

NATIONAL

Laos Foreign Affairs
Minister tours Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-3



OPINION

Small denomination
currency exchange

PAGE-8-9



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President U Win Myint shakes hands with Mr. Olivier Richard, Ambassador of France, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President receives Ambassadors from France, Switzerland separately

PRESIDENT U Win Myint separately received Mr. Olivier Richard, the outgoing Ambassador of France to Myanmar, who has completed his tour of duty, and Mr. Paul Rene Seger, Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting with Mr. Olivier Richard, they discussed matters related to promoting friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and France, cooperation in the civic development, health and

energy sectors and promoting economic investment. At the meeting with Mr. Paul Rene Seger, they discussed matters related to democratic transition and the peace process, health and vocational training issues, bilateral friendship and cooperation.

Also present at the meetings were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu and other officials.—MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with LPDR's Foreign Minister Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives LPDR's Foreign Minister

Discuss ways to enhance existing friendly bilateral relations, multifaceted cooperation

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 10 am

yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed ways to enhance the existing friendly bilateral relations and multifaceted cooperation.—Myanmar News Agency ■

INSIDE TODAY

LOCAL NEWS

Chinese tourists rank first among foreigners visiting Mandalay

PAGE-4



BUSINESS

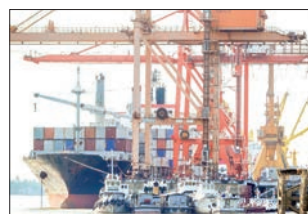
Forum to be held towards emergence of feed industry

PAGE-5

BUSINESS

Sea trade worth \$7.8 billion reported over three months

PAGE-5



WORLD

Last survivor of Brazil tribe under threat: NGO

PAGE-11



Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds 2nd day meeting

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its second-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and a motion was debated over by the Hluttaw representatives.

Q&A session

The first question at the session was raised by U Sai Sam of Mongyan constituency. He asked if there was a plan to fill up vacant posts of high school teachers in Mongyan Township Basic Education High School. The deputy minister replied that in the forthcoming education year, a selection would be made from among teachers who had applied for transfers and they would fill up the vacant positions, according to the duration of their service and subjects taught.

Next, Dr. Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin of Singaing constituency raised questions on a plan to construct a new teaching hall in Basic Education High School Branch Monpin and to appoint teachers. The deputy minister answered that three primary school teachers were appointed on 21 June 2018 but there were still some positions lying vacant. Construction of a 140x30 ft. single storey teaching hall in the school will be completed only when funds are allocated in the fiscal year 2019-2020, said the deputy minister.

Similarly, questions raised

by U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, U Khun Than Htoo of Hsihseng constituency, Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency and Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Debating and deciding over travel motion

Afterwards, Hluttaw representatives debated over a motion tabled by U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency, urging



U Myint Oo. PHOTO: MNA

the government to expand and upgrade travel businesses including community-based tourism (CBT), nature-based tourism and travel destinations, establishing travel fairs and designating special travel years to rightly develop Myanmar's travel sector.

Daw Khin Sandi of Launglon constituency suggested that obtaining permission directly from



Pyithu Hluttaw representatives at the 2nd day meeting of second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

the state/region government for the convenience of foreign travellers would save time and speed up the work, rather than seeking permission from the union government.

In addition to this, tour destinations should be advertised through local media and international media; local products should be upgraded, creating more job opportunities for the locals; food and handicraft schools should be opened; and emphasis should be placed on developing small and medium enterprises. She supported the motion as it could increase the economic development of the country through the travel business. Tatmadaw Representative Maj. Thein Tun said that for Myanmar's travel sector development, the Myanmar travel sector human resources development strategy and work plan 2017-2020 was established and implemented and ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 was also implemented.

Myanmar Tourism Law (draft) was also seen to be prepared. But Myanmar's travel sector hasn't developed as much as it should. This is due to weaknesses in the prevailing policies and laws, challenges in politics, economics and security, weakness in cooperation among related ministries, weakness in management and all these are hindering the development of the travel sector. The low number of visitors is due to markets being small, an insufficient number of airlines, low attraction of the travel destinations, high cost of travel, insufficient travel services and lack of news and information. These weaknesses and requirements are suggested to be reviewed. In addition to this, a law supporting the development of the travel business needs to be enacted as soon as possible.

Myanmar's travel sector can achieve growth and sustainability. It is a time when cooperation is required among the

government, private businesses, investors, and local people of civil society organisations. He said that while the Myanmar travel sector is facing many challenges for development, it will develop only through the creation of jobs through sustainable tourism and pro-poor tourism, and thus develop related works and increase the country's income.

Similarly, U Aung Naing @ U Naing Ngan Kyaw of Mogoke constituency, U Soe Paing Htay of Myeik constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaukse constituency, Daw Nan Than Lwin of Hpa-an constituency, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, Daw Mya Khwa Nyo Oo of Shwedaung constituency, U Khun Maung Thaung of Pinlaung constituency and U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin constituency debated over the motion.

SEE PAGE-3

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds 2nd day meeting

THE ninth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its second-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were answered, a report read and a bill approved.

Asterisk-marked questions

At the meeting, Daw Khin Swe Lwin of Chin State constituency 9 posed a question on plans to help export elephant foot yam from Chin State, as

it is in high demand in Japan and China. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo said dried elephant foot yam was exported to Japan, South Korea and Singapore by sea, elephant foot yam in powder form to Japan, Malaysia and the UAE, and elephant foot yam in powder form, natural and dried forms to the People's Republic of China through border trade.

The deputy minister said 100 businesspersons were pro-

vided with technical support on drying and producing elephant foot yam in Chin State, Haka town. At the trade fairs in China, as well as at local trade fairs, it was displayed and promoted as a product of Chin State.

The Ministry of Commerce is contacting and negotiating with China through diplomatic channels to allow it as a legally permitted export item from Myanmar. At the same time, contacts with machinery makers to process elephant foot

yam and potential buyers were made and linked with local businesses, and elephant foot yam is expected to become a quality export product, said the deputy minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Mahn Law Moun of Chin State constituency 8 on whether the Ministry of Construction, Department of Urban & Housing Development, had any plans to urbanise M'kuiimnu town in Mindat Township, Chin State, Deputy Minister

for Construction U Kyaw Lin said that of the 17 towns in Chin State, urban development plans were drawn for Haka, Matupi, Mindat, Falam and Paletwa, and plans for 12 towns, including M'kuiimnu, remained to be drawn. As M'kuiimnu covered an area of 17,211 acres and had a population of only 1,182, it is a priority (e) level town and there is no plan to draw up an urban development plan for it, said the deputy minister.

SEE PAGE-10

U Tha Aung Nyun presents Credentials to President of the Marshall Islands

U THA AUNG NYUN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, Ed.D., President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, on 17 July, 2018 in Majuro.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Win Myint meets with Ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Paul Rene Seger in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday (Story on page-1). **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds talks with LPDR's Foreign Minister



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and LPDR's Foreign Minister Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith hold bilateral talks in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith held bilateral talk at the Chindwin Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the bilateral talks, both sides cordially discussed a wide range of issues on promotion of bilateral relations and multi-faceted cooperation, including the implementation of bilateral MoUs and Agreements which were signed between the two countries that includes Electric Power Cooperation and Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge, promotion of trade and investment and tourism. Both sides

also cordially exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interests.

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Construction and the members of Laos delegation were present at the bilateral talks. Then, the Union Minister for International Cooperation hosted a luncheon in honour of the Laos delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.—Myanmar News Agency ■

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw . . .

FROM PAGE-2

In his discussion, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung said the ministry is promoting the natural beauty of Myanmar, cultural traditions and handicrafts to develop the socio-economic situation of the people and create job opportunities through CBT since the start of the ministry's first 100 days work programme.

More CBT sites were being developed and nine villages in Shan State, Mandalay, Sagaing and Taninthayi regions were being set up to be developed into six CBT sites. More CBT sites that directly benefit the local people will be developed, said the union minister.

Due to the various stages of reform, the development and momentum of the travel sector

is growing. However, if the travel year is to be promoted, regional peace and funds, arrangements for better services and easing of restrictions are required. Systematic arrangements are to be made and more cooperation and coordination with state and region governments need to be done. As the ministry is doing this, Hluttaw representatives are requested to put the motion on record, explained the union minister.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced that the Hluttaw had put the motion on record and to keep it under observation, after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

The third day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session is scheduled to be held on 30 July, it is learnt.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Laos Foreign Affairs Minister tours Nay Pyi Taw

MR. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic, and his delegation visited the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

First, the Laos Foreign Affairs Minister and his delegation listened to a presentation about the museum and its exhibits by curator, Daw Aye Aye Thin. They then toured the primate and stone age exhibit, prehistoric exhibit, the Myanmar fine arts exhibit, and other historical exhibits.

Next, the Laos Minister and his delegation arrived at Up-patasanti Pagoda and presented



Laos Foreign Minister Mr Saleumxay Kommasith and his delegation visit the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

offerings to the Buddha image enshrined inside. They then viewed the religious artworks and visited the white elephants residing in the pagoda's compound.

The Laos Minister and his delegation left Myanmar from Nay Pyi Taw's International

Airport at night. They were seen off by U Thant Sin, Director General of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director General U Aung Kyaw Oo, Laos Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lying Sayaxang and other officials.—Thura Zaw ■

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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.

