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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor speaks at Myanmar Women's Day event

NAY PYI TAW celebrated Myanmar Women's Day at MICC-II yesterday where State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech on the pivotal role of women in society.

The event was organized by the Myanmar National Committee for Women (MNCW) and opened with singer Poe Mi performing the theme song of the event.

State Counsellor's speech

In her speech, the State Counsellor said Myanmar Women's Day is held on the same day MNCW was established on 3rd July. She said the theme for this year's International Women's Day – 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change' resounds with Myanmar Women's Day. She urged everyone to work in line with that theme to bring gender equality, social justice and protection for women.

She said this day emphasized how women could contribute to the nation's current requirements. She said there were requirements for women in Myanmar and around the world.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the event to mark Myanmar Women's Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



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Steering Committee meets to hold Waso Robe Offering Ceremony of Union Government

VICE President U Myint Swe, patron of the Steering Committee for holding the Waso Robe Offering Ceremony of the Union Government, addressed a coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture yesterday afternoon.

The 12-member Leading Committee for Holding the Waso Robe Offering Ceremony was formed in accordance with Notification 78/2019, dated 24 June 2019, issued by the Office of the President and the Working Committee for Holding the Waso Robe Offering Ceremony was formed with 18 members and four work duties assigned to it.

In this year's Waso Robe Offering Ceremony of the Union Government, a total of 68 Sayadaws, including 47 State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws and nine Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, one Cetiyahitakaraka (Shwethuwon) Sayadaw and 11 Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Board of Trustees of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw have been invited.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe stressed the need to make all necessary arrangements for the Sayadaws and attendees as in past years.

He also called for preparing healthy and hygienic meals for the Sayadaws and accompanying laymen and urged the health sub-committee to provide health care to the Sayadaws. LED boards were to be installed as in the past years to show the ceremony in progress and committee and sub-committees were to do their best, based on past years' experiences.

As the Waso Robe Offering Ceremony of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was a Union-level ceremony, relevant sub-committees were to systematically manage and coordinate their work, said the Vice President. Next, Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and Chairman of the leading committee, Deputy Minister U Kyi Min, Secretary of the leading committee, reported on preparations made and work remaining to be done.



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting for holding Waso Robe Offering Ceremony of the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards, various sub-committees explained about their sector wise work. Vice President U Myint Swe, gave detailed comments to ensure proper coordination on the discussions made, and the meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by the Vice President.

At the very advent of the Buddha Sasana, the Gautama Buddha allowed Sanghas to use only three robes during the rainy season. Visakha, the lady who donated the Pubbaryon Monastery in the land of Savatthi asked the Buddha for permission to donate extra robes to monks.

At the request of Visakha, the Gautama Buddha allowed monks to accept robes in accord with religious code of conduct. The Waso robe was named after the event of offering in the month of Waso and Waso-robe offering became one of the Myanmar festivals during Waso.

Being a robe offered in accordance with strict codes set by Buddha, the Waso robe offering is a noble donation and donors may get special benefits according to Buddhist scriptures.

The following senior officials attended the above meeting: Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and Chairman of the leading committee, committee members Dr Myo Aung, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Deputy Ministers for Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Kyi Min, U Kyaw Myo, Dr Tun Naing and U Maung Maung Win, Member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Aung Myin Tun, Deputy Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Maung Maung, members of the work committees, members of the 10 sub-committees and officials.— MNA ■ *(Translated by TTN)*



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with British Ambassador Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg at the Union Attorney-General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General receives Korean Ambassador, British Ambassador separately

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa and British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg separately at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting with Korean Ambassador, they discussed matters related to experience exchange processes of enacting policies that will support democracy and economic development, and legal knowledge to be shared through Myanmar Law Information System jointly established by Ministry of Government Legislation of South Korea and Union Attorney-General Office. They also discussed matters related to conducting trainings in Korea to build capacity of legal officers for detecting cybercrimes. During the meeting with British Ambassador, they discussed matters related to Britain's ongoing assistance for Union Attorney-General Office's prioritized works over implementation of rule of law agreement signed by British Embassy and International Development Law Organization (IDLO).

Also present at the meetings were Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, Director-General Daw Khin Cho Ohn and Deputy Permanent Secretary Dr Thi Thi Myint.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Myanmar continues to receive verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand

AS the third day of repatriation of the fourth batch of Myanmar Nationals from Thailand on 3 July 2019, (14) verified Myanmar nationals from Umpien Camp, (94) from Mae La Camp and (11) from Ma La Ohn Camp were warmly welcomed by Myanmar officials at Kyauk Lone Gyi camp in Myawady Township through the Myanmar – Thai Friendship Bridge (1). Members of the Repatriation Committees of Kayin State, Mon State and Bago Regional Governments, Minister Counsellor and Embassy Officials from the Embassy of Myanmar in Bangkok also attended the hand-over ceremonies.

Through the bilateral arrangement between the Governments of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand, the fourth batch of (310) verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand were well received at the Myanmar-Thai border gates from 1 to 3 July 2019.—MNA ■



Myanmar officials hand over aids to Myanmar nationals from Thailand at Kyauk Lone Gyi camp in Myawady Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Chinese Ambassador

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Chen Hai, who has recently assumed as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 3rd July 2019 at 11 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the courtesy call, they cordially exchanged views on the matters in promoting bilateral relations and cooperation, increasing mutually beneficial cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, jointly holding the commemorative activities to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations in 2020, China's continued constructive support in Myanmar government's endeavours to achieve peace and national reconciliation, and for the success of the repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons from Rakhine State.—MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Chen Hai and officials pose for a photo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, members of the Myanmar National Committee for Women, Deputy Ministers and their wife and Hluttaw representatives pose for the documentary photo at the event to mark Myanmar Women's Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor speaks at Myanmar Women's Day event...

