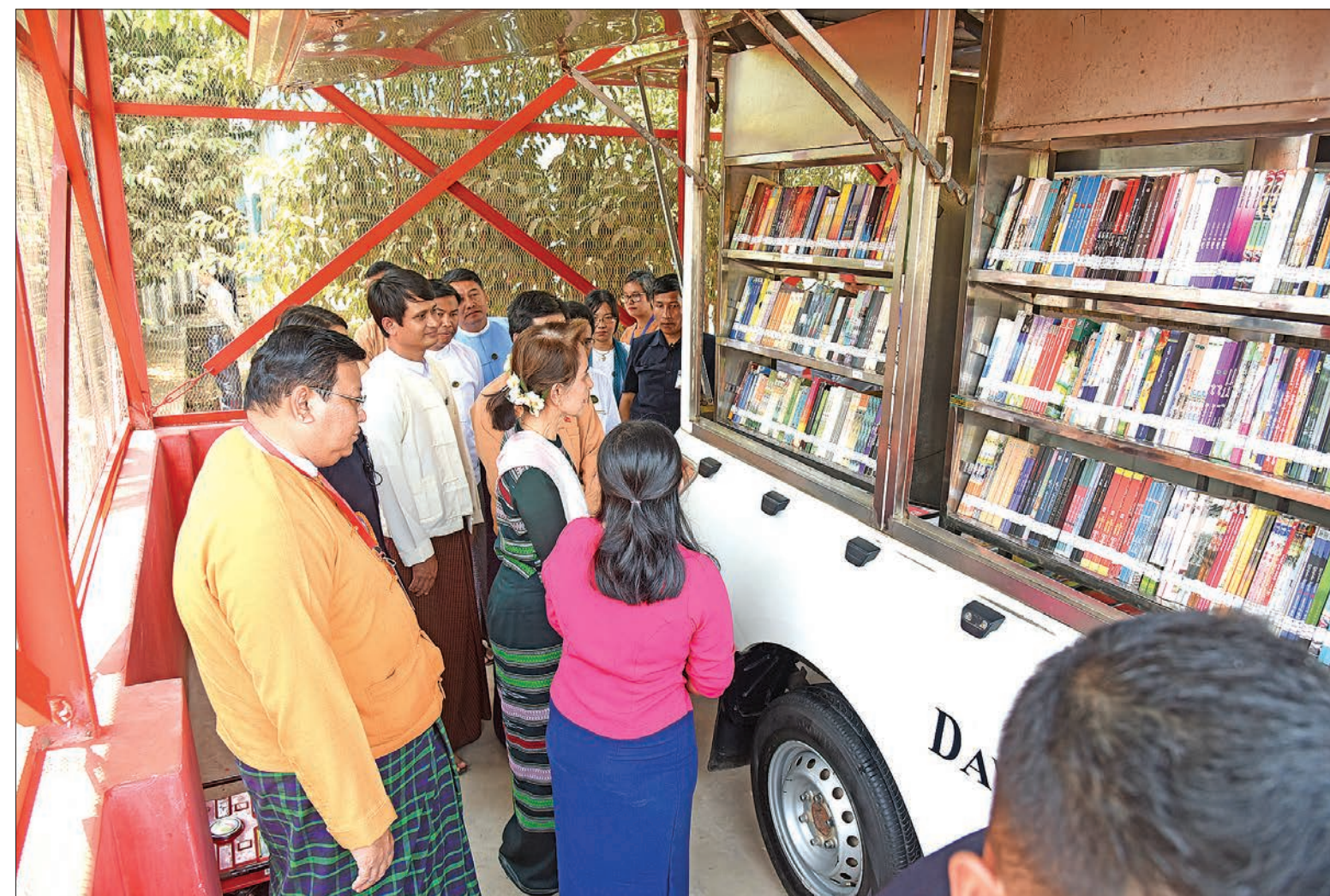
I WAS pleased to read a news report on the opening of 31 mobile libraries in Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region, which appeared in the 22-6-2019 issue of the Mirror Daily. According to the news report, the libraries were opened by the Saya Zawgyi Centenary Library. The Libraries were opened at basic educations in the township on 7 June, with the goal of enabling students who were difficult to reach a library to have their own reading corners. I was glad to know that those schools included monastic education schools, nunneries and Pyapon prison, apart from government schools.

Each library has 100 books of various categories for children. Every month, library executive committee members and volunteer youths exchanged books between the libraries. I felt respect for them for their effective program. So I started to ponder the libraries, thinking, "How good it would be if we could extend the reach of mobile libraries even to rural and border areas and hill regions."

It will be correct, if we say that travelling public educative libraries are the source of mobile libraries. During the administration of the parliamentary government, the Mass Education Council was formed in 1949,

and the Council carried out its tasks for 10 years till 1958. The Council opened reading rooms by building public centres and libraries in rural areas all around the country to broaden the scope of knowledge of the villagers and public health centres to provide medical treatment, and conducted Three Rs courses and vocational education courses. The Council sent Public Education Vehicles, each carrying a corner for mobile library, a clinic, a radio and a projector to disseminate knowledge in the rural areas. It was a significant activity. The Council also distributed public educative pamphlets in towns and villages in various parts of the country. During the decade the mobile libraries visited villages in disseminating knowledge and education. In my view the drive had changed the thoughts and views of the people and developed their health, education and socio-economy to a certain level.

The education system of the country started to deteriorate in 1962. The scope of public knowledge narrowed alongside the waning role of libraries. On account of the lack of knowledge and rational thinking of the persons leading the country, Myanmar fell down into the list of world's poorest nations. In 2015, the National League for Democracy led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi won the decisive victory in



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects the mobile library of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation in Myaungmya on 2 April 2019. PHOTO: MNA

the elections thanks to the unanimous support of the entire public. It has been four years since the State Counsellor is endeavouring to raise many sectors of the country including education, health and economic fields. Currently, the education sector is being developed through long-term and

short-term projects. We can see continuous efforts in providing youths with the vocational education and broadening their visions through the establishment of the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. In the remote areas even the periodicals were very rare, let alone a library. As those areas are far from books, their residents lack knowledge. Daw Khin Kyi Foundation visits the schools that are far away from towns, with mobile libraries, and hire books that give aesthetic value, education or information, and journals, magazines and cartoons. It is so pleasant to see the joys on the faces of students who are reading books at the library. In my view, schools which have no library should be prioritized in hiring books with the help of mobile libraries. It is true that students and youths will have higher intellectual level if they can read books that give them various branches of knowledge and aesthetic enjoyment.