Chinese tourists seen at a pagoda in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Chinese tourists rank first among foreigners visiting Mandalay

THE number of Chinese tourists arriving in Mandalay, one of the culturally-rich destinations in Myanmar, significantly increased this year, according to the region's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

U San Yu, assistant director of the department, said that Chinese tourists ranked first among the list of foreigners visiting Mandalay during the first half of this year, followed by French and Thai tourists. During the six-month period, a total of 89,096 Chinese visitors entered the region. Despite an increase in the number of Chinese visitors,

this year saw a decline in the number of European visitors in the region.

He also said that the growth of Chinese visitors to Mandalay may be linked to the operation of a new airline and the government's efforts to offer visa-free entry to Myanmar for citizens of Japan and South Korea. Authorities on tourism are making concerted efforts to offer better services to international visitors.

According to the department's data, a total of 231,002 visitors entered Mandalay between January and June this year, which is a decrease of

5,040 from this time last year, when 236,042 foreigners visited the region. International tourist arrivals are expected to increase in the second half of this year.

U San Yu added that the government's attempts to develop the country's smokeless industry include the issuing of new licences relating to the tourism sector, reducing the fee rate of services by half and implementation of the online licencing system. Tourism is a service business, and to provide better services, hotel- and tourism-related service training has been given to all employees to

improve their capacity.

In addition, arrangements are being made to open new information counters at Mandalay International Airport. Currently, three information counters have been opened at the region's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Mandalay Railway Station and the Mandalay International Airport. The government expects tourist arrivals in Mandalay to reach around 500,000 this year. Last year, the arrival of international visitors surpassed the government's expectation of 450,000.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House) ■

Over 5,000 flood victims in Taninthayi in need of water and food

A TOTAL of 5,477 flood victims in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District in Taninthayi Region, are in need of water and food, said the flood victims.

Taninthayi Township was flooded as monsoon rains led the water level of the local river rise above the danger level, affecting many homes, lakes and wells in the villages and towns. Wards within the town have access to water and food, while far-flung villages are urgently in need of water and food, said

the flood victims.

Despite a slight drop in water levels of the Taninthayi River, it was still 25 feet on the morning of 22 July, according to Taninthayi Township Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. This region is prone to floods, with high and low tides at the end of this month. The old houses are in danger of collapsing. Flooded areas, which are far from the town, are in need of aid such as food and water, said the villagers.

A total of 5,477 victims from

over 1,000 households have been provided shelter at monasteries, their relatives' homes, temporary shelters and schools with the help of related departments, local police, firefighters and philanthropic groups.

Schools have been temporarily shut down due to floods. Local police and firefighters are ensuring that locals have smooth transportation with the use of bamboo rafts and motorboats in areas where the floods swept away roads in

some villages.

Daw Khin Kyi Foundation has donated 663 rice bags to the flood victims on the morning of 21 July. In the evening, Taninthayi Region Minister for Social and City Development Affairs U Hopin, Dr Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and officials provided rice and canned fish to the flood victims.—Myint Oo (Myeik) ■

Forum to be held towards emergence of feed industry

By May Thet Hnin

MYANMAR Aqua Feed Association under the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Livestock Feed Association under the Myanmar Livestock Federation are exerting efforts towards the emergence of the feed industry in the country.

In a bid to formulate this plan, the two associations will hold a forum today (25 August). Feed processing factories, feed manufacturers, exporters and importers, rice traders, edible oil businessmen and livestock

entrepreneurs have been invited to attend this forum. "We aim to form the Feed Industry Federation from the stage of emergence of the feed industry," said Dr. Thet Hmu, Chair of Myanmar Aqua Feed Association.

"If the Feed Federation emerges, those stakeholders engaged in the livestock industry will be organised. They can undertake group orders at the right price. Also, they can order the quality they want. Hopefully, it will bring all-round success," she maintained. All feed manufacturers from the

poultry, pig, fisheries and prawn farming industry will unite and join ASEAN Feed associations. Neighbouring countries—the Philippines, Thailand and China—have their respective Feed Industry Federation. The International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) represents the global feed industry. Myanmar needs the feed industry to link with international federations.

"It is good for us if Feed Industry Federation will be formed. We purchase 10,000 tons of soybeans from the United States. A group purchase will

result in a fair price and ensure the quality. We can also figure out solutions to possible problems faced in the feed industry," said U Zaw Lin, treasurer from Myanmar Fisheries Association.

At present, the prices of feedstuff such as broken rice, corn and bran hit a record high compared with previous years. The livestock businessmen are facing difficulties, such as shortage and inferior quality of feedstuff. To tackle these problems, a feed industry federation will be formed. ■

Capital goods imports by private sector decline slightly

THE import of capital goods by the private sector in the current fiscal year reached US\$1.723 billion, which saw a slight decline in value by \$1.2 million from this time last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and 13 July this year, the country's total import of capital goods from foreign traders exceeded \$2 billion, comprising \$298.6 million from the public sector, with the majority of the products delivered by sea.

During the period, the public sector imports of the same increased by \$72.22 million despite a decline in the import of capital goods by the private sector in comparison with the similar period last year.

This time last FY, the import of capital goods was \$1.95 billion, with \$226.4 million by the public sector and \$1.724 billion by the private sector.

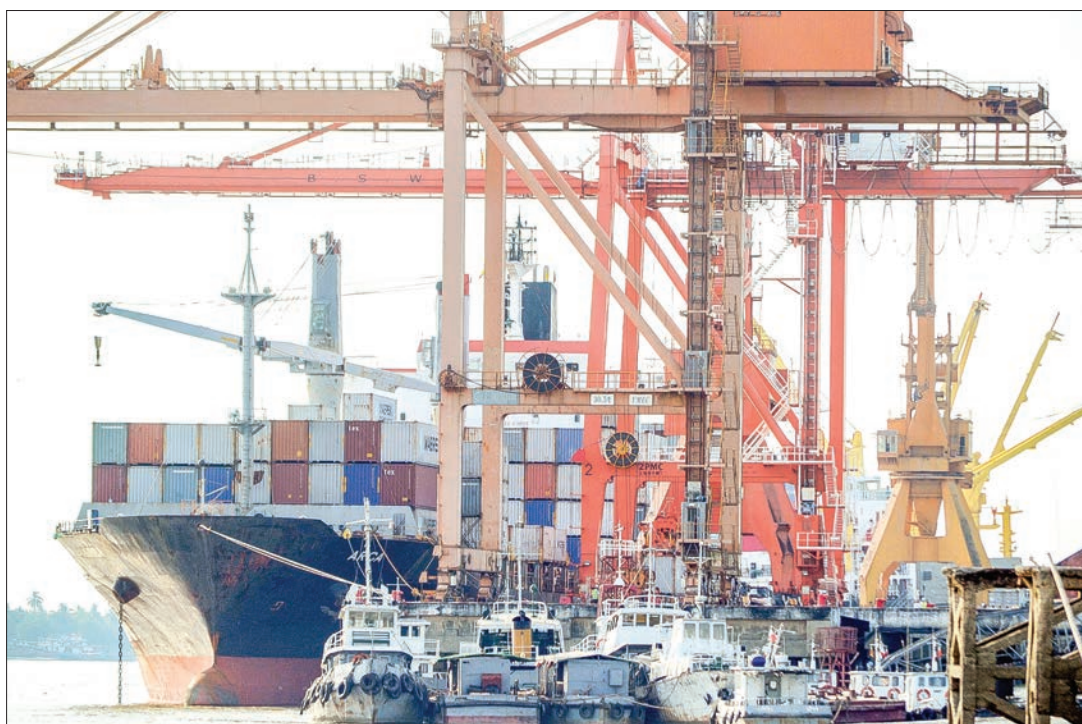
In the current FY, the overall imports between Myanmar and international trade partners were valued at \$5.641 billion, including \$2.315 billion worth of intermediate goods and \$1.302 billion worth of consumer products. The total import figures increased by \$427 million matched against the same time last year.—Khine Khant ■

Sea trade worth \$7.8 billion reported over three months

TRADE through sea routes fetched US\$7.8 billion from 1 April to 13 July in the interim period prior to the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which is an increase of \$1.1 billion compared with the similar period last year.

Exports through sea routes were worth over \$3 billion, whereas the import value was recorded at \$4.8 billion. Unlike sea routes, exports performed better than imports at border gates. Border trade during the same time totalled \$2.28 billion, comprising \$1.48 billion worth of exports and \$802 million worth of imports.

Rice, various peas, sesame seeds, corn, vegetables, fruits, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to foreign countries, whereas machinery, agricultural equipment, trucks, plastic raw materials, consumer products, cosmetics,



A cargo ship loading containers at a shipping container port in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

and electronic tools enter the domestic market. Myanmar's external trade value as of 13 July was registered at \$10.16 billion,

with exports worth \$4.5 billion and imports valued at \$5.64 billion. The total trade value this year narrowed down the trade

deficit to \$1.1 billion compared with \$1.6 billion during the similar period of the last fiscal year.—Ko Khant ■

China-Myanmar border trade through Chinshwehaw drops by \$66m

THE China-Myanmar bilateral border trade through the Chinshwehaw gate in the current fiscal year went down by US\$66.8 million compared with the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Border trade with China through the Chinshwehaw gate totalled \$94.957 million from 1 April to 13 July this year, covering \$79.632 million in exports and \$15.325 million in imports.

