National Conference on Combating Leprosy held in Nay Pyi Taw

State Counsellor calls for right attitude towards leprosy patients to end discrimination against them

THE National Leprosy Conference was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with the motto ‘join hands to stop discrimination’. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave the opening speech at the conference.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said efforts to eradicate discrimination against leprosy patients and their families should be given a top priority in combating the disease in Myanmar.

She stressed the need to step up efforts for dissemination of knowledge on leprosy among the people so that people have the right attitude towards leprosy patients, as the country is seeing discrimination against patients and their families and wrong attitudes have impacted the daily life of patients.

Efforts should be made to integrate leprosy patients and their families into the community by disseminating knowledge about how leprosy spreads, said the State Counsellor.

Having the right attitude towards leprosy patients is very important because discrimination against patients has led to hindrances in new patients coming forward, patients’ completing their full course of treatment, and prevention of infection, she added.

The State Counsellor has called on officials responsible for fighting leprosy to work together with the Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to integrate the leprosy patients and their families towards the community and to be treated without discrimination by the public.

She also stressed the need to include the knowledge on leprosy in the civic courses to help the people have the right attitude to the patients.

In conclusion, the State Counsellor expressed thanks to officials concerned, Sasakawa Foundation, Nippon Foundation and local and foreign organizations for their towards holding the conference.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor and attendees of the conference had documentary photos taken and viewed the documentary photos displayed at the ceremony.

SEE PAGE-4
Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses confiscated lands, puts motion for union-level policy on record

By Aye Aye Thant

THE 13th-day of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw assembly hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Maj-Gen Aung Thu responded to asterisk-marked questions raised by MPs.

Progress of pre-1988 confiscated lands cases

U Aung Soe of Yunnan constituency raised a question asking the progress of cases of lands confiscated prior to 1988 submitted to regional-level committees for scrutinizing confiscated lands.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands announced in their 17 July 2018 statement that pre-1988 cases of confiscated lands are to be handled as a separate individual case and were thus relayed to the

Nay Pyi Taw Council-level and regional level committees who in turn will further submit the cases to the union-level committee.

Proposing additional residential buildings in Tangyan Tsp police compound

U Sai Maung Pwint from Tangyan constituency asked whether 5 police residential buildings in Tangyan Township police compound can be rebuilt into RC concrete buildings.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that three buildings within the Tangyan Township police compound are too old and unsafe for habitation but there are 33 other rooms fit for occupancy within the compound. He said the number of rooms is suitable for housing the current number of officers and their families but more buildings will be needed if the police force were to be expanded. He said they will submit a budget proposal for constructing 2 additional 4-room 2-storey buildings in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Kyauktan Tsp police property not leased to any businesses

Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan constituency asked how the report on losses of confiscated land in Shwe Pyauk Village-tract in Kyauktan Tsp were handled. The mentioned lands were confiscated for police encampments and used for breeding chickens and storing and maintaining auctioned cars.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that an area of land from the Security Police Force Subdivision No. 7 compound was previously used for joint-ventures with external businesses but eventually converted to 2 chicken farms in April 2016 and handled solely by the officers stationed there.

Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds its 13th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 13th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, an amendment bill was discussed, a bill was submitted and a report was read out.

Q&A session

During the Q&A session, U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 asked the Union Government if it plans to set up branch offices of the Anti-Corruption Commission in states/regions/self-administered divisions and zones across the country, with the aim of achieving a more effective implementation of the law.

Anti-Corruption Commission Secretary U San Win replied that arrangements were being made to open branch offices in Yangon and Mandalay regions, and submissions to open other sub-commission offices would be made yearly in accordance with the allotment of State Fund.

Daw Khin Swe Lwin of Chin State constituency 9 asked the Union Government if it plans to construct maternity and child healthcare unit, including a multi-purpose hall, in Kanpetlet Township, Chin State in the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein replied that plans are underway to construct a new two-storey healthcare unit in the 2019-2010 Fiscal Year.

U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1 asked the Union Government if it plans to construct sub rural healthcare center in Jadelat Village, Bawmii village-tract, Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Regarding this query, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein replied that the Ministry of Health and Sports would submit the recommendation or remarks to the Office of the Union Government; and the necessary procedures would be carried out after gaining approval.

MPs propose cyber security measures

U Pe Tin of Mon State constituency 6 asked the Government if it plans to curb the misuse of Facebook in terms of the authority concerned while taking legal action against it.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo replied that they are collaborating with local and international legal experts to enact a Cyber Law.

He said they are working to disseminate information and some advice on social media, aiming for comprehensive public awareness, in addition to conducting educational talks on the uses of mobile telephones and technologies, cyber security shows and campaigns.

Similarly Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo submitted Myanmar Telecommunication Corporation Bill, and following this, Dr. Myat Nyarna Soe, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read out and explained the bill.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khairng Than announced for the Hluttaw representatives interested in discussing the bill to register their names.

The Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s tenth regular session will hold its fourteenth-day meeting on 14 December.

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung
State Counsellor receives UNSG’s Special Envoy on Myanmar

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener at 11am on 12 December 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor and the Special Envoy exchanged views on the matters relating to cooperation between Myanmar and the office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General including the opening of office of Special Envoy in Nay Pyi Taw and the ongoing inter-communal dialogue and public awareness-raising activities in building a harmonious society in Rakhine State.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA ■

Myanmar moves to implement child labour eradication program

MYANMAR is taking steps to implement its child labour eradication program as part of efforts to secure a better future for the children in the country, which has 1.1 million children below 18 years of age engaged in labour and more than 600,000 children working in vulnerable situations.

At the second meeting of the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication, Vice President U Myint Swe said, “Approval for the national-level work program (draft) of the Myanmar Child Labour Eradication Project will be sought in this meeting and the project will be implemented.”

The Vice President made the remarks in his capacity as the Chairman of the committee at the meeting held at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He also urged the members of the committee to discuss the work program against child labour, which is relevant to the situation in Myanmar and can bring about vocational training and educational opportunities, and help alleviate poverty.

According to the Labour Force Survey 2015, there are over 12 million children below 18 years of age in Myanmar. Of these, over 1.1 million are working as child labourers, while over 600,000 are working in a vulnerable situation.

“To provide protection to our children working in dangerous situations, we need to implement the national-level child labour eradication project,” said the Vice President.

The 37-member Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication, led by the Vice President (1), was formed by Notification No. 23/2018 dated 5 February 2018 from the Office of the President.

Youth of working age make up about 18 per cent, or about 1 billion, of the world’s population. They are all facing the adverse effects of differences in the economic, social, technological, and cultural environment in countries within a region and in the society.

Globally, there are about 152 million children aged between 5 and 17 years. Of these, 7.4 per cent live in the Asia-Pacific region, and about 70.9 per cent work in the agricultural sector. About 73 million of these children are working in dangerous places.

About 85 per cent of the world’s youth live in developing countries, and 60 per cent are in the Asian region. The youth and children’s development sectors are important in determining the future of a country and are valuable resources for a country.

“YOUTH and children who support the production resources are employed in most developing countries, especially in a developing country like Myanmar. The practice is connected to poverty and many people can be seen using child labour,” said the Vice President.

Children and youth who are unable to complete their education enter the workforce at a young age and end up getting exploited in most developing countries. Many take up work because of food insufficiency due to natural disasters from climate change as well as the existence of poverty and migration due to internal conflicts and socio-economic hardships.

Like other regional ASEAN countries, Myanmar has ratified the International Labour Organisation’s Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour, and has been cooperating with the ILO and the UNICEF on this front.

A tripartite agreement under the Decent Work Country Program between the government, employers, and employees was also signed by the InternationalLabour Organization and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population.

The program includes child labour issues under the title of job opportunities, labour rights, and social security.

Yesterday’s meeting was attended by Union ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Than Myint, U Thein Swe, Dr. Win Myat Aye, U Khin Maung Cho, and Na Thet Lwin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, chief ministers of the regions and states, representatives of the employers, employees, and labour unions.

The participants of the meeting discussed topics included in the work programme, child labour issues, investigations into child labour issues, providing opportunities for vocational training to children who are at risk of becoming child labourers, and rehabilitation.—MNA ■

“To provide protection to our children working in dangerous situations, we need to implement the national-level child labour eradication project,” said the Vice President.
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses DSTA graduates

STATE COUNSELLOR calls for right
time towards leprosy patients to
end discrimination against them

FROM PAGE 1

Also present at the opening ceremony of the conference were
Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, U Min Thu, Dr. Myint Htwe and U Kyaw Tin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Deputy Minister U Set Aung and Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretaries, the President of the Nippon Foundation, MPs, ministers from region and state cabinets, experts for leprosy disease, representatives of the health related organizations.

Following the opening ceremony, the conference was held with opening remarks by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and President of the Nippon Foundation Mr. Yohei Sasakawa.

Permanent Secretary Dr. Thar Tun Kyaw and Dr. Erwin Cooreman of the World Health Organization discussed the current situation of leprosy and control of the disease and global challenges.

In the afternoon, a press conference was held and Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khin Aung Win, President of the Nippon Foundation Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Dr. Tin Shwe from the Leprosy Mission from the US, Dr. Kyaw Nyunt Sein, member of the Leprosy advisory experts group, Dr. Erwin Cooreman of the WHO, Dr. Chan Tun Aung, Manager of the Leprosy Fighting Programme, met with the press.