It is encouraging to see that the country has young volunteers like Ko Zaw Zaw, who set up a library on self-reliant basis, and hires books free of charge. He is the winner of the award conferred on him by the State Counsellor. Although he is weak in school education his degree of philanthropic spirit is high. Ko Zaw Zaw is a person who runs the free library by his own money. He buys books, keeps them and encourages children of the nearby places to read books. He also rides a bicycle in providing



Toungoo students selecting books from a mobile library organized by the Information and Public Relations Department and Shanti Volunteer Association of Japan. PHOTO: MNA

Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2019 to be broadcast live

A ceremony to mark the 32nd International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2019 will be broadcast live from 8.45 a.m. on 26 June on MRTV, MRTV's Facebook Page, MRTV Radio, MITV, and the SKYNET Up to Date Home Channel.—MNA

မြန်မာ့နေ့စဉ်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်သွယ်ရေးနှင့် အခြေခံပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ အဖွဲ့တို့က ပြုလုပ်သည့် ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံအခြေခံဥပဒေနှင့် တာချီလိတ်ခရိုင်အဖွဲ့ဝင်များ၏ တွဲဖက်ပူးပေါင်းဖော်ပြချက်များကို

မလေးစာပေပွဲတော်

စာအုပ်စာပေပြပွဲနှင့် စာအုပ်ဖလှယ်ပွဲ

(တာချီလိတ်မြို့)

၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လ (၂၅-၂၆) ရက် (အင်္ဂါ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး) နေ့၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီအထိ

ပညာပေးဆိုင်၊ မိမိတို့၏အဖွဲ့ဝင်များ၏

အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ မဟာတိုင်းရင်းကွက်၊ တာချီလိတ်မြို့။



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 24th June, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere in Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25th June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin states, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions and Rakhine states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Southern Shan State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough Seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon Tanintayi coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon Tanintayi coasts and about (3-6) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th June, 2019: Likelihood of Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848

Arrival Data for Foreign Visitors Entering Myanmar

| Sr | Subject | May 2018 | May 2019 | Increase | Percentage |
|----|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | Arrival by air | 565103 | 720883 | 155780 | +28% |
| 2 | Arrival by cruise ship | 6833 | 5910 | -923 | -14% |
| 3 | Arrival at border gates and getting into the country | 21235 | 54933 | 33698 | +159% |
| | Visitors with visa | 593171 | 781726 | 188555 | +32% |
| 4 | Visitors entering to the border area | 895799 | 1060589 | 164790 | +18% |
| | Total | 1488970 | 1842315 | 353345 | +24% |

Visitor arrivals by nationality(compare)

| No. | Nationality | 2018(Up to May) | 2019(Up to May) | Difference | percentage |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | <u>North America</u> | <u>35904</u> | <u>36446</u> | <u>542</u> | <u>2%</u> |
| | USA | 30240 | 31030 | 790 | 3% |
| 2 | Canada | 5664 | 5416 | -248 | -4% |
| | <u>Other Americas</u> | <u>5312</u> | <u>4963</u> | <u>-349</u> | <u>-7%</u> |
| | <u>West Europe</u> | <u>86490</u> | <u>84310</u> | <u>-2180</u> | <u>-3%</u> |
| 1 | France | 22377 | 21716 | -661 | -3% |
| 2 | U.K. | 18354 | 16215 | -2139 | -12% |
| 3 | Germany | 13956 | 13744 | -212 | -2% |
| 4 | Italy | 6808 | 8548 | 1740 | 26% |
| 5 | Switzerland | 4653 | 4202 | -451 | -10% |
| 6 | Netherlands | 4302 | 4172 | -130 | -3% |
| 7 | Belgium | 2588 | 2369 | -219 | -8% |
| 8 | Austria | 1601 | 1826 | 225 | 14% |
| 9 | Spain | 3335 | 3779 | 444 | 13% |
| 10 | Others | 8516 | 7739 | -777 | -9% |
| | <u>East Europe</u> | <u>8932</u> | <u>8737</u> | <u>-195</u> | <u>-2%</u> |
| 1 | Russia | 2671 | 2443 | -228 | -9% |
| 2 | Others | 6261 | 6294 | 33 | 1% |
| | <u>Africa</u> | <u>1759</u> | <u>1848</u> | <u>89</u> | <u>5%</u> |
| | <u>Middle East</u> | <u>2306</u> | <u>2575</u> | <u>269</u> | <u>12%</u> |
| | <u>Asia</u> | <u>438416</u> | <u>629772</u> | <u>191356</u> | <u>44%</u> |
| 1 | China | 112158 | 266301 | 154143 | 137% |
| 2 | Thailand | 133181 | 118795 | -14386 | -11% |
| 3 | Korea | 28088 | 52033 | 23945 | 85% |
| 4 | Japan | 42301 | 52481 | 10180 | 24% |
| 5 | Singapore | 23397 | 22659 | -738 | -3% |
| 6 | Viet Nam | 23323 | 21962 | -1361 | -6% |
| 7 | India | 18449 | 16507 | -1942 | -11% |
| 8 | Malaysia | 19740 | 19653 | -87 | 0% |
| 9 | Taiwan | 15567 | 17974 | 2407 | 15% |
| 10 | Hong Kong | 80 | 14371 | 14291 | |
| 11 | Macau | 2 | 1141 | 1139 | |
| 12 | Philippine | 7187 | 7445 | 258 | 4% |
| 13 | Others | 14943 | 18450 | 3507 | 23% |
| | <u>Oceania</u> | <u>14052</u> | <u>13075</u> | <u>-977</u> | <u>-7%</u> |
| 1 | Australia | 12166 | 11370 | -796 | -7% |
| 2 | New Zealand | 1751 | 1638 | -113 | -6% |
| 3 | Others | 135 | 67 | -68 | -50% |
| | Total | 593171 | 781726 | 188555 | 32% |

Public Announcement from Ministry of Electricity and Energy changes to electricity rates

1. THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy held a meeting with representatives of the public and organizations from different areas to discuss and elicit suggestions related to amending the rates of electricity consumption to a more suitable rate. This is aimed to support the long-term development of electric production and distribution through expansion projects, connecting non-electrified regions to the main power grid or an alternative energy source, continuously improving elec-

tric production, and increasing work processes.