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The most important thing for a country was to have set standards, said the State Counsellor. She called for women to think on how to raise these standards.

She said global standards were reaching right into our homes in this era of fast communications. She urged women of the country to consider which standards to adopt and which would be valuable for Myanmar. She said women need to and must consider what could contribute to the peace process and national reconciliation movement in Myanmar which was a developing country.

The State Counsellor said no force could compete against unity. She said self interest among individuals and organizations would not contribute anything to Myanmar's development. She said setting standards for uniting and empowering women forward would pave the way for a brighter future in the country.

She said it was not enough to just lay down standards as everyone must put them into practice. She urged everyone to consider what mental development sectors need to be emphasized while most people these days were prioritizing physical development.

When thinking of opportunities, we should also consider responsibility, said the State Counsellor. She said opportunities need to be kept in check by assigning duties for bringing benefits to the majority. She said these two concepts together would make our Myanmar valuable.

The State Counsellor called for women to consider what type of standards they wish to impart into children while they were still young. She said 90 per cent of teachers in the education system were women and she looked forward for more men to become teachers. She said it would not be wrong to say women were leading the education field, where she referred not to the university professors but to the primary school teachers. She said women played an important role in the family, in education and in society as a whole. The State Counsellor said challenges present themselves in different forms as global development pushes forward. She said it was needed to exert compassion and kindness together with development for it to be genuine. She urged the women of Myanmar to ponder on which way they would like society to develop into for the next generation and for themselves when they grew older. She said this applied just as much to men as it did to women.

The State Counsellor encouraged gender equality movements to treat each other as friends and siblings instead of viewing one another as bitter enemies. She said women need to practise understanding among themselves first for the rest of society to follow suit and brighten the future of the next generation. She concluded with a wish for Myanmar women to continue becoming valuable citizens for as long as the world stands.

Present at the commemoration for Myanmar Women's Day were: First Lady Daw Cho Cho, Daw Su Su Lwin, wife of former President U Htin Kyaw, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Vice President U Myint Swe, Daw Yin May, wife of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Nant Kyin Kyi, wife of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Chairman of the Union Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt's wife Daw Htay Yi, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein's wife Daw Aye Thida, MNCW Chairman and Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, the wives of Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, Peace Commission Chairman and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, permanent secretaries, departmental heads, diplomats and representatives of foreign embassies and organizations, and the chairpersons and officials of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women and Child Life Promotion Organization, Women Organization Network, Orphans Reduction and Protection Association (Myanmar), Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Gender Equality Network, Myanmar Women Sport Federation, and Gender Equality Cooperation Association. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt plants a tree at the tree planting event in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Constitutional Tribunal Chairman attends monsoon tree plantation event

U Myo Nyunt, Chairperson of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union (CTU), attended the monsoon tree plantation event to mark the 2019 greenery movement held in the compound of the office of the CTU in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

U Myo Nyunt, together with members and office staff, attended the tree plantation event, where they planted the teak trees at the designated areas. Afterwards, they also planted over 500 saplings, including ironwood, mahogany, evergreen hardwood, star-flower, gold mohur, the gun-kino, Indian laburnum and species of Cassia.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

MoTC, Moon Engineering Joint Venture Co., Ltd sign contract for developing vehicle registration by RFID System

ROAD Transport Administration Department of Ministry of Transport and Communications and Moon Engineering Joint Venture Co., Ltd yesterday signed a consulting services contract for developing vehicle registration by Radio Frequency Identification-RFID System at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo and officials from the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and officials from Moon Engineering Joint Venture Co., Ltd.

During the signing ceremony, U Kyaw Myo, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications and Mr Hun-Il Moon, the Chairman of Moon Engineering Joint Venture Co., Ltd, delivered speeches.

Afterwards, U Zaw Min Oo, the Director-General of Road Transport Administration Department, and Mr In-Jin Kim, the Executive Director of Moon Engineering Joint Venture Co., Ltd, signed the consulting services contract.

To implement the RFID System, feasibility study and invitation to tender for developer will be conducted at designated times. The tendering processes will be conducted around end of 2019.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo, Director-General U Zaw Min Oo, Chairman Mr Hun-Il Moon, and officials pose for a photo at the signing ceremony for developing vehicle registration in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

City taxi registration, renewal deadline to be extended

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region government will extend the deadline for those who failed to register their city taxis or renew their registration, but they will have to shell out a fine, said U Hla Aung, the Joint-Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority at a press conference on 3 July.

According to the YRTA, more than 5,000 taxis are yet to be registered or need to get their registration renewed. The transport authority will notify the extended deadline through state-owned newspapers.

"We have received government approval for this matter. We will give another chance to taxi owners. The new registration and renewal deadline will be decided," said U Hla Aung.

"The registration process will not be the same for all vehicles as some will have to pay a fine. Some may be burdened by heavy tax as they have been failing to register for years. The government will give them some relief and try to encourage them to follow the rules and regulations regarding registration," said U Hla Aung.

