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Monday, 13 January 2020

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing drives stakes for religious building in Yangon



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing driving the stake for the construction of five-storeyed building, Ananda Sukha Dhammacakka Dhamma Beikman, in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

THE stake-driving ceremony for a five-storeyed building, Ananda Sukha Dhammacakka Dhamma Beikman, was held yesterday in the compound of the Dhammacakka Paripatti Yeiktha on Kabar Aye

Pagoda Road in Yankin Township, Yangon.

The ceremony was attended by members of Sangha, led by Shwe Thu Wun Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Ratthaguru Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha

Saddhamma Jotikataja Bhaddanta Theikdiya, and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The congregation, led by Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing, received the Five Precepts from Shwe Thu Wun Sayadaw, and listened to the Prittis recited by members of the Sangha.

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Ministry offers opportunities for livestock farming to business personnel

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has invited the Myanmar Livestock Federation to participate in projects being carried out by the ministry, which offer opportunities to private breeders.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu held a meeting with business personnel from the federation yesterday in Yangon, and provided details about the ministry's training programmes for offering veterinary services to youths in rural areas and projects with international organizations in investment and technology in livestock sector, in an effort to boost food production through manageable farming.

The delegation from the Myanmar Livestock Federation, led by Chairman Dr Mya Han, met with the Union Minister to also discuss the chicken and fish breeding sectors, foreign investment in the livestock breeding sector, import of feedstuff and the export of honey.

The federation is currently working with the ministry and international organizations to produce food meeting international standards, to reduce costs, to expand projects, and to acquire basic requirements for the sector, including technology.

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MARCH symposium held in University of Medicine (2)

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe delivered a speech at the Myanmar-Australia Research Collaboration for Health (MARCH) Symposium at the University of Medicine (2) in Yangon yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Union Minister said the University of Medicine (2) signed an MoU with Kirby Institute of the University of New South Wales in 2017 and the cooperation on research started from that has benefited the university, the ministry and the nation as well. He said his ministry noticeably increased financial support for research activities to K6 billion since April 2016.

He said his ministry has formed a board for reviewing research ethics and skillfulness in the departments and universities under it, in addition to establishing a Myanmar health research registry and research information system. He called for more directly beneficial research using ministry funds in line with the symposium's motto of 'Improving the Health Outcome'.

The symposium discussed upon MARCH's accomplish-

ments, communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, diseases that weakened the immune system and hepatitis B, antimicrobial resistance and other topics, said the Union Minister.

He said new generation of medical professionals should be encouraged to increase their research capabilities. He urged universities to support this by organizing research writing, debates and discussions either as events or competitions.

Next, Australian Ambassador Ms Andrea Faulkner and Prof Anthony Kelleher of Kirby Institute delivered separate speeches and the rector of University of Medicine (2), Prof Dr Aye Tun, said the greetings. The Union Minister and officials then observed the research papers and cooperation photo display.

From there, the Union Minister visited University of Public Health (Yangon) and met with the 4 PhD graduates and 36 Master degree graduates in Public Health, 14 Master of Hospital Management graduates, and 22 Master of Protection and Tropical Medicine graduates who finished their studies in December



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at Myanmar-Australia Research Collaboration for Health Symposium at the University of Medicine (2) in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

last year.

This was followed by Permanent Secretary Prof Dr Thet Khine Win, Director-General (Union Minister's Office) Dr Thar Tun Kyaw, Director-General (Health and Human Resource Department) Dr Tin Tin Lay, Director-General (Food

and Drug Administration) Prof Dr Khin Zaw, Director-General (Public Health and Treatment Department) Dr Soe Oo, Deputy Director-General (National Health Laboratory Department) Prof Dr Htay Htay Tin, and Deputy Director-General (Procurement and Distribution) Dr Win

Naung praised the graduates and explained the processes of their respective department. The graduates then offered suggestions for improving the courses of study.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Man dies from bullet wound in Kyaukme, Shan State

A man identified as U Thein Lin Tun (a) Maung Wyne, 22, was fatally shot by four armed and unidentified men on motorcycles in Kyaukme Township, Shan State, yesterday morning.

U Thein Lin Tun was a helper on a 12-wheeled truck transporting 20 oxen from Kyaukme to Hsipaw driven by a man named U Win Myint Htay and two other people on board. They were attacked by four men armed with small firearms, riding two each on a motorcycle, around 5:45 a.m. between mileposts

117/3-4 on the Union Highway near Chaungkyauk Village, Kyaukme Township.

The truck veered off the road and collided into a tree, U Thein Lin Tun was the only who died from four bullets to his head and neck while the remaining three people were unharmed.

The Kyaukme Police Station has opened a case under (Pa)6/2020, Section 302/114 of the Penal Code and are investigating into the matter.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Former MoFA staff hold annual gathering



Former Staff from Ministry of Foreign Affairs hold annual gathering in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE annual gathering of former Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff was held at Rainbow Restaurant in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, yesterday evening.

Firstly, the Patron of the former staff group U Ohn Kyaw delivered the opening address and interim chairperson U Nyunt Swe and member U Nyan Win spoke welcoming remarks.

U Nyunt Swe said not only the people who actually worked with MoFA but also their spouses, children and family should be members of this group whether they are in the country or abroad because the group symbolizes kinship.

The group was founded on 15 September 2009 to preserve the history of MoFA and to build

familiarity between former and current staff. It has eight executive members and 69 members with the executive members to be reelected on 17 March. Bogyoke Aung San formed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ten months before Myanmar achieved sovereignty and independence on 17 March 1947.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing drives stakes for religious building in Yangon

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Afterwards, the Senior General made offertories to the Shwe Thu Wun Sayadaw, and handed over K50 million donated by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air), and cash donations contributed by the family of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to Upatta Maha Siri Sudhamma Mani Jotitahara U Sein Hla Win from Dhammacakka Paripatti Yeiktha, who, in turn, presented the Senior General a certificate of honor.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, senior officers, and well-wishers also made offertories to members of the Sangha.

The congregation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing listened to the sermon delivered by Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ginika Bhivamsa, and shared merits they gained.

Members of the Sangha, led by Shwe Thu Wun Sayadaw, and the congregation proceeded to the plot for the stake-driving ceremony. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials took their designated place and drove the stake on the auspicious time.

After the stake-driving ceremony, the Senior General offered soon (a day meal) to the members of the Sangha, according to information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



The congregation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pay homage to the members of Sangha at the state driving ceremony at Kabar Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu addresses the meeting with business personnel from Myanmar Livestock Federation. PHOTO: MNA

Ministry offers opportunities for livestock farming to business personnel

FROM PAGE-1

Meanwhile, the ministry's Livestock and Veterinary Department is upgrading its laboratories in Yangon and Mandalay to meet international standards. It will also sign the veterinary service program

with the GACC of China.

Additionally, the department provided veterinary services to over 580,000 drought cattle in 2019, earning more than US\$ 550 million for the country's budget.

For development of livestock breeding sector and food

safety in the country, Veterinary and Livestock Breeding Development Bill drafted by the ministry has been approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw, and it is being debated at Amyotha Hluttaw. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

At first student festival, Union Minister stresses cooperation

WITH the aim of bringing together students from public, private, monastic, and international schools in Myanmar, the Student Festival Myanmar 2020 was held yesterday at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University.

The first-ever student festival in Myanmar has been considered a significant milestone for the education sector in the country.

"The Ministry of Education focuses on non-discrimination and on being all-inclusive. We have adopted the policy of 'No one left behind, Education for All,'" said Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi at the event.

Cooperation is very important to train students to be good citizens, and the development of individual attitude is also needed, he added.

At the ceremony, which was held with the motto 'We All Are Students', Dr. Myo Thein

Gyi called for unity, friendship, and cooperation among students, especially in learning activities, which have been divided into five zones.

He also stressed the importance of project-based learning being included in the school curriculum.

The minister then expressed thanks to U Nay Oke, chairman of the Myanmar Private Schools Association, and officials from international schools and the Ministry of Education for organizing the festival.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin and Private Schools Association chairman U Nay Oke delivered speeches.

Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, U Nay Oke, and officials opened the ceremony by cut-



Student Festival Myanmar 2020 being held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

ting the ceremonial ribbons, and saw the entertainment program and explored the education booths inside the Diamond Jubilee Hall.