2. In accordance with Section 41 of the Electricity Law (2014), the Ministry submitted a proposal to amend electricity rates to the Union Government, who gave their approval during their meeting No. (7/2019) held on 11 April 2019. With permission from the Union Government, the electricity rates across Myanmar will be amended to the following rates, outlined in the table, beginning from 1 July 2019:

| No. | Types of Consumers | Rate for electrical power consumption | |
|-----|--|---------------------------------------|-------|
| | | Unit | Kyats |
| 1 | Domestic Domestic Consumption Power Meter at homes Religious Building | 1 - 30 | 35 |
| | | 31 - 50 | 50 |
| | | 51 - 75 | 70 |
| | | 76 - 100 | 90 |
| | | 101 - 150 | 110 |
| | | 151 - 200 | 120 |
| | Over 201 | 125 | |
| 2. | Non-Domestic consumption Industries Businesses Temporary Lamp posts Governmental buildings State-owned industries State-owned businesses River Water Pumping Stations Municipal departments, works Non-Governmental organizations Embassies International organizations | 1 - 500 | 125 |
| | | 501 - 5000 | 135 |
| | | 5001 - 10000 | 145 |
| | | 10001 - 20000 | 155 |
| | | 20001 - 50000 | 165 |
| | | 50001 - 100000 | 175 |
| | | Over 100001 | 180 |
| | | | |

Retired professor marks 100th birthday, Yangon University centenary with donation

A retired Yangon University professor donated K2 million on 23 June to the university to mark his 100th birthday, which falls in 2020, the same year as the centenary of the university.

U Ba Toke is a retired Mathematics professor of the Yangon Uni-

versity and the Rangoon Institute of Technology, and the retired rector of the Mandalay University of Arts and Science.

Yangon University professors visited his home and accepted his donation.—GNLM



U Ba Toke, retired Mathematics professor of the Yangon University presents K2 million to professors of the Yangon University. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Mexico deploys 15,000 troops to US border to slow migration

MEXICO CITY (Mexico) — Mexico has deployed nearly 15,000 soldiers and National Guardsmen to its border with the United States, the army chief said Monday — admitting they are detaining migrants who try to cross, after the policy triggered backlash.

Under pressure from US President Donald Trump to slow the surge of Central Americans crossing the border, Mexico promised earlier this month to reinforce its southern border with 6,000 National Guardsmen, but had not previously disclosed the extent of the crackdown on its northern border.

“We have a total deployment, between the National Guard and army units, of 14,000, almost 15,000 men in the north of the country,” Defense Minister Luis Cresencio Sandoval said at a press conference alongside President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Asked whether those forces were detaining migrants to prevent them from crossing, Sandoval replied: “Yes.”

“Given that (undocumented) migration is not a crime but rather an administrative violation, we simply detain them and turn them over to the authori-

ties” at the National Migration Institute, he said.

The government has faced criticism over migrant detentions at the northern border since an AFP photographer documented last week how heavily armed National Guardsmen in Ciudad Juarez forcefully stopped two women and a young girl from crossing the Rio Grande river into the United States.

The policy is a shift from previous practice. The Mexican security forces had not typical-

ly detained migrants at the US border in the past.

Fleeing chronic poverty and brutal gang violence in their home countries, the Central Americans crossing Mexico mostly lack migration papers.

However, international law protects the right of undocumented migrants to cross international borders to request asylum. And the US courts have upheld their right to do that anywhere along the border, whether or not it is an official crossing.

Trump wants Mexico to do more to stop a recent increase in migrant arrivals.

Last month, he threatened to impose tariffs on all Mexican goods, extracting a promise from Lopez Obrador’s government to reinforce Mexico’s southern border and expand its policy of taking back migrants while the US processes their asylum claims.

The deal, struck on 7 June, gives Mexico 45 days to show results.—AFP ■



Mexican National Guardsmen detain Central American migrants trying to cross the Rio Bravo, in Ciudad Juarez on 21 June, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

Australian media sue police after raids over leaked documents

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australia’s national broadcaster went to court Monday to challenge a police raid on its offices and demand the return of files seized during the controversial operation.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) demanded an injunction to prevent police from accessing the seized files, which concern a two-year-old investigative report on war crimes by Australian special forces in Afghanistan.

ABC managing director David Anderson said the suit also challenged the constitutionality of the search warrant used by police to conduct the raid “on the basis that it hinders our implied freedom of political communication.”

Agents of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) raided the ABC headquarters in Sydney on June 5 as part of investigations into the leak of the so-called “Afghan files” by a government whistleblower.



Police raided the ABC headquarters in Sydney on June 5 as part of investigations into the leak of the so-called ‘Afghan files’ by a government whistleblower. PHOTO: AFP

The warrant they used allowed the police to “add, copy, delete or alter” material found on the ABC’s computers related to the Afghan story.

That operation came a day after the AFP raided the home of a Canberra journalist and seized files and computer equipment over a year-old article on secret government plans to allow Australia’s main foreign intelligence agency to spy on Australians at home.

News Corp, the Rupert Murdoch-owned media giant which employed the Canberra reporter,

said Monday that it was also preparing a legal challenge to the AFP search of her home.

The twin raids sparked widespread protests by the news media and civil libertarians here and abroad who accused Australia’s conservative government of undermining freedom of the press.

Critics were particularly concerned over the AFP’s refusal to rule out handing down criminal charges against journalists who publish reports based on leaked classified information.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison, whose government has implemented a series of controversial law-and-order measures in recent months, insisted there was no political involvement in the police investigations of the ABC and News Corp.

But he has insisted on the need to crack down on the leak of classified information.

Monday’s legal challenge coincided with the launch of a joint campaign by the ABC,

News Corp. and the country’s other main commercial news company, Nine Entertainment, to demand the government pass laws to protect journalists and press freedom.

Unlike most Western democracies, Australia does not have a bill of rights or a constitutionally enshrined protection for freedom of speech.

It also has among the world’s strictest defamation laws, while courts routinely issue gag orders preventing the reporting of details of many legal proceedings.

“Australia has a creeping culture of secrecy,” lamented Michael Miller, head of News Corp Australia, in an editorial published Monday.