A panel discussion under the title “No discrimination against the leprosy patients” was led by Dr. Maung Maung Kyi, Retired Superintendent of Yenanlar Leprosy Hospital in Madura, Daw Thida, U Soe Win, Daw Thida Myint and U Hla Hla Thar Tun Kyaw and Dr. Erwin Cooreman of the World Health Organization discussed the current situation of leprosy and control of the disease and global challenges.

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A panel discussion under the title “Join our hands to improve the control of the leprosy” was held and Dr. Thandar Lwin, Deputy Director-General of the Public Health, and leprosy specialists participated in the discussions.

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The conference continued

The conference continued

The conference continued

The conference continued

The conference continued
"Iron, steel demand growing every year"  

By Nyein Nyein  

DEMAND for iron and steel in Myanmar is rising every year, according to iron and steel entrepreneurs. To deal with the growing import volumes of iron and steel, suppliers and importers are planning to hold a seminar and discuss current challenges.

“The outcome of the meeting will be submitted to the government,” said Dr. Kay Thi Lwin, the chair of the Myanmar Iron and Steel Entrepreneurs Association.

“Myanmar’s steel industry has not developed to date compared with other countries. The major players in Myanmar’s iron and steel industry are the government sector (state-owned enterprises), the private sector (industrial zones), and the Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC). The products meet international standards, but the low manufacturing volume hasn’t been able to satisfy the growing demand, making local consumers rely on imported steel,” said U Myint Swe, the managing director of Danieli Myanmar Co. Ltd. “To meet the growing demand, Myanmar imported about 2.2 million tons of steel last year. The consumption of iron and steel has grown 12 percent per year on year,” he added.

“Demand from the construction industry is rising year on year. Infrastructure building projects and upgradation projects, such as extension of railways, have pushed up demand for steel. The demand for steel has risen by 12 percent per year,” said U Myint Swe. If iron and steel imports are reduced, the outflow of US dollars will be stemmed. Investments are required to set up semi-finished product manufacturing plants and finished product steel mills. “Local production needs support. It will be good for the private and public sectors if production can substitute imports. More job opportunities will emerge. It will also help reduce the outflow of foreign currency. But there are still many impediments. All the stakeholders, including the whole supply chain, need to tackle this together,” said Dr. Kay Thi Lwin.

“At present, Myanmar imposes a 5- to 7-percent duty on iron and steel imports. Once the Myingyan Steel Mill resumes production, it can supply 600,000 to 800,000 tons of steel. At that time, the government should hike the import duty to protect local producers. Every country has protectionist measures. Viet Nam imposes an anti-dumping tax on imported steel and Malaysia also does the same. The Philippines also levies 25 to 38 percent tax on imported steel,” U Myint Swe said.

Regarding taxation, the iron and steel entrepreneurs will submit their meeting’s report during their regular meeting with Vice President U Myint Swe. “We will closely discuss taxation in the upcoming meeting and then, our report will be forwarded to the regular meeting led by Vice President,” said Dr. Kay Thi Lwin.

At present, the private sector produces around 100,000-200,000 tons of iron and steel every year; she added. China is the main supplier of iron and steel to Myanmar’s market. Myanmar also imports iron and steel from India and the Republic of Korea. “As our production is so low that it cannot meet local demand, steel has to be imported from foreign countries. If the government raises the import duty on steel, local producers will enjoy a fair competition in the market, which can also help attract investments,” said U Myint Swe. Last November, Danieli Myanmar organized a workshop on the development of the iron and steel industry.

At the workshop, private businesses had discussed raising the quality of steel products to meet international standards. “Quality policy and standard criteria were also discussed as they can affect the country’s steel production,” said U Myint Swe. Danieli Co. Ltd. provides technical solutions for iron and steel sector development. It entered the Myanmar market in 1981, and has branches in Thailand, China, and India.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, First Lady visit Shwedagon Pagoda

PRESIDENT of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Smt. Savita Kovind who were on a goodwill visit to Myanmar at the invitation of the President U Win Myint visited the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday.

The delegation led by the President of India departed from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon by flight yesterday afternoon. They were accompanied by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and officials.

The visiting Indian President and party were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minis-
ter U Phyo Min Thein and wife, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and wife, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Yangon International Airport.

First, the delegation visited the Martyrs’ Mausoleum and laid wreaths there. Afterwards, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady of India visited the Shwedagon Pagoda and offered flowers, water, lights to the pagoda.

During the visit, they donated cash to the pagoda through the Pagoda Board of Trustees and officials conducted them around the pagoda clockwise. In the evening, the President of India and First Lady met with Indian community in Yangon at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady of India offer flowers to Buddha image at Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: MNA

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady of India sprinkles scented water on commemorative plaque of the Advanced Center for Agricultural Research and Education at Yezin Agricultural University. PHOTO: MNA

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind of India and First Lady visit Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: MNA

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind of India sprinkles scented water on commemorative plaque of the Advanced Center for Agricultural Research and Education at Yezin Agricultural University. PHOTO: MNA

The President of India and First Lady water the memorial plant. PHOTO: MNA

The President of India and First Lady observe practical teaching methods at the advanced center for research and education. PHOTO: MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady, Smt. Savita Kovind arrived at the Yezin Agricultural University (YAU) in Nay Pyi Taw and attended the opening ceremony of the India-Myanmar Advanced Center for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) yesterday morning.