City taxi registrations were started in 2002 to bring transport services on par with Yangon's image as a commercial hub and for regulating the taxi service.

The YRTA was formed on 8 July, 2016 to improve the transport facilities in Yangon for the convenience of the public. The authority is carrying out city taxi registration.

In a bid to ensure traffic discipline, the YRTA, through an announcement in state-owned newspapers, had asked city taxis to register with the authority by 31 December, 2017.

However, for some reason, the registration period was extended to 31 January, 2018. Some taxis tried to register on the last day, but their registration was incomplete, and they were allowed to complete the process by 6 April, 2018.

Those taxis which failed to register during the set period were notified of their licenses being revoked, according to YRTA.

At present, there are 66,673 registered city taxis in Yangon Region, according to data from the YRTA. ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Hledan pedestrian bridge to get covered roof within 3 months: Yangon Mayor

THE pedestrian bridge at the Hledan bus-stop in Kamayut Township will get a covered roof within three months, through ordinary expenditure allocation, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

He made the remarks on the 10th day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Yangon Region Hluttaw on 3 July, in response to a question from U Tin Win from the Kamayut Township constituency, who had asked whether there were plans for covering pedestrian bridges in the township, as they have turned slippery during the monsoon season.

"We have a plan for roofing. Earlier, we did not cover the bridge with a roof as it would have restricted the view. But, we will consider this in the ordinary budget, and the bridge will be covered within three months," said the Yangon Mayor.

"In addition, we will cover the pedestrian bridge near the Inya Lake, as part of ordinary expenditure in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. If a lift is proposed, it will be built, depending on the capital budget allocation," he added. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Meeting held to review printing, distribution of school textbooks



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting on textbook printing, publishing and distribution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to review the printing, publication, and distribution of school textbooks in the 2019-2020 academic year, and for coordinating the printing and distribution of textbooks for the next academic year.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, in his capacity as the chairman of the Textbooks Publishing and Distribution Committee, delivered the opening speech.

He said the Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information executes most textbook orders placed by the Ministry of Education. To complete the orders for textbooks,the Ministry of Information has been collaboratingwith the Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association and the Mandalay Region Printers and Publishers Association, he said.

The printing, publishing, and distribution of textbook for the 2019-2020 academic year was completed on time and the books wereof good quality, he said. But, efforts need to be madeto produce better textbooksin the 2020-2021 academic year, he added.

Then, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that work on textbooks based on the new curriculumis in progress.

As this is an annualendeavour, collective efforts are needed to make it better year after year, he said.

A precise evaluation of the number of students is being made so that the state budget is not wasted in publication and distribution of books, he said. There is a back-up plan for distributing textbooks on time if, for some reason such as floods, more books are needed, he added.

Afterwards, the Chairman of the Textbook Printing Sub-committee and the Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, and the Chairman of the Textbook Distribution Subcommittee and Deputy Minister, U Win Maw Tun, spoke about the different aspects of textbook printing and distribution.

Then, the Vice Chairman of the Textbook Printing and Distribution Committee, U Myo Myint Maung, explained the printing, publishing, and supply of textbooks in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (2019-2020 academic year) and the secretary of the committee, Director-General U Aung Myo Myint, detailed the plan for printing, publishing, and distributing textbooks on time in the 2019-2020 fiscal year (2020-2021 academic year).

Later, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi presented Union Minister Dr Pe Myint a certificate of honour for completing the printing, publishing, and distribution of textbooks for the 2019-2020 academic year on time.

Then, officials from the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association, and Mandalay Region Printers and Publishers Association took part in sector-wise discussions.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Union Minister Dr Pe Myint.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Union Minister U Thein Swe attends 3rd Coord Meeting of e-ID System Work Committee



Union Minister U Thein Swe delivers the speech at the third coordination meeting of e-ID System Work Committee in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE third coordination meeting of e-ID System Implementation Committee was held yesterday morning in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of e-ID system implementation committee and Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Vice Chairman of the work committee and Deputy Minister for Transports and Communications U Thar Oo, members of the committee and officials.

At the meeting, Chairman of the work committee and Union Minister U Thein Swe said that the ministry has made an effort to cooperate with other relevant ministries with a view to implement the e-ID Population Registry system. Moreover, the ministry has coordinated with other INGOs and the OeSD from Austria and has offered to support the implementation of the e-ID system. The ministry has therefore requested the remarks from the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Office of the Union Attorney-General and the Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) regarding the project proposal.

Moreover, the suggestions for the proposal had been complied by the work committees and sub-committees, and the suggestions were divided into three categories — administrative suggestions, technical suggestions, and contractual suggestions.

As the committee members who are attending the meeting, they were all urged to make additional suggestions and discuss some of the points needed for it.

The proposal of the OeSD included only the stages of Unique ID issuance that did not include the miscellaneous expenses for card issuance, office complex, internet network and administration process.

Thus, the expenses would be utilized from the State budget and the estimated expenditure had already been calculated by the relevant sub-committees. With regard to making the reply to the OESD proposal, forwarding letter would be submitted to the committee on economic affairs.

In addition, implementation process would be conducted only after approval from from it. Meanwhile, the attendees were urged to discuss on the OeSD proposal openly.