While acknowledging that journalists are not “above the law” and that threats to national security exist, Miller added, “we do not believe that the laws aimed at terrorists should sweep journalists up in their net.” — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two army Eurofighter jets collide in northern Germany

BERLIN (Germany) — Two German fighter jets crashed Monday in the north of the country after colliding, an airforce spokesman said, with the reason for the collision unclear.

“Both pilots were able to activate their ejection seats”, the spokesman from the airforce’s Squadron 73 said.

One of the two pilots was found alive shortly after the crash which happened at two pm (1200 GMT), national news agency DPA reported, adding that a search was underway for the second airman.— AFP ■

Talent agency suspends 11 comedians for “underground business”

TOKYO — A major Japanese talent agency suspended on Monday 11 of its comedians for conducting “underground business” and attending a party hosted by a purported organized crime group without consulting with the company.

Yoshimoto Kogyo Co. said it has determined that the comedians, including Hiroyuki Miyasako, 49, and Ryo Tamura, 47, accepted money for their attendance.— Kyodo News ■

6 street children killed in wall collapse in Uganda’s capital: police

KAMPALA — Six street children were killed and two others seriously injured as a result of a school perimeter wall collapse on Monday here, a police spokesperson said.

Patrick Onyango, Kampala Metropolitan police spokesperson, told Xinhua that the perimeter wall of Lohana High School collapsed following heavy rains and buried the street children who were sleeping at about 1:30 a.m. local time (2230 GMT Sunday).

“Our fire brigade and rescue team is still on the ground to clear the debris and see whether there are still kids trapped,” he added.— Xinhua ■

Turkey opposition deals blow to Erdogan in Istanbul win

ISTANBUL (Turkey) — Turkey's opposition revelled Monday in a landslide win in Istanbul's re-run mayoral vote — a blow for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that even some pro-government media called a victory for democracy.

Ekrem Imamoglu, a little-known district mayor at the start of the year, won the election by more than 777,000 votes, up from just 13,000 in the first election in March, which was annulled over controversial claims of fraud.

It was a rare chance to celebrate for the opposition after 25 years of rule by Islamic conservatives in Istanbul.

And it was a rare blow to Erdogan, who has held national power since 2003.

In the traditionally left-wing neighbourhood of Besiktas, thousands partied late into night, clogging the streets, waving beers and Turkish flags.

"It wasn't right to repeat this election, but the fact that it was won with such a gap is even better for Istanbul," said 45-year-old Servan Soydan as he walked his dog on Monday.

There was less jubilation in the media, which has been almost entirely put under the thumb of the government in recent years.

"Istanbul has voted," read the subdued headline of the *Yeni Safak* newspaper.

The fiercely pro-government *Sabah* also downplayed Imamoglu's success but sought a slightly more positive spin,

saying: "Democracy Wins".

Victim status

Many analysts say the decision to call a re-run of the election was a massive miscalculation by the ruling party, turning Imamoglu into a victim and a household name.

"The Turkish nation has always defended and supported victims. I believe it is because they couldn't explain why there was a cancellation that they lost this way, with this big punishment," said Istanbulite Naziye Durmus on Monday.

Imamoglu's "massive victory is a lesson in democracy: people want their rights respected," tweeted the former EU ambassador to Turkey Marc Pierini, now with the Carnegie



Crowds celebrated late into the night after Ekrem Imamoglu's win in the re-run mayoral vote. **PHOTO: AFP**

Europe think tank.

Imamoglu took 54 per cent of the vote against the ruling party's candidate Binali Yildirim, a former prime minister.

At a huge rally in his stronghold in western Istanbul late Sunday, Imamoglu said: "It was not a single group or party, but the whole of Istanbul and Turkey that won this election."—AFP ■

Iran plays down threat of new US sanctions

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iran on Monday played down the threat of new US sanctions as Washington was expected to tighten punitive measures on Tehran in a stand-off sparked by the US withdrawal from a nuclear deal.

Tensions have flared after Iranian forces shot down a US drone Thursday, the latest in a series of incidents including attacks on tankers in sensitive Gulf waters that have raised fears of an unintended slide towards conflict.

Both the US and Iran have repeatedly said they want to avoid going to war, but the spiralling tensions saw US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo travel Monday to meet with Saudi leaders to build a "global coalition" against the Islamic republic.

Tehran says the drone violated Iranian airspace and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has backed the claim with maps and coordinates — allegations dismissed by Washington.

US President Donald Trump claimed he called off a planned retaliatory military strike on Iran at the last minute, tweeting that Washington would instead place "major additional sanctions on Iran on Monday".

"Are there really any sanctions left that the United States has not imposed on our country recently or in the past 40 years?" Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said at a Monday press conference in Tehran.

"We really do not know what (the new sanctions) are and what

they want to target anymore, and also do not consider them to have any impact," he added.

Last year, Trump unilaterally pulled the US out of a landmark 2015 deal meant to curb Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

The US has since imposed a robust slate of punitive sanctions on Tehran designed to choke off Iranian oil sales and cripple its economy — which he now plans to expand. Trump, who has waged a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran, has also said the US is prepared to negotiate with the Islamic republic with "no preconditions".

"America's claim of readiness for unconditional negotiation is not acceptable with the continuation of threats and sanctions," Hesamodin Ashna, an advisor to Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, said Monday on Twitter.

"We consider war and sanctions to be two sides of the same

coin," he added.

'Global coalition'

Pompeo met Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the Red Sea city of Jeddah and was later due to hold talks in the United Arab Emirates, US officials said.

Saudi and Emirati leaders both advocate a tough US approach against common foe Iran.

Pompeo described Saudi Arabia and the UAE as "two great allies in the challenge that Iran presents".

"We'll be talking with them about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned and how we can build out a global coalition," Pompeo said.

He said the US sought a coalition "not only throughout the Gulf states but in Asia and in Europe that understands this challenge and that is prepared to push back against the world's largest state sponsor of terror".—AFP ■



Mike Pompeo. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK's Hunt urges leadership rival Johnson not to be 'coward'

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Jeremy Hunt, the underdog in a bitter battle with Boris Johnson to become Britain's next prime minister, on Monday called on his rival not to be "a coward" trying to "avoid scrutiny" — over both a domestic row and his policy agenda.

Foreign minister Hunt urged Johnson, who has become embroiled in a scandal over a dispute with his girlfriend that led to a police visit last week, to "man up" and show he can cope with questioning.