The Indian President officially unveiled the commemorative plaque and sprinkled scented water together with his wife and Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu.

The Indian President and First Lady then toured the center’s library, the production process of high-value lentil and maize products, and practical teaching in progress. They then signed the center’s guestbook and took a documentary photo with officials.

Research conducted at ACARE is intended to develop advanced agricultural methods for farmers. The center is composed of departments for genetic biology, post-harvest education, knowledge management, and post graduate courses and offers courses on biology, post-harvest education, food science, and increased plantations taught by professionals from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and YAU.

Next, the Indian President and First Lady formally opened the rice bio park at the university. The rice bio park is set up by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and the Agricultural Research Department.

The Indian President officially unveiled the commemorative plaque and sprinkled scented water together with his wife and Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu.

The Indian President and First Lady observed the paper-making process, rice grinding, and rice-based snack production conducted at the park. They then signed the center’s guestbook and took a documentary photo with officials. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Canadian diplomat from National Diplomatic Institute

ON behalf of the State Counsellor, U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received the delegation of US-ASEAN Business Council led by its Senior Vice President Amb. Michael W. Michalak and President of Chevron Myanmar on 12 December 2018 at 10:00 am at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were, Pyithu Hluttaw’s Rights Committee Secretary Dr. Hla Moe and committee member Daw Nang Htwe Thu, members of the JCC Daw Aye Aye Mu and U Tin Aung Cho, and officials from Hluttaw office. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun receives US-ASEAN Business Council

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win held talks with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang yesterday morning in the meeting hall of the Ministry’s Office.

During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to implementation of the China-Myanmar friendship Forest Plantation project, research cooperation, carrying out mining sector to reduce impact on the environment, ensuring to bring benefits to local people while implementing the project, sharing technical assistance to produce manufacturing value added products and working in close cooperation in the future.

—MNA

(Translated by Win Kyi Ko Aung)

Deputy Minister U Kyi Min receives Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation delegation

DEPUTY Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min received a delegation led by Mr. Kim Hyun-mo from the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation (KCHF) at the ministry’s office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed Official Development Assistant (ODA) Project to be implemented in Myanmar with cooperation of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and Korea cultural Heritage Foundation (KHC). —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
The Trade Unions are trying their best, while the ILO is assisting with efforts to bring everyone under the Social Security System net.”

By Kin Yadman

The Global New Light of Myanmar


According to the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security, it was reported that the 2012 Social Security Law, which came into force, has only covered about 26 percent of the workforce and that about 74 percent of the workforce are still out of the 2012 Social Security Law or they are working under the informal sector. The Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security has been working on the Social Security System to bring everyone under the Social Security System net. In this regard, the ILO has been providing technical assistance and support to Myanmar in the area of social security.

The ILO has been working with Myanmar in the area of social security for many years and has been providing technical assistance and support to the country. The ILO has been working on the Social Security System to bring everyone under the Social Security System net. The ILO has been working on the Social Security System to bring everyone under the Social Security System net.

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Migrant workers returning even after camp closure

Although the Kyauklongezi camp in Ward 4 in Myawaddy in Kayin State was closed on 1 December, Myanmar migrant workers are still returning from Thailand through the Myawaddy 999 gate located in Ward 5 in Myawaddy Town, said officials with the Border Guard Force.

“Most migrant workers are returning to extend their passports so they can go back to Thailand under the MoU system, while some are returning to visit their families. We are assisting them and providing them guidance.

More than 600 migrant workers entered Myanmar through the gate between 1 and 12 December,” said Lieutenant Moe Sae with Myawaddy 999 gate’s Border Guard Force.

More than 50 migrant workers entered the country through the Myawaddy 999 gate from the Thailand-Myanmar border gate, after the Mae Sot Immigration scrutinized them.

“I am happy to work in Thailand. I earn Baht225 per day. I have received OT for Baht160 per hour. Now, I’ve come back to renew my passport under the MoU system.

I had to pay Baht18,000 to my boss because he contacted the company to get a passport under the MoU system,” said Maung Yan Soe Naing, a migrant worker from Thayarwaddy town, Bago Region. After the Thai government started cracking down on illegal migrants, most of the migrant workers

Myanmar migrant workers are still returning from Thailand through the Myawaddy 999 gate located in Myawaddy. **PHOTO: MIN THU**

Ayeyawady Dolphin Conservation and Ecotourism team wins Best Community Involvement in Tourism Award

THE Ayeyawady Dolphin Conservation and Ecotourism team has won the Best Community Involvement in Tourism Award instituted by the Myanmar Responsible Tourism Institute (MRTI).