Next, Vice Chairman of the Work Committee and Deputy Minister U Thar Oo and committee members discussed matters related to implementing the e-ID system, sector wise reviews on administration, technology and work agreement of the OeSD proposal, prospects for e-ID system in Myanmar, network connection to local and abroad meeting international standards, formation of technical advisory board, machinery for work, upgrading the system, e-ID implementation process, dissemination of the information on e-ID system to the public through media and drawing up work programmes aiming to finish to finish the project timely.

In his closing remark at the meeting, Union Minister U Thein Swe said he attached importance to the suggestions made at the meeting, and urged the officials-concerned to prepare for discussion with the experts from OeSD who are expected to arrive in the second week July.

The Union Minister also called on ministries concerned and organizations to assist in implementing the e-ID system as it was very crucial for the country.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

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YRTA mulls purchase of over 50 school buses

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority has received purchase requests for 55 buses from schools so far this year for providing transportation to students in Yangon Region, said U Hla Aung, the joint secretary of the YRTA, at a press conference on 3 July.

"Permits seeking purchase of school buses, along with the details of the bus specifications, have to be submitted to the Road Transport Administration Department for approval. Once the schools confirm their business type, the YRTA proceeds with the purchase permits. We have started selling purchase forms. Purchase proposals have reached 55 so far," said U Hla Aung.

The Yangon Region government has initiated a school bus transport scheme and has purchased 200 buses, of which, 98 are currently serving 12 schools, said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, the Managing Director of the YRTA. The 98 school buses are serving 1,897 students.

"The number of students wanting to use school bus services is rising. We are collecting data. We will provide the services after drawing up the route," said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

The Yangon Region government's school bus scheme aims to create a systematic school bus system, instead of allowing a market-based system, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Region Chief Minister.

In the current academic year, school buses which meet the 12-point guideline issued by the RTAD have been allowed to operate in the region. While new school buses of a set standard are being imported, old school vehicles are plying on the roads. ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Business development, entrepreneurship training for SMEs begins in Myitkyina

A 'Business Development Support Training' class for SME entrepreneurs was jointly opened by Kachin State's Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation on 2 July at the Community Centre in Myitkyina Town, under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry.

At the opening ceremony, the chairman of Kachin State's Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development Agency and the Minister of Transport and Electricity and Industry for the State, U Win Nyunt, explained that the country's business sector can be improved when its micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) develop because 99 per cent of businesses in Myanmar are MSMEs. Therefore, trainees need to learn and participate in discussions during the training courses, he said.

Then, Daw Hay Man, a representative from FNF, explained the reasons for starting the class and U Soe Hein, the president of the Small and Medium Enterprise Business Institute, spoke about the training class.



Kachin State's SME Development Agency Chairman U Win Nyunt delivers the speech at the Business Development Support Training class in Myitkyina on 2 July. **PHOTO: STATE IPRD**

The class will cover business management, including market research, financial planning, digital innovation, and project management. Sixty trainees have registered for the class, which will conclude on 7 July. —STATE IPRD ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

One suspect held for smuggling elephant skins in Yekyi Township

A SUSPECT was arrested on 1 July in Yekyi Township of Pathein District in connection with the seizure of four bags of 'ownerless' elephant skins in a forest near the township on 30 June.

When interrogated, the suspect, identified as Mg Htway, 44, from Gwa, Rakhine State, confessed that he had taken the elephant skins to a forest near Chaunggwa Village, Yekyi Township, with the help of three accomplices, using motorcycles.

The police have launched a hunt for his accomplices, identified as U Aung Kyaw Naing from Gwa, and Maung Soe and Ko Htwe from Yekyi Township.

Between 2010 and 2018, 227 elephants died in Myanmar, and of them, 124 were killed by poachers, according to statistics provided by the authorities.

Investigations are on to identify the owner of the illegal elephant skins. — Sann Tint (Yekyi) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Photo shows the pieces of elephant skin seized in Yekyi Township. **PHOTO: SANN TINT (YEKYI)**

Bamboo furniture businesses facing difficulties due to bamboo shortage

THE current shortage of raw bamboo has sent its price spiralling up in the market, and this is causing problems for weavers producing bamboo chairs, said a bamboo chair weaver from Ohn Chaw village of Patheingyi Township.

"The raw materials used for making bamboo products are becoming scarce due to increased felling of bamboo shoots, and this has led to a rise in bamboo prices in the market," said U Maung Aye, a bamboo chair weaver from the village.

Bamboo chairs are usually woven in apartments beside the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road in Ohn Chaw Village. After weaving, the chairs are sent to shops along the Mandalay-PyinOo Lwin road. Single-seater chairs fetch K2,500, and double-seater chairs K4,500.

"Although raw bamboo prices are higher, the shops have not increased the price of bamboo chairs. We have no option but to send bamboo products to shops because there is no place to sell these products along the road," said Ko Lin Lin.

Bamboo chair sales are mostly the highest in the summer season, compared to the rainy and winter seasons. Earlier, raw bamboo prices ranged between K150 and K700, depending on the kind of bamboo, but now the rate has increased to K300-K1,000. With raw bamboos becoming harder to find, the number of weavers making chairs from them is also declining, according to bamboo chair weavers.—Tinzar Hlaing (IPRD) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Weavers making bamboo products in Ohn Chaw Village. **PHOTO: TINZAR HLAING (IPRD)**

Domestic gold price continues upward trend on firm global cues



Gold necklaces and gold rings are displayed for sale at a gold shop. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

WITH gold surging to US$1,424 per ounce in the global market, the price of the yellow metal in the domestic market touched a high of K1,120,500 per tical (0.578 ounce or, 0.016 kilograms) yesterday, according to the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

On 2 June, the price of gold stood at K1,105,500 per tical. It climbed to K1,120,500 yesterday morning, spurred by gains in the global gold market.