The festival aimed to bring together all students from public, private, monastic, and international schools, make them join on activities, ex-

change knowledge, and learn from each other, and encourage cooperation among them. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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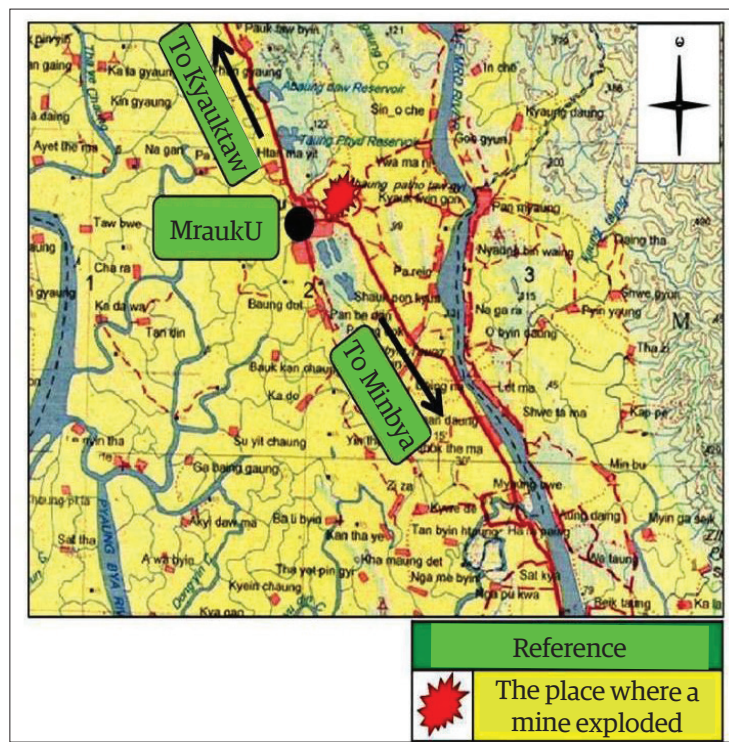


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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

MraukU police cars damaged by AA group's explosives



TWO police vehicles were damaged by remote-controlled explosive mines by the AA group in MraukU on 11 January, but no casualties were incurred.

The vehicles were carrying families of MraukU police officers back from the local mar-

ket when the explosives were set off at 9:45 a.m. near Takya Mahn Aung Pagoda. Myanmar Police Force reports that while the vehicles were damaged no person was hurt. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Remains of WW-II era Japanese soldiers unearthed in Nganzun, Mandalay

THE remains of Japanese soldiers from the World War II era were discovered on 10 January at Kanthar Village in Nganzun Township of Mandalay Region.

A three-person team from Japan, including Mr. Atsunari Tokunaga, a researcher, and one interpreter, dug the site where the remains, which included arms and bones, were buried.

Some bones, five grenades, one gun attached with a bayonet, nine magazines with five bullets each, six magazines with four bullets each, 12 bullets, and one army helmet were also unearthed at the site.

The arms and ammunition were transferred to a local police station, according to police.—GNLM
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Remains of Japanese soldiers from the World War II era discovered in Nganzun. PHOTO: MPF

Mandalay Chamber of Commerce officials meet with Israeli ambassador

OFFICIALS from the Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry met with Israeli ambassador H.E. Mr. Ronen Gilor yesterday at the regional chamber office on the fourth floor of the Yadanabon Super Center.

During the meeting, the

Israeli ambassador explained the objectives behind capacity enhancement trainings and vocational courses related to agriculture, healthcare, and education. Then, Mandalay chamber president U Okka Kyaw presented a commemorative gift to

the ambassador.

Later, Mr. Alon Melchior, manager of the Ramat Negev International Training Center for Advanced Agriculture, provided details on technical and educational courses and answered questions raised by

attendees.

Israel has invested in Myanmar's agriculture sector. It is also planning on investing in livestock and dairy products businesses. — Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Illegal drugs confiscated in four townships



Suspect named Aung Naing (a) Aung Naing Oo seen with seized drugs. PHOTO: MPF

ANTI-narcotics police seized illegal drugs in four townships on Saturday, according to Myanmar Police Force.

A combined anti-narcotics squad comprised of police from Bhamo Myoma Police Station confiscated 9,750 stimulant tablets, 0.2g of heroin and a mobile phone from Myint Kyaw who was driving a motorcycle near the Sinkan Bridge, Naungkho Ward in Bhamo Township on 11 January.

On the same day, Police from Mohnyin Myoma Police Station stopped and searched the two motorcycles driven by Hla Min Naing and Zone Baw on Mawham-Mohnyin road near Nantpoke Village in Mohnyin Township, and seized 2,090 stimulants from them.

Similarly, a combined

anti-narcotics squad that includes police from Lakesaw police outpost in Bamauk Township confiscated K 946 million worth 0.06kg of heroin and 188,000 stimulant tablets from Aung Naing (a) Aung Naing Oo whom they searched beside the Nan Kazar forest lane at Shwe Kyaung Village, Shwe Kyaung Village-tract in Bamauk Township.

Police from Hopong also arrested Sai Laung who was driving a Crown car on Hopong-Loilem road near Honang Village in Hopong Township, together with 20,000 stimulant tablets and a mobile phone.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNLM
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Sea trade accounts for over 85% of rice exports in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S maritime trade accounted for more than 85 per cent of rice exports and generated an estimated income of US\$221.8 million as of 27 December in the current financial year, as per data from the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has registered a drop, and currently, it accounts for just 14.7 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the border gates have generated an estimated \$34.6 million in the current financial year.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 27 December in the 2019-2020 fiscal year has been estimated at over 894,880 metric tons, worth \$256.45 million, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar has shipped rice to 53 foreign markets in the current financial year.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Madagascar and Malaysia. Cameroon is the fourth-largest buyer and Mozambique the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for over 12.4 per cent of rice exports, while 39.25 per cent of rice grown in Myanmar goes to African countries.

In the current fiscal, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Indonesia, followed by Senegal, Belgium, Guinea, and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 45 foreign markets.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the border gates. However, trade in agricultural products has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade.

At present, rice is being exported to China through a gov-



Workers loading the truck with sacks of rice at Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

ernment-to-government (G2G) agreement and a barter system, in exchange for Chinese goods.

"With border demand decreasing, the price of rice is likely to remain on the low side," according to the Bayintnaung

commodity depot.

The price of Myanmar low-quality rice declined by about K2,500 per bag in December, 2019 compared to 2018, according to domestic market statistics.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 mil-

lion tons of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was an all-time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million metric tons, worth \$691 million, in the 2018-2019FY.—GNLM (Translated by EMM)

CMP businesses import raw materials worth \$608.9 mln



Workers sew garment at a factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP businesses have been valued at US\$608.9 million for the three months since October in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, an increase of \$49.49 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the exports of finished industrial goods touched a high of \$2.6 billion between 1 October and 3 January in the current fiscal, an increase of \$588.6 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2018-2019 financial year, according to the

ministry. Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the cutting, making, and packaging (CMP) basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY, as per figures provided during the Myanmar Global In-

vestment Forum 2018, held on 12 September. In the first month of the current financial year, exports of clothes produced under the CMP system topped \$320 million.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union. The Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar employ more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labor countries like Myanmar.—GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Hteekhee trade shows a steep decline of \$81.7 mln in Oct-Dec

TRADE between Thailand and Myanmar via the Hteekhee border gate between 1 October and 3 January in the current financial year plunged to US\$472.4 million from \$554.18 million in the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the past three months, exports through the Hteekhee gate stood at \$468 million, while imports fell short of \$4 million.

Exports of natural gas from Taninthayi Region had contributed to an enormous increase in exports through the Hteekhee gate in the 2018-2019FY, said an official from the ministry.

Normally, the Myawady gate sees the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. The rise in exports through the Hteekhee gate last year boosted the value

of the Myanmar-Thailand border trade to more than double the amount registered in the previous years.

Of the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, the Hteekhee and Myeik gates have witnessed a decrease in trade in the current financial year, while the remaining gates have reported an increase in trade.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, 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 neighboring country.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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US to expel a dozen Saudi trainees after base attack probe: media



Police tape cordons off an area after a shooting at the Pensacola Naval Air Station in December 2019 / © FBI/AFF/File

WASHINGTON — The United States will expel at least a dozen Saudi military students accused of extremist links and child pornography, after an investigation

into a shooting rampage by a Saudi officer in Florida, media reported Saturday.

In December, Mohammed Alshamrani, who was in the Unit-

ed States as part of a Saudi military training program, opened fire in a classroom at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, killing three sailors and wounding eight

other people before being shot dead by police.

While the dozen or more trainees are not accused of aiding Alshamrani, some were found to have connections to extremist movements or be in possession of child pornography, CNN reported.

The probe, which was carried out by the FBI, also found that several had not reported the assailant's disturbing behavior before the attack, according to The Washington Post.

In mid-December the Pentagon said it had conducted background checks on all Saudi military personnel currently training in the United States and found no "immediate threat scenario."

