President, First Lady visit birthplace of Buddha in Lumbini, Nepal

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, who are in Nepal on official visit, visited the birthplace of the Buddha in the Lumbini Garden in Bhairahawa of Province-5 of Nepal yesterday.

The Myanmar delegation led by the President and First Lady left Kathmandu by special flight yesterday morning and arrived at the Gauam Buddha Airport in Bhairahawa at 9:50 am.

The delegation flew to Lumbini by helicopter of Nepali and armed forces and they were welcomed there by Chief of Province Mr. Umakant Jha, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Rabindra Adhikari, Province-5 Chief Minister Mr. Shankar Pokhare, the Mayor of Bhairahawa and officials.

The delegation went to Maya Devi Temple by car and Nepali officials conducted them around the temple.

The President and First Lady paid obeisance to the Buddha Image, listened to the Parittas recited by the members of the Sangha led by Myanmar Shwe Kyang Monastery’s Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida and donated cash to the members of the Sangha. At the briefing hall of the temple, Nepali Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Rabindra Adhikari extended greetings to the Myanmar delegation. The President signed in the visitor’s book and had a documentary photo taken together with the dignitaries.

Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation visited the Panitayama International Meditation Centre and donated offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vivakananda of the monastery. Later, the delegation proceeded to the Myanmar Shwekyuang Monastery.

State Counsellor attends meeting on renovation, upgrading Yangon University

A COORDINATION meeting on renovating Yangon University (Main Campus) and upgrading the university was held at the meeting hall of the Convocation Building of the university yesterday with an attendance by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Speaking at the meeting, the State Counsellor has called for strengthening the strong points and to correct the weak points of the university regarding the promoting and upgrading as Yangon University should be a model for higher education sector of the country and the main university in Myanmar as well.

The work on renovating the Yangon University and upgrading the university launched in 2013.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi reported measures being taken for renovating and upgrading the university and priorities to be taken before the centenary celebration of the university in 2020.

Afterwards, Prof. Dr. Maung Maung Wint, Chairman of the Software Committee on renovation and upgrading of the Yangon University reported on the Master Plan, formation of committees for implementing the Master Plan, meetings with local and foreign experts, meetings experts from the Central European University in Hungary, main sectors in the Master Plan 2018-2030 and priorities set to be completed by the university’s centenary celebration in 2020.

Dr. Phoe Kaung, Rector of the Yangon University, reported on arrangements for the 2018 Academic Year.
Ninth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 13th-day meeting

DURING the 13th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports were read and one motion discussed and tabled.

Appointing additional committee members

Firstly, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that the Pyithu Hluttaw has approved the appointing of Dr. U Soe Mo Thue of Myawaddy constituency in the International Relations Committee, and U Kyaw Swe Win (ao) of Kawhmu constituency in the Natural Resources and Environment Conservation Committee, and U Nyunt Aung of Monywa constituency in the Investment and Industrial Development Committee as additional members in the respective committees.

Constituencies divided according to regional population

U Khin Maung Yi of Hinthada constituency raised a question as to whether the upcoming 2020 General Elections will also be held in three Amyotha Hluttaw constituencies in Hinthada District as they had been in the 2010 elections.

Union Election Commission member U Tha Htay replied that the Amyotha Hluttaw constituencies are divided and demarcated in accord with Section 4 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, which states that a maximum of twelve constituencies are permitted in a single state or region, with the markers for division determined by the population in the area, as stated in Section 4-C of the same law. Established constituencies remain fixed for the duration of a Hluttaw term, and the Union Election Commission has to set the constituencies for the next Hluttaw term at least 60 days before the term ends, said U Tha Htay. Therefore, constituencies in Hinthada District will be designated again in accord with the area’s population as the 2020 General Elections approaches.

No differentiation in technological university degrees

Dr. U Than Aung Soe of Myanma constituency raised a question asking for an explanation on the difference between job opportunities for engineering graduates from centre of excellence institutions and other technological university degrees.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that time is still needed to conduct a survey on whether there is a difference in the levels of employability with graduates from Yangon, Mandalay or other technological universities. He said there were no differentiations between universities in accepting applicants for job vacancies in government departments by the Union Civil Service Board, as of January 2018. The focus was on the actual degree earned, he added.

Teaching knowledge training short courses

U Oo Tun Win of Kayau constituency raised a question on whether the Ministry of Education will open short courses for private subject teachers, in accord with the Private School Law, throughout the states and regions.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that they issue private school teaching licenses for teachers who meet set standards and qualifications or have at least 5 years of experience in their related field. The Ministry of Education released an announcement on 30 April 2012 that calls for director-general of education in an area to submit to the Ministry of Education the list of teaching knowledge training applicants, and the ministry continues to do so with collaboration between the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education, said the deputy minister.

Ninth regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 13th-day meeting

THE 13th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports were read and the Hluttaw’s decision was requested for one motion discussed.

All loose ends tied with confiscated land in Rakhine State

U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 raised a question on whether farmland in area 784-A and 787 of Lanmadaw Village-tract, Kyauktaik Township, has been restored, confiscated by the military in area 786-A and B of Peinechaung Village, Nyaungpinha, Lanmadaw, area 787 of Kyauktawtaung and No 375 Light Infantry Regiment area will be compensated for. He added that the lands cannot be relinquished at they will be used for future expansion projects and are also strategically important strategy-wise. He added there are no remaining compensations to be provided in case of nonreturnable land.

Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe replied that No 9 Operations Control Command has received the proper documents to the farmlands from the Ministry of Home Affairs and compensation and has been provided to all concerned. He said that the lands cannot be relinquished at they will be used for future expansion projects and

Juvenile protection programs fully implemented

Naw Hta Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10 raised a question on whether the protection programs for juvenile offenders and juvenile witnesses stated in the Myanmar Child Law will be reviewed and practically implemented.

Justice U Tha Htay of the Supreme Court of the Union replied that procedures for juvenile cases are handled in accordance with existing child laws in separate courts and locations specifically for juvenile cases. Juvenile offenders, child victims and witnesses are in contact with their parents or guardian, concerned staff, police officers and other concerned individuals only, with emphasis on individual security. He said the protection programs do not require revision as they are being fully implemented by the juvenile courts in the respective townships and the Supreme Court is supervising the cases as well.

Bill Committee reads two reports

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye read a report by the committee on the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill, sent back from the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. The Speaker called for the Hluttaw’s resolution on the report and approved it.
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday visited and inspected the Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital on Bogyoke Museum Lane in Bahan Township, Yangon.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accompanied by Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Union Peace Commission, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, region ministers and officials, first met the staff of Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital.

During the meeting, Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Thin Yu Zaw explained the matters of current staff capacity, providing medical cares and other necessaries. State Counsellor coordinated the explained matters and gave words of encouragement to the pregnant and women newborn mothers in the hospital.

State Counsellor then inspected the nutrients for the breast-feeding mothers. She also urged to make and show educational short films at the hospital for the health knowledge of the pregnant women and to highly take care of newborn-to-two-year-old babies as their intelligence developments are very important.

Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital is affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Sports and providing medical cares to 40 inpatients. Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital is providing various medical cares including emergency caesarean delivery. — Myanmar News Agency

A ROUNDTABLE discussion on reviewing the framework for political dialogue with government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw groups was held at the National Peace and Reconciliation Center in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The attendants then discussed their views and opinions of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong. There are still difficulties, challenges and mutual agreements, he said. He added that in the roundtable’s three days, they will discuss how international experiences can be incorporated in achieving benefits.

Attending the roundtable yesterday were UPDJC secretariat members, joint committee members, and working committee members from government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw groups. The workshop will be held today and the roundtable discussion with government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw groups will be held tomorrow. — Zaw Zin

Roundtable discussion on reviewing the policy framework on political discussions being convened. PHOTO: MNA

Roundtable discussion on reviewing the framework for political dialogue continued in the afternoon where Prof. Christina Murray, an international expert on federalism, shared her experiences of participating in political discussions in South Africa, Kenya and Yemen, and answered to questions asked by the attendants.

U Sit Aye, member of the group of inclusive people from Tatmadaw group, said they had the opportunity to exchange experiences on the difficulties that international political discussions had to undergo to reach agreements as well as reaching mutual agreements. He said many successive governments have had accomplishments and setbacks in the history of Myanmar, as well as incomplete accomplishments. In the democratic government’s administration there has been increased transparency, he said.

He continued saying that during the democratic government’s second term, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi continued the UPC – 21st Century Panglong. There are still difficulties, challenges and mutual agreements, he said. He added that in the roundtable’s three days, they will discuss how international experiences can be incorporated in achieving benefits.
Vice Senior General Soe Win receives Independent Commission of Enquiry

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received the Independent Commission of Enquiry yesterday at the Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, Vice-Senior General Soe Win first explained the commission and the background of Rakhiine issue to be able to find out the truth.

He has offered the Tamadaw’s full cooperation with the commission, saying that the Tatmadaw distributed evidences related true situation of Rakhiine issue to diplomats including diplomats from the United Nations Security Council who met with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 30 April, 2018 and media in timely manner but the international communities remain lack of understanding the true situation.

Mrs. Rosario Manalo discussed the commission’s commitment to making correct solution based on evidences and to present the truth to the international communities.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented facts and photos about evidences of Rakhiine issue and books on history Rakhiine to each member of the commission, according to the news release of the Tatmadaw News. —Myanmar News Agency

Career fair to come to Yangon in September

A NEW job fair is due to take place in Yangon next month, according to JobNet.com.mm, an online recruitment site.

The fair will be held on 22 September at Yangon's Novotel Hotel on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township between 9 am and 5 pm. This will be the biggest of its kind organised by the JobNet.com.mm this year, with an intention of ensuring development of good human resource management practices as well as offering job opportunities.

Mr Matt De Luca, managing director of JobNet.com.mm, said that about 70 companies are preparing to take part in the fair, including Nestle, Oore-do, Wilmar, Anada, CB Bank, Yoma Bank, Success Property, Grab and Hong Kong Shinning Star Investment Co. He added that about 15,000 job seekers are expected to join this year’s event. Numerous jobs will be offered for the sectors of sale and marketing, manufacturing, administration, human resources management, accounting, engineering, information technology and public relations. JobNet.com.mm annually holds career fairs in Myanmar for the purpose of helping job hunters find out which professions fit their personality. It hosted VR

UMFCCI submits plan to government for stabilizing exchange rate

By Nyein Nyein

DURING the meeting between the State Counsellor and local business leaders held in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 August, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) submitted to the State Counsellor a four-point plan for stabilizing exchange rate, according to UMFCCI.

The four-point plan was to promote export sector, investment, import substitution and reducing reliance on the dollar.

“Normally, when exchange rate decreases, it could promote export sector. However, a drastic increase in a short time greatly affects the local economy,” said U Zaw Min Win, President of UMFCCI.

In addition to the four-point plan, suggestions include reviewing the entire export supply chain, applying demand-based agriculture policy, earliest implementation of banks’ support services towards export, providing tax incentives to potential export products, PPP (Private Public Partnership) towards effective development of export and earliest formation of National Export Promotion Council (NEPC).

Furthermore, the government is urged to let foreign banks that bring in foreign capital to expand their businesses in the country. For import substitution, the government should reduce trade imbalance and give priority towards creating more job opportunities for local people. The government should also handle illegal trading effectively, said U Zaw Min Win.

UMFCCI urges the government to reduce reliance on the dollar by strictly forbidding illegal trading, said U Zaw Min Win.

In some cases, we don’t know, as it is difficult to know everything. Economic development is very important for our country. It is important from the political side as well. This is a time where economic wealth is becoming a real force. On the world stage, there is a connection between our weakness in economic power and influence to develop our manpower, brain power and influence to develop. A sustainable and balanced economic development plan from 2018 to 2030 has been envisioned so that everyone knows clearly how we plan to help,” said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Write for us

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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. Please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Domestic gold price on high side amid kyat depreciation against dollar

AFTER domestic gold price hit a new record high of Ks983,500 per tical (16.4g) on 28 August, it slipped a bit around Ks979,000 a new record high of Ks983,500 yesterday, according to local foreign exchange market.

Domestic gold price yesterday decreased a bit compared to last Tuesday’s price, with Ks980,500 at opening time in the morning and above Ks979,000 in the afternoon, according to Aung Thammardi Gold and Jewellery Shop and Refinery. However, it is still on the high side.

With dollar exchange value strengthening in the market, domestic gold price is fluctuating on the high side these days. The gold price was around Ks963,500 per tical on 25 August, 968,500 on 27 August and hit a new record of Ks983,500 on 28 August, according to domestic gold market.

Meanwhile, global gold prices are also seen increasing above Ks1,200 per ounce, with Ks1,206 per ounce on 25 August, Ks1,204 on 27 August, Ks1,210 on 28 August and Ks1,204 yesterday. The local gold market is cool, with instability in the local gold price and the US dollar exchange rate. The demand is also low as the buyers are observing the market condition. The domestic gold price was recorded at a high of Ks948.50 per tical in mid-July, but the price dropped to Ks945.50 per tical on 18 July. Then, the price was on a high side again and hit a high of Ks961.300 on 24 August with the US dollar gaining. Meanwhile, the US dollar exchange rate to the kyat is gradually increasing in value and it reached above Ks1,500 in the second week of this month. The current dollar exchange rate is above Ks1,500 in the floating exchange system.

Last year, the global gold price fluctuated on account of instability in the global political climate and the appreciating of the US dollar price. However, the domestic gold price remained on the high side. In September 2017, the global gold price hit $1,348 per ounce and the local gold price also hit a record high of Ks958,000 per tical, triggering a drastic drop in the trading of gold. —GNLM

Myanmar-Hungary trade down by $16 million in three months

BILATERAL trade with Hungary, a member of European Union, between April and June this year totalled US$3.8 million, which saw a significant decrease in value by $16 million as against the same period in the last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

The current figures include $1.3 million in exports and $2.5 million in imports. At this time last year, the bilateral export/import was $20 million, with exports worth $2.292 million and imports worth $19.7 million.