Currently, there are more sellers in the market than buyers, according to the YGEA.

Gold is likely to remain strong in the global market due to an escalating trade war between the US and China.

The price of gold in the domestic market is positively linked to the global gold price. With the global gold price climbing up, the domestic price has hit fresh peaks this year.

According to gold traders, in the month of January, the domestic gold price reached its lowest level of K1,043,4000 on 1 January and the highest level of K1,061,000 on 31 January. It hit a low of K1,058,400 on 2 February and a high of K1,087,300 on 20 February. In March, the lowest price recorded was K1,048,600 (30 March) and the highest was K1,069,000 (21 March). In April, gold price touched a low of K1,037,200 on 24 April and a high of K1,054,700 on 11 April. The lowest price for gold in May was K1,035,200 (2 May) and the highest was K1,059,200 (14 May). Last month, gold price touched a low of K1,056,000 and a high of K1,130,000. — GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

FDI into Myanmar reaches $3.15 bln in Oct-June

IN the nine months from October to June in the current fiscal year, foreign direct investment of US$3.15 billion flowed into the country, including capital expansion by existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. The total figure includes investment of $208.3 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

According to a press statement issued by the DICA, 197 foreign enterprises obtained MIC permits and endorsements from regional and state investment committees between 1 October and 28 June in the current fiscal, bringing in a capital of $1.98 billion. Singapore-listed enterprises were the largest investors during the October-June period, followed by China and Hong Kong.

Transport and communications absorbed over $1 billion in FDI, topping in the investment sector line-up, followed by the manufacturing sector.

In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, foreign investments have flowed into agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, power, transport and communications, hotels and tourism, real estate, industrial estate, and other services sectors. The MIC has set an FDI target of $5.8 billion in the current FY, according to the DICA.

Under the Myanmar Investment Law, the Region and State Investment Committees are allowed to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or $5 million. This is aimed at simplifying the verification process of investment projects.— GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Manufacturing exports up $1.3 bln

EXPORTS of finished industrial goods touched a high of US$6.67 billion between 1 October, 2018 and 21 June, 2019 in the current financial year, registering an increase of $1.3 billion compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per figures provided by the Ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods totalled $5.37 billion during the same period in the 2017-2018FY.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just $850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, as per figures provided during the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018, held on 12 September.

In the last mini-budget (April-September, 2018), exports of clothes made under the CMP system were valued at $2.27 billion, which was double the value registered in the previous year.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, which employ more than 300,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labour countries like Myanmar.

In the current FY, the manufacturing sector is predicted to remain the top FDI recipient. — GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

4 JULY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Children are the future of the country

VIOLENCE against children poses a challenge for every country, and Myanmar is facing the same problems as nations across the world as it works to ensure a safe childhood for its kids.

The words 'child rape' are extremely bitter for all societies, and it remains difficult to accept that such abhorrent crimes continue to plague our communities.

We need to take decisive action to eliminate sexual abuse of children, which threatens the future of our country because every child deserves a future.

Children are our legacy. They deserve every opportunity to live full and healthy lives. It's time to stop sexual violence against our most precious resource.

> No place is safe when those who abuse or neglect children are not held accountable.

The increase in the number of child rape cases in Myanmar is threatening the moral and cultural fabric of Myanmar society, and we must punish those who prey on children.

After assuming office, the new government has made efforts to improve the livelihood of people, so they can enjoy basic human rights and live with integrity.

The manner in which children are raised decides their future. The only way to ensure a bright future for children is to provide them a safe environment.

All adults around children, including neighbours, teachers, relatives, and even the people on the streets and public places, have a stake in ensuring the safety of children.

No place is safe when those who abuse or neglect children are not held accountable.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. To prevent child abuse, it will take a government, parents, teachers, and residents, all committed to raising children in a safe environment.

To end sexual abuse against children and rehabilitate them, Myanmar has been working with local and foreign organizations.

Child abuse is a crime, and deserves a 20-year jail sentence.

It is our national duty to help our children play and learn in a safe environment, and decisive action must be taken to prevent violence and to punish those who abuse children in cities and far-flung areas.

At the same time, it is important to talk to children about body safety and boundaries of adult behaviour.

We must speak to our children about unwanted or uncomfortable touch, and tell them that they have every right to say 'No' to any unwanted advances.

These are sound steps to reduce the risk to children as our society steps up vigilance against adults who commit such horrid crimes.

World market for logs from teak plantations

By Mya Oo Maung

TEAK is a first-class wood that is highly valued and well accepted throughout the world. As a kind of wood produced in temperate zones and due to its properties, teak is popularly known as " Golden Teak" in the world. Its colour, sturdiness, stability, beautiful grains and appearance bear no comparison with other different woods. All the utensils made of teak have been highly expensive throughout history. Up until now, humanitarian views on teak have not changed. That is why trading in teak remains a highly beneficial business.