During the same period last year, Myanmar exported

goods amounting to \$145.4 million to China from the Chinshwehaw point of entry and imported commodities worth \$16.3 million.

According to the ministry's annual statistical report, the cross-border trade through the Chinshwehaw station was valued at \$64.4 million in the 2012-13 FY, \$246.9 million in the 2013-14 FY, \$423.9 million in the 2014-15 FY, \$385.8 million in the 2015-16 FY, \$573.2 million in the 2016-17 FY and \$572 million in

the 2017-18 FY.

China, the largest trade partner for Myanmar, conducts cross-border trade with Myanmar through the Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung trade camps. Among them, the Muse border sees the highest volume and value of total border trade.

Myanmar continues to export agricultural products, manufactured goods, marine and forest products, minerals and other marketable items chiefly

to neighbouring countries. Its imports from trade partners include consumer products, intermediate goods, construction equipment, electronic devices, automobiles and medicines, mainly from China, Thailand, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong.

Over the first 104 days of this FY, the trade value of all border trade camps reached \$2.285 billion, an increase in value by \$298 million from this time last FY.—Swe Nyein ■

TRADE MARK

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Office of the President
Press Release No. 6/2018
11th Waxing of Second Waso, 1380 ME
(23 July 2018)

Statistical bulletin on more drug seizures, acting on tip-offs given by the people

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department**, publicized on 26 June 2018, to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on additional drug-related offenses from 27 June to 21 July 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Information	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Nga Pi (a) Zin Wai Htun from Settyone Kwet Thit (2) Street, Aunglan, illegally selling tablets and marijuana since April 2018; youths coming to purchase every day.	On 16-7-2018, Nga Pi (a) Zin Wai Htun from Settyone Kwet Thit (2) Street, Aunglan, was arrested in possession of illegal drugs. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Aunglan) MaYa(Pa)5/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of illegal drug trade in the vicinity of Thirimingalar Market, Hline Township.	On 18-7-2018, local police arrested Ma Sandar Khine, 41, caretaker of restrooms at the Shwe Padauk Fish Market on Bayinnaung Road, Ward 4, Hline Township, in possession of illegal drugs. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa(Padaukchaung) MaYa(Pa) 6/2018, under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of prolonged large-scale distribution of illegal drugs in Anheittaw Ward, Area 48, between 57 and 58 streets and 19 and 20 streets, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region.	On 19-7-2018, local police staked out Good Time Hotel located between 57 th and 58 th streets and 21 st and 22 nd streets, and arrested Nyi Nyi Zin (a) Nyi Zin, 25, residing in Room. 210, together with drugs. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa(1) (Aungmyethazan) MaYa(Pa) 6/2018, under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of illegal drug sales in Natmaukan Village, Inn daw Gyi region, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.	On 17-7-2018, local police acting on a tipoff entered the house of Aung Ko Win in Natmaukan Village, Hepu Village-Tract, Mohnyin Township. Aung Ko Win was not present but another man named Poe Pyae, 56, was arrested together with illegal drugs. A case was opened against him in accordance with NaMaSa(Lone Tone) MaYa(Pa) 38/2018, under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of illegal tablets and marijuana being sold in plain view on a motorcycle in Sanpya (3) Street, Thamada Kanchay Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region, and local youths were found purchasing them.	On 16-7-2018, local police on surveillance in front of B.E.H.S (4) Branch School on Padauk Street, (11/14) area, Thamada Kanchay Ward, Dala Township, arrested Aung Wunna Tun, 40, and Myo Min Myat (a) Poe Kwyet, 44, together with illegal drugs. A case was opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa(Dala) MaYa(Pa) 25/2018 under Section 16-D/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to a search of Hla Myo Oo's house in Padauk Street. Hla Myo Oo was not present but a drug stash was found under the house. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Dala) MaYa(Pa) 26/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of large-scale sale of illegal drugs by Min Tun in between Bo Ba Htoo Street and Aung San Street, 56 th x 57 th Street, Thaman-gone Ward, NyaNya(19), Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region.	On 19-7-2018 local police entered Min Tun (a) Min Min Tun (a) Pyaung Gyi's house on NyaNya(19), No.65, between Bo Ba Htoo Street and Aung San Street, 57 th Street, Thinpangone Ward, Pyigyidagun Township and arrested along with him Aung Phyo Wai Lin, Okkar Kyaw, Tun Tun Naung (a) Kalar, and Zin Phyo Zaw (a) Poe Tar together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa(Pyigyidakun) MaYa(Pa) 13/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Nar-cotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of U Maung Oo selling il-legal drugs in Pahotegyi Village, Homalin Town-ship.	Maung Oo (a) Win Naing Oo of Pahotegyi Vil-lage,Homalin, was arrested together with illegal drugs and further investigation led to the arrest of Barbu, 29, and Min Min Naing, 38, together with illegal drugs in Ngepyawtaw, Nansipun region on 17-7-2018. A case has been opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa (Khamti) MaYa(Pa) 55/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Nar-cotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Ko Maung Maung, 35, with long hair, living in a rented place in South Dagon and hiring various vehicles to go sell illegal drugs.	On 17-7-2018, local police arrested Maung Maung (a) Tun Tun Win, 39, together with illegal drugs near Kabaraye Pagoda Bus Stop, Ward 9, Mayan-gon Township. A case was opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Mayangone) MaYa(Pa) 16/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of patrons and waiters of the San Francisco Club, Tamway Plaza, Thamein-bayan Road, Tamway Township, Yangon Re-gion, and taxi drivers in front of the club selling stimulant tablets at Ks 5,000 apiece.	On 17-7-2018, local police staked out Sakura Res-taurant on top of San Francisco Club, Tamway Township, and arrested Ma San San Myint Aung (a) Ma Phyu, 37, Min Thwin, 20, William Myint Aung, 26, and Wai Lin Htet, 27, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa(Tamway) MaYa(Pa) 26/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psy-chotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of sales and use of illegal drugs in villages of Hti-gyaing and Katha town-ships in Sagaing Region from Shwe Li, Kyaekau-ng, Muse.	On 20-7-2018, local police on surveillance in Katha Township inspected a motorboat from Palatwa Vil-lage and arrested Nga Htwe (a) Tet Too, 26, and Ma Khin San Yi, 48, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa(Katha) MaYa(Pa) 46/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of Kyar Min, Zaw Oo, Aung Thu Myint and Ma Thu-zar selling illegal drugs in Tayetgone Village, Nam Mawlite Village-tract, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region.	On 15-7-2018, local police arrested Ma Thuzar, 30, and Zaw Myint Than, 27, in Tayetgone Village-Tract, Phaungpyin Township, together with illegal drugs. A case was opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa(Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 47/2018 un-der Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to a search of Kyar Min (a) Min Zaw's house in Tayetgone Village. The suspect was absent but his wife Ma Khin Shwe Than, 45, Kyaw Lin Oo, 39, Myo Myint, 37, and Tint San, 45, were arrested together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa(Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 49/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psy-chotropic Substances Law.

Statistical bulletin on more drug seizures

FROM PAGE 6

12	Information received of Tun Yi and Ko Kyaw Shwe of Tanngar Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region illegally selling drugs.	On 14-7-2018, local police arrested Kyaw Shwe, 56, in Tanngar Village, Phaungpyin Township together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them in accordance with Ma Ma Sa (Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 45/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection led to the arrest of Tun Yi, 51, in the same village, and a case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 46/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	Information received of U Maung Saing in Mhankin Village, Panlar Village-tract, Inn dawgyi region, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, illegally selling drugs.	On 15-7-2018, local police entered U Maung Saing's house in Mhankin Village, Mohnyin Township and arrested the 57-year old and his wife Daw Win Kyi, 50, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them in accordance with NaMaSa(Lone Tone) MaYa(Pa) 36/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14	Information received of U Aung Yin selling alcohol and illegal drugs in his home at Ywarng Village, Ywarng Village-tract, YeU Township, Sagaing Region, with regular users in the evening.	On 15-7-2018, local police arrested Aung Yin, 52, in Ywarng Village, YeU Township, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(YeU) MaYa(Pa) 2/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
15	Information received of the entire Hlwasin Village, located near Mandalay Region's borders, using and distributing illegal drugs, led by Ye Lay and Ko Min. Nearby villages of Kaung-swe, Ywartaw, Kyuntaw, and Nyaunggone were also found selling illegal drugs.	Over 200 police officials simultaneously entered the villages and on 18-7-2018 arrested Ye Lay (a) Zaw Gyi, 24, of Hlwasin Village, Yamethin Township, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against him in accordance with YaKaSa(Nyaunggone) MaYa(Pa) 1/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Phero (a) Kyaw Lin, 33, of ShwePyiYannaing, Pyawbwe Town, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Pyawbwe) MaYa(Pa) 3/2018 under 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Arkar (a) Arvis, 18, of ShwePyiYannaing, Pyawbwe Township, and case opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Pyawbwe) MaYa(Pa) 4/2018 under 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to local police entering the house of U Kyaw Nyan, 65, of Ayetharyar Village, Tatkon Township, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa (Tatkon) MaYa(Pa) 9/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the search of the house of Than Lwin, 44, of the same village, and his wife Ma Win Aye, 37. The two suspects had fled their house but police seized a drug stash. A case has been opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa(Tatkon) MaYa(Pa) 10/2018 under Section 16-C/19-A/20-A/21/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection led to the arrest of Htay Aung, 48, of Taunggyi Village, Hlwasin Village-tract, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against him in accordance with YaKaSa(Ywardan) MaYa(Pa) 5/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
16	Information received of brothers Ko Nyo Nyo and Ko Ar Gyi using illegal drugs from their home in the veteran's residence located behind Nanthidar Garrison (1), Nanthidar Village, Shwenyaung Township and Betsone Village, Taunglaylone Village-tract, Taunggyi Township.	On 19-7-2018, local police entered veteran's residence in Betsone Village, Taunglaylone Village-tract and arrested Ko Nyo Nyo (a) Kyaw San Win, 34, Phyo Htet Zaw, 25, Ye Min Aung, 23, Kyaw Aung (a) San Shar, 28, together with illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them in accordance with NaMaSa(Nyaungshwe) MaYa(Pa) 15/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 46 cases have been opened as of 21-7-2018, and 61 men and 12 women have been arrested with seizures of 544.65 g of heroin, 0.55 g of ICE, 30 g of black opium, 2,600 g of raw opium, 10 g of opium, 24.50 g of opium residue, 30 g of speciosa, 13,353 stimulant tablets, and 131.08 g of marijuana. Efforts for fighting against drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President through the following contact numbers:

Contacts
Auto telephone No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with President of China Publishing Group (CPG) Mr. Tan Yue. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives President of China Publishing Group

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Mr. Tan Yue, President of China Publishing Group (CPG), and his contingent at the Pyithu Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed China-Myanmar relations and how to advance it from a familial-type relationship to a strategic-alliance relationship, promoting people-to-people relations between the two countries, and expanding collaboration and development on publishing operations.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman U Zaw Thein, Secretary U Bo Bo Oo and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.

Afterwards, Mr. Tan Yue donated books at a book donation ceremony for the Pyithu Hluttaw Library. Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein accepted the donation and presented an honorary certificate to the CPG President.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Information Minister receives Chinese delegation led by CPG President



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun meets with a delegation led by CPG President Mr. Tan Yue in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U AUNG HLA TUN, Deputy Minister for Information, received a Chinese delegation led by Mr. Tan Yue, President of China Publishing Group (CPG), at the Information Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 10am on Tuesday.

The two sides cordially discussed the situation of printing and publishing industry in Myanmar, publishing classical and contemporary Chinese novels into Myanmar language, establishing a mutual translation programme for translating and publishing each other's literatures, sending a Myanmar delegation to Beijing International Book Fair around end of August, training translators in Chinese and Myanmar languages in the long term for further promoting mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency ■

In defence of democracy, respect the judiciary

MYANMAR is going through a critical period of transition. The government is dealing with social, economic, legal and judicial challenges.

To ensure this process is smooth and successful, it is very important to respect the judiciary system, and indeed to strengthen it with our support and trust.

Judicial power is distributed to the Union Supreme Court, State/Region High Courts and Courts of Self-Administered Division and Zones, along with the Justices, Judges and Law Officers assigned to those courts to provide justice and court administration. All those in the judiciary sector are responsible for the establishment of a free, fair, trusted and beneficial judiciary system for the people.

But it has been found that when prominent persons or journalists are arrested in Myanmar, criticisms come internally and externally, and the country is accused of being undemocratic.

In a democracy, no one has the right to interfere in the judicial sector. At the same time, we must respect the full rights of the accused, and those of the judiciary as well. The rights of the accused include complete access to a lawyer so that they can prepare their case. The case must be brought to the court in a timely manner to avoid delays as much as possible. Throughout this process, what is of utmost importance is that we should be working in accordance with due process and rule of law.

The two journalists who are facing trial, are accused of breaking the Official Secrets Act. Whether they are guilty or not is for the judiciary to decide.

Everyone who has been following the court proceedings has witnessed that the two men have had free access to their lawyers and to the court proceedings.

The country follows due process and everyone is free to follow the court proceedings to find out whether or not they are fair, and whether or not they are in accordance with the rule of law.

It is vital that all in the community strive to maintain respect for the courts and uphold the rule of law because the rule of law and judicial affairs are essential for peaceful coexistence, the development of Myanmar and our people.

The reform activities taking place in Myanmar are being done with the intent to provide genuine peace in people's lives. Stability, after all, leads to development. To achieve these goals, our country's judicial system and the courts must be strong and reliable for justice to prevail.

In defence of democracy, respect the judiciary. ■



CBM Director General U Aung Kyaw Than. PHOTO: SHWE KO LAY

Small denomination currency exchange

By Shin Min

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has issued small denomination currency notes up to Ks89.386 billion for the convenience of the public during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Besides proportionately issuing small currency notes to state-run and private banks, currency notes exchange services are available at the exchange counters of the CBM in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

Following is a translation of an interview conducted with CBM Currency Management Department Director General U Aung Kyaw Than regarding the small

denomination currency distribution by the CBM:

Q. It is learnt that the CBM is going to issue small currency notes. Could you let us know what kind of currencies would the CBM issue?

A. If you say that the CBM is going to issue small bank notes or coins, it will imply that we have just started issuing these small denomination currencies right now. As for the CBM, we have been distributing series of notes and coins, including 5-pya, 10-pya, 25-pya, 50-pya and 1-kyat coins, and 1-kyat, 5-kyat, 10-kyat, 20-kyat, 50-kyat, 100-kyat, 200-kyat and 500-kyat notes since the time these currency notes and coins were issued in Myanmar. According

to the times and due to changes in spending habits, we no longer issue some small currency coins, but we still issue 50-kyat, 100-kyat and 200-kyat currency notes.

Q. In that case, do you always issue small currency notes from the CBM?

A. That is right. We always issue especially small currency notes such as 50-kyat, 100-kyat, 200-kyat and 500-kyat denominations for the public through the banks. In order for the small notes to reach the hands of the people, we include 1-kyat, 5-kyat, 10-kyat, 20-kyat, 50-kyat, 100-kyat, 200-kyat and 500-kyat in the salaries of employees at Myanmar Economic banks and to those who draw their retirement pension.

Q. Are these currencies issued only by the Myanmar Economic banks?

A. Not at all. Our yearly distribution of small currency notes amounts to 40 billion kyats. It was 42.639 billion kyats in 2013-2014 fiscal year, 42.371 billion kyats in 2014-2015, 31.525 billion kyats in 2015-2016, 80.578 billion kyats in 2016-2017 and 89.386 billion kyats in 2017-2018, respectively.

worn-out, or otherwise unusable currency notes with new ones. We have opened several money exchange counters in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon, aiming to accept time-worn, torn and damaged currency notes from markets areas, bus services and businessmen. In return, they can also draw small currency notes from their relevant banks, if needed.

Although the CBM has

quicker and easier for them, so that, in the long-run, we can alleviate the shortage of small notes to some extent.

Q. Could you tell us the banks' arrangements regarding these small currency notes?

A. As for the state-run and private banks, efforts are being made to facilitate payment processes, and the CBM has sent them directives to change damaged currency notes for the convenience of the people.

As mentioned above, all banks are being informed to offer an easy access to companies, bus services, stores and shopping centers to save and draw small denomination currency notes. You will find that these arrangements include drawing out small currency notes, such as 50-kyat, 100-kyat, 200-kyat and 500-kyat, by using an ATM card. The small currency notes in circulation become worn out due to various reasons, and accordingly, the CBM has arranged to open money exchange counters on every Wednesday. Moreover, what I want to inform is that we have placed special emphasis to solve the shortage of small denomination currency notes by including them proportionately in our currency notes printing process. This way, people can conveniently exchange and draw new currency notes they require at the banks. ■

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung

According to the times and due to changes in spending habits, we no longer issue some small currency coins, but we still issue 50-kyat, 100-kyat and 200-kyat currency notes.

We also distribute proportionately 50-kyat, 100-kyat, 200-kyat and 500-kyat small currency notes every month to state-run and private-owned banks. This way, people can exchange their big-note denomination to smaller ones at the CBM currency exchange counters in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

Q. Could you explain how you dispense these small currency notes to the people?

A. We have already directed the Myanmar Economic banks and other private banks to change old,

opened many exchange counters in various places, there are only a few people who contact our banks in order to exchange their damaged notes. As a consequence, it leads to shortage of small denominations circulating among the public.

Q. As for the public, won't it be more convenient for them to draw small currency notes from their own bank accounts?

A. We have already directed state-run and private banks to issue whatever currency notes they need, and to make the process



Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe

Legal action to be taken against perpetrators of false executive order

THE Office of the President has announced that an investigation has begun into a false executive order demonetizing banknotes, and said legal action will be taken against the perpetrators.

The false executive order with the heading "Central Bank of Myanmar banknotes will be demonetized", stated that Ks500 notes, Ks1,000 notes, Ks5,000 notes and Ks10,000 notes would be invalid beginning 1 August.