The bilateral trade reached its peak of $30.8 million in the last financial year 2017-2018. The trade between the two countries was $7.9 million in FY2016-2017, $1.37 million in FY2015-2016, $8.4 million in FY2014-2015, $6.44 million in FY2013-2014 and $8.02 million in 2012-2013.

Myanmar primarily exports rice, pulses, tea leaves, coffee and some vegetables, apparel from garment sector and aquaculture products to the European Community. Its imports cover cosmetics, food and beverages, consumer goods, mechanical appliances, plastic wares, pharmaceutical products and others.

Investments from EU member states chiefly went to the country’s petroleum and natural gas, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, transportation and livestock sectors. —Khine Khant

Trade with Bangladesh increases by $47 million this FY

MYANMAR-Bangladesh border trade has exceeded US$4.4 million in the present six-month interim fiscal period, up by $47.6 million in comparison with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This time last year, the bilateral trade totalled $6.64 million, compared with $2.07 million in imports and $4.041 million in exports. Between 1 April and 17 August this year, Myanmar exported $8.2 million worth of domestic products to Bangladesh and imported goods amounting to $46.2 million from the South Asian country.

Normally, Myanmar’s exports to Bangladesh surpass its imports in bilateral border trade; however, this year saw a significant increase in border imports from Bangladesh by $46.184 million.

The two countries deliver goods mainly through maritime routes. The bilateral border trade is conducted through Sitway and Maungtaw borders. During four months of this year, trade from the Sitway gate was $55.0 million, including $4.3 million in exports and $46.2 million in imports, whereas trade from the Maungtaw gate totalled $3.9 million and no commodities were imported through this gate.

Marketable items at the Myanmar-Bangladesh cross-borders are bamboos, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, beverages and human hair.

The total border trade with Bangladesh was over $29 million in the 2017-2018 FY.

According to the annual statistical report of the ministry, the bilateral border trade was $3.83 million in FY2012-2013, $22.8 million in FY2013-2014, $14.3 million in FY2014-2015, $11.5 million in FY2015-2016, $1.6 million in FY2016-2017. —Shwe Khin

JICA to offer two-step loan of Ks8 billion to seven banks in two months

By May Thet Hnin

JAPAN International Co-operation Agency (JICA) will offer two-step loan of Ks8 billion to seven banks in September and October.

Those loans can be taken out through Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB), MEB, Kanbawza, Myanmar Apex Bank, Ayeyawady Bank, Myanmar Citizens Bank, the Co-operative Bank and United Amara Bank, all seven banks, will get Ks1 billion allocation each. A bank practicing best model for bank compliance will be granted the remaining loan of Ks1 billion, said Daw Nilar Wai, assistant general manager of Yangon Region Myanmar Economic Bank.

“Under government to government (G to G) agreement, JICA will offer loans through MEB. The banks have started to apply for the loans at the Central Management Unit that includes officials from MEB and JICA. JICA’s two-step loans can be taken out in two months. Small and medium entrepreneurs are entitled to apply for it, upon completion of bank loan requirements”, she continued. “Those businesses from underdeveloped and remote Chin and Kayah states will be given priority for loans. JICA will give a full score to a bank which prioritizes entrepreneurs from those far-flung areas to grant the remaining loan of Ks1 billion, apart from its loan allocation”, said U Aung Myo Tun, general manager of Yangon Region Myan-

ma Economic Bank. In 2015-2016 fiscal year, 11 businessmen took out JICA’s two-step loans of Ks4.8 million through SMDB. In 2016-2017 FY, JICA offered Ks36.7 billion of loans for 175 entrepreneurs in 2016-2017 FY and Ks16 billion in 2017-2018 FY. JICA’s two-step loan is offered at an interest rate of 0.01 per cent to the government which provides loans at an interest rate of 4 per cent to private banks and then, the banks will give loans at an interest rate of 8.5 per cent to SMEs. The SMEs are facing barriers and challenges regarding capital, technology and market access. The SMEs are facing difficulties to get access to loans as there are many bank loan requirements. Most of them cannot provide collateral, some traders criticized.

U Ngwe Tun, Genius Coffee producer, said that although there should be easy loan plans, the SMEs should keep their income and expenditure account and records, including taxpayer receipt, especially business plan. If they can provide all the verifications required, they can get access to loans. However, it does not mean banks can provide all the capital you need. Therefore, it’s better to find other financing options.

There are over 67,000 registered SMEs, but still, there are many businesses which fail to register, according to SME Development Department. —GNLM
State Counsellor attends meeting on renovation, upgrading Yangon University

FROM PAGE 1

Next, Dr. U Nyi Hla Nge, Chairman of the Hardware Committee on renovating and upgrading the Yangon University, reported on the number of students and faculty members expected in 2020-2030 at the university, steps for implementing the Yangon University Master Plan (Draft) and committee’s review over the Hardware Master Plan.

In her conclusion remarks, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has urged the university’s authorities to promote the law and water studies at the university.

She also stressed the importance of encouraging students to have the culture of doing research at schools, saying that they should not wait till arrive the universities as it is found that students are more interested in doing team research.

The State Counsellor also called for giving priorities to water studies in doing research as Myanmar is rich in water resources and the water study is relevant to current time of climate change.

If the water studies becomes the special subject in research field, international students are expected to come to Myanmar to do research the subject, she added.

Capacity building of faculty members is also underlined in the State Counsellor’s remarks.

She also highlighted the importance of teaching methods and English language as the skills are required not only for economy but also for politics.

The State Counsellor stressed the need to have the relations with foreign universities not only for education but also for social bonds with them.

She urged some students to understand the nature of the Centre of Excellence and urged the authorities to lay down plans for narrowing the gap between the number of female and male students at the higher education level.

The Union Government is willing to see the improvement of the higher education sector and the Yangon University, but it also want to promote the vocational education sector.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pledged that the government would support the improvement the Yangon University’s library.

Also present at the meeting were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Pyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, the rector, pro-rector and members of the committee on renovating and upgrading the Yangon University. —Myanmar News Agency

U Kyaw Tint Swe receives Independent Commission of Enquiry

UNION MINISTER for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe received Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, Ambassador Rosario Manalo, and commission members at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, they discussed about Rakhine issues.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar delegation visits Korean Academy of Film Arts

THE delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint visited film arts academy and an arts centre in Busan, Republic of Korea yesterday. The delegation which is on study tour of film making technology visited Daesung film arts university where students from Asian countries are learning the film arts. At the university, the delegation held talks over conducting film arts training in Myanmar.

The delegation also visited a centre where 22nd Busan International Film Festival will be held and studied the preparations for holding the festival.

In the afternoon, the delegation went to the Korean Academy of Film Arts-KAFA and studied the Republic of Korea’s efforts for development of film arts. The delegation heard presentation about the film law, infrastructure and human resource development in the film industry. —Myanmar News Agency
Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspect inundation, damages caused by overflow of Swa Chaung Dam

VICE President U Henry Van Thio and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, flew over the inundation in Yedashe Township caused by overflowed water from Swa Chaung Dam and destruction of the dam's spillway yesterday.