A teak plantation in Bago Region

Higher purchasing power

According to the statistics from 2005 to 2014, yearly world trading on logs of teak were over one million cubic meters worth $487 million. Main teak-importing countries in the world are India, Thailand and China. During the above-mentioned period, India had mostly imported teak logs in the world, generating 74% of the world 's trading amounts. Thailand stood second with 16% and China with 10%. Total trading amounts of these three countries have doubled from cubic meters 5.57 lakhs to1.2 cubic meters with quadruple amounts of $ 166 million to $ 696 million. That was mainly due to higher purchasing powers from India and China.

> Myanmar's natural plantations have produced 25% of the world's teak trading amounts. Teak trees naturally thrive in India, Myanmar, Thailand and Laos.

Myanmar is termed as a teak heavyweight in the world trading sector. It has possessed a half of natural areas of 29 million hectares in the world. Myanmar has produced a lot as it owns a large portion of teak plantations. Myanmar's natural plantations have produced 25% of the world's teak trading amounts. Teak trees naturally thrive in India, Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos. Felling of teak trees is now prohibited in India and Thailand. Extraction of natural teak trees is still allowed in Myanmar; reduction of production and export of teak logs are being prohibited.

Competing situation

During a period between 2005 and 2014, teak plantations in Africa and Latin America yield yearly average of price 3% to 4.5% to compete with quality teak from Myanmar. Prices depend on a type of market. The price of Myanmar teak in India Market is higher than those of other teak products. The price of Myanmar teak of one cubic meter is worth $ 615 to $ 1000 in 2014. Teak plantations in Africa and Latin America during that period cost one cubic meter for $ 320 to $ 430.

Demands of teak are expected to rise in the world market. Demands of teak especially from Indian and Chinese markets keep rising year by year. Currently, Myanmar, which exported much teak in the past and cut down productions of teak, will not be able to meet the demands. This sign would encourage eager employers to establish teak plantations. In the future, requirements of world's teak will depend on the plantations in temperate zones. Under proper management, the quality of new teak plantations will be in a position to compete with naturally produced teak.

Emphasis on management

Trading on teak in Africa has much developed. Even if Africa is not of origin of teak, teak plantations are thriving in African countries of Cote d'ivoire, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Tanzania and Togo. Teak plantations take 47% of forested areas in Africa. The areas of plantations in Ivory Coast are 21,000 hectares and 5000 hectares in Tanzania. Tanzanian plantations were established with teak seeds from India and Myanmar with the help of German experts. In 1905, Togo took an economic opportunity for planting teak trees in areas of 5000 hectares; it enjoyed a good price by exporting products to India and Europe. With yearly increase of 650 hectares, West African country of Nigeria found itself in a good position for teak plantations. Due to yearly increase of planting areas, Nigeria now has 21300 hectares for teak cultivations.

In Latin America, there are a total of 350,000 hectares for planting purposes in Ecuador, Brazil and Panama. Middle-size plantations in Costa Rica, Mexico and Colombia and small plantations in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Trinidad, El Salvador and Venezuela. The quality of teak is not up to the mark of naturally grown teak and these countries have to compete with a low price in the market. They have got 80% of Indian middle class for doors, windows and frames for their houses. That is why Latin American countries have been trying to increase teak plantations, prioritizing the quality and amounts.

As India, China and Thailand are the most-importing countries with India as the biggest one. India has imported 70% of teak from Africa and Latin America. India's yearly requirements of wood is 64.4 million cubic meters and will quadruple in 2020, according to Dr P.K. Thulasidas of Kerala Forest Research Institute.

Imports from Myanmar's natural plantations and those from Africa and Latin America and from Indian forests are not enough to meet the India's local demands. In consideration of teak prices in the world market, Indian C&F price on arrival at ports is mostly steadfast.

According to the market report of International Tropical Timber Organization, country-wise teak plantations and their prices are mentioned at the side of this paper. Current exchange rate of rupees to the dollar is stable and teak-exporting countries's situations are good. According to the chart, the price of one cubic meter for teak log is at least $ 225 to $876; in terms of cubic tons, one ton will cost at least $ 405 to $ 1549. In Myanmar, teak plantations were established under the British Occupation. Up until now, many acres of plantations have continued under successive governments.

	US$ per cu m C&F
Angola logs	389-574
Belize logs	350-400
Benin logs	290-714
Benin sawn	530-872
Brazil logs	344-540
Brazil squares	333-556
Cameroon logs	405-616
Colombia logs	478-743
Congo D. R. logs	450-761
Costa Rica logs	357-780
Côte d'Ivoire logs	289-756
Ecuador squares	333-454
El-Salvador logs	320-732
Ghana logs	294-452
Guatemala logs	324-646
Guyana logs	300-450
Kenya logs	515-876
Laos logs	300-605
Liberia logs	265-460
Malaysian logs	225-516
Mexican logs	295-808
Nicaragua logs	402-505
Nigeria squares	434-517
Panama logs	335-475
PNG logs	443-575
Sudan logs	358-556
Tanzania teak, sawn	307-613
Thailand logs	511-700
Togo logs	334-590
Trinidad and Tobago logs	603-753
Uganda logs	411-623
Uganda Teak sawn	680-900

Private cultivations have been allowed since 2005-2006 and it is time for clearing the underbrush. Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation of Environments has announced to allow exporting of teak products; that action is suitable for private employers as well as for the good of our country. According to the findings, there are 143,000 acres of private teak plantations and 104000 acres of hardwood cultivations in Myanmar. The lifespan of the plantations is 10-12 years; questions are to be asked whether the quality of newly produced teak would compete with that of being currently engaged in trading in the world market. The lifespan of teak plantations from Africa and Latin America is over 20 years; maturity is surely better than ours.