Defense Department officials halted operational training for Saudi Arabian military stu-

dents in the United States following the attack, though classroom instruction continued.

The 21-year-old gunman, a lieutenant in the Saudi Royal Air Force, was armed with a lawfully purchased Glock 9mm handgun, and is reported to have posted a manifesto on Twitter before the shooting denouncing America as "a nation of evil."

According to the Washington Post, the FBI asked Apple to help access Alshamrani's two iPhones, but the company is resisting governmental requests to alter encryption.

Apple said it had already helped the agency by sharing related data in its cloud storage.

Some 5,000 international military personnel are undergoing training in the United States, including approximately 850 Saudis among all branches.—AFP ■

Ainu minority to file suit for fishing rights in northern Japan

SAPPORO — A group of Ainu, an ethnic minority in northern Japan, is set to file a lawsuit against the state to confirm indigenous rights to fishing salmon in rivers, which currently requires permission from authorities, sources close to the matter said Sunday.

Japan enforced a law in May stipulating for the first time that the Ainu are an indigenous people in Hokkaido. But the law fell short of guaranteeing their self-determination and other tribal rights, with the government citing that they have no tribes.

The group of 13 plaintiffs, aged between 20s and 70s and members of a cultural preservation body in the town of Urahoro, plans to file what will be the first such lawsuit by the Ainu against the central and Hokkaido governments with the Sapporo District Court as early as April, the sources said.

They will claim they are a tribe taking over from their ancestors the right to fish for salmon in the lower reaches of the Tokachi River, said the sources.

The Ainu struggled to maintain their language and culture

due to the assimilation policy of the Japanese government beginning in the Meiji period (1868-1912). They were pressed to do farming instead of hunting and fishing, practices that had been integral to their culture.

The new law, designated to protect and promote the culture of the Ainu, simplified procedures for them to obtain permission from authorities to conduct traditional salmon fishing in rivers and collect timber and other items in national forests for rituals.

But some Ainu have criticized the legislation, saying it



Ainu people celebrate after legislation aimed at protecting and promoting their culture is enacted following its passage through the House of Councillors in Tokyo on April 19, 2019. The law stipulates for the first time the Ainu, an ethnic minority in northern Japan, are an "indigenous" people. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

does not refer to the recovery of fishing rights and will not do

enough to reverse historical discrimination.—Kyodo News ■

Haiti to commemorate deadly quake in anger and bitterness

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haiti on Sunday will remember the thousands who died in the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010, as grief mixes with anger and bitterness over failed reconstruction efforts and continuing political instability.

Over 35 agonizingly long seconds, a magnitude-7 quake transformed capital city Port-au-Prince and the nearby cities of Gressier, Leogane and Jacmel into dusty ruins, killing more than 200,000 and injuring some 300,000 others.

More than a million and a half Haitians were left homeless, leaving island authorities and the

international humanitarian community with a colossal challenge in a country lacking either a land registry or building rules.

"It's a lost decade, totally lost," Haitian economist Kesner Pharel told AFP. "The capital has not been rebuilt, but our poor governance is not the exclusive responsibility of the local authorities; at the international level we have not seen a mechanism for managing aid that would allow the country to benefit."

The billions of dollars promised by international donors in the weeks after the catastrophe seem to have vanished with little to show for them, fueling the

bitterness of survivors who live today exposed to the same dangers as existed before the quake.

'Back to Square One'

Ten years later, we see an even greater concentration of people in the metropolitan area," Pharel said. "If we were to have a quake of the same magnitude, the results would be the same, for there was no follow-up on most of the rebuilt homes.

"The country was never rebuilt, and we're back to Square One."

The quake destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes, as well as administrative buildings

and schools, not to mention 60 percent of Haiti's health-care system. A decade later, the rebuilding of the country's main

hospital remains incomplete, and non-governmental organizations struggle to make up for the state's many deficiencies.—AFP ■



A man carries water on a wheelchair on a street in the Haitian city of Croix des Bouquets; 10 years after the devastating quake of 2010, life is little improved for many Haitians / © AFP/File

Flights halted, evacuations as Philippine volcano spews ash

MANILA — Philippine authorities warned Sunday a volcano near the capital Manila could erupt imminently, hours after it sent a massive column of ash skyward that grounded flights and coated towns across the region in fine dust.

Thousands of people living near Taal volcano, a popular tourist attraction set in the centre of a picturesque lake, were evacuated from their homes as it spewed ash, rumbled with earthquakes and lightning exploded above its crest.

A “hazardous explosive eruption is possible within hours to days”, the nation’s seismological agency warned, adding that the ash could pose a risk to aircraft.

Aviation officials ordered a suspension of flights in to and out of the capital’s Ninoy Aquino International Airport, after the ash cloud was reported to have reached 50,000 feet (15,000 metres).

Government seismologists

recorded magma moving towards the crater of Taal, one of the country’s most active volcanoes located 65 kilometres (40 miles) south of Manila.

Taal’s last eruption was in 1977, he added.

A kilometre-high column of ash was visible and several volcanic tremors were felt within the vicinity of the volcano, which is popular among tourists for its scenic view.

The local disaster office said it had evacuated over 2,000 residents living on the volcanic island, which lies inside a bigger lake formed by previous volcanic activity.

Solidum said officials will also order the evacuation of people living on another island nearby if the situation worsens.

“Ash has already reached Manila... it is dangerous to people if they inhale it,” he told AFP.

Earthquakes and volcanic activity are not uncommon in the Philippines due to its position on the Pacific “Ring of



Government seismologists recorded magma moving towards the crater of Taal, one of the Philippines’ most active volcanoes. **PHOTO: AFP**

Fire”, where tectonic plates collide deep below the Earth’s surface.

In January 2018, Mount Mayon displaced tens of thousands of people after spewing

millions of tonnes of ash, rocks, and lava in the central Bicol region.—AFP ■

At least 11 dead as storms sweep through US south



The National Weather Service has issued flood and tornado warnings for several states. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON — Severe storms sweeping the southern US killed at least 11 people, authorities said, as tornadoes and high winds upturned cars, destroyed homes and left tens of thousands without power.

The storms hit parts of the south on Friday and were expected to move east and north on Sunday, according to the National Weather Service, which issued flood and tornado warnings for several states.

Among the dead were a policeman and firefighter who were hit by a vehicle in Texas after being called out to respond to traffic accidents in icy condi-

tions, local authorities said.

In Louisiana the bodies of a couple were found on Saturday near their destroyed mobile home after it was hit by storms the night before, said Bill Davis of the county sheriff’s office.

“It’s totally rolled over. It looked like a couple hundred feet into the back yard. Debris is all over. It’s just a sad situation,” said Davis, according to local television channel KTBS 3.

The National Weather Service said three people were confirmed dead on Saturday in Alabama, where local channel WHNT News 19 showed buildings reduced to rubble.—AFP ■

Fishing practices can majorly affect coral reef health, states recent study

WASHINGTON — Fishing selective larger sea species, especially parrotfishes, can affect the coral health, states a recent study. This fishing practice can hamper the easily disruptive balance between algae and corals in Caribbean coral reefs.

The decrease in the number of parrotfish and similar fish species from the sea can result in over-growth of algae, thus overtaking and affecting the coral health. The paper comprising the research by scientists at Penn State and the University of California, Santa Barbara appears online in the journal *Ecological Monographs*.

“Coral reefs are incredibly beautiful and intrinsically valuable, but they also protect thousands of miles of coastline and provide habitat for astonishing biodiversity that is the major source of protein for nearly a billion people worldwide,” said Andrew A. Shantz, Eberly Research Postdoctoral Fellow at Penn State and the first author of the paper, adding, “Understanding how fishing impacts coral ecosystems will help us

to protect this invaluable resource.”

The researchers used survey data on parrotfish populations from 282 sites across the Caribbean and compared these sites to protected reefs in the Florida Keys to assess how parrotfish populations are impacted by fishing. Surprisingly, the biomass—the total mass of parrotfish in a region—was not impacted by fishing.

Instead, the distribution of fish sizes changed. Fishing selectively removes large parrotfish, but the biomass is maintained because many more small parrotfish are able to occupy the region.

“Because biomass remained basically the same in regions where there is heavy fishing, we were interested to see if different sized fish played different ecological roles,” said Shantz.—ANI ■



Part of the annual coral spawn at Sunlover Marine Base, Moore Reef on the Great Barrier Reef. **PHOTO: AFP/SUNLOVER MOORE REEF MARINE BASE/PABLO COGOLLOS**

The potential of youth

THE term 'youth' is used to describe people in the 15 to 35 age group. This age range is when a person's mental and physical development is in play, when new ideas and thoughts take shape, when new skills are learned easily, and when innovation and the will to change or revolutionize the world are at their peak. It is after the age of 35 that people begin to mature and mellow.