The spillway of the dam burst at 5:45 am yesterday, flooding 85 village tracts in Yedashe Township affecting over 63,000 people and submerging the section between mile post 161 and 166 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

During the tour of inspection, the Vice President and the Senior General was accompanied by Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Kyaw, senior military officers from the Ministry of Defence, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and officials concerned.

They, first, inspected the damage to the Swa Chaung bridge near Mile Post 165 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and gave instruction on measures to be taken for safety of the bridge.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and officials reported the condition of the bridge and landslides caused by the flash flood.

Afterwards, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing went to the dam and inspected the damaged spillway.

The Swa Chaung Dam began to overflow at around 5:45 am yesterday and 63,421 people have been evacuated.

The road section between Mile Post 161 and 166 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and the road section between Mile Post 169 and 204 in Yedashe Township on the Yangon-Mandalay old road were submerged one feet to four feet under water.

At the briefing hall of the dam, U Bo Bo Kyaw, Deputy Director-General of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, reported on condition of the dam's spillway, condition of the damaged spillway and situation of the water storage of the dam.

After the meeting, they inspected the submerged road at the 156 milepost on the Yangon-Mandalay road and inspected, together with Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung and Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Deputy Ministers U Soe Aung, the Tatmadaw members, firefighters, department officials and local residents working together to help and rescue affected residents at the Swa Command Centre. They also arranged for Tatmadaw vehicles to transport railway passengers at the submerged railway tracks between Yedashe and Swa townships.

Afterwards, they arrived at Yedashe Township General Administration Office where Head of Taungoo District General Administration Department U Moe Htet explained about water breaching into the township's villages, submerging of villages, and collaboration from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, regional government, Tatmadaw and rescue organizations in local rescue operations. The Vice President and the Commander-in-Chief then instructed to make sure canals are not flooded to ensure the quick drainage of water, acquiring motorized fiber and rubber boats form the National Disaster Management Committee and the Tatmadaw, ensuring rescue teams can enter into affected villages, and ensuring adequate food and healthcare is available for people in the rescue centers.

Afterwards, they inspected the flooding at the old Yangon-Mandalay road between Yedashe and Thargara Villages. The Swa Chaung Dam has dropped by two water mark levels. The Bago Region Government, Tatmadaw and humanitarian organizations have cooperated in relocating affected residents to safer locations. The Swa Chaung Dam is 403 square miles large, with an annual 312,040 square feet of flowing through it. The dam can store up to 216,350 square feet of water. The dam can withstand two water mark levels. The Bago Region Government, Tatmadaw and humanitarian organizations have cooperated in relocating affected residents to safer locations. The Swa Chaung Dam is 403 square miles large, with an annual 312,040 square feet of flowing through it. The dam can store up to 216,350 square feet of water. The dam can withstand two water mark levels. The Bago Region Government, Tatmadaw and humanitarian organizations have cooperated in relocating affected residents to safer locations. The Swa Chaung Dam is 403 square miles large, with an annual 312,040 square feet of flowing through it. The dam can store up to 216,350 square feet of water. The dam can withstand two water mark levels. The Bago Region Government, Tatmadaw and humanitarian organizations have cooperated in relocating affected residents to safer locations. The Swa Chaung Dam is 403 square miles large, with an annual 312,040 square feet of flowing through it. The dam can store up to 216,350 square feet of water. The dam can withstand two water mark levels. The Bago Region Government, Tatmadaw and humanitarian organizations have cooperated in relocating affected residents to safer locations. The Swa Chaung Dam is 403 square miles large, with an annual 312,040 square feet of flowing through it. The dam can store up to 216,350 square feet of water. The dam can withstand two water mark levels. The Bago Region Government, Tatmadaw and humanitarian organizations have cooperated in relocating affected residents to safer locations. The Swa Chaung Dam is 403 square miles large, with an annual 312,040 square feet of flowing through it. The dam can store up to 216,350 square feet of water. The dam can withstand two water mark levels. The Bago Region Government, Tatmadaw and humanitarian organizations have cooperated in relocating affected residents to safer locations. The Swa Chaung Dam is 403 square miles large, with an annual 312,040 square feet of flowing through it. The dam can store up to 216,350 square feet of water. The dam can withstand two water mark levels. The Bago Region Government, Tatmadaw and humanitarian organizations have cooperated in relocating affected residents to safer locations.
Opinion
Investment in agro-industry key to sustainable development

By Khin Maung Myint

Every morning, I take a walk through a street, where a make-shift market is located, on my way to Kandawgyi Lake for routine workouts. Though I called it making-shift, it’s almost a permanent one, which had been appearing for decades, except for the fact that it is not systematically built for that purpose. Thus it lacked all the prerequisites of a clean and hygiene market place. Goods sold there range from veg tables, fruits, fish, poultry, meat, clothing and a variety of household necessities. Overall, it is what would be called a fresh market in the city. The market is opened from dawn to dark.

The times I used to pass through that place are just before dawn, while the vendors are just arriving by various means of transportation - trishaw, bicycle carrier, taxi and pickup truck, carrying their goods from the wholesale markets. They have to get to those wholesale markets around 3 am to purchase what they will retail to their customers at this street market.

The streets are always abode of street vendors. The ways their goods are handled are endless. Some bring the produce to the street food market on a cart, while others use baskets, bags or plastic containers, which are always in a hurry to return to the base stops to bring in another load of goods, as they are not patient to wait until the vendors could unload them. Thus they will dump the goods on the roadside or even in the middle of the road. Some commodities come by pickup trucks - vegetables, fish, poultry and meat, all heaped on the floorboards where people tend on them with their dirty feet. Some come by vans, stuffed inside the trunk and on the floorboards, with no places for the passengers or the owners of the goods to set their feet down, except on the handrails of the bus.

People who are observant and also conscious of hygiene will agree with what I am going to write. Most of our roads and streets inside the residential areas are usually filthy during the rainy season. They are almost always covered with sludge, plastic and other wastes, caused by frequent floods. Carcasses of dead rodents and sometimes even cats and dogs, run over by cars during the rainy nights. They can go on describing such unhygienic, unscientific and unhygienic conditions that can develop into big health problems collection of the consumers, but I deemed I have written enough for the readers to visualize the horrible conditions.

I am not being pessimistic by writing this, but I was once critical by a young chief editor of a certain daily newspaper as being too critical and demanding of our own people, and that can lead foreigners who happened to read it to look it down on us. I want to say I disagree with him. If there is no one to point out the shortcoming to those, authorities may not know and there won’t be any improvement, whichever the case.

Not to waste time and space by writing about the many good things about our food sector, let’s mention now about Thanlwin, our closest neighbor. It is not rare to see good food vendors doing business in isolated villages near Myanmar. Unfortunately, there are stray markets in Thailan, of course, even here there’s nothing comparable to the ones in our country.

