VP U Myint Swe: ‘Made in Myanmar’ high-quality products should be promoted at prominent locations

THE Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee (SMEDWC) held meeting No. 2/2018 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Vice President U Myint Swe, SMEDWC Chairman, delivered a speech at the meeting.

Attending the meeting were SMEDWC Vice-Chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, SMEDWC members including Union Ministers Dr. Than Myint and U Soe Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairperson Dr. Myo Aung, Chief Ministers from states and regions, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Permanent Secretaries, other SMEDWC members, Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, experts, professionals, businesspeople and other officials.

In his speech, the Vice President said, in the first meeting of SMEDWC, held on 13 December 2017, the Fund Management Group, Report Writing Group and SME Agency were formed and that the three groups need to work in harmony with increased momentum. In the second meeting, held on 19 February 2018, a decision was made to form local branches of the SME Agency in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area and states and regions, said the Vice President.

The Vice President said he was delighted to see the Chief Ministers from states and regions and ministers working and cooperating with enthusiasm in the different agencies. He added that he believed if the difficulties of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are solved and their actual requirements were fulfilled, then their competitive advantage will be realistically elevated.

The Vice President requested for the relevant states and regions to provide support to the six self-administered zones so that branches of the SME Agency can be opened there, as they are the only areas left with no agency branch while the Nay Pyi Taw Council and remaining states and regions each have a branch of the agency.

The Vice President said that with the leading facilitation of the SMEDWC, four MSME exhibitions and competitions have been held in four different states and regions, with collaboration between Mandalay Region and Kachin State in Mandalay City, between Magway Region, Chin State and Rakhine State in Magway City, between Shan State and Kayah State in Taunggyi City and of Ayeyawady Region in Pathein City. The Vice President requested the cooperation of everyone, so that more MSME exhibitions and competitions can be held in the remaining states and regions and with each successive exhibition and competition getting better in promoting MSMEs and forming business connections.

The Vice President said that there are plans to invite private banks in the MSME regional product exhibition and competition to be held in Sagaing Region this month, so that they can observe the regional MSMEs and provide loans to those with a high chance for future success.

SMEDWC has the responsibility to support business start-ups and traditional SMEs in growing into strong SMEs and to set and implement strategic plans for MSMEs that win the regional competitions and those with good prospects to enter the global market, said the Vice President. He said he wished for products from struggling MSMEs to be displayed for sale in local supermarkets and regional exhibition halls so as to give them motivation. He added that conducting promotions in states and regions will encourage the proliferation of rural SMEs. He said counters for ‘Made in Myanmar’ high-quality products should be allowed to be set up in airports, express bus terminals, prominent and famous locations, hotels, restaurants and supermarkets, in accordance with the available basic infrastructure in the region. He added that he noticed ASEAN countries display their regional products at their conferences and special occasions.

SEE PAGE 7
Fourth-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s 9th regular session held

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session held its fourth-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were answered, a motion tabled and a bill decided.

Opening of ethnic national media school (college)

In the asterisk-marked question and answer session, U Oo Hla Saw of Mrauk U constituency first raised a question on plans to open ethnic national media school (college). Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun replied on behalf of the Ministry of Information and together with Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and Rakhine State government.

The Deputy Minister said there are more than 100 ethnic nationals living in Myanmar and ethnic national media plays an important role in socio-economic development of ethnic nationals in the regions. With the abolishing of pre-publication censorship in August 2012, private media rapidly developed and together with it, ethnic media and media formerly based abroad or in border regions moved into the country.

Some ethnic media combined to become the Burma News International (BNI) with 11 members in 2013 and had grown to include 13 members. There are many more ethnic national media that have not become BNI members yet. BNI organized six ethnic national media conferences from 2013 to 2018 and the participation and cooperation of the Ministry of Information and related state/region governments was seen to have assisted and supported ethnic national media development.

At the moment, 11 ethnic national television programs are broadcasted by state-owned media — Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) of the Ministry of Information, starting from 15 October 2013. Myanmar Radio is also broadcasting 17 ethnic national radio programs.

Starting from 1 August 2014, sub-printing house (Mawlamyine) is printing and distributing 4 pages (color) of Sunday supplements in Mon, S’gaw Kayin, Pwo Kayin and Pa O languages in Myanmar Alinn and Kyemon newspapers. An ethnic national section (Kachin language) supplement was printed by sub-printing house (Mandalay) and distributed in Kachin State every Saturday starting from 9 September 2017. An ethnic national section (in Myanmar language) was also included as supplement in Kyemon newspaper every Saturday starting from 30 September 2017.

A supplement (in Rakhine language) was also printed in sub-printing house (Sittway) every Wednesday starting from 20 September 2017 and distributed in Rakhine State. A special section on Rakhine State (in Myanmar language) was also printed in sub-printing house (Sittway) starting from 5 October 2017 and distributed in Rakhine State, said the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister then explained briefly about the work of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, formed by the previous government. This ministry organized a forum on sustainable development of ethnic nationals from 18 to 19 January 2018 and in the peace and ethnic national media sector. Nine points on media development was obtained, out of which one is to open an ethnic national media training school. Ministry of Ethnic Affairs had informed of the appropriateness of opening an ethnic national media school (college) said the Deputy Minister.

The Ministry of Information acknowledged the importance of ethnic national media development, but it has no plans at the moment to open an ethnic national media school (college), said the Deputy Minister. Instead of the Ministry of Information, this is better coordinated and conducted with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs that are at the moment providing courses on journalism, he added.

Fourth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s 9th regular session held

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw’s ninth regular session held its fourth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where a proposal to donate a day’s allowance of the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to flood-affected people was made, asterisk-marked questions asked and answered and a bill discussed.

A day’s allowance of Hluttaw representatives donated to flood-affected people

First, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than proposed donating a day’s allowance of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to people in states and regions of Myanmar, affected by flooding and inundation caused by heavy rain throughout country. The Ministry of Information Management System (MOI), which is responsible for broadcast media, is working on its complete ICT support plan and working toward having a complete ICT support plan.

The incumbent government had enacted the fourth amendment to the Anti-Corruption Law on 21 June 2018, formed the Anti-Corruption Commission on 23 November 2017 and conducting anti-corruption work. Furthermore, an announcement was made by the Office of the President on 8 May 2018 about the President submitting his assets and values to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker in accordance with the Constitution. Furthermore, with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the list of assets and values of the Union level persons previously appointed and additionally appointed were being submitted to the President in accordance with the Union Government Law.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.

Photo: MNA

Photo: MNA
Dawei, Kyaukpyu SEZs to be speeded up

VICE President U Henry Van Thio has called for speeding up the implementation of Dawei and Kyaukpyu special economic zones to achieve significant progress amid slow growth of the two zones.

In his capacity as the Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zones Central Committee, the Vice President made the remarks in his opening address at the meeting of the central body held for the first time in 2018 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The central committee was formed in 2016. A bid to develop the Kyaukpyu SEZ has been completed in accordance with international rules and regulations.

“Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone is directly related with the development of Myanmar and Rakhine State as well, and we must strive for successful implementation of the zone,” said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

In his address, the Vice President also expressed his belief that there would be progress in signing a framework agreement on the Kyaukpyu Deep Port project, as negotiations are underway.

Regarding the Dawei Special Economic Zone, Japan is participating as the Special Purpose Vehicle-SPV.

“All of us need to make efforts for implementing the Dawei Special Economic Zone because the earlier the project completes, the earlier the country will see development,” said the Vice President. He also urged the participants at the meeting to give suggestions for development of the country’s economic zones as soon as possible.