People pursue academic or vocational education during their youth and work hard for their future. While there are young people who find success by pursuing their passion, there are also those who lose their way without a purpose.

Myanmar has a sizable potential workforce and if their talents and efforts are harnessed properly, it could potentially catapult national development to a high level within two decades. But, investments made in the education and healthcare of the youths now will only bear fruit in the slightly distant future.

The 2014 Housing and Population Census showed that people from ages 15 to 34 constituted 51.4 per cent of the nation's population. It further found that 9.20 per cent of the citizens were in the 15-19 age group, 8.61 per cent in the 20-24 age group, 8.25 per cent in the 25-29 age group, and 7.75 per cent in the 30-34 age group.

Myanmar has a sizable potential workforce and if their talents and efforts are harnessed properly, it could potentially catapult national development to a high level within two decades. But, investments made in the education and healthcare of the youths now will only bear fruit in the slightly distant future. We would have seen the results now if similar investments had been made in the past.

Nevertheless, it is a positive sign to see the nation beginning to give full support to its young generation with steps such as the enactment of the Youth Affairs policy in November, 2007. If more youth centers are established in the future, they can facilitate healthy social growth and empowerment of our future leaders.

To end human-elephant conflict, protect forests

By Nat Ye Hla

WITH their habitats disappearing due to the depleting natural forest cover, wild elephants have begun frequenting villages and damaging crops in some areas. In the incidents, the wild elephants entered villages, looking for food. In some incidents, some villagers were killed by wild elephants.

There are around 2,000 wild elephants in Myanmar, and human-elephant conflict is becoming a major issue.

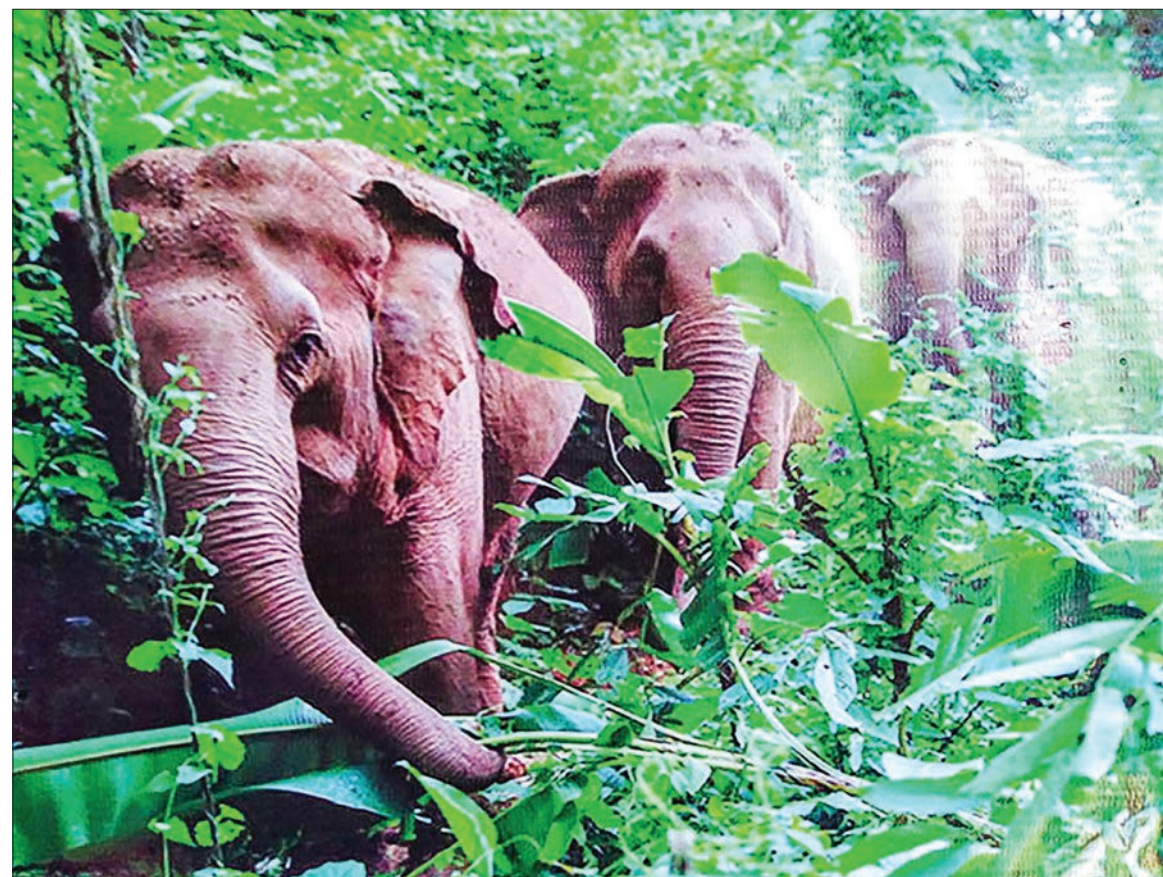
Such conflicts are especially common in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, and Rakhine State, and Taninthayi Region.

According to a 2001 survey, there are 100 wild elephants in Taninthayi Region. They usually inhabit the Mawthaung, Kawthoung, and Bokepyin townships.

In last year's accident in Bokepyin, three villagers were killed by the wild elephants.

Earlier, the township, which is located in the Kawthoung District of Taninthayi Region, was covered in forests, providing a good habitat for wild animals. But the forest cover made the area difficult to access. Now, the authorities have upgraded the road to provide better transportation. People have also extended the premises of their homes.

Additionally, the authorities have granted permits for timber extraction. The residents are also engaging in oil palm plantations on a manageable scale, thereby resulting in deforestation and



A herd of wild elephants raid villages in search of food in Bokpyin Township. PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

loss of habitats of wild animals.

As consequences, a group of around three to five wild elephants usually frequents the villages in search of food. People were getting worried about the attacks from them.

The situation has warned that we need to conserve the elephants as well as the forest. Wild elephants have lost their habitats as people have felled trees in large numbers.

We want the related departments and organizations to work with us to find suitable protection from the danger of

wild elephants.

Some key points for causing the human-elephant conflicts
Reduced forest area

During the past few centuries forest area was reduced due to cultivations, depriving elephants their natural habitats. The lands consist of mountainous and valleys or rolling lands with highlands and low valleys. Over the centuries, topsoil from mountains and highlands got washed off due to rain and sediments were deposited in valleys. These fertile valleys sup-

port lush vegetation and provide most food to elephants.

During the development schemes, the lands below the irrigation canals were allocated to settlers, and mountains and highlands with poor soils were earmarked as animal sanctuaries. But none looked into the ability of the high lands to supply animal needs.

Village encroachment

During colonisation, landless families were settled in development schemes. After decades, with children grown up and raising families of their own, original lands are insufficient. They encroach into low fertile valleys depriving elephants of their food supply. While villagers encroach into forests, authorities under political pressure turn a blind eye. When elephants enter their traditional lands, villagers complain and demand electric fences to keep elephants at bay. Even the elephant corridors are not safe from encroachment.

The rape of the forests

Along with the reduction of forest area, the quality of forests that produced food for the elephants and other animals reduced

to wild elephant conservation in Myanmar

The number of elephants killed has increased dramatically since 2010, with 133 wild elephant deaths recorded over the last seven years, including 25 in 2016 alone.

We also need additional support for the protection of elephants in the wild. This conservation plan for elephants is a great step forward, and we now have a solid foundation to address this vital issue in Myanmar.

To mitigate the conflict between humans and elephants in rural areas, we need to find solutions based on the information and data collected in conflict areas.

Revitalizing the elephant emergency response units which can control wild elephants in conflict areas is an urgent need.

Taking stock of the two situations, we would like to urge the related departments and organizations to work with villagers to find suitable protective measures against wild elephants, while also saving wild elephants from poachers.

We need to protect elephants as well as forests. Now, wild elephants have lost their habitats as people have felled trees in large numbers.

Today, raising awareness about the nature and behavior of elephants and the threats they face is a must, and measures need to be taken as quickly as possible to provide protection to humans and elephants.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 12th January, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 13th January, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Naypyitaw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th January, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13th January, 2020: Fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

Access to Justice

- The Chairperson and members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission selected the site of the Rakhine State branch office as well as the temporary office. New staff members were recruited and provided with training. Then, the Rakhine State branch office of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was set up in Sittwe in Rakhine State on 27 March 2019.
- The Office of the Rakhine State Legal Aid Service was set up at the Office of the Rakhine State Government in Sittwe on 26 April 2019 and began operating.
- A Legal Aid Workshop was conducted by the Rakhine State Legal Aid Service at Sittwe Hotel on 24 August 2019.
- The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission received 34 complaints on human rights violations between January and April 2019. Action was taken in response to 12 of them in accordance with the Human Rights Commission Law. 22 complaints were recorded. For human rights violations, pamphlets that say "You can complaint" are posted on the notice boards of General Administration Department Offices.
- The Advocate General Office of Rakhine State is taking the initiative to set up a Rule of Law Centre in Sittwe Township.