Johnson, the overwhelming favourite to replace Theresa May as Conservative Party leader, and therefore prime minister, has refused to discuss the early Friday incident.

He has also kept an unusually low profile during the weeks-old race, skipping a candidates' TV debate and doing barely any media interviews.

"I am not interested in debating Boris's private life," Hunt said in an article in *The Times*, arguing he instead wants to quiz Johnson on his Brexit plans and other ideas.

"A new prime minister needs the legitimacy of having made his arguments publicly and having them subjected to scrutiny.

"Only then can you walk through the front door of No 10 with your head held high instead of slinking through the back door, which is what Boris appears to want."

Urging Johnson to attend a TV debate proposed for Tuesday evening, Hunt added: "Don't be a coward Boris, man up and show the nation you can cope with the intense scrutiny the most difficult job in the country will involve."

Sky News said Monday that Johnson had so far declined its invitation to take part in the head-to-head debate, and that without him it would not go ahead.

"But we will reissue our invitation for Mr Hunt and Mr Johnson to debate live on Sky News next Monday, 1 July," the broadcaster added in a statement.

Johnson, 55, a former London mayor and foreign secretary, was involved in a loud altercation early Friday at the home of his 31-year-old girlfriend Carrie Symonds.

Neighbours called police after hearing screams, shouts and bangs at the south London property, shortly after Johnson had secured his place in the final run-off to become prime minister.

The couple, who were spoken to by officers but face no further action, have reportedly fled the home following the incident and a handful of anti-Johnson protesters gathering there Sunday. When asked about it at a Conservative grassroots event Saturday, Johnson said: "I don't think people want to hear about that kind of thing."—AFP ■

China 'won't allow' G20 discussion of Hong Kong

BEIJING (China) — China said Monday it will not allow discussion of Hong Kong at the G20 summit this week even as US President Donald Trump plans to raise the city's mass protests during his meeting with President Xi Jinping.

The semi-autonomous city has been shaken by huge demonstrations this month with protesters demanding the withdrawal of a bill that would allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

Trump has weighed in on Hong Kong's worst political unrest since its handover from Britain to China in 1997, saying he understood the reason for



Hong Kong has been shaken by huge demonstrations against an unpopular proposed law that would allow extradition to the Chinese mainland. PHOTO: AFP

the protests and hoped demonstrators can "work it out with China".

US Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo later said Trump would discuss Hong Kong with Xi at the Group of 20 summit, which is tak-

ing place in Osaka, Japan, on Friday and Saturday.

But Chinese assistant foreign minister Zhang Jun

said the G20 is a forum to focus on global economic issues.

Xi and Trump have agreed to hold bilateral talks focusing on the US-China trade war during the summit.

"I can tell you with certainty that the G20 will not discuss the Hong Kong issue and we will not allow the G20 to discuss the Hong Kong issue," Zhang said at a press briefing previewing Xi's attendance at the summit.

"Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs and no foreign country has the right to intervene," he said, noting that the city is a special administrative

region of China.

New rally for G20

The international finance hub has been rocked by its worst political unrest in nearly 50 years.

Millions have marched this month to oppose the hugely unpopular extradition law, which has since been postponed in the face of the huge public backlash. Police also fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators earlier in the month. The demonstrations have since morphed into a wider movement against city leader Carrie Lam and Beijing after years of sliding political freedoms.—AFP ■

Top Sri Lanka defence official faces charges over Easter attacks

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) — Sri Lanka's most senior defence official on Monday became the latest government figure to face possible criminal charges over "major lapses" linked to the Easter Sunday bombings that killed 258 people.

Hemasiri Fernando, who was defence secretary before the April 21 bombing of three churches and three hotels, should be investigated for his failure to prevent or minimise the attacks, Attorney General Dappula de Livera said.

The attorney general said in a letter to Sri

Lanka's acting police chief that a presidential commission of inquiry had found "major lapses" by Fernando, who has since resigned from his top job.

While Fernando is the most senior defence official to face action, President Maithripala Sirisena also suspended police chief Pujith Jayasundara after he refused to step down over the handling of the attacks.

Jayasundara and Fernando have testified before a parliamentary inquiry and accused Sirisena of failing to follow established protocols in

assessing threats to national security.

Last week, the attorney general ordered investigations against nine police officers for failing to act on warnings ahead of the bombings, carried out by Islamic State-backed local jihadists.

All nine were senior officers in the districts where the attacks were carried out and have now been transferred from their posts pending disciplinary action and criminal investigations.

Authorities have admitted that warnings sent by India of an impending

attack by a local group, the National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ), were ignored.

Some 45 foreign nationals were among the dead and 500 people were injured in the attacks. The tourist hotspot has been under a state of emergency since.

Sri Lanka's State Intelligence Service (SIS) has also been criticised for failing to act on the Indian warnings, but no-one from the state spy service has been put under investigation.

Sirisena, who is also defence minister and law and order minister, has also faced allegations that he could have prevented the attacks.



The president has objected to a parliamentary investigation into the attacks and ordered police not to co-operate.

The hearings have gone ahead, however, and police have testified before legislators.

Indian intelligence shared information about the targets — gleaned from a jihadist in Indian custody — as early as April 4, more than two-and-a-half weeks before the attacks.—AFP ■



Security personnel inspect the interior of St Sebastian's Church in Negombo, a day after the church was hit in series of bomb blasts targeting churches and luxury hotels in Sri Lanka. PHOTO: AFP

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Air India invites bids from interested parties to be appointed as Passenger General Sales Agent in Myanmar.

Tender document with complete details is available on the Air India website www.airindia.in

The completed sealed bids (in English) along with all supporting documents should reach the address specified in the tender document by **08th July 2019**.

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE

Reference No. ESIA DOB1-MOC

Invitation for Tenders

The Government of Myanmar (GoM) has received a grant aid from the People's Republic of China to build a new 2-lane bridge on Thanlwin River in Kunlon Township of Shan State. In conformity to the Procurement Guidelines of Myanmar Government, Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction would like to invite proposals from the interested and competent ESIA consulting firms for developing ESIA for the construction of the proposed bridge in conformity to the Myanmar ESIA Procedure (2015).

The Department of Bridge (DOB) now invites sealed bids from eligible national ESIA consulting firms for the following works for the implementation work of the proposed new bridge in Kunlon. Interested qualified eligible contractors are invited to obtain an electronic copy of the complete set of bidding documents in English for free-of-charge. Further information or clarification for this may be obtained from Research and Development Section, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction.