The two zones are considered as slow growth zones in comparison to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone which has a total foreign investment of over US$ 1.4 billion from 95 companies.

A total of 52 factories are operating there, creating job opportunities.

Implementation of Zone-A of Thilawa SEZ is nearly completed while construction of the Zone-B is underway.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Thant Zin Maung, U Win Khaing, U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Thaw Myint and U Soe Win, region and state Chief Ministers U Phyo Min Thein and Daw Le Le Maw, Deputy Ministers Dr. Tun Naing, U Aung Htoo and U Kyaw Lin, chairmen of the management committees of the special economic zones, vice chairmen and secretaries, Permanent Secretaries of the ministries and Directors-General of the respective departments.

At the meeting, Vice Chair of the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee Daw Nilar Kyaw reported on issues related with the Thilawa SEZ, while Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing, Chairman of Dawei SEZ Management Committee, on issues related with Dawei SEZ. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin discussed plans for construction of the two-lane road between Dawei and Htikee.

The Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials also discussed issues related with implementation of the special economic zones.

After hearing reports, Vice President U Henry Van Thio suggested settling the issues in cooperation with the Yangon Region government, urging the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee to update the systems of the zones so as to meet international standards as it is considered the role model for other economic zones in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

Staff of UEC, sub-committees receive skills for monitoring, assessing strategic plan 2019-2022

THE International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) opened a training on monitoring and assessing work of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 and drawing plans at the Union Election Commission (UEC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. In his opening address at the opening ceremony, Chairman of UEC U Hla Thein called for cooperation of the sub-election commissions, ministries concerned, political parties and civil society organizations with the UEC to complete the tasks of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022.

The Strategic Plan 2019-2022 was drawn after seeking advice and suggestions from the region and state sub-commissions, political parties and CSOs this year for the 2020 general elections.

“Only when we monitor the sector-wise processes, can we know if the work can be completed in time and consequences of the implementation,” said U Hla Thein. He also stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination in implementing the strategic plan in holding the free and fair elections in 2020 aspired by the people.

Following his address, Ms. Pascaleine Krone, Deputy Country Director of the IFES, and Mr. Rakosh Sharma, Director of M & E and Survey Research, explained the training programmes and discussed the monitoring and assessing the processes of the 11 tasks included in the strategic plan. A total of 35 representatives from the UEC and its sub-commissions are attending the two-day training.—Myanmar News Agency

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting on National Education and Legal Supporting laws

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on National Education Law and Legal Supporting Law at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, deputy chairmen, secretaries and committee members of Joint Bill Committee, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gy and officials, members of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, secretaries and members of Pyithu Hluttaw committee for education promotion, Amyotha Hluttaw committee for education promotion, Pyithu Hluttaw judicial and legal affairs committee and legal affairs and special cases assessment commission, officials from Union Supreme Court Office and Union Attorney General’s Office, secretaries and members of National Education Policy Commission and Union Legal Supporting Group and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

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Fourth-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s 9th ...

FROM PAGE-2

In conclusion, it is better to implement the opening of ethnic
national media schools and colleges,
by coordinating among the Min-
istry of Education, Ministry of
Ethnic Affairs and state/region
governments. The Ministry of
Information will coordinate and
assist in this, said the Deputy
Minister in his answer to the
question posed.

Plans to open a passport issu-
ing office in Muse

Next, U Sai Pho Myat
of Muse constituency posed
a question on a plan to open
a passport issuing office in
Muse. Deputy Minister for
Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung
Thu explained that BP (Border
Pass) book (red color) and TBP
(Temporary Border Pass) ticket
(green color) were being issued
by Myanmar nationals for travel
into China up to 60 km from
the border. In the past, applications
can be made to the Ministry of
Hotels and Tourism and with
the permission of the Office of
the President, Myanmar na-
tionals with ordinary Myanmar
passports and Chinese nation-
als with Chinese passports can
cross the border and visit the
other country. But starting from
21 November 2016, ordinary My-
nanmar passport holders were
no longer permitted to cross
the border into China because of
security situation.

Myanmar citizens living in
Muse can leave for foreign coun-
tries through Nay Pyi Taw, Yan-
gon and Mandalay, and passes-
ports can be made in Lashio,
which is also making timely assess-
ment and issuing of passport
to applicants, depending on local
situation. Passport office (Lash-
io) occasionally conducts home
service to Muse. As such, there
is no plan to open a passport
issuing office in Muse, said the
Deputy Minister.

Similarly, questions raised
by U Oo Hla Soe of MraukU
constituency, U Sai Ngaung
Hsin of Maungtaw constituency,
Daw Ni Ni Myint of Taungup constituency, U Naing
Naiing of Tamu constituency
and U Aung Kyaw Kyaw
Oo of Hlinye constituency were
answered by Deputy Minister
Maj-Gen Aung Thu.

Decision to upgrade One
Stop Shops to One Stop Service

After the question and an-
swer session, U Tin Ko Ko Oo
(@ U A Tut of Bilin constitu-
eny) tabled a motion urging the
government to upgrade and
implement One Stop Shops to
One Stop Service.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U
T Khun Myat announced Hlut-
taw’s agreement to discuss the
motion after obtaining the con-
sensus of the Hluttaw. Following
this Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U
T Khun Myat announced that
Hluttaw representatives who
want to discuss the motion to
enroll their names.

Fourth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s 9th ...

FROM PAGE-2

On the cooperation and par-
ticipation of the people, NGOs
and INGOs, together with civil
society organisations are par-
ticipating in the government’s
Sector Coordination Groups
(SCGs). Representatives of
ethnic
national, civil society organi-
sations, economic organisations,
experts and people who ought
to participate were also partici-
ating in the Union Peace Con-
ference-21* Century Panglong.

The Union Enterprise for
Humanitarian Assistance, Re-
settlement and Development
(UERHD) in Rakhine State
committee project work groups
were formed with civilian ex-
perts, while 351 youth volunteers
were conducting it. Myanmar
National Committee for Wom-
en’s Affairs formed to implement
women’s development work was
reformed as All Myanmar Wom-
en’s Affairs Committee. This
committee is reporting to UN-
CEDAW (United Nations Con-
vention on the Elimination of All
Forms of Discrimination Against
Women) committee once every
four years, implementing noti-
fications, implementing ASE-
AN women’s affairs committee
work programme 2016-2020,
Identifying Gender Issues
related to OGP. The former gov-
ernment worked on if need to. But it is not
possible to restart matters that
are revoked, rescinded or abol-
ished could be restarted and
there is no plan to become a member of OGP,
replied the deputy minister.

Asterisk-marked questions
posed by U Tet Tun Aung of Ra-
khine State constituency 2, U
Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State
constituency 1, U Myint Naing
of Rakhine State constituency
5 and U Khin Maung Latt of
Rakhine State constituency 3
were then answered by Deputy
Minister for Education U Win
Maw Tun.

Discussion on Traditional
Medicine Council Bill

The question and answer
session, U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4,
U Hsu Oo of Yangon Region con-
istituency 2 and Dr. Kyaw Than
Tun (Canton) of Mandalay Re-
igion constituency 3 discussed
the Traditional Medicine Counc-
il Bill. The fifth-day meeting of
the second Amyotha Hluttaw’s
ninth regular session will be
continued today, it is learnt.

—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■

MPPE sells locally-produced
petrol to stabilise fuel oil price

IN order to stabilize the fuel oil
price in the local market, the
Myanmar Petroleum Products
Enterprise (MPPE) is selling
petrol, produced in Myanmar,
at state-owned fuel stations.