The ceremony for the second Myanmar Responsible Tourism Award 2018 was held at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Tuesday.

The Ayeyawady Dolphin Conservation and Ecotourism Team was formed in October 2014 with the help of local residents. The team has managed its activities with the formulation of its own regulations. The team has been implementing ecotourism, creating job opportunities for locals, and conserving the Ayeyawady dolphins.

The team’s fishing show with the use of the Ayeyawady dolphins is very popular among foreign tourists and local travelers. The Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar) also provides support and technical assistance to the team.—Nyi Tu **(Translated by Hay Mar)**

Police seize 1.3 mln yaba pills in Sittway Township

POLICE seized 1,300,000 WY/R brand yaba pills in Sittway Township, Rakhae State on 11 December according to the information released by the local police force yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the anti-drugs squad searched a three-wheeler vehicle at Yaychanpyin jetty in Sittway Township and discovered 1,300,000 WY/R yaba pills worth Ks 390 million in 33 cardboard boxes of Shwehaw soap bars loaded on the vehicle.

An investigation into the case is underway and the local Police have filed charges against the three-wheel vehicle driver Tun Win (a) Thein Tun, 44, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— MNA **(Translated by JT)**

Police confiscate over Ks 1 bln worth of drugs in Indaw Tsp

WHILE police were patrolling at the junction of Shwebo-Myitkyina road and road to Nant-mayaking Village in Indaw Tsp, a VOXY car driven by Than Zaw Lin and followed by Kyaw Lauk Aye(a)Myint Win, residents of Hserwi Township, was stopped for investigation at 1 pm yesterday.

The two suspects were confiscated with 114,000 stimulant tablets (worth Ks 570,000,000/1 tablet equal to Ks 5,000) and 4.41 kg of heroin (worth Ks 441,000,000/1 kg equal to Ks100,000,000). A case has been opened against the two suspects with the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and further investigation pursued.—Police Information **(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)**
**Australian Foreign Minister arrives in Myanmar**

A delegation led by Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senator The Honourable Marise Payne, arrived by flight in Yangon yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by U Zaw Phyoe Win, the Deputy Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department, U Zaw Tun Oo, the Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials from Australian Embassy.— MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

**Australian Foreign Minister observes development progress in Rakhine State**

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs of Australia and Senator The Honourable, Marise Payne, and her delegation met with ministers of Rakhine State government and observed Daw Du Phakal Camp in Sittway yesterday.

The Foreign Minister, and her delegation arrived by flight to Sittway Township at 3 pm where they were welcomed by Rakhine State ministers at Sittway Airport.

Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Phone Tint, Rakhine State Finance, Tax, Planning and Economic Minister U Kyaw Aye Thein, Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Thar, Rakhine State Electric Power, Industry and Transportation Mines U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals U Kyaw Lwin, Rakhine State Advocate General U Kyaw Hla Tun and officials were present.

Afterwards, the Foreign Minister, and the party toured Daw Du Phakal Camp and observed the status of temporary basic education primary school in the camp and the livelihood of its residents, then officials of the camp provided necessary explanations.

The Foreign Minister and her delegation then met with the female residents of the camp at the women’s communal hall. The Australian Foreign Minister and delegation departed from Sittway to Yangon by flight at night. — Mawsai, Ko Min (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)
UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and the delegation led by Deputy Director-General Ms. F Cleo Kawawaki from Southeast Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) met at Maykalar Guest Hall of the ministry yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to process of signing the MoU with Bangladesh Government to receive returnees and readiness of Myanmar to receive returnees, process of signing the MoU with UNDP and UNHCR which are United Nation Organizations, status of involvement of invited United Nation Organizations, UNDP and UNHCR which are process of signing the MoU with Myanmar to receive returnees, receive returnees and readiness of Ministry yesterday.

The two notes contain 165 million yen for socioeconomic development and both were signed by Deputy Minister U Sett Aung and Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama.

The notes will benefit the technology, vocational education and transportation sectors in Myanmar and enhance bilateral relations. — MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives delegation from Southeast Asia Department of Asian Development Bank

THE Independent Commission of Enquiry-ICOE has invited individuals, groups, witnesses and alleged victims to submit their complaints or accounts, with supporting data and evidence which may consist of either audio and video materials, and/or relevant documentation, and photographs related to allegations of human rights in Rakhine State.

Chairperson of the ICOE Ambassador: Ms. Rosario Manalo announced the statement yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ICOE will investigate allegations of human rights violations and related issues, following the terrorist attacks by ARSA in Rakhine State with a view to seeking accountability and formulating recommendations on steps to be taken to ensure peace and stability in Rakhine State.

In implementation of its mandate towards fact-finding, the ICOE is seeking facts related to the incidents that were initiated on 25th August 2017, and its consequences thereafter in Rakhine State.