Notice that electronic bidding will not be considered and late bidders will be rejected.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Available Date | : 26 th June 2019 (Office Time) |
| Closing Date and Time | : 18 th July 2019 at 12:00 PM (Myanmar Time) |
| Contact Phone No | : 067-407465, 09-421154246, 09-456663906 |
| Email | : bridgeresearchdepartment@gmail.com |
| Address | : Research and Development Section, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction, Office No.(11), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar |

Yemeni rebel attack on Saudi airport kills one, wounds 21: coalition

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) — A Yemeni rebel attack on a civilian airport in southern Saudi Arabia killed a Syrian national and wounded 21 other civilians Sunday, a Riyadh-led coalition said, in a new escalation following a series of strikes on the site.

The attack on Abha airport, which the coalition said left a McDonalds outlet at the site littered with shattered glass and damaged 18 vehicles, comes amid spiralling regional tensions with Iran.

The escalation of attacks by Iran-aligned Huthi rebels on Saudi cities threatens a hard-won UN-sponsored ceasefire deal for the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, war-ravaged Yemen's main conduit for humanitarian aid.

"A terrorist attack by the Iran-backed Huthi militia on Abha airport... killed a Syrian resident and wounded 21 civilians," the coalition said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press

Agency.

The wounded — from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, India and Bangladesh — also included three women and two children who had been taken to hospital for treatment, the coalition said.

It did not provide details on how the airport was attacked, but Iran-aligned Huthi rebels have repeatedly struck the civilian facility this month with drones and missiles.

Earlier on Sunday, the rebels' Al-Masirah TV said they had targeted Abha and Jizan airports in the south of the kingdom with drones.

The coalition did not confirm the attack on Jizan airport.

Abha airport authorities said on Twitter that air traffic had resumed and operations were running normally, without saying how long they were disrupted.

On 12 June, a rebel missile attack on Abha airport wounded 26 civilians, drawing promises of

"stern action" from the coalition.

Human Rights Watch denounced the strike as an apparent "war crime", urging the Huthis to immediately stop all attacks on civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia.

The latest raids come amid spiralling regional tensions after Washington — a key ally of Riyadh — accused Iran of shooting down a US drone and carrying out attacks on oil tankers in the strategic Gulf of Oman.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Britain and the US, in a joint statement published on Saudi state media on Sunday, voiced alarm over escalating regional tensions and the "dangers posed by Iranian destabilising activity".

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly accused Iran of supplying sophisticated weapons to Huthi rebels, a charge Tehran denies.

Following recent attacks, Saudi state media have report-



Abha airport lies just 110 kilometres (70 miles) from the Yemeni border. **PHOTO: AFP**

ed an intensification of coalition air raids on rebel positions in the northern Yemeni province of Hajjah and the Huthi-held capital Sanaa.

The coalition intervened in support of the Yemeni government in 2015 when President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi fled into Saudi exile as the rebels closed in on his last remaining territory in and around second city Aden.

Since then, the conflict has killed tens of thousands of

people, many of them civilians, relief agencies say. It has triggered what the UN describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than 24 million Yemenis — more than two-thirds of the population — in need of aid.

On Thursday the Saudi campaign in Yemen suffered a double blow as US lawmakers voted to block Trump's arms sales to Riyadh, just hours after Britain temporarily suspended similar sales.—AFP ■

Ethiopia mourns after army chief, top officials killed

ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia) — The death toll from two attacks believed linked to an attempted coup in Ethiopia's northern Amhara state rose to five on Monday, as flags flew at half-mast on what was declared a national day of mourning.

Police were hunting for Amhara's security chief Asaminew Tsigie, accused of masterminding an attack on the leaders of the state and suspected of playing a part in the killing of the country's army chief in Addis Ababa.

The attorney general of Amhara state, Migbaru Kebede, died of gunshot injuries from the attack on Monday, state broadcaster EBC reported, making him the fifth victim of the violence.

The unrest has delivered another major challenge for Ethiopia's young Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has embarked on a series of reforms in a bid to open up the authoritarian state which have unleashed ethnic tensions and bitter political rivalries.

The attacks, whose exact motives remain unclear, began on Saturday afternoon when gunmen attacked a meeting of top officials in Amhara, the second-largest of Ethiopia's nine autonomous states.

Amhara president Ambachew Mekonnen, who was an ally of Abiy's, as well as his advis-



Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took to national television dressed in military fatigues and described the situation in Amhara as an attempted coup. **PHOTO: AFP**

er were killed, while Migbaru succumbed to his wounds on Monday after what Abiy described as an "attempted coup" in the region.

A few hours later in an up-market suburb of the capital Addis Ababa army chief Seare Mekonnen, who was co-ordinating the response to the unrest in Amhara, was shot dead by his bodyguard. A visiting general was also killed.

Abiy's office said the killing of Seare "seems like a co-ordinated attack", however there have been no further official details and observers point out that there were no telltale signs of a concerted national coup.

A statement from his office

announced that the bodyguard and other perpetrators had been arrested, while a police source on Sunday told AFP that Asaminew was still on the run.

Asaminew was only last year released from almost a decade in prison over a 2009 coup plot under an amnesty.

Analysts describe him as a hardline Amhara nationalist who was likely facing removal from his job over efforts to form a militia and rhetoric pushing for territory in neighbouring Tigray to be reclaimed.

He recently appeared in a Facebook video calling for civilians to arm themselves in preparation for attack.—AFP ■

Two survivors, three bodies pulled from collapsed Cambodia building

SIHANOUKVILLE (Cambodia) — Two men were pulled alive from the rubble of a collapsed Cambodian building on Monday, more than two days after a construction site accident that left at least 28 dead.

Hopes that more survivors would be found under the debris had all but faded, but against the odds two people were cut free from the tangled wreckage and carried out by rescuers.

The seven-storey Chinese-owned building folded in on itself before dawn on Saturday as scores of workers slept within the under-construction building in Sihanoukville.

A grim-faced Cambodian premier Hun Sen visited the scene of the collapse in Sihanoukville before daybreak on Monday. He watched the rescue of the two survivors, climbing into their ambulances to see them before they were taken to hospital.