The MPPE has put on
sale petrol, produced from
the Petrochemical Complex
(Thanhayaryk), Myanmar
Petrochemical Enterprise,
under the Ministry of Elec-
tricity and Energy, at Ks3,600
per gallon at state-owned
filling stations. According to
private filling stations in Man-
dalay, the price of a litre
of diesel reached around Ks690
in the retail market, while one
litre of high quality diesel was
sold at Ks975, Octane 92 at
Ks950, Octane 95 at Ks965
and petrol at Ks900 on 30 July—
Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■
MyCO website to recommence access on 6 August, DICA launches MyCO kiosks

By May Thet Hnin

ACCORDING to Myanmar Companies Law 2017, registration and re-registration of companies through MyCO website commenced on 1 August. However, the MyCO registry system is currently experiencing traffic overload, resulting in server error, and forcing it to be shut down temporarily for at least a few days. MyCO system will recommence on Monday (August 6), said U Myo Min, a director from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). “We are trying to handle the error and MyCO system will resume on coming Monday. The DICA head office and regional offices will be opened to the public with newly-established MyCO kiosks, and users who urgently require company filing services will be able to access these kiosks without paying any service fees,” he said.

The traffic overload was due to a large number of visitors who were downloading related documents and submitting duplicate applications, causing server error, such as delays in accessing the website, not being able to submit information and missing out data when entering information. “The applications cannot be approved until all the information and data are completed. There are duplicate submission cases, causing some error;” U Myo Min maintained.

On 1 August 2018, 30 applications were received, and only three of them were successfully approved. Regarding website error, U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General at DICA, expressed his sincere apology to the site problem on his Facebook page. According to the posting, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience caused on its web page. To deal with the difficulty, the DICA’s technical team is working together with experts and staff from the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Having dealt with server error, the MyCO system with online payment will re-commence online electronic filing services on Monday, 6 August.

The new Myanmar Companies Law will bring about exemption to small companies, allowing them to set up a company with a single shareholder and a single director.

Additionally, there will be no extension of company registration and no blacklist. It also ensures easier decision-making and shortening the work process. Also, small companies no longer need to submit financial reports. The new law also allows foreigners holding 35 per cent of stake to engage in export/import, insurance and the stock market.

Out of 70,000 companies, 15,000 are joint ventures between foreign and local companies. In order to be adaptable with the current age, the Myanmar Companies Act 1914 was amended, and after four years, the Myanmar Companies Law was instituted.

Loikaw, Mae Hong Son sign sister city agreement for closer cooperation

KAYAH State government and Mae Hong Son province, Thailand, have signed a sister city agreement on 1 August at the meeting hall of Kayah State government office. The agreement will enhance cooperation between Kayah State’s Loikaw and Mae Hong Son.

Present at the meeting were Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, state officials from Kayah State transportation and electricity ministry, planning and finance ministry, and Mae Hong Son Governor Sirirat Chamupakarn leading a 34-member team.

Kayah State chief minister delivered an opening speech saying that they signed this Loikaw – Mae Hong Son sister city deal to strengthen ties between them. During Kayah State government’s two-year-performance, it opened border gate and upgraded the roads. The chief minister also expressed desire to cooperate in tourism, health and education sectors. Investors are also invited in Kayah State to benefit Loikaw with the Kayah State government providing the needs. He also encouraged exchanging ideas among the attendees.

Afterwards, Mae Hong Son governor expressed his greetings, maintaining that improvements will be made on BP-13 temporary route linking Mae Hong Son and Loikaw. He said there is not much difference between Kayah State and Mae Hong Son province, regarding culture and tradition. He added they will work closely with Kayah State government to have an open discussion and exchange information directly.

Kayah State transportation and electricity minister discussed that bilateral tourism will improve only if there is an international check point between them. “We have put forth this to the Union Government and we wish Mae Hong Son authorities to do the same,” he said.

Next, a state official from the planning and finance ministry said that the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and Mae Hong Son governor had made a commitment to develop an international check point for BP-13 route during their visit. They also said they will work together to launch a seven-day and six-night trip plan after signing the sister city deal. As there is transportation difficulty, the plan could be started after November. To strengthen ties between the two countries, better transportation is crucial, he said.

Officials from respective sectors also raised questions. The ministers from Kayah State and Mae Hong Son delegation exchanged gifts afterwards.— Ko Sai (Loikaw)
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker provides cash for flood victims

A CEREMONY to provide cash for flood-affected people was held at Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat donated Ks 11.42 million for flood-affected people and day allowance of Ks 8.58 million from Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, and the donations were accepted by Vice Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye.

Afterwards, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker received a document of honour given by the Union Minister. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker donates cash for flood-affected people

A CEREMONY was held at Amyotha Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to donate money for people in the flood-affected regions.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than donated a day’s allowance of 223 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives totaling Ks 4.44 million to flood-affected people and the donation was accepted by National Natural Disaster Management Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye.

The Union Minister then presented a document of honour to Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker: The ceremony was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Committee chairmen, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw office.

Drug Abuse Prevention and Management Team holds coordination meeting

PREVENTION and Management Team, under the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, held coordination meeting (1/2018) yesterday at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs and it was attended by Prevention and Management Team chairman, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major-General Aung Thu and officials.

At the meeting, Prevention and Management Team chairman Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu gave the opening speech while Prevention and Management Team secretary Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Major-General Aung Naing Thu explained drug abuse prevention activities.

Then, Prevention and Management Team acting Joint-secretary acting head of anti-narcotic task force Police Col Kyaw Kyaw Han explained drug control processes while prevention department head of Anti-narcotic police force Police Col Shwe Nyar Maung explained the seized drug cases.

Finally, the members of the Prevention and Management Team presented and discussed the issues they were facing. Prevention and Management Team chairman Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major-General Aung Thu concluded the meeting with a closing speech. — MNA

Natural Disaster Management Committee issues advice for flood prevention

THE National Natural Disaster Management Committee (NNDMC) has issued advice to people in Madauk and Hpa-an townships living near the river area and in lower parts of the ground, and issued caution to people in Mawlaik Township who lived near the river bank. —Myanmar News Agency

38 dams, reservoirs overflow through spillways

THE water level in some dams and reservoirs in regions and states exceeded the full tank levels due to torrential rain and overflowed through their spillways.

People have been urged not to worry about the overflowing water as it goes through spillways into the rivers, said the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department.

A total of 38 dams and reservoirs including Bawsin Dam (2) from Zegone Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region and Tamandu Dam from Myebon Township, MraukU District, Rakhine State are currently overflowing, said the department. —Myanmar News Agency
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Mr Kozo Yamamoto and party

The Vice President said 65 per cent of the MSMEs in Myanmar are focused on converting agricultural products into value-added food products. Local MSMEs do not have the necessary equipment to test its products nor FDA licenses and therefore have a difficult time earning trust from potential clients. If ministries allow these MSMEs access to their laboratory test centers, then it can aid in acquiring a certificate of analysis that verifies a regulated product meets its specification, licensing an SME logo then the international community will recognize Myanmar’s local MSMEs and earn the trust of consumers, said the Vice President.

In November 2018, Myanmar will host the 6th ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSME (ACCCMSME), the ASEAN+3 meeting, a Financial Symposium with Japan, a Myanmar+3 meeting, a Financial Symposium with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the German development agency GIZ.

In the meeting with OECD, support provided to MSMEs from ASEAN member country governments between 2015 and 2018 will be measured using eight criteria and the results from them will be discussed, said the President.

He added that the ACCMSME will be organizing meetings and events to put high-quality ‘Made in Myanmar’ products on display, linking MSMEs that won the regional competitions and MSMEs with good future prospects to ASEAN and international businesses, participating in one-to-one business meetings and trade shows.