The ICOE said it welcomes the early submissions of these evidences and data in any of the following languages: English, Myanmar, Rakhine and Bengali, asking to send the submissions not later than 31st January 2019, to info@icoe-myanmar.org, and to the Independent Commission of Enquiry Office at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, Zeyar Aung Myay Road, Wunna Theikdi Ward, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, (Ph: 09-897663189).

Individuals who submit any of the aforementioned evidence must be available for examination by the ICOE.

Those who wish to come forward to give testimony, are requested to notify their intention by any means.

ICOE’s announcement stated that it will arrange a mutually convenient time and place for meeting and all submissions will be kept confidential.

Today’s ceremony was attended by ICOE Ambassador: Ms. Rosario Manalo and members of the commission U Mya Thein, former chairman of the State Constitutional Tribunal, former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Coordinator and former Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, and Professor Dr. Aung Tun Thet. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
Nay Pyi Taw holds Christmas Opera Musical Festival

IN welcoming the upcoming Christmas holidays, a festival named Christmas Opera Musical Festival was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Daw Yin May, wife of Pyithu Hluttaw speaker U T’Khun Myat, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and wife, wives of Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and wife, member of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Twar Kyin Paung, Deputy Minister U Kyi Min and wife, Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Member of the Union Civil Service Board U Saw Valentine, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and invited guests attended the festival.

During the festival, U Tin Maung Aye, Reverend Priest, chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Christ Church Council expressed his thanks and praised to God and pray for the nation and its citizens. This was followed by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min delivered the welcoming speech.

Members of Union-level organizations posed a documentary photo together with Mind Education Professors. Korean dances, South American dance and songs were performed at the festival followed by a Mind Lecture conducted by Prof. Sung Hwan Kim.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

First Korea-Myanmar Film Festival coming to Yangon

THE very first Korea-Myanmar Film Festival will be held from 14 to 16 December in Yangon.

During the festival, ‘Bittersweet Night’ short film will be screened at Yangon Water Boom starting from 5 pm on 14 December. Similarly, ‘Pandora, The King and A Taxi Driver’ from ROK and ‘Cloud Bridge’ from Myanmar will be shown on 15 December and ‘Pandora, The King, and A Taxi Driver’ from ROK and ‘Nay Win Eaint Tan Tat’ from Myanmar will be screened at Myanmar Motion Picture Organization on 16 December at 10 am, with ‘The Listening Eye’ (Myanmar Short Film) to be screened at 5 pm at Film Development Centre. —MNA

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V SIRAR BANDA VOY. NO. (117 N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIRAR BANDA VOY. NO. (117 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-12-2018 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 LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0153-466W/E)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0153-466W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-12-2018 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: MS EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185
SYDNEY (Australia)—A 102-year-old great-grandmother is believed to have become the world’s oldest skydiver after plunging 14,000 feet (4,300 metres) through the South Australian sky.

Centenarian adrenaline junkie Irene O’Shea said she “felt normal” after a 220 kilometre per hour (140 mph) dive that sent her cheeks flapping wildly.

She completed her first skydive to mark her 100th birthday in 2016, but organisers claimed it was Sunday’s successful tandem dive at the age of 102 years and 194 days that earned her a place in the history books.

“It was very clear up there, and the weather was good but it was very cold,” said O’Shea, according to Australian media.

O’Shea took the plunge to raise funds for a motor neurone disease charity, after her daughter died from the illness.—AFP

A 102-year-old great-grandmother is believed to have become the world’s oldest skydiver after plunging 14,000 feet (4,300 metres) through the South Australian sky. She completed her first skydive to mark her 100th birthday in 2016, but organizers claimed it was the successful tandem dive on 9 December at the age of 102 years and 194 days that earned her a place in the history books. PHOTO: AFP

Peter Jackson plans to restore his early ‘naughty’ films

LOS ANGELES—Filmmaker Peter Jackson has shared his plans to restore his films that he directed before the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy.

The 57-year-old director whose most recent documentary “They Shall Not Grow Old” featured old footage from the World War I which he had upgraded and colourised with the help of modern tools.

Jackson has now confirmed that he will be giving the same treatment to his four old features—“Bad Taste”, “Braindead” (also known as “Dead Alive”), “Meet The Feebles” and the Oscar-nominated “Heavenly Creatures”.

“I’ve decided to go back and do this to my old films the first four I made, which I own but never re-released. I’ve done some tests on ‘Braindead’, where we took the 16mm negative and put it through our World War I restoration pipeline and it looks fantastic!” the director told The Hollywood Reporter.

“This is only the second directorial project and it released in 1987. “Meet the Feebles” was a musical black comedy that hit the theatres in 1989.

The 1994 psychological drama “Heavenly Creatures”, starring Melanie Lynskey and Kate Winslet, was the most acclaimed work of Jackson before he bagged the worldwide attention with “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy.