Cultural Development



Presentation to Korean Expert Team for Cultural Mapping of Mrauk-U Region



Final Coordination Meeting of National and International Experts for Nomination of Mrauk-U

To have the Mrauk-U Cultural Heritage Area listed as a world heritage site, 12 coordination meetings were held.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Team

- The GIS team conducted surveys and information collection to produce maps, organized field work into land use and land cover (LULC) in the Mrauk-U Cultural Heritage Zone.

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Engineers invent light-powered nano-particle to help reduce carbon footprint

WASHINGTON — The carbon footprint in the chemical industry is likely to reduce as engineers from Rice University have invented a light-powered nano-particle to help the cause.

They are tiny spheres of copper dotted with single atoms of ruthenium, is the prime ingredient in composing a green process for developing synthesis gas, commonly known as syngas, the valuable chemical feedstock generally used to make fertilizer, fuels, and many other products. Researchers from Rice, UCLA and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), describe the low-energy, low-temperature syngas production process this week in *Nature Energy*.

“Syngas can be made in many ways, but one of those, methane dry reforming, is increasingly important because the



The carbon footprint in the chemical industry is likely to reduce. Shell petroleum refinery on Bukom Island off Singapore on February 19, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

chemical inputs are methane and carbon dioxide, two potent and problematic greenhouse gases,” said Rice chemist and engineer

Naomi Halas, a co-corresponding author on the paper.

Syngas is a mix of carbon monoxide and hydrogen gas that

can be made from coal, biomass, natural gas and other sources. It’s produced at hundreds of gasification plants worldwide and is

used to make fuels and chemicals worth more than \$46 billion per year, according to a 2017 analysis by BCC Research.

Catalysts, materials that spur reactions between other chemicals, are critical for gasification. Gasification plants typically use steam and catalysts to break apart hydrocarbons. The hydrogen atoms pair up to form hydrogen gas, and the carbon atoms combine with oxygen in the form of carbon monoxide. In dry reforming, the oxygen atoms come from carbon dioxide rather than steam. But dry reforming hasn’t been attractive to industry because it typically requires even higher temperatures and more energy than steam-based methods, said study first author Linan Zhou, a postdoctoral researcher at Rice’s Laboratory for Nanophotonics (LANP). — ANI ■

Brain diseases influence speaking ability, study shows

WASHINGTON — Patients with language impairment due to Dementia have shown signs of reading and speech inefficiency, according to recent research. The study surveyed people whose mother tongue is either English or Italian.

Researchers from the UC San Francisco Memory and Aging Center and Neuroimaging Research Unit and Neurology Unit at the San Raffaele Scientific Institute in Milan collaborated to conduct the language study. Earlier neurologists had already believed that language abilities are directly influenced by various brain diseases. But recent discoveries have begun to question that assumption.

For instance, Italian speakers with dyslexia tend to have less severe reading

impairment than English or French speakers due to Italian’s simpler and more phonetic spelling.

“Clinical criteria for diagnosing disorders that affect behaviour and language are still mainly based on studies of English speakers and Western cultures, said study senior author Maria Luisa Gorno-Tempini, MD, PhD.

“This could lead to misdiagnosis if people who speak different languages or come from another cultural background express symptoms differently,” continued Maria, also a professor of neurology and psychiatry and the Charles Schwab Distinguished Professor in Dyslexia and Neurodevelopment at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center. — ANI ■

Scientists discover 10 new bird taxa

SINGAPORE — A research team has found five new species of birds and five more subspecies in Wallacea, in what can be considered a big leap in terms of finding new bird species in the past 20 years.

Since 1999, only five or six new bird species have been discovered by scientists in a year. But this time, a joint team from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and National University of Singapore (NUS) managed to make a path-breaking discovery as they came up with 10 new bird taxa. The team, led by Associate Professor Frank Rheindt from the Department of Biological Sciences at NUS Faculty of Science, found the birds in three small island groups off Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The islands are situated



This file photo shows a living Wallace’s giant bee (*Megachile pluto*) (R), which is approximately four times larger than a European honeybee, after it was rediscovered in the Indonesian islands of the North Moluccas. **PHOTO: AFP**

in Indonesia’s Wallacea region, an archipelago at the interface between the Oriental and Australian biogeographical realms,

named after Sir Alfred Wallace, who was the most famous historical collector exploring the area. — ANI ■

Scientists use optical solitons to know more about natural occurrence of molecular systems

WASHINGTON — Scientists have come together to understand in depth about the natural occurrence of molecular systems. They have used the advanced optical solitons in lasers for accurate results to their study.

Professor Curtis Menyuk, from at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) who delves into computer science and electrical engineering

has collaborated with a team directed by Philip Russell at the Max-Planck Institute for the Science of Light (MPI) in Erlangen, Germany, for the study. Optical solitons are packets of light that are bound together and move at a constant speed without changing shape. This work, published in *Nature Communications*, was initiated while Menyuk was a Humboldt Senior Research Fellow in the Russell

Division at MPI.

Solitons are ubiquitous in nature, and a tsunami wave is an example of a naturally-occurring soliton. Optical solitons in lasers have numerous applications and are used to measure frequencies with unprecedented accuracy.

In particular, they have been used to measure time, enhance GPS technology, and detect distant planets. — ANI ■



Patients with language impairment due to Dementia have shown signs of reading and speech inefficiency. **PHOTO: AFP**

Key points in the US-China 'phase one' deal

WASHINGTON — After nearly two years of bare-knuckle battling, US President Donald Trump is set to sign a “phase one” trade deal with China on Wednesday.

Below are major elements of the deal announced December 13.

Areas covered

US and Chinese officials said the agreement includes protections for intellectual property, food and farm goods, financial services and foreign exchange, and a provision for dispute resolution.

“Importantly, the agreement establishes a strong dispute resolution system that ensures prompt and effective implementation and enforcement,” US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said.

US officials have long said enforcement was crucial to ensuring that China holds up its end of the bargain, an area of nagging skepticism.

Boost for US agriculture

China had been the second largest market for US agricultur-

al exports, but fell to fifth place since the start of hostilities.

Washington said Beijing has pledged to buy an additional \$200 billion American goods over two years, compared to 2017 purchases.

This apparently would include agricultural products worth \$40 to \$50 billion, but it is unclear if that is a total, if it is over two years or annually.

Chinese authorities have yet to confirm these amounts.

Trump himself raised questions Friday over whether American farmers and ranchers can produce that amount, which would be about twice as high as the peak of China’s purchases in 2012.

In 2017, prior to the start of hostilities, American farmers sold \$19.5 billion in products to China. Those exports tumbled by more than \$9 billion in 2018 as the trade war began and Beijing retaliated against US tariffs with punitive duties.

Han Jun, vice minister of agriculture in Beijing, said the partial agreement also would boost China’s farm exports to the United States, including cooked



China's Vice Premier Liu with US President Donald Trump in 2019 is expected at the White House again for the signing of a “phase one” trade deal between the two economic powers. PHOTO: AFP

poultry, pears and dates.

“Some of these problems have been talked about for more than 10 years, and this time there has been a substantive breakthrough,” he said.

Tariffs on hold

As part of the deal, Trump

canceled 15 percent tariffs that had been due to hit Sunday on \$160 billion in Chinese goods, especially electronics like cell phones and computers, which would have been particularly painful to US consumers.

And in a major concession, the US will slash in half the 15

percent tariffs on another \$120 billion imposed September 1, on consumer goods like clothing.

While Chinese officials said the US agreed to roll back the other tariffs in stages, for now Washington will keep in place the 25 per cent duties on \$250 billion in imports. — AFP ■

Coca-Cola eyes closer ties with China riding great growth potential

NEW YORK — US-based multinational non-alcoholic beverage giant The Coca-Cola Company looks forward to forging closer ties with China which is expected to become the biggest market of the company, according to head of Coca-Cola’s operations in Chinese, Korean and Mongolian regions.

Coca-Cola cares China and intends to stay for a long, long time in China, said Curt Ferguson, president of Coca-Cola China, Korea and Mongolia, recently at the 15th Anniversary and Lunar New Year Gala of China General Chamber of Commerce-USA (CGCC).