The Vice President said there needs to be effective support for MSMEs targeted at the action plans drawn for them in each state and region. He requested the attendees to openly discuss ongoing processes, future processes and suggestions concerning the development, market penetration, promoting trade and innovation for MSMEs; the backbone of the national economy.

Next, Union Ministers U Kyaw Maung Cho, Dr. Than Myint and U Soe Win explained about Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee’s (SMED-WO) progress report, ongoing processes and considerations for compromising rules and regulations, and the Fund Management Group’s contribution for MSMEs’ developments, respectively.

This was followed by Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo explaining the SME Agency’s ongoing and future processes, and Report Writing Group Chairperson U Khin Maung Kyaw explaining the agency’s progress and processes. Afterwards, SMEDC members, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairperson, chief ministers from Kachin State, Kayah State, Chin State, Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region, Shan State, and Ayeyawady Region, the State minister for electricity and industry, Rakhine State minister for finance, taxation, planning and economics, Mon State minister for planning, finance, immigration and population, Chairman of the UMFCCI, discussed the current progress and future processes for MSME development, the technological support and loans needed, and the opportunities for regional MSME development. SMEDC Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe then provided feedback and suggestions to the discussions and ended the meeting.

After the meeting, the Vice President observed the regional MSME products from states and regions on display on the ground floor of the Ministry of Industry.—Myanmar News Agency

Strong winds damage parts of Kyaukpyu airport

SOME parts of the Kyaukpyu airport in Rakhine State have been damaged by strong winds yesterday evening. The Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Tha, regional Minister for Electricity and Road Transportation U Aung Kyaw Zan and local authorities raced to the airport to inspect the damaged parts. A 90-ft. long, 12-ft. wide aluminum frame near the airport’s entrance, a ticket counter and a 28-ft. long, 8-ft. wide glass structure near the departure lounge were destroyed by the gusty winds.

The estimated value of the damaged parts at the airport was about Ks1,000,000.

— Phyo Wai Lin (IPRD)
Rays of hope for our tigers

The fight against wildlife trading should be effective. Otherwise, it would just cause an increase in prices of animal parts in the illegal markets.

Interview with U Kyi Wai,
Deputy Director of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department

Question: Severe flash floodings occurred in Mon, Kayin states and Bago Region in recent days because of heavy rains. Could you let us know about the current stability and condition of the embankments in these regions?

Answer: Flash floodings occurred due to the coincidences between incessant heavy rains and the flow and level of the rivers. The main thing is that water cannot flow freely, and as a result, it leads to flooding in the regions. There are a total of 5 dams that are under the sustainable operation and maintenance of IWUMD in Mon State. These are Shwenentlang Dam in Maesawmye, Azin and Wipinbaung dams in Wathu Township and Myitkyina Township respectively.

Within a 20-year period from 1998 to 2020, millions of tons of siltwood in the country were lost through illegal logging, as well as cruel wildlife such as elephants, bears, tigers, leopards, pandas and snakes, all of which are prone to poaching. Hunting tigers to supply the market demand in neighbouring countries is one of the main causes to tiger conservation in Myanmar. The fight against wildlife trading should be effective. Otherwise, it would just cause an increase in prices of animal parts in the illegal markets.

We can realistically put an end to tiger destruction only through joint efforts between the government, international and local NGOs and many local groups and community members.

Q: Could you explain regarding the rumours that the Madauk embankment is under the management of the IWUMD in Bago Region has been damaged?

A: Madauk embankment is 49 miles and a furlong long. It has been constructed aiming to prevent flooding along the Sittang River. Several parts of the status and regions in Myanmar have suffered severe flash flooding and landslides these days. Due to incessant rains, houses and roads were inundated, but the Madauk embankment remains safe.

Q: Could you explain regarding the rumours that the Madauk embankment has this kind of standardization. Regarding safety measures, we have assigned high-ranking engineers to conduct the check on the embankment and official concerned are also fulfilling the requirements. Through the state-run media and Facebook, we issue relevant information, news and updates to the public.

Q: People are worried about the strength of the embankments due to incessant rains. What would you say about it?

A: As I said, the IWUMD has drawn up a process and thorough design for the strength and safety of the dams in the long run. That's why I would like to suggest that they should not worry about it.

Q: Could you tell us about the conditions of other embankments under the management of your department?

A: A total of 110 dam embankments are under the maintenance of our department across the country. These embankments total over 118 miles long. They have played a vital role in preventive measures in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The construction of these embankments has been about 100 years. Effective measures are being taken to supervise the safety of the people.

Q: What else would you like to say through us?

A: What I would like to inform through you is that the occurrences of flooding are mainly due to heavy rainfall and torrential rains. We do not believe every bit of nonsense that are being rumoured about. As for our department, efforts are being made to disseminate accurate news and updates about the current conditions.

By Thi Thi Min
Photo: Kaung Myat

We have drawn up a precise and thorough design for the strength and safety of the dams in the long run.

Q: Could you explain regarding the rumours that the Madauk embankment is under the management of the IWUMD in Bago Region has been damaged?

A: Madauk embankment is 49 miles and a furlong long. It has been constructed aiming to prevent flooding along the Sittang River. Currently, we are making necessary preparations for flood hazards. There is a low lying area where water can flow through the Shwehein-Madauk road. It is about 40 miles away from the Sittang River embankment. Rumours have it that Madauk embankment has been damaged.

That's why we have assigned high-ranking engineers to conduct the check on the embankment and official concerned are also fulfilling the requirements. Through the state-run media and Facebook, we issue relevant information, news and updates to the public.

Q: How about the condition and maintenance of the embankments in Ayeyawady Region?

A: There are a total of 6 dams that are under the supervision of the IWUMD in Ayeyawady Region. Out of them, Kanyin and Kataik dams are reported to be endangered up to 3.7 feet. The engineers in charge are keeping a round the clock close watch on the strength of the dams. All the embankments are in good working condition.

Q: Could you let us know if there are any dams which remain at the danger level? What safety measures have you taken?

A: There is no standardization to measure which dams have reached the danger level. Only the dam embankments have this kind of standardization. Regarding safety measures, we have assigned high-ranking engineers to conduct the check on the embankment and official concerned are also fulfilling the requirements. Through the state-run media and Facebook, we issue relevant information, news and updates to the public.

Q: People are worried about the strength of the embankments due to incessant rains. What would you say about it?

A: As I said, the IWUMD has drawn up a process and thorough design for the strength and safety of the dams in the long run. That's why I would like to suggest that they should not worry about it.

Q: Could you tell us about the conditions of other embankments under the management of your department?

A: A total of 110 dam embankments are under the maintenance of our department across the country. These embankments total over 118 miles long. They have played a vital role in preventive measures in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The construction of these embankments has been about 100 years. Effective measures are being taken to supervise the safety of the people.

Q: What else would you like to say through us?

A: What I would like to inform through you is that the occurrences of flooding are mainly due to heavy rainfall and torrential rains. We do not believe every bit of nonsense that are being rumoured about. As for our department, efforts are being made to disseminate accurate news and updates about the current conditions.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Thursday 2nd August, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE 24th AUGUST: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagain, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagain Region and Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagain, Magway, Bago and Tanintharyi regions, Rachin, Kayin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%) STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speeds in squalls may reach 250 mph. Wave height will be about (7 - 12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Shan, Rachin, Kayin and Mon states.

FLOOD WARNING FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th AUGUST: Flood condition of Sittang River is likely. Flood condition of Sittang River is likely.