Effective uses of opportunities

Employers of plantations should study carefully the situations and requirements in order to compete with those already prevailing in the market. While studying the world market of teak, the Indian market must be indispensably chosen. That is why India market should be reviewed in detail; uses of teak in the market would impel us to create conditions to penetrate the market. In addition, the standard and quality of currently produced teak are able to compete with those already in the market. If not, selling prices are likely to reduce.

Therefore, the government should encourage employers to exploit the opportunities for exporting teak products. Close cooperation among the employers, effective management of association of current members, market research on buying and selling business and consultations with respective departments are required. The most important point is that we have preferential opportunities of selling the products as desired; our responsibility is not the fag-end of first selling price in the market.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)

Solving the Forced Labour Complaints by High Level Working Group

(Nay Pyi Taw, June 2019)

- Myanmar has been cooperating with the ILO in solving forced labour complaints by establishing a complaint mechanism in 2007.
- At the beginning of 2019, there have been making efforts to set up a National Complaints Mechanism so that to tackle the forced labour complaints.
- During the interim period before setting up a National Complaints Mechanism, High Level Working Group(HLWG) composed of representatives from concernedministries including Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is going to handle the forced labour complaints.
- Complaints can be raised through the following telephone numbers: 067-3430184 , 067-3430229, 067-3430274
- and emails addresses: mol@mptmail.net.mm, molipoffice@gmail.com, research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com.

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July, 2019, during the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, from 4 am to a completion of the ceremony.

While roads are closed, bypass routes will be used passing through West Shwegondine Road to the Link Junction, Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road junction, Dhammazedi Road and U Wisara Junction, West Shwegondaing Road and U Wisara Junction.

Arzarni Road, the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the western archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed on that day.

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Announcement on closure of Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road on Martyrs' Day

For the convenience of visitors to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum on the Martyrs' Day which falls on 19 July, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed on that day starting at 5 am until the closing time. Road users are advised to use other routes while the road temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

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Scientists discover highest energy cosmic gamma rays in Tibet

BEIJING — A joint research team made up of Chinese and Japanese scientists has discovered the highest energy cosmic gamma rays ever observed from an observatory in Tibet, opening a new window to explore the extreme universe.

The energy of the gamma rays is as high as 450 TeV, equivalent to 45 billion times of the energy of X-rays for medical diagnosis, researchers from the Institute of High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences said at a press conference on Wednesday.



A joint research team made up of Chinese and Japanese scientists has discovered the highest energy cosmic gamma rays ever observed from an observatory in Tibet. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Scientists believe that those energetic gamma rays were from the Crab Nebula, a famous supernova remnant in the constellation Taurus, about 6,500 light years away from Earth.

Previously, the highest energy ever observed for a gamma-ray photon was 75 TeV, which was detected by the HEGRA Cherenkov telescope in Germany.

"Before this discovery, many scientists believed that photons could not be accelerated to energy higher than 100 TeV," said Huang Jing, a researcher from IHEP, and the co-spokesperson for the experiment.

"The discovery is a milestone in the search for the origin of the mysterious cosmic rays," said Professor Chen Yang, an expert of supernova remnants from Nanjing University.

Scientists hypothesize the following steps for generating very-high-energy gamma rays: first, the electrons are accelerated up to PeV (one thousand trillion electron volts) in the nebula; then the PeV electrons interact with the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMBR), the remnant radiation from the Big Bang filling the whole universe; and then a CMBR photon is kicked up to 450 TeV by a PeV electron.

The researchers thus conclude that the Crab Nebula is the most powerful natural electron accelerator known in our Galaxy.

The Crab Nebula was produced by a supernova explosion in the year 1054, which was recorded in official historical documents of the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127).

In 1969, scientists discovered a pulsar, rotating 30 times per second, embedded in the nebula.

In the modern era, the Crab Nebula has been observed at all electromagnetic wavelengths ranging from radio to very high energy gamma rays. The observatory, located in the Yangbajing town of Tibet at an altitude of 4,300 meters, has been operated jointly by China and Japan since 1990.

The China-Japan collaboration added new underground detectors in 2014, which can suppress 99.92 per cent of the cosmic-ray background noises, and thus improve the sensitivity significantly, Huang said. —Xinhua ■

Aussie state launches interactive travel guide for WeChat users

SYDNEY — Chinese visitors to the Australian state of Queensland will find it much easier to choose the best hotels, restaurants and attractions through a WeChat "mini program" officially launched by Queensland tourism authorities on Tuesday.

Developed in conjunction with Chinese online travel company Ctrip, Queensland's "CityExperience Mini Program" can be accessed via Wechat and allows users to make bookings and payments, as well as navigate with an interactive map.

The project aims to make Queensland's attractions more accessible for Chinese guests — including the Great Barrier Reef, Cairns, the Whitsundays, the Gold Coast and Brisbane. "This partnership with China's largest online travel company means it will be even easier for visitors to make direct bookings with Queensland businesses," State Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said. "This is about enhancing the travel experience for Chinese travelers and providing Queensland's tourism operators an opportunity to connect with this market online."

The app will also feature travel guides and blogs by notable travelers as well as suggested itineraries cultivated by Ctrip.