Coca-Cola’s Chinese business could be ten times larger and Coca-Cola would focus on China, said Ferguson. Efforts would be made to grow Chinese market size into Coca-Cola’s largest one in the world, according to Ferguson.

Coca-Cola’s sales volume in China has been the company’s third largest in the world since 2008, according to The Coca-Cola Company. After the beverage



Curt Ferguson, president of Coca-Cola China, Korea and Mongolia, delivers remarks during the 15th Anniversary and Lunar New Year Gala of China General Chamber of Commerce-USA (CGCC), in New York, the United States, on Jan. 8, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

manufacturer returned to the Chinese market in 1979, Coca-Cola now has its largest research and development center in Shanghai and operates 45 plants across China, employing 47,000 workers.

Last year, Coca-Cola’s Chinese business saw double-digit growth for the third year in a row and ranked as the number one contributor of growth in the company, according to Ferguson. Coca-Cola is looking at tra-

ditional Chinese medicine, dairy and more business opportunities. “We’re finally gonna figure out how to sell tea to the Chinese,” Ferguson told Xinhua on the sidelines of the gala.

Coca-Cola is launching new products based on pure natural tea and also expanding to coffee business by acquiring the world’s second largest coffee chain Costa Limited, according to Ferguson. — Xinhua ■

Jack Ma, Grab eye opportunities in Singapore digital bank battle

SINGAPORE — Singapore is opening up its banking industry to digital lenders in a reform that could shake up the sector across Southeast Asia, with Chinese billionaire Jack Ma and ride-hailer Grab among those seeking licences.

Traditional banks are being challenged by a new generation of online-only competitors that can offer better savings and borrowing rates, as they don’t need to spend money on overheads such as physical branches.

The introduction of digital lenders into the Singaporean market heralds the biggest liberalisation of the financial hub’s

banking sector for two decades, and follows similar moves in the United States, Britain, Japan and Hong Kong, among others.

With most adults in the city already having access to financial services, firms awarded licences are likely to use the city-state as a gateway to the wider region, where many consumers still lack bank accounts. “It’s a total reconfiguration of the terrain — we’re talking about radical changes,” Lawrence Loh, a professor at the National University of Singapore Business School, told AFP.

“Singapore is the launchpad for Southeast Asia.” — AFP ■



Traditional banks are being challenged by a new generation of online-only competitors. PHOTO: AFP

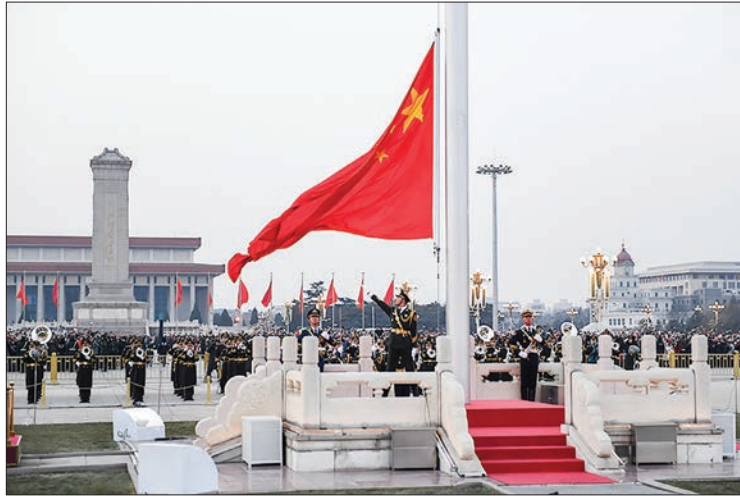
China urges int'l community to continue adhering to one-China principle

BEIJING — The foreign ministry on Sunday urged the international community to continue abiding by the one-China principle after the Taiwan leadership election.

“We hope and believe that the international community will continue adhering to the one-China principle, understand and support the just cause of Chinese people to oppose the secessionist activities for ‘Taiwan independence’ and realize national reunification,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said when responding to queries about Taiwan-related diplomatic situation in the future.

Tsai Ing-wen, candidate of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), and her running mate Lai Ching-te won Taiwan’s leadership election Saturday, according to the island’s election commission.

Geng said the spokesperson for the Taiwan Work Office of the Communist Party



A national flag raising ceremony is held at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, Jan 1, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

of China Central Committee and the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council had already released a statement on the result.

The Taiwan question is China’s internal affairs, said Geng.

No matter what happens in Taiwan, the fact that there is only one China in the world and Taiwan is part of China will not

change, said the spokesperson.

The Chinese government will not change its stance that it sticks to the one-China principle and opposes “Taiwan independence,” “two Chinas,” and “one China, one Taiwan,” he said, adding that the universal consensus of the international community adhering to the one-China principle will not change either. — Xinhua ■

Indian police battle anti-Modi protesters over disputed law

KOLKATA — Indian police baton-charged protesters Sunday to stop them reaching Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s car as nationwide protests against a bitterly disputed citizenship law entered a second month.

Tens of thousands staged protests through the night in the eastern city of Kolkata to denounce Modi’s weekend visit to the capital of West Bengal state, whose local rulers have strongly opposed the legislation.

Police said they were forced to act after protesters tried to storm past barricades to stop Modi’s vehicle outside a stadium, where the leader again defended the law and insisted the demonstrators were “misguided”.

Nearly 2,000 protesters gathered outside chanting “Fascist Modi, Go Back” before the showdown between demonstrators and police. More than 100 protesters were detained, a police official said.

Protesters have burned

effigies of the prime minister during his visit and brandished black flags — considered an insulting gesture in Indian society.

“The government can’t suppress our voice. We are not afraid. We are determined to fight for our rights,” Samit Nandi, one of the protesters, told AFP. “We will continue our protests until Modi leaves our city.”

West Bengal has become a political battlefield between Modi’s right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and regional powerhouse Mamata Banerjee, whose Trinamool Congress party leads the state

Banerjee is among state leaders nationwide who have said they will not implement the Citizenship Amendment Act, which excludes Muslims from a list of ethnic minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who are allowed to seek Indian nationality. — AFP ■

Pakistan FM to visit Iran, Saudi in bid to defuse tensions

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan’s foreign minister is visiting Tehran on Sunday in a bid to defuse rising tensions in the region after the killing of Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani in a US drone strike.

For decades Pakistan has tried to balance its strong relationship with Saudi Arabia and ties with Iran, with whom it shares a near 1,000-kilometre (625-mile) border.

Sunday’s visit comes as tensions mount across the Middle East following the 62-year-old general’s death in Iraq, and Iran’s admission that it shot down an airliner by mistake, killing 176 people on board.

“Recent developments seriously endanger peace and security in an already volatile region and underscore the need for immediate and collective efforts for a peaceful resolution,” Pakistan’s foreign office said in a statement.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi will

convey to Iran “Pakistan’s readiness to support all efforts that facilitate resolution of differences and disputes through political and diplomatic means”, it said.

After meeting his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif, Qureshi will visit Saudi Arabia on January 13 to hold talks with Saudi foreign minister Faisal bin Farhan.

The minister will also visit the US after concluding his visit to Tehran and Riyadh, a source in Pakistan’s foreign office confirmed.

Last year Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan travelled between Saudi Arabia and Iran in a bid to calm relations between the rivals.

Pakistan has good relations with Saudi Arabia, with more than 2.5 million of its nationals living and working in the kingdom, but it also maintains close ties with Iran and represents Tehran’s consular interests in the United States. — AFP ■

Large-scale anti-gov’t event staged in Thailand

BANGKOK — Anti-government running events were held in various locations of Thailand on Sunday, with the one in Bangkok attracting around 14,000 people, according to organizers.

Supporters of the administration meanwhile held a walk in the capital calling for solidarity with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, the former general who led the coup in 2014 that installed him as prime minister.

The “Run Against Dictatorship” held in Bangkok appeared

to be the biggest anti-government demonstration since the 2014 coup. Many young people took part, with participants raising such chants as “Prayut, get out!”

Billionaire businessman Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, whose anti-junta party came third in last year’s general election, was among those who ran the 2.6-kilometre course.

Thanathorn called the running-themed political event, billed as a show of discontent

against Prayut, “the first step to regaining true democracy.”

Thanathorn is no stranger to criticizing the administration. He was disqualified as a parliamentarian by the Constitutional Court last year over charges regarded by some as politically motivated.

His Future Forward Party meanwhile is bracing for possible dissolution, with the court set to rule later this month on a petition to disband it over an alleged election law violation. — Kyodo News ■



Many participants wore costumes for the anti-government fun run. PHOTO: AFP

Libya ceasefire agreed after months of fighting



Libya's UN-recognised Prime Minister Fayeze al-Sarraj (left) and General Khalifa Haftar (right) have agreed to a ceasefire urged by Moscow and Ankara. PHOTO: AFP

TRIPOLI — Both sides in Libya's conflict agreed to a ceasefire from Sunday to end nine months of fighting following weeks of international diplomacy and calls for a truce by power-brokers Russia and Turkey.