The prime minister has ordered inspections of all building sites in the beach town, which

is undergoing a Chinese-bank-rolled development boom. Condos and hotels are springing up to cash in on the surge in Chinese visitors to its dozens of casinos.

The governor of Preah Sihanouk province, meanwhile, resigned on Monday.

Yun Min accepted he had made a managerial "mistake", according to a post on Hun Sen's Facebook page.

Three Chinese nationals and a Cambodian landowner have been held for questioning over the building collapse.

Residents near the disaster scene said they had long feared tragedy was imminent.

"These buildings are coming up in just a year," said Sock Dara, 45. "We have been concerned for a long time about the quality of these Chinese buildings."

Authorities on Monday put the death toll at 25 shortly before an AFP reporter witnessed rescuers pulling out three more bodies from the debris, bringing the total to 28.—AFP ■

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With plastic straw ban, Washington turns its back on its own invention

WASHINGTON (United States) — “How do you drink a milkshake without a straw?”

It is a question the city of Washington will soon face after deciding, in the interest of the environment, to ban plastic drinking straws — an almost sacrilegious act in the birthplace of this simple object, a seemingly indispensable part of daily American life.

In the last century, millions of straws were produced in the Stone Straw Building, a stolid-looking structure of yellowing brick in a residential neighborhood. The building now houses the capital's transit police headquarters.

The only visible sign of its historic character comes from

a discreet commemorative plaque affixed to a wall above a garbage bin that honors the memory of Marvin C. Stone, “Inventor of the Paper Straw.”

According to legend, Stone, who settled in Washington after being wounded while fighting for the Union side in the Civil War, had the inspiration one evening while sipping on his favorite cocktail, a mint julep.

At that time, people sometimes used actual straws — dried lengths of ryegrass — for drinking, but Stone was put off by the inescapable rye-flavored residue they imparted.

So he adapted a machine already in use for making pa-

per cigarette holders, instead wrapping spirals of paper around a pencil-like cylinder, attaching the ends with wax and then removing the cylinder.

He filed for a patent in 1888 — the objective, he said in his application, was to create a “cheap, durable and unobjectionable substitute for natural straws commonly used for the administration of medicines, beverages, &c.” — and the rest is history. But almost a century and a half later, his ungrateful adoptive home became the second large US city, after Seattle, to ban the plastic descendants of Stone's popular invention.—AFP ■



Plastic straws wrapped in paper are seen at a food hall in Washington on 20 June, 2019, days before a ban on such straws is to take effect. PHOTO: AFP

Critically endangered Aussie bird could be saved with new vaccine

SYDNEY — Australia's orange-bellied parrot could be saved from the brink of extinction with a new vaccine set to be submitted to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for approval.

Found in the far southwest corner of Tasmania, it is estimated there are only 15 of the colorful Aussie birds left in the wild, with a further 400 more bred in captivity.

A major contributor to their critically endangered status over the past decades has been the devastating effects of Psittacine Circoviral Disease (PCD), more commonly referred to as beak and feather disease. That is why scientists at Charles Sturt University have spent the last 10 years trying to come up with a

vaccine. “These birds breed in nest hollows and that then allows the nest batch of nestling birds to be infected,” veterinary pathologist working on the project Professor Shane Raidal told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Monday. “It's very common in the wild, very recognizable and

it's a pretty devastating infection when the bird gets it.”

“When the birds lose their feathers they succumb to all sorts of other infections.” But after identifying a key protein, scientists are now confident they can eliminate the disease entirely.—Xinhua ■



Australia's orange-bellied parrot. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Palestinians reject US-Bahrain peace plan as Israel advises ‘surrender’

MANAMA (Bahrain) — The Palestinians on Monday vowed to reject a US-led peace initiative to be presented in Bahrain that dangles the prospect of \$50 billion as an Israeli envoy bluntly told them they should “surrender”.

Finance chiefs from the United States, oil-rich Arab states and international development institutions were flying to the tiny kingdom, which in a rarity is openly welcoming Israelis, who have forged an indirect alliance with Gulf rulers due to mutual hostility with Iran.

Led by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner, the Peace to Prosperity economic workshop that begins Tuesday evening is billed as the start of a new approach that will later include political solutions to the long intractable Middle East conflict.

It proposes raising more than \$50 billion in fresh investment for the Palestinians and their Arab neighbours with major projects to boost infrastructure, education, tourism and cross-border trade.

The Palestinian Authority is boycotting the workshop, denouncing the plan for saying nothing about ending the Israeli occupation.

“This economic workshop in Bahrain is really going to be nonsense,” Palestinian prime minister Mohammad Shtayyeh told a cabinet meeting.

“What Israel and the United States are trying to do now is simply to normalise relations with the Arabs at the expense of the Palestinians,” he added.

President Mahmud Abbas has said the Palestinians “will not be slaves or servants” of Kushner or other Trump aides.—AFP ■

Cyprus racers show budget solar cars have a sunny future

NICOSIA (Cyprus) — Venetia Chrysostomide fastened her helmet and rolled her solar-powered car into the sunny streets of Cypriot capital Nicosia for a race to showcase such vehicles' eco-friendly potential, even on a budget.

The 16-year-old's 5,000-euro (nearly \$5,700) car is one of that took part in Sunday's three-hour “Cyprus Institute Solar Car Challenge”, running solely on the Mediterranean island's most plentiful resource: sunshine.

Many of the drivers were highschool students, including Chrysostomide, a maths and physics enthusiast from the nearby village of Dali.

“I am the only girl that will drive here in the race and I am very proud,” she said. “With solar cars we take energy from the sun, so we can use this to reduce fuel consumption and air pollution.” Her car was made up of parts from two mountain bikes, a metal frame and four solar panels, connected to batteries. Tassos Falas, a teacher at her school, spent weeks working in his garage with colleague Anthoulis Hadjitali and mechanic Simos-

Markitanis to put together the car, capable of hitting 80 kilometres (50 miles) per hour.

Race organiser Aristides Bonanos, from the Cyprus Institute research centre, said participants had spent an average of just 8,000 euros on their vehicles. That is in contrast to the hundreds of thousands spent on vehicles in the world's biggest solar races — Australia's gruelling 3,000 kilometre (1,800 mile) World Solar Challenge.

“When we first started the race we had the idea that there should be something where everyone can participate, so we limited the cost of our vehicles to 20,000 euros,” Bonanos said.