FLOOD WARNING FOR MON, KAYIN, BAGO AND MONYWA AREA FOR 24th AUGUST: There is a high likelihood of flash flooding in the Ayeyawady, Kyaing Tong, and Magway regions. Degree of certainty is (95%)
Three die in Zimbabwe post-election violence

HARARE—Three people died and scores of others were injured Wednesday when protesting opposition supporters clashed with army and police in the capital Harare.

Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba confirmed the deaths in the violence which also left property destroyed.

She warned leaders of the opposition MDC Alliance against inciting its supporters to engage in violent activities.

Scores of opposition supporters took to the streets of Harare to protest against the delay in announcement of presidential election results as well as alleged rigging of the vote.

“The police condemns in the strongest terms acts of vandalism and hooliganism that occurred in Harare. As investigations continue, we urge members of the public to remain calm and peaceful and not to be persuaded or coerced into engaging in acts of violence,” Charamba said.

She said police were keen to interview leaders of the MDC Alliance in connection with the deadly protests.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, meanwhile, called on Zimbabweans to remain calm and peaceful as the nation awaits announcement of all election results.

He blamed the MDC Alliance leadership for causing the protests.

“The incidents of violence and hooliganism which broke out in the afternoon came as a complete surprise,” he said.

“We hold the MDC Alliance leadership responsible for this disturbance of national peace which is meant to disrupt the electoral process,” Mnangagwa said. “We hold the party and its leadership responsible for any loss of life, injury or damage to property which arises from political violence which they have aided and abetted.”

Nkululeko Sibanda, the spokesperson of the MDC Alliance president Nelson Chamisa said the party regretted the deaths during the protests and criticized the security forces for using excessive force to quell the protests.

Chamisa claimed Tuesday that he had won the presidential poll and said his party will not accept a result to the contrary.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has said results for the presidential poll are expected by Aug. 4.

According to the results declared by ZEC, the ruling ZANU-PF party won a parliamentary majority in the Monday elections.

—Xinhua

Supporters of the opposition MDC Alliance attend a protest in Harare, Zimbabwe on 1 August 2018. Three people died and scores of others were injured Wednesday when protesting opposition supporters clashed with army and police in the capital Harare. Scores of opposition supporters took to the streets of Harare to protest against the delay in announcement of presidential election results as well as alleged rigging of the vote. PHOTO: XINHUA

Amnesty accuses Turkey of tolerating Syrian rebel abuses in Afrin

ISTANBUL—Amnesty International on Thursday accused Turkish forces of allowing Syrian armed groups to commit major rights abuses in the northern region of Afrin, urging Ankara to immediately end the violations.

Turkey and allied Syrian rebels seized control of Afrin earlier this year after a military operation which ousted a Kurdish militia that is an ally of the United States but Ankara regards as a terror group.

Amnesty said that, since the takeover, residents in Afrin had been “enduring a wide range of violations” which Turkish armed forces “turned a blind eye” to.

“These violations include arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and confiscation of property and looting to which Turkey’s armed forces have turned a blind eye,” Amnesty said.

Some of the Syrian groups as well as Turkish armed forces have taken over schools, Amnesty claimed, which it said disrupted education for thousands of children.

Amnesty said residents told them that Afrin University was “completely shut down after it was destroyed and looted”, adding only one school in Afrin city was accessible.

The rights group said that when contacted for comment, the Turkish government questioned its impartiality for using the terminology of Kurdish dominated forces to describe regions.

Turkey says the People’s Protection Units (YPG) militia it ousted from Afrin is an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) which has waged an insurgency in Turkey since 1984.

The PKK is blacklisted as a terrorist group by Ankara, the US and the European Union.

In the case of one woman, her uncle has been missing since an armed group escorted him to his house after he returned to his village three months earlier.

“They wouldn’t tell his wife where they took him,” the unnamed woman told Amnesty, denying the man, head of a local committee, had any links to the YPG.

Amnesty said some homes have been “occupied” by displaced families from the central Homs province and the southern area of Eastern Ghouta which was recently recaptured by the Syrian regime.

Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty’s Middle East research director, said the Syrian armed groups continued to “wreak havoc on civilians, unchecked by Turkish forces”. She argued Turkey was responsible for the welfare of civilians as well as maintaining law and order since it was the “occupying power” in Afrin.

“When further delay, Turkey must end violations by pro-Turkish armed groups, hold perpetrators accountable, and commit to helping Afrin residents rebuild their lives,” she added.

Turkish officials insist that the takeover has proved popular, with Afrin residents tired of YPG rule and Turkey able to improve utilities services after similar operations in towns like Jarabulus and Al-Bab east of Afrin. —AFP

Former DR Congo warlord Bemba lands in Kinshasa

KINSHASA—Former warlord and ex-vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday after an 11-year absence, an AFP reporter saw.

Bemba, 55, arriving at Kinshasa airport from Belgium aboard a private plane, has vowed to contest the country’s twice-delayed elections, due on December 23. A few minutes after landing, Bemba, accompanied by his wife, went into a VIP suite at the airport.

Hundreds of police clad in anti-riot gear were deployed in central Kinshasa and at the airport, located 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the city.

In June, Bemba was acquitted of war-crimes charges by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague after spending a decade behind bars.

Analysts say his return adds volatility to an already tense election for which candidates must submit their applications by August 8. —AFP

Turkey and allied Syrian rebels seized control of Afrin (pictured April 2018) in early 2018 after a military operation which ousted a US-allied Kurdish militia that Ankara considers a terror group PHOTO: AFP
White House confirms India’s invitation to Trump for visit, says no final decision

WASHINGTON — The White House said on Wednesday that India has invited US President Donald Trump for a visit to the Asian nation, but a final decision has not been made yet.

She added that US secretaries of defense and state, namely, James Mattis and Mike Pompeo, will begin the potential discussion for a presidential visit later in the year in their travel to India in September. She noted that Washington-New Delhi relations have been a “deep and abiding strategic” one. Indian media reported earlier in July that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had invited Trump to be the chief guest for India’s Republic Day parade in January.

Mattis and Pompeo will meet with their Indian counterparts on 6 September in New Delhi for the inaugural US-India “2+2” Dialogue, which has been postponed several times. Differences remained between the two nations over trade tariffs, US threatening to punish India’s oil purchase from Iran, and India’s proposed buying of S-400 missile defense system from Russia, leaving many to wonder if India even ranks in Trump’s priority list.

India has reportedly decided to counter Trump’s tariffs challenge by imposing additional customs duties up to 50 per cent on as many as 29 goods imported from the United States. The new customs duties will come into effect from Aug. 4, if the current standoff prevails.— Xinhua

Trump tweet calling for end of Mueller probe ‘not an order’

WASHINGTON — The White House on Wednesday sought to walk back a tweet from President Donald Trump calling for an end to the Russia election meddling probe, saying he was expressing an opinion, and not giving an order to the Justice Department.

In a series of tweets that quickly sparked accusations that Trump is publicly attempting to pervert justice, the Republican leader derided the investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller as “a disgrace” to the country.

“This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now, before it continues to stain our country any further,” Trump said on Twitter. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders later told reporters: “It’s not an order; it’s the president’s opinion.”

She noted that Trump wants the probe to “come to an end.” But she dismissed accusations of any legal wrongdoing, saying: “The president is not obstructing. He’s fighting back. The president is stating his opinion. He’s stating it clearly.”

Just ahead of the White House press briefing, Trump’s personal attorneys also sought to walk back the comment, insisting the president was not ordering Sessions to do anything.—AFP

US Korean War dead heading home at last

WASHINGTON — Sixty-five years after the Korean War ended, the remains of dozens of American soldiers killed during the brutal conflict are finally coming home.