Unlike in our country, the vendors are allowed to place tables or mats to display their commodities only a few minutes before the opening time. At closing time, all these stalls will be washed down and brushed with mobile equipment during the nights by workers from departments concerned.

There, then are environmental inspectors, mostly belonging to the health department or being a contractor, who go on inspections to check the health and hygienic conditions. Even a campsite for a road construction project, where I used a dhaba for my refreshments, was inspected every month by a team of such inspectors. They check the garbage bins, drainage, sewage systems, kitchens and the cleanliness of the whole camp. Thus, even if a construction camp is inspected thoroughly, imagine what the markets and food vendors would be subjected to.

Let’s face the fact that our street food vendors and even some restaurants will not pass such inspections. I have seen dhabas and lodges on top of dining tables at street food stalls during the nights. Most are covered with scales. When once I told him a food rice vendor, she explained that because she knew of such going-ons, she changed the old newspapers and journal sheets she uses for food packaging.

In Myanmar, we have a large number of people who have settled near the river and low-lying areas. This is because we should set goals of the businesses of the vendors.

Thus, instead of aiming to make money, our vendors should do their utmost to prevent hairs falling into the foods they cook and serve. It is a very effective practice for the consumers and the vendors alike, because the consumers can easily choose where they should eat the food they have available. If the food services are bad, they have less risk, and at the same time such practices are good for the businesses of the vendors.

So, let’s face the fact that our street food vendors and even some restaurants will not pass such inspections. We should not tolerate unhygienic and unscientific practices in the food sector.

Should such disregard for hygiene be tolerated?
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Memon, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, at the hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to increasing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Myanmar and Hluttaw matters were openly discussed.—Myanmar News Agency

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law, sent back with remarks from President U Win Myint at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Bill Committee deputy chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and committee members, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, officials from Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency

Repair to spillway breach at Swa Chaung Dam begins yesterday evening

GROUND survey to repair the Swa Chaung Dam’s spillway breach in Yadashe Township, Bago Region, was conducted yesterday evening to repair the damage to the dam’s spillway, according to the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

“Ground survey will be taken today to repair the collapse of the dam spillway. Cars are unable to directly reach the spot, but motorcycles are able to enter. Ground survey and searching for good soil will be carried out this evening,” said Dr. Zaw Lwin Tun, the Deputy Director General of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

The Swa Chaung Dam’s spillway structure broke around 6am of yesterday, flooding nearby areas including Yangon-Mandalay highway, old Yangon-Mandalay road and Yedashe township’s Swa town and villages.

Due to the unleashed water, a road section between Mile Post 165/4 and 166/0 on the Yangon-Mandalay highway was submerged about two feet under water and the nearby Swa Chaung bridge was slightly destroyed by the flash floods. The road section near the Mile Post 199/4 in Yedashe Township of the old Yangon-Mandalay road was also inundated. “The spillway’s right side collapsed in the morning and overflowed. Of the two bridges over the Swa Chaung (creek) on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, one was slightly destroyed and traffic was temporarily prohibited in the morning. Later, one bridge was allowed for traffic. There remains a little overflowing water on the old Yangon-Mandalay road. The flooding in the dam receded. The collapse is caused by the damaged spillway. The dam is in good condition. The Yangon-Mandalay highway can operate now and the old Yangon-Mandalay road will be able to operate soon,” said Dr. Zaw Lwin Tun said. Bago Region government and related departments are cooperating for rescue efforts and repairs of the damaged spillway.

A total of 82 villages from 18 village-tracts were flooded and 17 rescue camps in Yedashe Township and 16 rescue camps in Toungoo Township are open, according to the list released by the Bago Region government yesterday.

Foods and aid are being sent timely to the flooded villages by the Bago Region Disaster Supervision Office, according to the Bago Region government.—Myanmar News Agency

Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun exclusively interviewed by DVB

U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister of Information, was exclusively interviewed by Executive Producer U Ye Wint Thu and team from the DVB at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

At the exclusive interview, the Deputy Minister answered DVB’s questions concerning the situation of press freedom in Myanmar, difficulty in reporting in the conflict areas, reporters facing legal actions, the assessment of Myanmar media by international watchdogs, sustainability of Myanmar local media and so on.

Besides, the Deputy Minister called for the participation and cooperation by all the stakeholders from the Myanmar media Industry for the emergence of independent responsible and self-regulated media in order to nurture talented and qualified journalists to carry our proper Myanmar narrative among the international community.—Myanmar News Agency

Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun exclusively interviewed by DVB

PHOTO: MNA
Ninth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 13th-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Union Election Commission member U Than Htay and Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun also replied to questions raised by Dr. U Maung Hla Moo of Aungmyaythazan constituency urging the Union Government to supply adequate research funds to experts in developing Myanmar’s higher education sector, and accordingly the entire education sector.

The Speaker then notified the assembly that the Bill to amend the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law, sent back with remarks and approved by the Amyotha Hluttaw, has been received and Bill Committee member U Htay Ngway read the report on the bill. The Speaker then called for MPs interested in submitting a proposal to amend the bill to enlist their names.

The Speaker also notified the assembly of receiving with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw the Bill amending the Law of Protection of the Farmer approved. The 14th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held on 31 August.-Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

FROM PAGE-2

Additionally, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung read a report on the Bill amending the Penal Code a second time. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the bill to enlist their names.

MPs discuss motion to perform education research, supply funds

MPs then discussed a motion tabled by Dr. U Hla Moo of Aungmyaythazan constituency urging the Union Government to supply adequate research funds to experts in developing Myanmar’s higher education sector, and accordingly the entire education sector.

U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency remarked that basic education subjects are not taught in the mother tongue but in English, which poses subject learning and theoretical studies difficulties in students. Consequently, this leads to the rise of rote memorization and tuition dependency, seriously limiting a student’s time for physical activities and acquiring extrinsic knowledge as well as pursuing artistic interests and socializing with the outside world, he said, adding that the future for this looks grim if continued. He said he supports the motion and advises following the examples of other developed countries to provide subject teaching in the mother language and to promote English language learning separately.

Tatmadaw representative Maj. Win Min Tun said there are two departments under the Ministry of Education that performs research, namely the Department of Educational Research, Planning and Training and the Department of Research and Innovation. He said he supports the motion. The 14th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held on 31 August.-Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

MM-Bangladesh continue coordinated patrol

A 20-member troop led by Sub-inspector Myint Maung of No. 51 Guard Outpost under the No. 5 Border Guards Sub-division in Aungtapyay Area, Region-1 of Maungtaw Township and a 15-member troop led by Officer Naib Subedar Md. Ekramul Hague of No. 11 Border Guard Police Bangladesh of Panchari Outpost conducted a coordinated patrol along the border on 28 August.

They conducted the patrol from Mile Post No. 51 to 51/S according to the Information Department of the Myanmar Police Force.-Myanmar Police Force

PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE
China-backed trade pact talks at ‘critical stage’: Singapore PM

SINGAPORE — Talks on a China-backed free-trade pact have reached a “critical stage”, Singapore’s leader said on Wednesday as he urged regional economic ministers to seal the deal by the end of the year.