Jackson said he is interested in remastering them and releasing them as “a nice little box set the early years! The naughty years!”—PTI

James Bond is a “severe” alcoholic—study

WELLINGTON—The fictional British Secret Service agent James Bond is a “severe” alcoholic, according to a new study by public health researchers in New Zealand.

“Bond has drunk heavily and consistently across six decades ... We classified him as having severe alcohol use disorder,” said the study titled “Licence to swell: James Bond’s drinking over six decades,” which was published on Monday in the Medical Journal of Australia.

 Experts at the University of Otago in New Zealand analyzed a total of 24 Bond movies from 1962 to 2015 to study his patterns of alcohol use.

The experts found that Bond was seen sipping on alcohol 109 times over the six decades, with an average of 4.5 times per movie, and his peak binge was in 2008’s “Quantum of Solace,” where he drank six of his signature Vesper Martinis, equal to 24 units of alcohol which could be fatal.

The British agent met more than half of the criteria for alcohol use disorder as defined by the American Psychiatric Association’s DSM-5 criteria classification system for mental disorders.

“Chronic risks for Bond include frequently drinking prior to fights, driving vehicles (including in chases), high stakes gambling, operating complex machinery or devices, contact with dangerous animals, extreme athletic performance, and sex with enemies, sometimes with guns or knives in the bed,” the study said.

As Bond “has a severe chronic alcohol problem,” the study suggested that he should “consider seeking professional help and find other strategies for managing on-the-job stress.”—Xinhua

Disney again makes history with takings above $7bn for 2018

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Walt Disney Studios is again ending the year on a high note, posting more than $7 billion in global box office earnings, thanks to hits such as “Black Panther” and “Avengers: Infinity War.”

“This is only the second time in history any studio has surpassed the $7 billion mark, after Disney’s own industry-record 2016 global gross of $7.6 billion,” the company said in a statement on Monday.

The Studios’ estimated international box office gross through 9 December is an estimated $4.069 billion, marking our second biggest year and the third biggest in industry history,” it added. Disney’s success comes as the studio is set to release “Mary Poppins Returns” on 19 December, which is expected to top the box office during the holiday season.

“Do to date, four of the top eight worldwide releases of the year are from The Walt Disney Studios, including the top two global and top three domestic releases,” the company said.

“Avengers: Infinity War,” made by Disney’s Marvel subsidiary, led the way, earning $2 billion alone. It is followed by superhero movie “Black Panther,” which earned $1.35 billion worldwide.

“Incredibles 2,” made by Pixar, another Disney subsidiary, earned $1.24 billion.

Other top box office earners for 2018 are “Ant-Man and the Wasp,” “Solo: A Star Wars Story,” and “Ralph Breaks the Internet,” which has held the number one spot at the North American box office for the third consecutive week.—AFP
Cosmonauts will use special water during long space missions

MOSCOW—Drinking water possessing new functional properties will protect space crews from radiation during long space flights, including a mission to Mars, as follows from a report to the 17th Conference on Space Biology and Medicine, underway in Moscow on Monday.

“Drinking water with new functional properties will hold special place in the system of increasing cosmonauts' resistibility to radiation. Of great interest is light isotope water and water with controlled and optimized mineral composition,” the conference's report says. Special attention must be paid to preventing water preservatives, including silver ions, from getting into the cosmonaut’s body. Silver is a heavy metal, and heavy metals increase the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. Also, scientists suggest cosmonauts should sleep in special water-filled bags.

“Of course, one might consider the feasibility of using sleeping bags filled with water mixed with gel or polyethylene granules. Water and polyethylene contain light elements, including hydrogen. Both provide effective protection from neutrons, both primary and secondary ones,” the report says. — Tass

Russian spacewalkers take sample of mystery hole at space station

MOSCOW (Russia)—Using knives and shears, a pair of Russian spacewalkers on Tuesday cut samples of material around a mysterious hole in a Soyuz spacecraft docked on the International Space Station that a Moscow official suggested could have been deliberate sabotage. Roscosmos space agency said the aim was to discover whether the “small but dangerous” hole had been made on Earth or in space. The two-millimetre cavity on the Soyuz spaceship docked at the ISS caused an air leak detected in August, two months after the craft's last voyage. Until Tuesday, astronauts had only been able to examine the hole from inside the spacecraft. During the seven hour, 45 minute spacewalk, veteran cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Sergei Prokopyev struggled, but eventually succeeded, in cutting away the insulation covering the hole and taking out a sample to analyse.—AFP

Vast, zombie-like microbial life lurks beneath seabed

TAMPA (United States)—Scientists have drilled a mile and a half (2.5 kilometres) beneath the seabed and found vast underground forests of “deep life,” including microbes that persist for thousands, maybe millions of years, researchers said on Monday. Feeding on nothing but the energy from rocks, and existing in a slow-motion, even zombie-like state, previously unknown forms of life are abundant beneath the Earth despite extreme temperatures and pressure.