The goal is “to make the broader public more aware (that building a solar car is) something that is fairly easy and fairly cheap to do.” That is an ambitious goal in a country with one of the highest rates of vehicle ownership in Europe, according to Eurostat: 595 cars per 1,000 residents. In 2016, out of 28,000 new passenger cars registered on the island, just 22 were run on alternative energy sources.—AFP ■

Mandalay holds Olympic Day Run 2019

TO mark the World Olympic Day 2019, the Mandalay Olympic Day Run 2019 was held in Mandalay on Sunday.

Over 1,300 people participated in the event, which was flagged off in front of the Mandalay City Hall. The event included competitions in men's and women's 15-km and 8-km free classes and novice classes.

In the men's 15-km free class competition, Win Naing Tun won the first prize, San Naing the second prize, and Zarni Tun the third prize. In the women's 15-km free class competition, Nga Mal secured the first prize, Aye Aye Myo came second, and Aye Aye Myint third.

In the men's 8-km novice class event, Zaw Htet got the first prize, Khin Maung Than the second prize, and Aung Myint Myat the third prize. In the women's 8-km novice class event, Taung Du came first, Khaing Thazin finished second, and Yadana Moe third.



Win Naing Tun (L), winner of men's 15-km free class competition, receives K 500,000 cash prize presented by an official.
PHOTO: PHY THURA KYAW

The winners of the 15-km free class competitions were awarded K500,000 each, those who placed second received K300,000 each, and those who finished third got K100,000 each.

The winners of the 8-km novice class competitions were awarded K300,000 each, the second placed winners got K250,000 each, and the third placed winners K100,000 each.

Consolation prizes

ranging from K50,000 to K10,000 were also presented to runners who finished fourth to tenth.

The Mandalay Olympic Day Run 2019 was jointly organized by the Mandalay Region government, the Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department, and the Myanmar Track and Field Federation. — Phy Thura Kyaw

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Contract signing ceremony for MFF Warrix Futsal Open Cup 2019 held

AN official contract signing ceremony and press conference for the MFF Warrix Futsal Open Cup 2019 (Mandalay) was held yesterday at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation in Yangon.

Present at the meeting were MFF's Chief Executive Officer U Phone Zaw Naing, Joint Secretary U Tin Myint Aung, Executive U Moe San Aung, Futsal President U Kyi Min Thien, Mandalay Futsal Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Liwn Lay, Warrix Myanmar Managing Director Dr. Ye Mon Htut, General Manager

U Hla Tun Kyaw, and officials.

Speaking at the event, MFF CEO U Phone Zaw Naing said that the title sponsor of the event is Warrix Myanmar, which is also the jersey sponsor of the football federation.

"Most of the Futsal competitions have been held at the National Indoor Stadium (1) in Yangon. This is the first time the Futsal Cup is being held in Mandalay. Mandalay has many players and teams that are interested in Futsal," he said.

"I'm grateful to the title sponsor Warrix Myanmar and co-sponsor organizations.

If there are sponsors, many competitions can be held. If many competitions are held, new generation Futsal players can be groomed to take part in Asia-level and ASEAN-level competitions," he added.

Warrix Myanmar Managing Director Dr. Ye Mon Htut said Mandalay has several Futsal players and playgrounds.

"Warrix Myanmar has organized the MFF Warrix Futsal Open Cup 2019 (Mandalay) in cooperation with the Futsal Committee with the aim to take the brand to upper Myanmar, and to support the Myanmar national futsal team which needs new generation players," he said.

Afterwards, officials from the Myanmar Football Federation and Warrix Myanmar exchanged gifts and signed the title sponsor contract.

The event concluded after commemorative group photos were taken. The MFF Warrix Futsal Open Cup 2019 (Mandalay) will be held from 29 June to 21 July at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. — Kyaw Khin



Official contract signing ceremony and press conference for MFF Warrix Futsal Open Cup 2019 (Mandalay) is in progress. PHOTO: MFF

MPT MNL (U-21) 2019: MFF Youth beat Yangon United 6-1

THE Week 15 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League (U-21) 2019 took place at different venues yesterday in Yangon.

In the match between MFF Youth and Yangon United F.C., which was held in the South Dagon Field, MFF Youth beat Yangon United with a score of 6-1. The goals for MFF Youth were scored by That Hein Soe (2nd minute), Khun Kyaw Zin

Hein (4th minute), Aung Ko Oo (11th and 88th minutes), and Nyi Nyi (66th and 83rd minutes). The lone goal for Yangon United was scored by Nay Ye Han at 32 minutes.

Meanwhile, Magwe F.C. beat Hantharwady United F.C. by 2-0 yesterday at the Padonmar Stadium, while Zwegapin United F.C. beat Dagon F.C. with a 3-1 score at the Salin Stadium. — Kyaw Khin



Jamaica's Elaine Thompson showed off her superb top end speed in the 200m final as she bested training partner Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce for the second time this weekend. PHOTO: AFP

Thompson wins 200 to complete sprint double at Jamaican championships

KINGSTON (Jamaica)—Elaine Thompson won the 200m in a world leading 22.00sec Sunday to complete a sprint double at the Jamaican Athletics Championships as she continues her return from an injury marred 2018.

Shericka Jackson also shone on the final day of the championships, the qualifying meet for the IAAF World Championships starting in Doha on 27 September.

Jackson won the 400m in the year's second-best time.

Thompson showed off her superb top end speed in the 200m final as she bested training partner Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce for the second time this weekend.

Thompson had edged Fraser-Pryce for 100m gold after both were credited with the same time — a world-leading 10.73sec.

On Sunday Fraser-Pryce got the better start and led off the curve but Thompson caught her and eased away to win as Fraser-Pryce took second in 22.22 with Schillonie Calvert-Powell third in 22.92. Yohan Blake, the 100m champion, was caught and passed on the line in the 200m final by Rasheed Dwyer who won in 20.23 seconds. Blake was second in 20.27 and Andre Ewers was third in 20.48.

Commonwealth Games champion Ronald Levy won the men's 110m hurdles in 13.23 seconds (1.5m/s) getting to the line just before Orlando Bennett, who ran a life time best 13.27 seconds with 2014 Commonwealth champion Andrew Riley third in 13.33.

Jackson ran a personal best 49.78sec to win the women's 400m, beating her previous best of 49.83 set in the 2016 Olympic final. — AFP ■