The 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which will be the world’s biggest free-trade accord if it is agreed, has taken centre stage as Washington embarks on a unilateralist, protectionist agenda.

Covering about half the world’s population, the RCEP notably excludes the US, which had been leading another regional pact — the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) — until President Donald Trump abandoned it on coming to office early last year.

“The RCEP negotiations have continued for some time, and have now reached a critical stage,” Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said as he opened a five-day meeting of economy ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Singapore meeting will be joined later in the week by top trade officials from ASEAN’s main trading partners, including China, Japan, Australia and the US. “After a great deal of work, the possibility of substantively concluding the RCEP negotiations is finally in sight,” he said.

Lee also warned about escalating tensions between the US and China — who have been locked in a spiralling trade row — and other major economies including the eurozone and Canada.

“The RCEP will be an important signal to the world that ASEAN members and our partners place high value on free trade, regional integration and international cooperation,” he said.

The pact will group the 10 ASEAN members plus China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, and will cover a third of the world’s gross domestic product.

A diplomatic source said Singapore, this year’s ASEAN chair, is pushing for an agreement on the RCEP before handing over the chairmanship to Thailand in 2019.

Another source involved in the talks said ASEAN leaders hope to announce the “substantial conclusion” of negotiations during a summit in November with their main trading partners, and they expect the pact to be implemented in 2020.

Beijing is keen to use Washington’s rejection of the TPP to build enthusiasm for its own deal and increase influence in the region. RCEP is a more modest deal that prescribes lower and more limited regulatory standards. The 11 remaining TPP members signed a slimmed-down version of the agreement in March.

—AFP■

Philippines hunts bombers in deadly festival blast

SULTAN KUDARAT (Philippines) — Philippine authorities were hunting on Wednesday two men believed to have planted the explosives that killed two people, including a young girl, at a festival in the nation’s south.

The blast late Tuesday in the town of Isulan, which wounded 35 others, is the second deadly bombing in less than a month in the region where Islamist militants have waged a decades-long insurgency.

A man left the improvised bomb in a bag near a grocery store as crowds gathered to celebrate the town’s founding anniversary but he and an accomplice escaped, the military said.

“One (man) did the placement while the other (drove) the getaway motorcyle,” Brigadier General Cirilito Sobejana told AFP, adding a manhunt was underway.

The attack, claimed by the Islamic State group, is the latest violence in the south of the mainly Catholic archipelago where a long-running Islamist insurgency has left more than 100,000 people dead by government count. Sobejana said it was “highly likely” that the pro-IS Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) plotted the bombing.

A military spokesman said the blast could have been in retaliation for offensives against the BIFF, adding the group had planned bomb attacks in parts of the southern region of Mindanao.

“They want to create and sow terror in the area,” regional military spokesman Captain Arvin Encinas told AFP, adding two soldiers were among the wounded. The attack comes less than a month after a van bomb ripped through a military checkpoint on the neighbouring island of Basilan on 31 July, killing 10 people.

IS claimed responsibility for that bombing as well and authorities believe the man behind the wheel of the explosives-laden van may have intended to target a nearby children’s parade.

President Rodrigo Duterte put Mindanao under martial rule until the end of this year after pro-IS militants seized the southern city of Marawi last year.

On Wednesday, Duterte’s aides condemned the bombing saying it could prompt the president to extend martial law in the area. The recent blasts follow the Duterte government enacting a law to create greater autonomy for the Muslim minority in the south and which is hoped will help end the conflict.

The mother of the girl who died in Tuesday’s bombing pleaded with authorities for justice.

“I hope they help us and catch the perpetrators,” Nezel Alayon said in between tears.

—AFP■

Malaysian ex-spymaster detained over theft of poll funds

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) — A controversial Malaysian former spy chief was remanded in custody on Wednesday over the alleged theft of funds intended to be used for a historic general election in May.

Hasanah Abdul Hamid, ex-head of Malaysia’s External Intelligence Organization, was an ally of former leader Najib Razak, who was unexpectedly ejected from office at the polls amid allegations he and his cronies stole huge sums of public money.

There has been a purge of senior officials with links to the former government since the election upset, with the attorney-general and the head of the civil service among those losing their jobs.

Hasanah was arrested on Tuesday by anti-corruption investigators probing the theft of the election funds from the prime minister’s department, which reports say amount to millions of ringgit. The 61-year-old appeared in court on Wednesday in the administrative capital Putrajaya and was remanded in custody for five days, an official from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission told AFP.

“Hasanah is being investigated for abuse of power,” the official added.

Anti-graft investigators have this week arrested seven other officers from Hasanah’s agency, which worked directly under the prime minister’s department, as part of their probe into the missing money.

Hasanah was at the centre of a controversy last month after a letter she wrote to the head of the CIA before the election leaked online. In the letter, she urged the US to back Najib and said he was a friend of America, while describing Mahathir Mohamad — Malaysia’s new leader after triumphing in the election at the head of a reformist alliance — as “anti-West”.

Najib was accused of overseeing the theft of billions of dollars from sovereign wealth fund 1MDB, which he set up. Since his election loss, he has been arrested and charged over the scandal. He denies any wrongdoing. —AFP■
Paris, Tokyo, New York and others pledge to slash waste

PARIS — By slashing food waste and improving waste management and recycling, 23 global cities and regions representing 158 million people pledged on Tuesday to significantly cut the pollution-causing garbage they generate by 2030.

Places like New York, Tokyo, London, Paris and Sydney vowed to “cut the amount of waste generated by each citizen 15 per cent by 2030,” said a statement from C40 Cities, a global network dedicated to fighting climate change.

“They will also reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and incineration by 50 per cent and increase the diversion rate to 70 per cent by 2030,” according to the declaration.

The goal of the “Advancing Towards Zero Waste Declaration” is to avoid the disposal of at least 87 million tons of waste by 2030.

Waste is becoming one of the leading threats to the environment, increasing faster than any other pollutant. Each year, 1.3 billion tons of wasted food is sent to landfills where rotting scraps send the potent heat-trapping greenhouse gas methane into the atmosphere.

Improving waste and material management around the world globally could reduce global emissions by 20 per cent, and are “essential” to delivering on the goals of the 2015 Paris climate accord and keeping global temperature rise below 1.5 Celsius, said the C40 Cities statement.

The announcement was released ahead of the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in mid-September.

Signatories include Auckland, Copenhagen, Dubai, London, Milan, Montreal, New York City, Newport, Paris, Philadelphia, Portland, Rotterdam, San Jose, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Sydney, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, Toronto, Vancouver Washington DC, and the regions of Navarra and Catalonia.

Specific steps include reducing food waste and facilitating safe food donation. Participating areas may encourage separate collection of food scraps that could be used for compost, and supporting local policies like sustainable procurement and boosting awareness and use of recycling for construction and demolition materials.

Areas may also support reductions or bans on single-use and non-recyclable plastics.