Wednesday’s repatriation marks an important step after US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held a summit, during which Kim agreed to send home the war dead.

Trump, who has faced criticism over the pace of progress since the June meeting, praised Kim for “keeping his word,” and Vice President Mike Pence met families when the remains arrived back in the US at a ceremony in Hawaii. Caskets carrying the 55 sets of remains were draped in the blue-and-white flag of the United Nations.

Many nations fought in the Korean War, but most of the cases are thought to contain US troops.

More than 35,000 Americans were killed on the Korean peninsula during the 1950-1953 war, with 7,700 of these US troops still listed as missing in action — most of them in North Korea.

“Some have called the Korean War the forgotten war. But today, we prove these heroes were never forgotten. Today our boys are coming home,” an emotional Pence said.

“My dad, lieutenant Ed Pence fought in combat in the Korean War. He came back with a medal on his chest. But my dad, gone now 30 years, always told us the real heroes ... were the ones that didn’t get to come home,” the US vice president said.

It could take scientists and historians years to make final identifications.

John Byrd, director of scientific analysis at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), which has a large laboratory in Pearl Harbor, said preliminary findings suggest the remains are likely American. They “are consistent with remains we have recovered in North Korea... in the past,” Byrd told reporters at Osan US Air Base in South Korea.

The cases had been kept there since Friday, awaiting their repatriation for further forensic analysis.

“There’s no reason at this point to doubt that they do relate to Korean War losses,” Byrd added.—AFP

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP)
IDA Credit5889-MM
Assignment Reference Number: C4-DOH-CS08
Assignment Title: International Road and Bridge Hydrologist
Individual Consultant Position

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP), The Department of Highways (DOH) of the Ministry of Construction (MOC) who implements component 1 of the FLERP intend to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of one (1) specialized International Hydrologist in the broad area of Civil Road and Bridge Works. The position is a short-term assignment.

The works are situated along the Ngathainggyayang-Gwa-Thandwe road in Rakhine State and will be implemented in two stages. Stage 1 started in April 2018 with works requiring simple design only such as box culverts, masonry retaining walls and steel safety guard rails. Stage 2 will cover works that require comprehensive and detailed geotechnical and hydrological surveys. A first step into Phase 2 includes approximately nine (9) small-medium span bridge works which are being prepared from September 2018 to June 2019 with an expected works start date at the end of 2018. For the preparation of the works related to these bridges, DOH intends to contract an international road and bridge hydrologist specialist.

The main objective of this assignment is support by the International Road/Bridge Hydrologist to implement the Project by conducting technical tasks related to road/bridge hydrology to ensure proper maintenance to avoid major damages of the embankments and drainage structures during monsoon season, and helping to minimize adverse effects of floods upstream and/or downstream of the Project area. With the objective to inform roads assets design, the consultant will carry out a detailed hydrometrical survey and hydrological study of the road, river and bridge site supported by a national hydrologist.

Expressions of Interest including a detailed Curriculum Vitae must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by Friday 31 August 2018. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the IC method set out in the World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants, January 2011 and revised July 2014. Interested Consultants should pay attention to paragraph 1.9 of these Guidelines, setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at the address below during office hours from 9:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays, or by simple e-mail request to:

U Khin Zaw, FLERP Project Director, Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Office No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Email: flerp.moc@gmail.com, Ph-067-407658, 09-2450600

The consultant will carry out a detailed hydrometrical survey and hydrological study of the road, river and bridge site supported by a national hydrologist.
Eiffel Tower shut in dispute over ‘monstrous’ queues

PARIS — Staff at the Eiffel Tower shut down the Paris landmark on Wednesday afternoon in protest over a new access policy which they say is generating “monstrous” queues for tourists.

Access to the monument, which welcomed more than six million visitors last year, was blocked from 1400 GMT, according to a sign at the base of the tower.

Staff had already been set to strike on Thursday. The site’s management said staff took action after talks with unions fell apart earlier on Wednesday afternoon. The site was not evacuated, and tourists already inside were allowed to finish their visits.

Yunhyie Park was unaware of the strike when she arrived this afternoon with her parents, who were making their first visit from South Korea. “Yesterday we saw (about the strike) and we hoped it wasn’t true, but finally it’s true,” she told AFP. “It’s really a shame.”

Staff are angry over a decision last month to start setting aside half of the Eiffel Tower’s daily tickets for people who buy them online in advance and choose a scheduled time for their visit.

Previously just 20 percent of tickets to go up the 324-metre (1,063-foot) “Iron Lady” could be booked ahead of time.

The tower’s management has also started reserving specific elevators for each type of ticket holder, a move which “creates lines that are at times monstrous and often lopsided,” the CGT union said.

During off-peak times for pre-booked tickets, such as the early afternoon, the reserved elevator might be half empty — despite lines of up to three hours at the elevator for walk-ins. And high demand at the pre-booked elevator can cause back-ups that force people to wait long beyond their scheduled visit.

Hector had travelled from Monterey, Mexico, with his wife and children for their first trip to France, and was just about to reach the elevators when the doors shut.

“We’ve been here for two and a half hours, waiting for nothing,” he said. “We will take a look for tomorrow, but we will need to buy another ticket,” he said, because pre-booked tickets will only be reimbursed — not exchanged for another time slot.

Employees’ patience has run out,” the CGT’s Denis Vavassori said on Monday, adding that many visitors were unhappy with the long waits.

Staff want all the elevators to be available to all visitors, no matter what kind of ticket they have bought.

SETE, the company which runs the site, says it sells 10,000 online tickets for the tower every day and that “the waiting time is very short”. “For visitors who come without tickets, the waiting time at the checkouts at the foot of the Eiffel Tower is exactly the same as last year, while the number of visitors has increased,” it insisted.

The tower has been hit by repeated strikes by its 300-strong staff in recent years over issues ranging from pick-pocketing to maintenance work.

Announcement of Appreciation

The Myanmar Companies Law 2017 has commenced on 1st August 2018 and Myanmar Companies Online “MyCO” registry has been launched for all new company registrations and existing company re-registrations. We, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, would like to warmly congratulate:

RECOMM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS MYANMAR CO., LTD
as the first company which has successfully registered &
UNIBIZ CO., LTD
as the first company which successfully re-registered under the new Myanmar Companies Law on the MyCO registry.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
Tokyo med school altered test scores to keep women out

TOKYO — A Tokyo medical school for years altered the admission test results of female applicants to keep women out of the workplace when they start families. PHOTO: AFP

Japanese women are highly educated in general but the country’s notoriously long work hours force many out of the workplace when they start families. PHOTO: AFP

Japanese newspaper reported female applicants to keep admission test results of school for years altered the report. The newspaper said the test scores of female applicants had been lowered across the board by administrators who applied a fixed coefficient to women’s results. In 2018, the ratio of women accepted after the first round of tests was 14.5 per cent, compared with 18.9 per cent for men.

In the second and final test stage, just 2.9 per cent of female applicants were admitted, compared with 8.8 per cent of male applicants. The newspaper did not give figures for the current gender breakdown of the school’s student body.

The university was reportedly already under investigation by the Tokyo District Prosecutor’s Office over claims the privately-run school wrongly admitted the son of an education ministry bureaucrat.

“The university was under investigation by the Tokyo District Prosecutor’s Office over claims the privately-run school wrongly admitted the son of an education ministry bureaucrat,” Fumio Azuma said. Following the report this morning, we asked a law firm to launch an internal investigation into the reported issue,” Fumio Azuma, a spokesman for the university told AFP adding that it hopes to announce the result of the probe later this month.