"The (false) executive order proliferating on Facebook was not issued by the President's Office", said U Zaw Htay, Director General and spokesperson of the Office of the Pres-

ident. "We are investigating this and will take appropriate action against the falsehood makers."

U Zaw Htay posted on his Facebook page to warn the public of the false executive order spreading on social media platforms. His post reads, "The executive order with announcement No. 25/2018, spreading on Facebook, is not an authentic document. There has been no official announcements or orders concerning banknotes. Investigations have begun to find the originator of the false document and appropriate action under the law will be taken." —Shin Min

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 3:00pm on 24 July 2018)
Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the 2:30pm MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (2) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may continue to rise about (1½) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the 2:30pm MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (3) feet at Hpa-an, above its danger level and may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised that the people who have settled near the river banks and low lying areas in Madauk and Hpa-an townships, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 24th July 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25th JULY 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Shan states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5- 8) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th JULY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Authorities, public donate Waso robes to Sangha members

THE Border Area and National Races Development Implementation Central Committee held its 21st Waso Robes Offering ceremony at the 31 Abodes Monastery in Hopang in Shan State (North) on Monday.

At the ceremony, officials of the committee, the Shan State Government and the North East Command donated robes to 1,066 members of the Sangha and 5,003 novices in Tangyan, Panghsan, Weinkaung, Narphant, Manphant, Manmanhsai, Narwi, Matman, Mongmao, Nangtit areas in eastern region of the Thanlwin River.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director-General U Aung Kyaw of the central committee, member of the Executive Committee of the Wa Self-Administered Division Leading Committee U Yan Kyaw, Chairman of Kokant Self-Administered Zone



Waso robes offering ceremony held in Hopang, Shan State (North).
PHOTO: MNA

U Kyauk Htae Chan, Col Ye Yint Aung of Kunlong area, employees of the Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and local people.

Buddhist devotees offer

robes to Buddhist monks and nuns ahead of the Vassa, the three-month annual rains retreat of the Theravada Buddhist tradition. The period starts on the Full Moon of Waso, which falls in July or August of rainy season in Myanmar.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Youth development festival to be held in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended a meeting in the Mandalay Region government's meeting hall yesterday to conduct an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay.

Present at the meeting with the Union Minister were Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and other region ministers and officials.

In his opening speech, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said this second meeting was held to successfully convene an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay. The all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) will be unique because of a roundtable talk between the State Counsellor and Mandalay-based university students. Attendees of yesterday's meeting were urged to suggest and discuss the subjects or topics or exhibits could be shown at the festival.

In his remark made to the meeting, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said the all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) will be held with

an aim to produce youths with five strengths and full cooperation and participation will be provided as a host. A historical image will be retained for the all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) to be held at Mandalay University.

Next, Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing explained the work processes to hold the all-round youth development festival.

Inclusion of literature, sports, arts and IT activities, entertainment and education programmes and a job fair in the all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) was also discussed in the meeting.

Afterwards the Union Minister and officials inspected the Mandalay University compound, where the all-round youth development festival (Yangon) was held at Yangon University from 1 to 3 December 2017. The all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) will be held at Mandalay University from 11 to 13 August 2018.—Mandalay Sub-Printing House ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects Mandalay University compound to hold all-round youth development festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



Journalists arrive at Sittway Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: TIN TUN/ IPRD**

Media delegation visits Maungtaw

A MEDIA delegation arrived in Sittway by air yesterday to report on the stability, security, development and repatriation there.

The 17-member media delegation comprised journalists from Fuji TV, Sky News TV, New York Times, Myanmar News Agency, MRTV and MITV.—Tin Tun/IPRD ■

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds 2nd day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

U Sai San Aung of Shan State Constituency 12 asked if there were plans to upgrade two roads in Shan State, Wa Self-Administered Division, Hopong Township. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered that the mentioned roads were not included in the list of roads under the Department of Rural Road Development. The Shan State government had submitted to the Union Government office to transfer the two roads onto the list of roads under the Department of Rural Road Development.

ment, according to procedures. Once they are included in this list, necessary upgrades will be conducted, said the deputy minister.

Similarly, questions raised by U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2 and U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2 were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Bill Committee report read

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Lal Min Htan read the committee's

report on the 2nd Bill amending the Myanmar Pearl Law approved and sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw, after which Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill should enroll their names.

Hluttaw decides on bill to amend the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law

Later, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker took the decision and approval of the Hluttaw over the bill to amend the Myanmar

Accountancy Council Law, paragraph by paragraph.

A motion to approve the bill was tabled by Union Auditor General U Maw Than and the motion was supported by U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency 7.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced that the bill was approved after obtaining the Hluttaw's decision to approve it.

The third day meeting of the ninth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 30 July, it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin ■



U Sai San Aung, Shan State Constituency 12. **PHOTO: MNA**

Taking aim at critics, White House seeks to revoke clearances

WASHINGTON — The White House said on Monday it was looking into revoking the security clearances of former CIA director John Brennan, a prominent critic of President Donald Trump, and several other top former US officials.

“The president is looking to take away Brennan’s security clearance,” White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said at a press briefing.

“He’s also looking into the clearances of Comey, Clapper, Hayden, Rice, and McCabe,” she said. Sanders was referring to former FBI director James Comey, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, former CIA chief Michael Hayden, former Obama National Security Advisor Susan Rice, and former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe.

Brennan, Comey, Clapper and Hayden, in particular, have



The White House says it is looking into revoking the security clearance of former CIA director John Brennan, a prominent critic of President Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**

been harsh critics of Trump since he took office.

Following the president’s

summit last week with Russia’s Vladimir Putin, Brennan described Trump’s behavior as

“nothing short of treasonous.”

Sanders said the White House was exploring taking away

the security clearances of the former officials because “they’ve politicized and in some cases monetized their clearances.”

“It’s extremely inappropriate, and the fact that people with security clearances are making baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence,” she said. A spokeswoman for McCabe, Melissa Schwartz, tweeted that his “security clearance was deactivated when he was terminated (in March), according to what we were told was FBI policy.”

Clapper, interviewed by CNN, described the move as a “very, very petty thing to do.”

Asked if the move was political, he said “I don’t know how you present it any other way.”

“This is kind of a petty way for retribution, I suppose, for speaking out against the president,” Clapper said.—AFP ■

Last survivor of Brazil tribe under threat: NGO

SAO PAULO (Brazil) — Tribal rights group Survival International has asked authorities in Brazil to do more to protect isolated Amazon communities after images surfaced of a man believed to be one group’s lone survivor.

The video, which has gone viral, shows a tribesman in a loincloth cutting down trees in the forest with an ax.

The images were made public by Brazil’s National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), a government agency under the justice ministry that is tasked with handling indigenous affairs.

Although the footage dates back to 2011, the agency says it has been tracking the man and has recent evidence that he is still alive.

“It is impossible to know what the ‘Homem do Buraco’ feels, having witnessed the murder of his whole community, and living in a patch of rainforest surrounded by hostile ranchers and their gunmen,” Survival’s research director Fiona Watson told AFP.

The footage “proves he exists, and is a response to some politicians and some in agribusiness who accuse FUNAI of inventing uncontacted Indians,”

she said.

According to FUNAI, the man lives on Tanaru territory in Rondonia state, near the border with Bolivia.

Experts believe that the man has lived alone for 22 years, after the other members of his tribe were slain by powerful land owners.

“Since the last attack in late 1995, the group, which was probably already very limited in numbers, was reduced to just one individual,” says FUNAI, which monitors 107 isolated indigenous groups living on Brazilian soil.

To survive, the man hunts and grows manioc, corn, bananas and papayas, says the agency,

whose workers observe him. The man has so far refused all contact with others.

“FUNAI has suffered big budget cuts recently, and earlier this year closed some protection posts in areas where uncontacted indigenous people live, yet FUNAI is upping the numbers of possible uncontacted tribes,” said Watson.

“Never have these posts been more vital as the pressure mounts from agribusiness and mining interests.”

According to the most recent government data, there are some 800,000 indigenous people belonging to more than 300 distinct groups living in Brazil, a country of 209 million.—AFP ■



Tribal rights group Survival International has asked authorities in Brazil to do more to protect isolated Amazon communities after images surfaced of a man believed to be one group’s lone survivor. **PHOTO: AFP**

LatAm trade ministers express concern over protectionism

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico — A return to trade protectionism led by the United States could cause serious risks for the global economy, Latin American trade ministers attending the fifth Business Meeting of the Pacific Alliance in Mexico on Monday said.

Mexico’s Minister of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo said the “profound change” coming from Washington obliges other countries to assume new responsibilities for ensuring free trade. “We always expect that these swings in strategy are temporary, but we would be fooling ourselves,” he added.

Otherwise, there could be serious consequences for the most vulnerable populations. “No one suffers more from closed economies than the poor,” Guajardo said.

Colombian Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Maria Lorena Gutierrez said the world is facing “the most complicated moment in its trade history.” “There is a clear protectionist trend mixed with a certain populism,” she added.

The consequences, if this trend continued, would be more conflict, not only in trade but also in economic and social matters, including vital aspects like security, she said.

Gutierrez also expressed

concern that the efforts made to create multilateral organizations like the World Trade Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development could be lost.

However, Peru’s Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism, Roger Valencia, suggested the current trade conflict begun by the United States could be temporary. He underlined the importance of the bloc to make joint efforts under such circumstances.