The signatories pledged to publicly report their progress every two years. “Dramatically reducing waste will help curb carbon emissions while helping us build a fairer, cleaner and more livable city for all New Yorkers,” said New York Mayor Bill de Blasio. “We’re proud to stand alongside other leading cities worldwide in taking ambitious steps to cut down on waste.”—AFP

A reclaimer wades through the waste at Robinson Deep landfill, Johannesburg’s largest landfill on 29 June, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Small tsunami waves after New Caledonia quake

SYDNEY (Australia) — A 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck off the eastern coast of New Caledonia on Wednesday and generated small tsunami waves, seismologists said, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

The tremor hit at a depth of 27 kilometres (16 miles) in the southern Pacific Ocean, some 231 kilometres from the nearest town Tadine in the lightly populated Loyalty Islands, the US Geological Survey said.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said “small tsunami waves have been observed”. “Persons along coastal areas near the earthquake should be observant and exercise normal caution. Otherwise, no action is required,” it added. —AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0104/N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0104/N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T/A.W.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: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (1833-1834)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (1833-1834) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T/T/A.W.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: MS MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (601 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (601 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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: MS SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185
Screen legend Judi Dench to get honorary award in Spain

LONDON—British screen legend Judi Dench, best known for her role as M in James Bond films, will receive a lifetime achievement award at Spain’s famous San Sebastian film festival, organisers said on Tuesday.

The 83-year-old actress who won an Oscar in 1999 for her role as Queen Elizabeth I in “Shakespeare in Love” will get the Donostia Award on 25 September, they said.

Dench, a veteran star of the stage and screen, made her cinema debut in 1964 and has worked with directors as varied as Stephen Frears, Kenneth Branagh, Clint Eastwood and Sam Mendes.

Her subtle portrayal of complex characters such as Queen Victoria in “Mrs Brown” or author Iris Murdoch in “Iris” have earned her critical acclaim.

A seven-time Oscar nominee and the recipient of several Bafta awards, Dench is perhaps best known worldwide for playing M, the head of MI6, in James Bond films. It will be her first visit to the film festival in the Basque Country, where her new film “Red Joan,” directed by Trevor Nunn, will be screened.

In the film inspired on a true story, she plays a tranquil retiree who is suddenly arrested by MI6 and exposed as a long-standing KGB spy. She will join US actor Danny de Vito and Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda, whose film “Shoplifters” won the Palme d’Or in this year’s Cannes Film Festival, in receiving the Donostia Award.

Past recipients include Gregory Peck, Robert De Niro, Bette Davis, Susan Sarandon and Meryl Streep. —AFP

Epic, extreme film-art project to rebuild Berlin Wall

BERLIN—A massive film-art project in the German capital is set to rebuild part of the Berlin Wall to create a closed-off mini-state, complete with visa checks, organizers said on Tuesday.

“The walled-in ‘city within a city’ will host the world premiere of the mysterious and mammoth “DAU” film project and social experiment of enigmatic Russian filmmaker Ilya Khrzhanovsky. It pending final approval from Berlin city authorities, which organizers said was “in the works”, staff plan to erect 900 concrete wall slabs, each 3.60 metres (about 12 feet) tall, for the 6.6 million euro ($7.7 million) event.

Visitors to the parallel world will have to apply online for entrance “visas” and swap their cellphones for off-line digital devices with an algorithm that will suggest a personalized tour.

Set on a city block on Unter den Linden boulevard, the time-capsule project is due to launch on 12 October and end with a ritualistic tearing down of the wall on 9 November, the day of the historic event in 1989.

The aim is not to create “a Disney GDR” (German Democratic Republic), said Thomas Oberender, director of culture festival Berliner Festspiele which will host the mega-event.

“It is not a film premiere but a mixture of social experiment, artistic experiment and an impressive form of world-building,” he told a Berlin press conference.

The aim, said organisers, is to spark “a political and social debate about freedom and totalitarianism, surveillance, co-existence and national identity”.

‘Most insane film shoot’

Long shrouded in mystery, a trickle of news and cryptic clues has created buzz and sparked controversy about the project, with critics labelling it a stunt hurtful to people who lived in communist East Germany.

“Of respect for the victims who really experienced such situations, we should step away from this,” Berlin politician Sabina Bantert of the Greens party said, according to Tagesspiegel daily.—AFP

Screen legend Judi Dench to get honorary award in Spain

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Past recipients include Gregory Peck, Robert De Niro, Bette Davis, Susan Sarandon and Meryl Streep. —AFP
Physicists finally observe ‘elusive’ Higgs decay

PARIS — Six years after tracking down the Higgs boson, the subatomic particle that confers mass on matter, physicists said on Tuesday they have “at last long” witnessed it decaying into tiny bits called “bottom quarks”.

The predicted decay was observed at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) famous for the Nobel-capped discovery of the Higgs particle in 2012, Europe’s CERN physics lab announced.

“During the early preparations of the LHC, there were doubts on whether this observation could be achieved,” the ATLAS scientific collaboration said of the “elusive interaction” now documented at the massive particle accelerator.

Because Higgs bosons themselves are hard to find, and other particles also break up into bottom quarks, it has been difficult to track down those attributed specifically to Higgs decay.

Researchers say the long-awaited observation serves as further verification of the Standard Model of physics — the mainstream theory of the fundamental particles that make up the Universe and the forces that govern them.

Under the model, developed in the early 1970s, quarks and leptons are the most basic building blocks of matter.

There are six types of quarks, of which bottom quarks — also called beauty quarks — are among the heaviest.

The Standard Model predicted that Higgs decay would yield pairs of bottom quarks about 60 per cent of the time. But finding these quarks has been “among the most demanding analyses carried out by ATLAS so far,” the team said in a statement.

New physics?

Scientists probing the nature and workings of the Higgs and other particles are on the lookout for anything that does not fit with Standard Model predictions.

This is because the model doesn’t explain dark matter or dark energy, and appears to be incompatible with the theory of gravity. Some other model of “new physics” is needed to explain these.

Proposed alternatives have included the existence of extra dimensions, or “supersymmetry” which postulates the existence of a sibling of equal mass for every known Standard Model particle.

Evidence for neither has yet been found.

The latest observation was also “consistent with” the Standard Model, said the CMS team that worked with ATLAS on the project. But it “still leaves room for contributions from new physics.”

“It’s another point for the Standard Model,” physicist Pauline Gagnon told AFP.

While it was an important scientific breakthrough, the observation was also “a disappointment (for physicists) because the Standard Model has not yet been disproven.”

Physicists have sifted through mountains of experimental data these last years to piece together a profile of the elusive Higgs boson first predicted in 1964. They have so far observed its mass, spin, and lifetime.

“In the coming years, much more data will be collected and the precision will be improved in our quest to see if the Higgs boson reveals the presence of physics beyond the Standard Model,” said the CMS collaboration. —AFP

Bees get hooked on harmful pesticide

PARIS — Bumblebees acquire a taste for food laced with a pesticide known to harm them, according to a study suggesting the chemicals pose an even greater threat to pollinators than previously thought.