The law firm that will investigate the report already has an advisory contract with the university but its usual consulting lawyer will not be part of the investigating team, Azuma said. The Yomiuri, citing unnamed sources, said the university began lowering the admission test scores of female applicants to its medical school in 2011, after the 2010 results showed an increasing number of women were winning places. In 2010, around 40 percent of successful applicants were women, double the previous year.

After that, the university began trying to keep the percentage of women admitted each year to around 30 per cent of the incoming class. “Women often quit after graduating and becoming a doctor, when they get married and have a child,” one source told the Yomiuri, in justifying the blanket alterations of admission scores.

“There is a consensus inside the university that male doctors support the university hospital, which often requires emergency duties and long shifts, the source told the daily.

The newspaper said the test scores of female applicants had been lowered across the board by administrators who applied a fixed coefficient to women’s results. In 2018, the ratio of women accepted after the first round of tests was 14.5 per cent, compared with 18.9 per cent for men.

In the second and final test stage, just 2.9 per cent of female applicants were admitted, compared with 8.8 per cent of male applicants. The newspaper did not give figures for the current gender breakdown of the school’s student body.

The university was reportedly already under investigation by the Tokyo District Prosecutor’s Office over claims the privately-run school wrongly admitted the son of an education ministry official. —AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO (106N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO (106N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO (KHAID 0102NS)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO (KHAID 0102NS) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T/T/H.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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Notifications issued under section 462(a) of Myanmar Companies Law 2017

1. In exercise of the powers conferred under section 462(a) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration issues the following Notifications—

(a) Notification No. 63/2018, prescribed Fees for registry transactions carried out using non-electronicmeans. (b) Notifications No. 64/2018, Prescribed fees for restoration of an existing company or body corporate that has failed to reregister on the electronic registry system within the reregistration period if it can provide sufficient cause, prior to its name being struck off the register.

2. The details of Notifictations can be referred on the website of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration www.dica.gov.mm

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
New Zealand PM returns to work from maternity leave

WELLINGTON—New Zealand Prime Minister and new mum Jacinda Ardern, only the second world leader to give birth while in office, resumed her duties on Thursday, ending six weeks of maternity leave. The 38-year-old has opted to work from home in Auckland until the weekend when she will relocate to the capital Wellington.

In a Facebook message last weekend, Ardern said the family were doing “really, really well, still we have absolutely no routine to speak of”.

“Life is obviously going to be a little bit different,” she added as she rocked her daughter Neve in a bassinet.

Ardern’s partner Clarke Gayford, who hosts a television fishing show, plans to be a stay-at-home dad and the main caregiver for their daughter. The birth capped an eventful year for Ardern, who became first world leader to have a child while in office – told almost no one she was pregnant until her daughter was born in January 1990.

Unlike Ardern, who was able to take maternity leave, the Pakistani prime minister underwent a caesarean section and then returned to work.

During Ardern’s absence, her deputy Winston Peters led the country. She resumed control when he left overnight for an ASEAN foreign ministers summit in Singapore.

Ardern said she will be “biting the ground running” when she turns up at the office on Monday.

Her first week back would focus on issues that “really matter to me”, including mental health, the environment, trade-related affairs and an “employment-related announcement”.

With the veteran 73-year-old Peters at the helm, affairs of state ticked over quietly albeit the importance of the centre-left government.

Ardern has said she is keen to work with business leaders and has been active in steps to rescue the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, with her government also pushing an aggressive trade agenda. — AFP

Storms halt Pacific swim record attempt

TOKYO — Powerful storms have forced a Frenchman attempting to become the first person to swim across the Pacific Ocean to suspend his bid, nearly two months into the mammoth undertaking.

Ben Lecomte set off on June 5 from Choshi in Japan, planning to swim across the ocean in six months to raise awareness about ocean pollution.

But after nearly two months swimming eight hours a day, severe storms forced the 51-year-old to head back to port in Japan, Seeker, a media company tracking the swim, said Wednesday.

“Two typhoons, Jongdari and Wukong, have interrupted his momentum and forced the ship to head back to port in Japan – a development that reflects the difficulty of the journey and the unpredictability of the ocean,” Seeker said in a post that Lecomte also tweeted on his account.

“Lecomte is as determined as ever to forge ahead with his historic trans-Pacific journey,” Seeker did not say when the attempt might resume.

Lecomte was 800 kilometres (500 miles) into the 9,000-kilometre swim when the weather forced the crew to turn back.

He consumed 8,000 calories a day to keep him going.

Part adventurer, part environmentalist, Lecomte organised the swim to raise awareness of plastic contamination and ocean pollution.

His support team conducted a raft of experiments on the trip, including collecting samples of plastic waste.

“The trash is way worse than we thought it would be,” Maria Amenabar, a research assistant with the crew, told Seeker.

Lecomte said the scale of the pollution made him all the more determined to continue the swim.

“It’s more important now than ever that we make it to the Great Garbage Patch,” he said, referring to a massive vortex of trash that floats between the US states of Hawaii and California.

“I want to show people why our oceans are so important.” —AFP

Chile’s rock art llamas divulge secrets of ancient desert culture

ATACAMA (Chile) — Open air rock paintings in the world’s driest desert pay testament to the importance of the llama to millennia-old cultures that traversed the inhospitable terrain.

Conservationists working in Chile’s Atacama desert want UNESCO to recognize the Taira Valley drawings, open air paintings that float between the US states of Hawaii and California.

“I want to show people why our oceans are so important.” —AFP
AI speeds up radiation treatment for cancer patients

SHENZHEN—To prepare the radiation plan for a rectal cancer patient, physician Chen Bo used to spend more than an hour studying a CT scan image and manually determining the targeted area.

Now, with the help of the latest artificial intelligence (AI) technology, the whole process takes him less than three minutes.

At the Cancer Hospital of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, a new AI-powered computer program has helped doctors cut hours from the meticulous manual process of targeting radiation treatment.

The new program, developed by the Beijing-based cancer hospital and Shenzhen Haichuang medical company, uses deep-learning technology to predict patterns from previous samples and automatically produces plans for radiotherapy.

The program, which was put into clinical use in June, can now be used for rectal, breast and nasopharynx cancer. As the program improves, it is expected to be used for more types of cancer in the future. Using the new program, a physician can save about three hours to plan the radiation treatment for nasopharynx cancer, and about 50 minutes for breast cancer, according to Chen.

"By providing high-quality and precise radiotherapy services, the program can meet the demand of a larger number of cancer patients," said Li Yexiong, director of the radiotherapy department in the cancer hospital.

“Our department received more than 6,300 patients last year and many doctors were overworked,” said Li. “The program can save them a lot of time and energy so that they can provide better services to patients.” —Xinhua

German astronaut looks forward to working in China Space Station

COLOGNE (Germany) — "I would expect to do any type of work and take the same responsibility as any Chinese astronaut in CSS (China Space Station)," said Matthias Maurer, a German astronaut.

Maurer wishes he could work in CSS one day.

At the European Astronaut Center (EAC) under European Space Agency (ESA), located near the West Germany’s city of Cologne, Maurer told Xinhua about his expectations for CSS. "I want to participate in both European and non-European experiments there.

Also (to) build a live video connection so that the European public can talk with the European astronauts in the CSS and see inside," Maurer said. Before joining the ESA in 2010, Maurer has already boasted rich international experience by studying and working in various countries including Germany, France, Spain and Britain.

In 2012, Maurer took part in the cooperation program between ESA and China and started to learn Chinese because he may need to use the language if he works in China’s Shenzhou spacecraft one day.—Xinhua

Some hospital bacteria growing ‘tolerant’ to sanitizers

TAMPA—Some hospital superbugs are growing increasingly tolerant to alcohol-based disinfectants found in hand washes and sanitizers, allowing increasing infections to take hold, an Australian study warned Wednesday.