“The Pacific Alliance was born out of necessity and the discovery that the power we have is in working together and integrating ourselves,” he said.

Chile’s Director General of International Economic Relations, Rodrigo Yanez, said it is important for the Pacific Alliance nations to look toward other zones, including the Asia-Pacific region, an obligatory step in consolidating trade with this region.

The Pacific Alliance, created in April 2011, is made up of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, and has more than 50 observer states. The Latin American trade bloc represents the fifth most populated subregion in the world with approximately 223 million people, and contributes 38 percent of the Latin American and Caribbean gross domestic product.—Xinhua ■

Pressure on Macron as disgraced aide defends 'lending police a hand'

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron was under mounting pressure on Monday over a scandal sparked by his former top security aide, who has insisted he was trying to help police when he was filmed manhandling demonstrators at a violent Paris protest.

France's interior minister and the Paris police chief both defended their handling of the burgeoning scandal, telling a parliamentary commission on Monday it was up to Macron's office to respond after videos emerged of Alexandre Benalla hitting a protester.

Dubbed "Benallagate", the affair has prompted opposition claims of an attempted cover-up and paralysed parliamentary debate.

Benalla, 26, was charged Sunday with assault and impersonating a police officer over the videos of him wrestling with two protesters on 1 May while wearing a riot officer's helmet and police armband.

It is unclear how Benalla obtained the equipment, since he was only supposed to be attending the protest as an observer.

On Monday Benalla said the young man and woman he was filmed scuffling with were "particularly virulent individuals" whom he had been trying to "bring under control" while "lending a hand" to police.

"This personal initiative... is obviously being used to tarnish the president in circumstances that defy comprehension," his lawyers said in a statement.

Benalla insisted that his action was "vigorous but without violence and caused no injury".

But the director of public order, Alain Gibelin, told lawmakers that Benalla didn't have "any authorisation" from Paris police headquarters to be at the demonstration as an observer.

'Macron knows everything'

Speaking before a par-

liamentary commission, Interior Minister Gerard Collomb and Paris police chief Michel Delpuech both said they learned of a video of Benalla circulating on social media on 2 May, the day after the protest.

Asked why he did not report the incident to prosecutors, Delpuech said he considered it was up to Macron's office to respond.

Collomb also said it was up to Benalla's superiors in Macron's office either to inform prosecutors or impose any punishment.

Benalla was suspended for two weeks without pay in May, but it was not clear why prosecutors were not informed of the video and alleged violence.

The government on Monday tried to distance Macron from the growing scandal, with government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux saying that Benalla was not "in charge of the security of the President of the Republic".

"The people who ensure the security of the President of the Republic is the police, the gendarmerie," he said.

Meanwhile Gibelin also revealed under questioning from far-right leader

Marine Le Pen that Benalla attended meetings between his services and the Elysee in May during the period when Benalla was suspended from his job. Lawmakers in both houses of parliament are investigating the affair, with Macron's office director Patrick Strzoda due to appear at the Senate on Tuesday afternoon and his chief of staff Alexis Kohler on Thursday.

Political opponents have also called on the president himself to face a grilling. His former Socialist presidential rival Benoit Hamon said in a video on Twitter that Macron must appear before lawmakers because "all this revolves

around him".

"Macron knows everything. He must be questioned," far-left fire-brand Jean-Luc Melenchon added in a tweet.

"This is a political tribunal," Griveaux told LCI channel of the parliamentary hearings.

Macron has yet to speak publicly on the most damaging scandal since he was elected last year on a promise to restore integrity in government.

He has called off a scheduled appearance on Wednesday at the Tour de France cycling race, though aides insist the cancellation was unrelated to the Benalla case. —AFP ■

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

This serves as a general notice that by the resolution of the board of directors, Myanmar Voyages Global Tourism Company Limited, (Company Registration No. 896FC / 2017-2018) is withdrawing its application for registration filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Any objections must be sent to Mr. Maung Aung Htun at Tel. No. 094 016 005 01 within seven (7) days from today.

Mr. Maung Aung Htun

Director of Myanmar Voyages Global Tourism Co., Ltd.
Registration No. 896FC / 2017-2018

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

This serves as a general notice that by the resolution of the board of directors, Myanmar Voyages Group Company Limited, (Company Registration No. 699FC / 2017-2018) is withdrawing its application for registration filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Any objections must be sent to Mr. Maung Aung Htun at Tel. No 094 016 005 01 within seven (7) days from today.

Mr. Maung Aung Htun

Director of Myanmar Voyages Group Co., Ltd.
Registration No. 699FC / 2017-2018

Marriage Announcement

Both Parents are pleased to announce the marriage of
Mr. Neal Thai Young, only son of
Mr. David Anku Young & Mrs. Brenda Aik Kyain Aye
Ho Young,

2062 32nd AVE. San Francisco, CA 94116, USA.

To

Dr. Yi Mon Lin, first daughter of
U Shwin Pyone & Daw Mu Mu San,
278, U Aung Hla Street, Hinthada Township,
Ayeyarwaddy, Myanmar,
in the presence of both parents, relatives and elders
on Tuesday, the 17th of July, 2018,
in Yangon.

*Parents From Both Sides and
Neal Thai Young & Yi Mon Lin.*

Public Notification of Charity-Oriented Myanmar

In exercise of the power conferred by our client Daw Nway Nway Tun, (12/YaKaNa (Naing) 068974, Executive Director of the **Charity – Oriented Myanmar**, we hereby announce the following public notification.

1. Since its foundation in 2005, **Charity-Oriented Myanmar** has been working for the development of communities and contributing philanthropic services to the people in accordance with the existing laws. They, **Charity-Oriented Myanmar**, has been working to enforce strong ethics and disciplines in employees and related activities.
2. It is found that some people have posted accusations without evidence on social network against Charity-Oriented Myanmar, which is working for the public interest with the use of registered brands. Some media also covered the groundless accusations against Charity-Oriented Myanmar. Special attention should be paid to the fact that such accusations on social media and print media break the existing laws.
3. The false accusations have caused physical and mental sufferings of the organisation, responsible personnel and employees of the organisation and personnel and organisations related with **Charity-Oriented Myanmar**.
4. Hence, those who posted false accusations on social media and covered the groundless accusations making the use of the name, the logo, photos, manuals, pamphlets, educational books, curriculum, flag and symbols, building, signboard and invitations of the **Charity-Oriented Myanmar**, are urged to delete or to abolish these posting within seven days from the time this notification is announced and to solve and to apologise to **Charity-Oriented Myanmar**. If they fail to follow our requests, we will file a lawsuit against them in accordance with the law.

Under the name of Executive Director Daw Nway Nway Tun,
U Kyi Win (Labutta)
Advocate (1506/8-4-1976)

Robert San Aung
Advocate (2469/18-11-1983)
Office-173, First Floor, Theinbyu Road,
Kan/Taung Ward, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO. (1804N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO. (1804N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A I P T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BOX EXPRESS VOY. NO. (1849-1850)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BOX EXPRESS VOY. NO. (1849-1850) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT

(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Newspapers & Journal Printing Service.

Contact:

09-254435478

Abe says Japan wants to accept more foreign workers from April



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2nd from L) speaks during a ministerial meeting in Tokyo on 24 July, 2018, about a plan to accept more foreign workers from April. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Japan wants to start accepting more foreign workers from April next year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Tuesday, as the country faces a serious labour crunch across many of its industries.

In a meeting with Cabinet members, Abe instructed them to speed up the necessary preparations for the plan to be implement-

ed in line with the targeted starting point, which will effectively open the door to blue-collar labourers in addition to currently accepted highly skilled foreigners.

With this plan, the government is considering reorganizing the Immigration Bureau and setting up an affiliated agency that will solely be in charge of handling unskilled foreign workers. “To create an environment in which foreigners can live smoothly is an important issue,” Abe said during the meeting that was convened after the Cabinet approved last month the plan to increase the foreign labor force. The government wants to submit a bill to revise the nation’s immigration law to an extraordinary Diet session expected to be convened in the autumn. Before introducing the new system, the government still needs to specify which industries will be eligible to offer foreign nationals menial jobs and beef up measures against potential abuse of the framework. Under the plan, a new visa status valid for up to five years in principle will be created but workers will be banned from bringing their family members. —Kyodo News

Invitation for Bids

Date:	24 July 2018
Loan No. and Title:	Loan 3330-MYA Power Transmission Improvement Project
Contract No. and Title:	Package No (2)- 7(T) DPTSC(PTP)/(2018-2019): Design, Supply and Installation for 230kV Thaketa Substation Extension and Three New Substations at Kyaikasan, South Oakkalapa and West University
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	6 September 2018, 13:00 hours (local time)

1. The Republic of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the **Power Transmission Improvement Project**. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. **The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)** (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Extension of the 230kV Thaketa Substation and the Construction of three new substations** at Kyaikasan, South Oakkalapa and West University Substations (the Facilities). The Facilities are all located within Yangon region.
3. **International Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with ADB’s [Single-Stage: One-Envelope](#) bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
- Experience for successful completion of at least two (2) comparable contracts (Design, supply, delivery, installation and testing & commissioning of (a) GIS substation with voltage level 220 kV or higher at least one (1) contract to prove, (b) AIS substations with voltage level 220 kV (or higher on turnkey basis) within the last ten (10) years as on the date of opening of proposals of which at least one (1) GIS substation and one (1) AIS substation shall be in successful operation for minimum of three (3) years.
 - Minimum average annual turnover of US\$ 50.0 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, for the last three (3) years.
- The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.
5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, bidders should contact:
Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)
Address: Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw , Myanmar
Mr. Kyi San Lin, Director
Telephone: 95 67 8104286
Website: <http://www.moe.gov.mm>
Email: sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com, kyilinn@gmail.com ,
Fax: 95 67 8104286
6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders should write to the address above requesting the bidding documents for the Facilities. And pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with Myanmar Kyats which is equivalent to US\$ 100.
7. A Pre-bid meeting shall take place on 10 August 2018 at 14:00 hours (local time) at the address above, Meeting Room, Material Planning Department.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address above **on or before the deadline: 6 September 2018 at 13:00 hours (local time)** together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.
Electronic Submission is not allowed.
9. Bids will be opened immediately after the bid submission deadline in the presence of bidders’ representatives who choose to attend.