In experiments, researchers showed that bees initially put off by sugar water containing neonicotinoids — the most widely-used class of insecticide worldwide — soon started seeking them out to the exclusion of untainted food.

The findings were published on Wednesday in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Neonicotinoids, earlier research has shown, disrupt the ability of bees to reproduce and lower their resistance to disease.

“At first, it appeared that the bees did not like a food containing the pesticide,” said lead author Andrea Arec, a researcher at Imperial College London.

“However, as individual bees increasingly experience the treated food they develop a preference for it.”

Even when the position of their feeders was switched, the pollinators made a beeline for the one laced with insecticide.

Neonicotinoids target nerve receptors in insects much in the way nicotine — the addictive ingredient in tobacco — does in humans and other mammals.

“Our findings... tick certain symptoms of addictive behaviour; which is intriguing given the addictive properties of nicotine on humans,” said lead researcher Richard Gill, also from Imperial.

Unlike contact pesticides, which remain on the plant surface, neonicotinoids are absorbed by seeds and transported to leaves, flowers, roots, and stems as the plant grows.

Several countries have banned forms of the insecticide, mainly due to its impact on nature’s little helpers.

In the European Union, three neonicotinoid-based products will be off-limits in open fields starting on 19 December. France has banned five chemical variants starting Saturday.

Canada recently announced it would phase out two neonicotinoids used on canola, corn, and soybean crops.

Widely used over the last two decades, neonicotinoids were designed to control sap-feeding insects such as aphids and root-feeding grubs.

In recent years, fears have been growing over the declining health of bees globally, and the possible role of neonicotinoids.

Pesticides have been blamed as a cause of colony collapse disorder, along with mites, viruses, and fungi, or some combination.

The United Nations warned last year that 40 per cent of invertebrate pollinators — particularly bees and butterflies — risk global extinction.—AFP

Robot teachers invade Chinese kindergartens

BEIJING (China) — The Chinese kindergarten children giggled as they worked to solve puzzles assigned by their new teaching assistant: a roundish, short educator with a screen for a face.

Just under 60 centimetres (two feet) high, the autonomous robot named Keeko has been a hit in several kindergartens, telling stories and challenging children with logic problems.

Round and white with a tubby body, the armless robot zips around on tiny wheels, its inbuilt cameras doubling up both as navigational sensors and a front-facing camera allowing users to record video journals.

In China, robots are being developed to deliver groceries, provide companionship to the elderly, dispense legal advice and, now, as Keeko’s creators hope, join the ranks of educators.

At the Yiswind Institute of Multicultural Education on the outskirts of Beijing, the children have been tasked to help a prince find his way through a desert — by putting together square mats that represent a path taken by the robot — part storytelling and part problem-solving. Each time they get an answer right, the device reacts with delight, its face flashing heart-shaped eyes.

“Education today is no longer a one-way street, where the teacher teaches and students just learn,” said Candy Xiong, a teacher trained in early childhood education who now works with Keeko Robot Xiamen Technology as a trainer.

“When children see Keeko with its round head and body, it looks adorable and children love it. So when they see Keeko, they almost instantly take to it,” she added. Keeko robots have entered more than 600 kindergartens across the country with its makers hoping to expand into Greater China and Southeast Asia.

Beijing has invested money and manpower in developing artificial intelligence as part of its “Made in China 2025” plan, with a Chinese firm last year unveiling the country’s first human-like robot that can hold simple conversations and make facial expressions. —AFP
Serena attitude defused dress code row says French Open director

PARIS—French Open director Guy Forget says Serena Williams’ attitude defused a potential row over an up-coming dress code that he insists will be far less strict than the one at Wimbledon, French sports daily L’Equipe reported on Tuesday.

The idea he said would be to establish a certain level of elegance or as he put it “a Roland Garros style”.

The move comes hot on the heels of a furor following French tennis federation chief Bernard Giudicelli describing the “Black Panther” catsuit American star Williams wore at the French Open in May as “going too far”.

Williams at the time took the announcement in her stride, describing her relationship with the French Open organizers as wonderful. “He’s (Guidicelli) been so easy to talk to,” Williams said. “My whole team is basically French so, yeah, we have a wonderful relationship.”

Forget congratulated Williams on her attitude.

“With social media everything goes viral these days,” Forget said.

“Serena was perfect, defusing any budding controversy,” he explained.

“The idea with the dress code will be much more flexible than the one at Wimbledon, which has hardened over time,” he said.— AFP

West Ham survive scare, three Premier League sides exit League Cup

LONDON—West Ham survived a scare from League One Wimbledon to register Manuel Pellegrini’s first win in charge and progress to the third round of the League Cup as Premier League sides Cardiff, Huddersfield and Brighton bowed out on Tuesday.

The Hammers have suffered three straight defeats to begin their league season, despite former Real Madrid and Manchester City boss Pellegrini being backed with nearly £100 million ($128.7 dollars) in the transfer market, and went behind inside two minutes at Kingsmear through Joe Pigott’s header.

But the hosts were reduced to 10 men after just 18 minutes as Rod McDonald was dismissed for a second yellow card and second-half goals from Issa Diop, Angelo Ogbonna and Javier Hernandez secured a 3-1 win to spare Pellegrini’s blushes.

Cardiff’s poor start to the season on their return to the top flight continued with a comprehensive 3-1 defeat at home to Championship side Norwich. Saibo Berahino scored his first goal since February 2016 to send Stoke into the last 32 with a 2-0 win over Premier League Huddersfield.— AFP

Myanmar to play friendly matches with Singapore teams

IN preparation for the international football tournaments, Myanmar U-16 and U-19 women football teams will play friendly matches against Singapore U-16 and U-19 women football teams on 4 and 6 September, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

Myanmar U-16 will play two friendly matches with Singapore U-16 team on 4 and 6 September; and Myanmar U-19 team will play a friendly match against Singapore U-19 team on 6 September.

The friendly matches against Singapore teams will really help Myanmar teams to get experience to compete in Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-16 Women Championship Qualification Round (1) and 2019 AFC U-19 Women’s Championship Qualification, said an MFF official.

Myanmar U-16 team will be headed by its head coach Daw San San Thein, while Myanmar U-19 team will be headed by its head coach Daw Thet Thet Win.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Sharapova downs battling 39-year-old Schnyder at US Open

NEW YORK—Maria Sharapova shattered the fairytale return of 39-year-old Patty Schnyder at the US Open on Tuesday, winning a roller-coaster first round clash 6-2, 7-6 (8/6).

Schnyder, the oldest ever player to make the main draw of a Grand Slam via qualifying, was outgunned by the five-time major champion in the first set and for the majority of the second.

However, she bravely battled back from 1-5 down to 6-6, showing the sort of ability and court-craft which won her 11 titles and once took her to seven in the world rankings.

She even saved three match points in the tiebreaker before Sharapova’s 23rd winner of the night sealed victory shortly before midnight.

“My average match against her is like two hours and 20 minutes so I knew I was in for a battle no matter what my story is or hers,” said Sharapova who is now 21-9 in US Open high sessions.— AFP