Hand rubs and washes that contain disinfectants based on isopropyl or ethyl alcohol are widely used around the world, and have cut down dramatically on one type of superbug, called methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

But researchers have noticed a rise in another kind of bacteria that lives in the gut, called Enterococcus faecium, and can be spread via catheters, ventilators or central lines in a health care setting.

"Drug-resistant E. faecium infections have increased despite the use of alcohol disinfectants, and currently represent a leading cause of infections acquired in hospitals," said the report in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

"Drug-resistant E. faecium infections have increased despite the use of alcohol disinfectants, and currently represent a leading cause of infections acquired in hospitals," said the report in the journal Science Translational Medicine. Enterococci account for about one in 10 cases of hospital-acquired bacterial infections around the world, and are the fourth and fifth leading cause of sepsis in North America and Europe, respectively, according to background information in the article.

E. faecium in particular is believed to cause one-third of enterococcal infections in Australia, 90 percent of which are resistant to the antibiotic ampicillin, and 50 percent of which are also vancomycin-resistant.

"Costs associated with the management of patients infected with vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) are high because of the need for isolation rooms, specialized cleaning regimens, and the impact on staff, bed availability, and other resources," said the report.

To better understand the reasons for this bacteria’s spread, researchers analyzed bacterial samples taken from two hospitals in Melbourne, Australia from 1997 to 2015.

"The isolates gathered after 2009 were on average more tolerant to the alcohol compared to bacteria taken from before 2004," said the report.

Being “tolerant” means the bacteria can survive exposure to alcohol longer.

The delay “is sufficient to allow the bacteria to escape alcohol killing and then cause infection,” study author Tim Stinear, a microbiologist at the Doherty Institute for Immunity and Infection at the University of Melbourne, told AFP in an email.

"The bacteria we examined in our study are a long way from becoming resistant to alcohol," he added. More study is needed to confirm if these bacteria are also growing resistant to sanitizers in other hospitals worldwide.

Researchers aren’t sure why this particular type of bacteria is acting this way, but say it may be something about the physiology of E. faecium that makes it easier for the bacteria to evolve tolerance to alcohol exposure.

In the meantime, no one is suggesting hospitals stop using hand sanitizers, rather that other cleansing methods are needed, said Stinear: “Our findings do not signal the end of hand sanitizers, but indicate you cannot rely solely on alcohol-based disinfectants to control E. faecium in the hospital health-care setting.” —AFP

Alcohol-based disinfecants are widely used around the world and have cut down dramatically on bacteria and superbugs, but Australian researchers have noticed that certain strains of bacteria are growing “tolerant” to the sanitizers. —AFP

PHOTO: AFP

German astronaut Matthias Maurer shows the way to sleep in space station, in Cologne, Germany on 18 July 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA
ITALY'S OLYMPIC COMMITTEE APPROVES MULTI-CITY 2026 WINTER GAMES BID

ROME — The Italian Olympic Committee voted on Wednesday to ratify a bid for the 2026 Winter Games that would see three cities hosting the event for the first time.

“The National Council (of the Italian Olympic Committee), CONI has resolved unanimously to send to the IOC (International Olympic Committee) the bid proposal of Milan, Turin and Cortina (d’Ampezzo) for the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Games,” wrote CONI in a statement.

CONI is proposing to spread the games across a vast area of northern Italy, taking in the capitals of the Lombardy and Piedmont regions — Milan and Turin — and winter sport resort Cortina in the Veneto.

Over 388km (241 miles) separate north-western city Turin from Cortina d’Ampezzo, which is located in the Dolomite mountains near the border with Austria. The three cities submitted separate expressions of interest in early July but CONI head Giovanni Malago announced on Tuesday that they would be proposed as joint hosts.

It has also decided that neither Milan nor Turin would be lead city and all three are equal partners.

“This is a great opportunity for our country, if we’ve got this far it means that there has been no opposition from the IOC,” said Malago on Wednesday. “Let’s see what happens from here, but our candidacy is very strong.”

Turin was the sole host when the Winter Games were held in Italy in 2006, with the skiing based around Sestriere. Milan would have short-track speed skating, figure skating, ice hockey and curling in Sestriere, some 90km away in Italy’s western Alps.

The 2026 plan foresees ice hockey and speed skating in Turin, with some alpine skiing in Sestriere. Milan would have short-track speed skating, figure skating, ice hockey and curling and resorts in the Dolomites would host all the other events.

The host of the 2026 games will be chosen in Milan in September 2019. — AFP

JUVENTUS TOP MLS ALL-STARS ON PENALTIES

ATLANTA — Serie A champions Juventus got the best of Major League Soccer’s All-Stars in a penalty shootout on Wednesday after an entertaining 1-1 draw in the North American league’s mid-season exhibition.

Before a crowd of 72,317 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium — home of MLS’s Atlanta United — Juventus prevailed 5-3 in the shoot-out after New York Red Bulls forward Bradley Wright-Phillips missed his penalty attempt.

After Wright-Phillips’ effort bounced off the post to leave Juventus up 4-3 — Mattia De Sciglio fired into the upper left corner past Columbus goalkeeper Zack Steffen to settle it. Andrea Favilli had put Juventus ahead in the 21st minute, heading in a curling cross by Matheus Pereira.

The MLS All-Stars, selected from around the league through fan voting, pulled level in the 26th minute through Atlanta United’s Josef Martinez — the Venezuela star and former Torino forward who leads MLS with 24 goals in 23 matches. Juventus keeper Wojciech Szczesny saved an initial effort, but after a scramble in the area, Martinez bundled the ball in to score in front of his home crowd.

“It’s been a moving week here,” Martinez said. “I have to thank all the fans in Atlanta for the way they support us all the time and the wonderful experience in this game.”

It marked the second straight year that the All-Star Game ended in a 1-1 draw to go to a shoot-out. Last year, Real Madrid beat the All-Stars 4-2 on penalties at Soldier Field in Chicago.

The crowd was the largest ever for the MLS All-Star game, surpassing the 70,278 for the 2010 edition in Houston.

The game was one of four matches for Juventus on their North American tour, but they haven’t brought off-season acquisition Cristiano Ronaldo, the five-time Ballon d’Or winner, whose 100 million-euro ($117 million) move from European champions Real Madrid was announced in July. With three wins from three matches, Juventus will look to make it a clean sweep of the tour on Saturday night against Real Madrid at FedEx Field in Washington, DC. — AFP

MYANMAR BEAT THE PHILIPPINES IN AFF U-16 CHAMPIONSHIP’S GROUP PLAY

MYANMAR U-16 boys’ national football team secured their win in Group (A) play of the AFF U-16 Championship 2018 with a decisive 7-0 triumph over the Philippines U-16 team at Delta Sidoarjo Stadium in Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia yesterday.

Myanmar players with their utmost efforts and lined up with its star players, including Naung Naung Soe, PyaePhyo Aung and Aung Ko Oo.

In the first half, the winning goals for Myanmar were scored by NaungNaungSoe at 2 and 29 minutes mark, Aung Ko Oo at 25 minute, Zaw Win Thein at 34 minute and PyaePhyo Aung at 46 minute.

In the second half, the winning goals for Myanmar were netted by Khun Kyaw Zin Hein at 53 minute mark and Wai Yan Soe at 77 minute. Although the Philippines footballers obtained golden chances, they, unfortunately, could not change these opportunities to goals and ended the match with a big 7-0 win for Myanmar. — Lynn Thit(Tg)