The oil-rich North

African country has been wracked by bloody turmoil since a NATO-backed uprising killed long-time dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, with multiple foreign powers now involved.

Since April last year, the UN-recognised Gov-

ernment of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli has been under attack from forces loyal to eastern-based strongman Khalifa Haftar, which days ago captured the strategic coastal city of Sirte.

Late on Saturday,

Haftar's forces announced a ceasefire starting at midnight (Sunday 00:00 local time, Saturday 2200 GMT) in line with a joint call by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

Early Sunday the head of the GNA, Fayeze al-Sarraj, also announced his acceptance of the ceasefire, saying it had taken effect at the start of Sunday.

The UN mission in Libya welcomed the announcements and called on all parties "to respect the ceasefire" and to support efforts to launch an inter-Libyan dialogue.

Likewise, the Arab League called on Libya's factions to "commit to stop the fighting, work on alleviating all forms of escalations and engage in good faith aimed at reaching permanent arrangements for a ceasefire." — AFP ■

NEWS

In BRIEF

Questions remain unanswered on Iran's downing of Ukrainian plane, says Trudeau

OTTAWA — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Saturday (local time) said that many questions remain unanswered about the downing of the Ukraine jetliner by Iran which killed all 176 people onboard.

"Canada and the rest of the world still have many questions that must be answered. Iran's admission is an important step providing answers for the families of the victims.

But I noted that many more steps must be taken," said Trudeau in press conference after speaking to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani about the downing of the plane. He also said

that a full and complete investigation must be conducted on how such a horrific tragedy could have occurred.

Earlier, Trudeau had stated that the Ukrainian airliner was shot down by Iranian surface-to-air missile, adding that the action by Tehran may be 'unintentional'.

Yesterday, Rouhani, in a statement posted on social media, admitted Tehran's role saying, "Our country deeply regrets this disastrous mistake."

Iran had denied for several days that a missile downed the aircraft, calling such suggestions "psychological warfare". — ANI ■

Top Iran Guard briefs parliament over downed jet after protest

TEHRAN — Iran's top Guards commander briefed parliament on Sunday, a day after the armed forces said a Ukrainian airliner was shot down in error in an admission that sparked an angry demonstration.

His closed-session testimony comes after the temporary arrest Saturday of Britain's ambassador to Tehran, Rob Macaire, shortly after he left a vigil for the air disaster victims that turned into a protest.

On the day after the rally at Tehran's Amir Kabir University, tensions appeared to be mounting

again on the streets of the capital, with a heavy police presence notably around the iconic Azadi Square south of the centre.

Riot police armed with water cannon and batons were seen at Amir Kabir, Sharif and Tehran universities as well as Enqelab Square. Around 50 Basij militiamen brandishing paintball guns, potentially to mark protesters to authorities, were also seen near Amir Kabir.

The military acknowledged Saturday that the Ukraine International Airlines plane was mistakenly shot down Wednesday, killing all 176 people



Iranian state TV shows Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, aerospace commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, pointing at a map during a press conference. Iran said it unintentionally shot down a Ukrainian passenger jet, killing all 176 people aboard. PHOTO: AFP

aboard, after denying for days Western claims it was downed by a missile.

The majority of those on the Boeing 737, which

slammed into a field shortly after take-off from Tehran, were Iranians and Canadians, and many were students. — AFP ■

British envoy to Iran denies he took part in demo before arrest

TEHRAN — Iranian authorities briefly detained Britain's ambassador in Tehran on Saturday, according to Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, after he was reportedly arrested during protests against the regime.

"The arrest of our ambassador in Tehran without grounds or explanation

is a flagrant violation of international law," Raab said in a statement after the detention of Rob Macaire.

The minister warned Iran that it was "at a crossroads moment", and had to choose between "its march towards pariah status" or "take steps to de-escalate tensions and engage in a diplomatic path forwards."

Macaire was arrested for allegedly "inciting" protesters in Tehran angry at the military's accidental downing of a Ukrainian passenger jet, killing 176 people, most of them Iranian citizens, according to the Daily Mail.

He was released after around an hour, it added. President Hassan

Rouhani said a military probe into the tragedy had found "missiles fired due to human error" brought down the Boeing 737, calling it an "unforgivable mistake".

The admission was an "important first step", Prime Minister Boris Johnson said earlier Saturday. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY.NO. (253W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY.NO. (253W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1022 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1022 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

AS various ethnics residing in Myanmar hold respective festivals in accordance with their traditions yearly, new harvest feasts are significant ones among them. At a time when harvesting of their crops, especially paddy are carried out, new harvest feasts take place in their regions.

Generally, Kachin ethnics organize new harvest feasts in December. Due to invitation to me for attending the feast, I recently went to Ywathit Village in Mohnyin Township of

ing in the village with faiths in Buddhism and Christianity. Hence, the Buddhist monastery and Christian church are situated in the village where local people reside together without discrimination of religions. Red Shan and Bamar ethnics with faith in Buddhism hold new harvest feasts in line with Buddhism traditions whereas Kachin ethnics with faith in Christianity organize the same feasts in Christianity traditions.

At the new harvest feasts, Buddhists invite members of the Sangha to offer the meals made of earliest harvested

ethnics hold the new harvest feasts at their residences individually.

Eve of new harvest feast

The Christian host must invite the Father in advance who would give blesses to residents of the village before the feast. In the evening of the eve of feast, relatives of the host and friends in the village including lads and lasses participate in cooking rice and meals to be served to the guests in the residence of the host.

The new harvest feast is held with serving meals made

guests. One packet of rice and two or three packets of meals for each guest have to be put into the plastic bags.

Being a donation of early rice, local people use the rice, the soonest harvested from their farms in the year, for the feast.

Every household breeds pigs and chickens in Ywathit Village. They dub breeding of pigs as savings. If number of guests is larger in the donation ceremonies including the new harvest feast, the host serves the guests with pork curry.

Time of new harvest feast



Kachin traditional new harvest feast

By Kaung Sithu

Kachin State.

Mohnyin Township, the residence of Kachin ethnics reside

Mohnyin Township, a residence of Kachin ethnics, sharing border with Moegaung, Shwegu, Indaw, Homalin and Hpakant townships, is located in Kachin State of northern Myanmar. Currently, Mohnyin District is formed with Mohnyin, Moegaung and Hpakant townships.

Based on the statistics released in March 2017, Mohnyin Township was constituted with two towns, nine wards and 127 villages from 37 village-tracts. The population in Mohnyin Township totalled 205,238, including 13,710 Kachin ethnic people and 74,327 Shan ethnic people.

Indawgyi Lake, the largest fresh water lake of the nation located in Mohnyin Township, is surrounded by 19 villages, Ywathit Village of which is the smallest.

There are some 300 houses in Ywathit Village from Lonsant Village-tract, 30 miles from Hopin of Mohnyin Township.

The village is more than two hours drive from Hopin by motorcycle. Red Shan, Bamar and Kachin ethnics are resid-



Local people enjoy new harvest feast. **PHOTO: KAUNG SITHU**



Tumpline for new harvest feast. **PHOTO: KAUNG SITHU**

paddy while Christians invite Fathers to hold the services.

New harvest feasts are held in the region after harvesting monsoon paddy on a yearly basis. Despite growing soya bean, groundnut and other vegetables in the region, local people hold the feasts on the month when paddy is harvested.

Red Shan and other Shan ethnics enjoy the ceremony to offer meals made of earliest paddy in conjunction with the New Year Festival in Ywathit Village. Meanwhile, Kachin

of earliest paddy of the year to the guests.

On the eve of new harvest feast, local people carry out cooking of meals and cutting and cleaning banana leaves at the host's residence. As participants of the feast will have rice and meals on banana leaves, rice and meals for guests must be packed with the use of leaves and kept in the baskets. The host can choose meals for the feast as he likes in addition to salad of banana bud, fried vegetables, pounded shrimp-paste and soups for the

In the morning, the alms made of newly harvested rice are offered to members of the Sangha at the Buddhists' new harvest feast and then villagers are served with meals. Likewise, Christians treat the Christian fathers and guests with rice made of earliest harvested paddy and meals.

With regard to the feast of Christians, candles at the altar decorated with flowers are lit at the time when the house of host is full of guests, and the host explains the purpose of the feast. The father who led

the congregation reads the excerpts from the Christian Bible and gives blesses for all to enjoy fine weather in coming year, high per-acre yield of crops, fruits of peace and stability of the community and good health conditions of families. The congregation sings Gospel Christian songs.