Tender Committee
Department of Power Transmission and System Control
Ministry of Electricity and Energy, office No.27, Nay Pyi Taw

TRANSFER OF PESTICIDE DISTRIBUTOR

Products from Serial No. (1), produced from **SAIGON PLANT PROTECTION JOINT STOCK COMPANY (SPC) VIETNAM**, have been registered at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Authority attained distribution from **SAIGON PLANT PROTECTION JOINT STOCK COMPANY (SPC) (MYANMAR BRANCH)** by our **AKARI MIN TRADING COMPANY LIMITED**.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registragion Number
1	CARBENZIM 500 FL	Carbendazim 500 g/l FL	Full	F2017-1245

If any objection can be made within (14) days Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Department of Agriculture, Bayintnaung Road, Gyogon, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Saigon Plant Protection Joint Stock Company (SPC) (Myanmar Branch)
66/E-4, Old Yay Tar Shay Street, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Mobi +959 559724, +959 288 539

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 27th (Friday)
July 2018 “FULL MOON OF WASO DAY”
under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

TRADEMARK CAUTION

AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION, a company registered under the laws of Republic of Korea, which is located at 100, Hangang-daero, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

ILLIYOON
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LIRIKOS
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Reg. No. 5096/2018

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HAPPY BATH
Reg. No. 5097/2018

In respect of **Class 3**: Cosmetics; Cosmetic preparations for skin care; Make-up preparations, namely, make-up base; Make-up powder; Mascaras; Creamy foundation; Lipsticks; Nail polish; Beauty masks for cosmetic purposes; Shampoos; Dentifrices; Perfumery; Tissues impregnated with cosmetic lotions; Cosmetic soaps.

AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. **AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION** reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)
For **AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION**
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: 25th July 2018



Rock band U2 — guitarist The Edge and frontman Bono are shown here performing at a concert in Nashville in May 2018 — were the top-paid musicians in the US in 2017, Billboard says. **PHOTO: AFP**

U2 top-paid musicians in US last year: survey

NEW YORK — U2 may not be the freshest faces in music but the Irish rockers were the industry's top earners in the United States last year, Billboard said in an annual survey on Monday.

U2 earned \$54.4 million last year — more than 95 per cent of it from touring as Bono and company packed stadiums for concerts to mark 30 years since their seminal album “The Joshua Tree.”

Veteran country star Garth Brooks was a close second at \$52.2 million as he kept up the massive tour launched in 2014 when he came out of retirement, while metal legends Metallica ranked third at \$43.2 million.

Lady Gaga was the top-ranking woman at number six, while

Pulitzer Prize winner Kendrick Lamar was the highest grossing rapper at number 13.

Billboard confirmed that touring has overwhelmingly become the top means of revenue for musicians in an era of stagnating traditional album sales but a rapid rise in streaming.

Among the 50 highest-grossing artists, touring accounted for nearly 80 percent of revenue.

Only two artists who didn't tour last year made the Top 50 — 37th-ranked Drake, the king of streaming who earned \$8.6 million from Apple Music, Spotify and other online platforms, and 48th-ranked Taylor Swift, who made most of her money on old-fashioned CD sales and downloads.—AFP ■

Deepika Padukone to join Madame Tussauds London, Delhi



Deepika Padukone. **PHOTO: PTI**

MUMBAI — Deepika Padukone is the newest addition at Madame Tussauds with her wax figure set for attractions in London and Delhi.

The team of Madame Tussauds expert artistes met Deepika in London for the sitting for her figures, where they took over 200 specific measurements, photographs to create an authentic likeness.

“I am so delighted. The sitting with the team of experts was a special experience and I look forward to the incredible figure at the attraction,” the actor said in a statement.

The first figure will launch in London early 2019, while the Delhi figure will follow a few months later.

“Deepika is an extremely talented actress that Bollywood has seen over the years. Her fan following is huge and is growing across the world. We are thrilled to announce her figure at the Delhi attraction. We are certain that our guests will love to see her figure,” Anshul Jain, General Manager, and Director, Merlin Entertainments India Pvt Ltd said.

The Delhi museum currently showcases wax figures of Indian personalities such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Katrina Kaif, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan and others.—PTI ■

R Kelly hits back and reveals abuse in 19-minute song

NEW YORK — Singer R Kelly, the target of a boycott campaign over his treatment of women, hit back on Monday in a 19-minute song in which he reveals he was abused himself.

Entitled “I Admit,” the marathon song nonetheless is heavier on denials than acknowledgement as the “I Believe I Can Fly” star vents frustration over the stream of allegations against him.

“I never thought it would come to this, to be the most disrespected artist,” he sings over a mid-tempo R&B beat.

“So I had to write a song about this, ‘cause they always take my words and twist it.”

Halfway through the song, Kelly says that a family member touched him sexually from a young age until he was 14.

“So scared to say something / So I just put the blame on me / Now here I am, and I’m trying my best to be honest.”

The Time’s Up movement for gender equality has urged the music industry to part ways with Kelly in the wake of Bill Cosby’s conviction, calling for a world in which women “can pursue their dreams free from sexual assault, abuse and predatory behaviour.”

Kelly was acquitted in 2008 of charges of child pornography after a video allegedly showed

him in sexual acts with an underage girl.

More recently, a woman in Dallas complained to police that Kelly knowingly gave her a sexually transmitted disease and BuzzFeed News published an expose in which it said that the singer was keeping six women in virtual slavery with control over their diets, clothing and sex lives.

Kelly, 51, in the song suggests racial bias and draws a contrast with positive portrayals of late Playboy founder Hugh Hefner, known for his multiple

relationships with younger women.

Kelly admits sex with “both older and young ladies” but adds: “Really, am I supposed to go to jail or lose my career because of your opinions?”

He also chides celebrities who have turned on him including singer John Legend as well as top streaming service Spotify, which briefly removed him from playlists as part of a crackdown.

“I’m not convicted / Not arrested / Dragged my name in the dirt,” he sings.—AFP ■



Singer Robert Sylvester Kelly, seen here in a 2013 file picture, has released a 19-minute song venting frustration over a boycott campaign over his treatment of women. **PHOTO: AFP**

Astrobiologists find possibilities of Moon life

WASHINGTON — American and British scientists suggested that there may have been two early windows of habitability for the Moon, though it is uninhabitable today.

A new study published on Monday in the journal *Astrobiology* showed that conditions on the lunar surface were sufficient to support simple lifeforms shortly after the Moon formed from a debris disk four billion years ago and again during a peak in lunar volcanic activity around 3.5 billion years ago.

Schulze-Makuch, an astrobiologist at Washington State University and Ian Crawford, a professor of planetary science and astrobiology at the University of London said during

both periods, the Moon was spewing out large quantities of superheated volatile gases, including water vapor, from its interior.

The outgassing could have formed pools of liquid water on the lunar surface and an atmosphere dense enough to keep it there for millions of years, according to the study. "If liquid water and a significant atmosphere were present on the early Moon for long periods of time, we think the lunar surface would have been at least transiently habitable," Schulze-Makuch said.

In 2009 and 2010, an international team of scientists discovered hundreds of millions of metric tons of water ice on the Moon. Additionally, there is strong evidence of a large amount



of water in the lunar mantle that is thought to have been deposited very early on in the Moon's formation.

The early Moon is also likely to have been protected by a magnetic field that could have shielded lifeforms on the surface from deadly solar winds, according to the researchers.

Life on the Moon, if any, could have originated much as it did on Earth but the more likely scenario is that it would have been brought in by a meteorite, Schulze-Makuch said. The

earliest evidence for life on Earth comes from fossilized cyanobacteria that are between 3.5 and 3.8 billion years old.

During this time, the solar system was dominated by frequent and giant meteorite impacts.

It is possible that meteorites containing simple organisms like cyanobacteria could have been blasted off the surface of the Earth and landed on the Moon, according to the researchers.

"There could have actually been microbes thriving in water pools on the Moon until the surface became dry and dead," Schulze-Makuch said.—Xinhua ■

MIT researchers create world's smallest robot for medical, industrial application

SAN FRANCISCO — Researchers at US Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created the world's smallest robots that can be used for medical diagnosis or industrial application such as detection of oil or gas leakage, a study said on Monday.