About 70 per cent of Earth’s bacteria and archaea—single-celled organisms with no nucleus—live underground, according to the latest findings of an international collaboration involving hundreds of experts, known as the Deep Carbon Observatory, were released at the American Geophysical Union meeting in Washington. This “deep life” amounts to between 15 and 23 billion tons of carbon, said the DCO, launched in 2009, as it nears the end of its 10-year mission to reveal Earth’s inner secrets. “The deep biosphere of Earth is massive,” said Rick Colwell, who teaches astrobiology and oceanography at Oregon State University. He described the team’s findings so far as a “very exciting, extreme ecosystem.” Among them may be Earth’s hottest living creature, Geogemma barossii, a single-celled organism found in hydrothermal vents on the seafloor. Its microscopic cells grow and replicate at 250 degrees Fahrenheit (121 Celsius). “There is genetic diversity of life below the surface that is at least equal to but perhaps exceeds that which is at the surface and we don’t know much about it,” Colwell said.

'Distinct' from surface life

Similar types of strange, deep life microbes might be found on the subsurface of other planets, like Mars. “Most of deep life is very distinct from life on the surface,” said Fumio Inagaki, of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology. Using the Japanese scientific vessel Chikyu, researchers have drilled far beneath the seabed and removed cores that have given scientists a detailed look at deep life.— AFP
**SPORT**

**19th ASEAN University Games continue in Nay Pyi Taw**

WUSHU, sepak takraw, badminton, tennis, volleyball, chess, football, and swimming contests were held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw as part of the 19th ASEAN University Games.

In the Wushu (Jian-shu-Qiangshu) Taolu Women’s competition, Malaysia’s Phoon Shu-Qiangshu (Malaysia) secured the bronze medal. In Taolu Men’s Dulian competition, Thailand won gold, Malaysia grabbed silver, and Myanmar secured the bronze medal.

In Taolu Women’s Dulian competition, Singapore won gold, Malaysia grabbed silver, and Myanmar secured the bronze medal.

In the Men’s double sepak takraw competition, Myanmar beat Indonesia with a 3:0 score. In Women’s Singles Badminton, Thet Htar Thuzar (Myanmar) beat Grace Chua Hui Zhen (Singapore) by 2:0, while in Men’s Singles Badminton, Arkar Phone Myat (Myanmar) drubbed Ketttya Koohay (Laos) 2:0. In Women’s Doubles Tennis, Thailand won gold, Singapore garnered silver, and Myanmar grabbed bronze, while in Mixed Doubles Tennis, Thailand secured gold, Singapore grabbed silver, and Myanmar grabbed the bronze medal.—Myo Thu Hein (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

**MFF launches referee course in Yangon**

A SHORT course for professional football referees, organised by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and the Myanmar Referee Committee, was opened at the press release hall of the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony was opened with speeches by the General Secretary of the Myanmar Football Federation, U Ko Ko Thein, the CEO of Myanmar National League, U Soe Moe Kyaw, and the executive committee members of the referee committee. The ceremony was attended by officials from the MFF, the Myanmar National League, the Myanmar Referee Committee, and trainees. The course will be conducted from 12 to 16 December; with a total of 30 participants.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

**Myawady trounce Gandamar in MFF Women’s League 2nd week**

THE Myawady F.C. scored a big 10-0 win over the Gandamar F.C., in the second week of the Myanmar Football Federation’s Women’s League 2018-2019 season at the Aung San Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The Myawady club dominated the play from the beginning of the match with stable deliveries.

The opening goal for Myawady came at the 8-minute mark from Pann Ei Khiaing. The goal forced Gandamar to play hard for the equalizer with open attacks.

Instead, Myawady scored their second goal eight minutes later, with a brilliant effort by Hla Yin Win.

Myawady kept up their attack on Gandamar, with Pann Ei Khiaing scoring the third goal at 26 minutes and Khai Thaing scoring the fourth goal a few minutes later.

Just before the end of the first half, Zin Mar Tun scored the fifth goal for Myawady, which ended the first half with a 5-0 lead over Gandamar.

In the second half, with a slight change in tactic, Myawady led the play with good positioning and speedy play. Again, taking opportunity from an error in Gandamar’s defence, Khai Thaing from Myawady scored the sixth goal at 63 minutes.

With the confidence of their opponents shaken, Myawady continued to add to their score. Khin Than Wai scored the seventh goal at 73 minutes, while Pann Ei Khiaing scored at 75 minutes, and Ei Sandar Zaw at 83 minutes. Just before the final whistle, Aye Myo Myat grabbed the final goal for Myawady and the club ended the match with a big win.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

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**19th ASEAN University Games 2018**

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