At the ceremony I attended as a special guest, the host and the father wore Kachin traditional costumes and put on the turbans. They helped me wear Kachin traditional turban. Some of attendances



Preparations being made to host new harvest feast. PHOTO: KAUNG SITHU



The knife not used to cut off and the spear not used to stab. PHOTO: KAUNG SITHU

also came to the ceremony by wearing Kachin traditional costumes.

After the praying, a bamboo tumpline was given as a gift to the father. The host gave similar bags not only to the father but to special guests from far distance.

The bamboo tumpline decorated with beautiful flowers comprised one pyi of rice or a large taro, a long ginger plant, a pumpkin, packets of rice and meals, and a long envelope in which honorarium for the father was kept.

After the praying, all the guests had the rice and meals packaged by leaves served by the host family. At that time, they used foods in leaves but dishes. They all sat on the mats without using tables and chairs for having the rice and meals. This showed unity of the local people.

Kachin ethnics do not serve the guests with intoxicating brew at the new harvest feast but they give the brew to the guests at other festivals.

Although the feast hosted by individuals ended its pro-

cess after serving the guests, the collective feasts continued festivities in the evening with songs and dances. Sometimes, the new harvest feast was held in conjunction with the X'mas festival, Kachin ethnic U Mar Tu explained. If so, the ceremony is crowded with large number of guests who wish to join the entertainments. Christian youths from the village have been practising the traditions by singing Gospel Christian songs of praying for the houses including the residence of host for the new harvest feast in their traditions since yore.

The knife not used to cut off and the spear not used to stab

After completion of the feast, Kachin ethnic U Mar Tu showed me Kachin traditional knife which was never used in cutting off and the spear not used in stabbing. The two stored for a long time were dirty with dust.

U Mar Tu explained that the old and faded knife and spear were invaluable. The two given by parents of the bride at the wedding reception must be tied by bamboo straps. These objects were called the knife not used to cut off and the spear not used to stab because of never using them. He had never tied these objects off.

The knife and spear are kept on the rack above the fireplace. So, they are dirty and filled with dust. But, the host shows these objects by taking pride of these objects for Kachin ethnics to the guests.

As holding ethnic traditional festivals with respective faiths since the time of their forefathers remain unchanged as intangible cultural heritages, new generations need to continuously preserve the ethnic traditions for perpetual existence.

Translated by Than Tun Aung



Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

AJISHIN

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

ANAIMO

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

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

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

BUSHIDO

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

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

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

DINNING FUKUROU

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

EDOZUSHI

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

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

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

FUJINOBO

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

FURUSATO

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

GEKKO

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

HIMARI MYANMAR

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

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

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

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

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

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

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

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

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

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

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

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

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

CHATRIUM

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

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

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

HOTLE 51

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

HOTEL KAN KAW

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

HOTLE SIDNEY

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

INYA LAKE HOTEL

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

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

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

MERCURE HOTEL

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

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

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

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

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

PARK ROYAL

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

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

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

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

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

SAVOY HOTEL

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

SEDONA HOTEL

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

SULE SHANGRI-LA

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

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

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

SUPER HOTEL

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

Call
Thin Thin
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Trade Mark Ads

09251022355,
09974424848

U Hla Maung,

Retired Ambassador, (Colonel)
D.S.A 10th Intake

Aged 74

The family of U Hla Maung, Retired Ambassador and Colonel, D.S.A 10th Intake, is saddened to announce his passing at 4 am on 11-1-2020 on Saturday at the age of 74.

He was predeceased by his parents (U Naw) and Daw Thein Yin, parents-in-law (U San Khin) and (Daw Mya Thwe) and his son of (Mg Zin Wai Maung). He is survived by his younger brother Warrant Officer Mya Maung (Retd) of the Defence Services (Air), his wife of Daw Thandar Khin of Lane-5, Ingyin Myaing Road, Thuwunna, daughter of Ma Yu Wai Maung (Kanbawza Bank), son of Deputy Police Major Ye Wint Maung of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control-CCDAC.

Funeral Service will be held at 1 pm on Monday, 13-1-2020 at the Yeway Cemetery. (Ferry to the cemetery will leave his home at 11 am on Monday).

Visitors are invited to attend the Memorial service with donation of food to the Members of the Sangha at his home in Thuwunna from 8 am to noon on Friday, 17-1-2020.

Bereaved Family

Myanmar lethwei event to be held in Osaka



A Myanmar traditional lethwei event titled 'Lethwei in Japan 15 - Kizuna' will be held on 22 February at the Edion Arena, Osaka City, Japan, according to a statement from the International Lethwei Federation of Japan.

The lethwei fight event, supervised by the Bellagio, International Lethwei Federation of Japan, and Myanmar Lethwei World Championship, will be the first for Osaka.

There will be five special lethwei bouts between Myanmar, Japanese, and Thai fight-

ers starting 3 pm Japan Local Time, according to the ILFJ.

In the 62-kg fight, Byat Gha (Myanmar) will fight against Takashi Tono (Japan).

In the 65-kg fight, Naing Win Tun (Myanmar) will take on Joe Seishikai (Thailand).

In the 60-kg fight, Saw Shwe Lay (Myanmar) will meet with Makoto (Japan). In the 63.5-kg fight, Tun Lin Aung (Myanmar) will face Higashi (Japan).

In the 73-kg fight, Aut Chin Thway (Myanmar) will take on Nagashima (Japan). —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Yangon United claim narrow win over Chin United

YANGON United secured a 2-1 narrow win over Chin United in their first match of the MPT Myanmar National League 2020 yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon.

Chin United, who were relegated from Myanmar National League II, showcased their best style in yesterday's match against Yangon United.

Faced with the massive defense put up by Chin United, Yangon United found it hard to score their leading goal.

With stylish play, Yangon United earned their first goal at 24 minutes, and the goal was scored by striker Than Paing over an assist from teammate Maung Maung Lwin.

Chin United soon equalized the score with a goal by Kyaw Min Than just before the end of the first half.

Yangon United made substitutions in the second half, putting Emmanuel and Yan

Paing Soe in place of Barfo and Kaung Htet Soe.

Even though they employed fresh tactics and new players, Yangon United still found it hard to score more goals as Chin United put up a strong defense.

Yangon United missed a scoring opportunity at 63 minutes when the Chin United goalkeeper blocked Than Paing's goal attempt.

Yangon United's Emmanuel scored the winning goal for the team at 83 minutes, with an assist from Nyein Chan Aung.

At the final whistle, Yangon United was leading by one goal.

After their first match, Yangon United is in the third place on the standing table with three points, and the team will next play Zwegapin United on 19 January at Thuwunna stadium.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Yangon United players celebrating their victory after securing a 2-1 win over Chin United yesterday at their home stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNL**

Shan United leave for Philippines for 2020 AFC Champions League

SHAN UNITED F.C., the defending champions of the Myanmar National League, left for Manila, the Philippines by Thai Airways yesterday to play a preliminary-stage match of the 2020 AFC Champions League against Philippines football club Ceres Negros.

The match between Shan United and Ceres Negros will start at 7:30 pm (Philippine Time) on 14 January at Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila.

Eight Shan United officials have accompanied 18 players for the tourney.

Shan United will stay at the Armada Hotel in Manila during their stay in the Philippines, according to an official statement issued by the team.

Looking back on last year's AFC Cup when they were placed in Group G, Ceres Negros F.C. beat Shan United at Shan United's home stadium by a decisive 5-0 score. They also

managed another 3-2 win at their home stadium at Panaad Park and Stadium in Bacolod City.

But Shan United has prepared well and has selected a stronger squad this year, so the upcoming match promises to be a thrilling one.

The winning team will play an away game against Port F.C. of Thailand in the preliminary stage 2 match scheduled on 21 January.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Shan United pose for a group photo at the Yangon International Airport before leaving for Manila, the Philippines. **PHOTO: SUFC**

Champions-elect Liverpool in a hurry to end 30 years of hurt

LONDON — A 30-year wait to win a top flight title has been too long for Liverpool and Jurgen Klopp's men are in a rush to end that drought as soon as possible with the best ever start to a season in Europe's top five leagues.

Saturday's 1-0 win at Spurs in a rematch of last season's

Champions League final was the Reds 20th in 21 Premier League games this season with a 1-1 draw at Manchester United in October their only stumble.

That stunning run is even more impressive when extended over the past year. A 2-1 defeat to Manchester City on January 3

2019 — that ultimately cost them the title despite amassing 97 points — was the last time Liverpool lost in the league. Since then they have collected 104 points with 33 wins and five draws, whilst also winning the Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup.—AFP ■