According to the study published in the journal *Nature Nanotechnology*,

the tiny robots are devices about the size of a human egg cell, which consist of tiny electronic circuits made of two-dimensional materials, piggybacking on minuscule particles called colloids. They are insoluble particles or molecules anywhere from a billionth to a millionth of a meter across, and they can stay afloat indefinitely in a liquid

or in air. The self-powered cell-size robots don't need any external power source or even internal batteries.

Their circuits get the trickle of electricity from a photodiode to power their computation and memory circuits. That's powerful enough for the tiny robots to sense information about their environment, store data in their memo-

ry, and make it possible to retrieve data upon mission completed. MIT scientists hope their efforts can lay the groundwork for the tiny robotic devices to be used in the medical sector like the diagnosis in human digestive system, where they pass through the digestive tract searching for signs of inflammation or other disease indicators.—Xinhua ■

Bee scent could repel elephants, prevent conflict with humans

TAMPA (Florida) — Elephants never forget a bee sting.

Their eyes and the sensitive, soft tissue inside their trunks are particularly vulnerable to painful stings, and experts believe African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) have learned over the centuries to recognize the scents bees give off when they are scared and ready to swarm.

Now, researchers say this well-honed fear of bees could be used to help repel the majestic beasts in places where they risk conflicts with humans.

In a three-month field test at South Africa's Greater Kruger National Park, scientists hung white socks filled with bee pheromones, which are chemical clues that honeybees release from their bodies when they perceive

a threat to their hive.

A total of 25 of 29 elephants that approached the "showed typical signs of increased alertness, signs of uncertainty, and finally calmly moved away," said

the report in the journal *Current Biology*. To make sure it wasn't simply the socks but the odor emanating from them, researchers hung similar socks that did not contain the pheromones, and

found that elephants were curious about the socks, would pick them up and even taste them at times.

Since some farmers in Africa already place commercial

bee hives along their fence lines to protect their crops from elephants, the results suggest there may be a cheaper way to ward off conflicts.

"Our results complement previous studies that have demonstrated that active bee hives can deter elephants from crops for example but may be difficult to implement on a large scale," said lead author Mark Wright, a professor of entomology at the Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

"We hope to expand this work to develop additional tools for sustainable passive management of elephant movements, to augment the current approaches used."—AFP ■



A herd of elephants feed around the waterhole in late afternoon at Pendjari National Park in Benin on 10 January, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Condolences

Mr. George Nicholas Foster

M.Sc. Agricultural Engineering (Soil and Water)
(61 years)

Husband of Ms Helen Mary Devaney at Warrington, England, father of Mr. Patrick Foster Devaney, Ms. Rachael Foster Devaney and Ms. Laura Foster Devaney, Mr. George Nicholas Foster, Team Leader of SOFRECO consultant team for the rehabilitation of Myinkun and Kanni Pump Irrigation Projects funded by French Development Agency (AFD) for Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, passed away at Magway, Myanmar at 5:30 am on 21 July 2018. We are in deeply saddened and mourned on his lost. May he rest in peace. With Deepest and Heartfelt Condolences.

Director General and Service Personnel
Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Israel's new discovery likely to help detect genetic diseases

JERUSALEM — A new discovery by Israeli researchers about inner structure of cells will likely help detect genetic diseases, according to a report published Saturday on the Hebrew-language science site "Hayadan".

Based on a study of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, the organelles structures inside the living cells are connected by tiny strips, not separated from each other as previously thought.

The discovery can significantly contribute to detecting the causes of serious genetic diseases and pave the way for finding

appropriate treatments, said the report. Organelles are biological structures in the intracellular fluid, surrounded by a membrane. Each organelle has a unique function.

The study, based on yeast cells, showed that each organelle has its own location in the cell, which is determined by a network of ligaments, which also transfer substances in physical contact.

Moreover, the connection appears to be an efficient way to deliver material or messages, which could be harmful if they reach the wrong place, added the report.—Xinhua ■

Bordeaux block Malcom move to Roma after late Barcelona bid

PARIS — Bordeaux have blocked the transfer of Brazilian winger Malcom to Roma after a last-minute bid for the player from Barcelona, said a source from the French club on Monday.

“There has been an approach from Barca,” the source confirmed, after Bordeaux had reached an agreement earlier in the day to sell Malcom to Italian giants Roma.

The 21-year-old had been expected to arrive in Rome on Monday night for a medical on Tuesday before joining his future teammates on their pre-season tour of the United States the following day, but had his flight cancelled by the Ligue 1 outfit at the last moment. Barcelona made contact with Bordeaux following the failure to sign Brazil international Willian from Chelsea and, according to Italian media reports, made a bid larger than the reported fee of 38 million euros



Malcom was Bordeaux's leading scorer in the French league last season with 12 goals. **PHOTO: AFP**

(\$44.4 million) struck with Roma.

Malcom had been a reported target for several European clubs including Premier League sides Arsenal and Tottenham, but English clubs may have been put off from making a bid as he needed a UK work permit to play in the Premier League.

Malcom scored 12 goals in 35 league games for Bordeaux last season. Roma finished third in Serie A behind champions Juventus and Napoli to qualify for the 2018/19 Champions League group stage, having reached the semi-finals of the competition last term.—AFP ■

Investigation opened after complaint against Spanish football boss: reports

MADRID (Spain) — A complaint has been lodged against the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) president Luis Rubiales accusing him of trying to finance work on his house through the union of players he chaired, according to Spanish media reports on Monday.

Radio Cadena SER, which first reported the story, said a court in Valencia opened a preliminary inquiry after a complaint from Miguel Angel Galan, a former leadership candidate for the RFEF.

Rubiales, president of the RFEF since May, would owe 120,000 euros for the work on his house, according to Cadena SER.

But he reportedly pro-

posed to pay part of his personal debt with money which was meant to be used for a construction project for the Spanish Players' Union (AFE).

The local courts of the Valencia region confirmed to AFP the filing of the complaint, but refused to comment on the opening of a preliminary investigation. The AFE said in a statement that it had “not financed any personal work for Luis Rubiales”.

Rubiales took over at the RFEF from Angel Maria Villar, who was implicated in a corruption case, and played a key part in the sacking of Spain coach Julen Lopetegui on the eve of the World Cup last month.—AFP ■

Swiss star Federer withdraws from Rogers Cup

LOS ANGELES — Eight-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer has pulled out of next month's ATP Rogers Cup tournament in Toronto due to scheduling concerns.

The 36-year-old Federer said he needs to be prudent about how many tournaments he plays in a season.

“I'm so disappointed not to play at the Rogers Cup this summer,” said world number two Federer. “I had a fantastic time in Montreal last year and always enjoy playing in front of the Canadian fans. “But unfortunately with scheduling being

the key to my longevity moving forward, I have regrettably decided to withdraw from Toronto this year.”

Jeremy Chardy of France will take Federer's place in the main draw. Organizers said the event, which takes place on 4-12 August at Toronto's York University, will feature 19 of the top 20 players in the world including reigning Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic and world number one Rafael Nadal.

“It's unfortunate that we won't have Roger in Toronto this summer,” said tournament spokesman Karl Hale.—AFP ■



Roger Federer lost last year's Rogers Cup final to Alexander Zverev in Montreal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Football redraw for Asian Games to take place on Wednesday

KUALA LUMPUR — A redraw for the men's football tournament at Asian Games in Indonesia will be held on Wednesday, after organizers left out two countries in the first draw earlier this month.

The new draw will take place on Wednesday afternoon at the headquarters of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In the first draw held on 5 July, there were six groups of

four nations, with the top two nations from those six groups, plus the four best third-seeded teams, set to reach the round of 16.

But the AFC ordered Indonesian organizers to conduct a redraw after learning that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Palestine were not included in the original draw.

This will raise the number of participating teams to 26. Groups

A, C, D and F will have four nations each, and Groups B and E will each have five countries.

The Asian Games run from 18 August to 2 September, but group play in football will begin a few days ahead. The men's football tournament at the Asian Games is limited to players 23 or younger, though countries are each permitted to name up to three players over that age limit.—AFP ■

Parma docked five points as striker banned for match-fixing

ROME (Italy) — Parma will begin the Serie A season with a five-point deduction after striker Emanuele Calaiò's alleged attempt to fix the match that sealed their promotion, the Italian football federation (FIGC) said on Monday.

A 2-0 win at Spezia on May 18 saw two-time UEFA Cup winners Parma promoted to the top division just three years after a financial meltdown led to relegation from Serie A and rebirth

in the semi-professional Serie D, Italian football's fourth tier.

Calaiò, 36, has been handed a two-year ban for match-fixing after he sent text messages to a former team-mate that appeared to ask Spezia players not to try too hard.

Spezia fans reacted furiously to their team's display after the match, directing particular anger toward former Italian international and ex-Parma player Alberto Gilardino, who smashed a

penalty for Spezia high and wide with the hosts still only a goal down. “The tribunal (Italy's National Federal Court) considers proven that Calaiò, by sending the messages in question...tried to commit an illegal act,” the FIGC said in a statement.

Parma said they had taken note of the decision “with great bitterness” and announced they would contest the ruling at the Italian federation's Court of Appeal.—AFP ■