Ctrip Destination Marketing Department General Manager Edison Chen said the partnership would pay off for Queensland tourism.

"We are thrilled to be able to collaborate with Tourism and Events Queensland and Tourism Australia to launch this innovative project and look forward to seeing more Chinese travelers discovering new destinations and attractions in Queensland," Chen said.—Xinhua ■



FILE PHOTO : A Chinese customer prepares to pay with WeChat in Bangkok, Thailand, 5 May, 2017. In many other countries, payment with WeChat and Alipay is becoming a new trend. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

London to Sydney in 90 minutes? Britain plans first spaceport for sub-orbital flights

LONDON — Passengers could one day blast from London to Sydney in just 90 minutes as the UK Space Agency began drawing up plans for launches from British space sports.

The UK Space Agency has confirmed it's instigating plans for human spaceflight, with two spaceports earmarked for Cornwall and the Highlands. Virgin Galactic is the most likely candidate (at least in the short term) to take paying passengers outside Earth's atmosphere. Astronaut Tim Peake said, 'For Britain to be the first spaceport in Europe to be able to offer that service because we have the legislation in place, because we've sorted out our infrastructure, that will be huge. 'It's a very exciting time right now. Space tourism can come under some criticism as a sport for the rich, but that's how a lot of things in life start, that's how aviation started.

'What might be perceived as an expensive folly today actually can in future become a very efficient means of transportation. 'If you extend Virgin Galactic's principle of sub-orbital flight and improve the vehicles and make them with increasing endurance, you could do London-to-Sydney in an hour-and-a- half on a sub-orbital trajectory.'— AFP ■

LG reveals the G8S with touchless commands

SEOUL — South Korean manufacturer LG has released an alternative to its high-end G8 smartphone in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. The LG G8S, whose price tag has not yet been announced but which is aimed at customers desiring "a more bespoke experience," is expected this summer.

The major differences between the LG G8S and the G8 are the size of the screen — with the G8S measuring 6.2 inches up from 6.1 inches — and the number of photo sensors on the back (3, rather than 2). For the rest, it runs on the same Qualcomm Snapdragon 855 and 6 Go of RAM, and will come paired with 128 Go of storage. The phone is also been made water- and dust-resistant (IP 68).

The LG G8S's Z camera, launching with the phone, integrates "Flight Time" (ToF) technology, which offers the possibility of interacting with the phone via a particular set of gestures. Dubbed "Air Motion," this touchless interface allows users to undertake many actions without having to touch the screen. The idea is to be able to answer a call, take a photo, or adjust playback volume on a favorite playlist with a simple movement.— AFP ■



The LG G8 S should be arriving in Europe during Summer 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Singaporean firm Thakral focusing on Osaka for property investment



Osaka's Shinsaibashi commercial and entertainment district. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

SINGAPORE — Singaporean property investment group Thakral Corp. is gearing up to expand its real estate portfolio in Osaka as it anticipates high investment yields on the back of an upcoming series of events in Japan's second-largest metropolis.

The company has bought the 10-story Nikke Yotsubashi Building in the central business district of the city for an undisclosed sum, increasing its investment properties to 11 in Japan, all in Osaka, it said Monday.

The move is "in line with our group's overall strategy of achieving sustainable growth over the long term," Thakral CEO Inderbethal Singh Thakral told NNA on Tuesday.

The latest acquired property via investment vehicle subsidiary TJP Pte. Ltd. is a minute walk from Yotsubashi Station on the Osaka Metro and boasts a current occupancy rate of 95 percent, according to a statement.

The Singapore-listed lifestyle products distributor and investment group is stepping up to acquire real estate in the gateway city for western Japan.

Last October, it purchased a hotel and two office buildings in the heart of the city for 5.46 billion yen ($50.5 million) and subsequently another three office properties later in the year, according to the company.

The company has acquired eight commercial and office buildings as well as three hotels to date in Osaka.

The Singapore group focuses on Australia, Japan and Singapore for its investment business.

"The investment is part of our broader strategy to ride on the growing tenant demand in Osaka as the region has the highest occupancy rate owing to strong demand from visitors as well as a limited volume of office supply," the Thakral CEO said in a statement last December.

Osaka is one of the cities hosting games for the Rugby World Cup starting from late September. The city is also scheduled to host the 2025 Expo while trying to draw the first casino in the country.

In addition to an increasing inflow of foreign travelers in Japan, "a strong leasing market has also underpinned the robust demand for property as rents are expected to rise by 7.5 percent this year" in the country, it said in the statement.

Among Singapore firms, Hotel Properties Ltd. said in March this year it will invest 20.85 billion yen in hotel and condominium complex developments in central Osaka as joint projects with developer Tokyo Tatemono Co.

Ascendas Hospitality Trust, a hotel investment fund and a group arm of the government-backed CapitaLand Ltd., bought three hotels in Osaka for 10.29 billion yen in June last year. Ascendas tapped property investment in Osaka through the purchase of a hotel in 2014.

In 2018, real estate investment in Japan from abroad plunged 61 percent from a year earlier to $4.88 billion due to a lack of large deals, according to a report released in May by property consulting firm CBRE.

But capital inflows into Osaka surged by 2.3-fold on the year, driven by investments from Singapore accounting for 18 percent of the total, the largest source among Asian nations, the report said. —Kyodo News ■

World New Energy Vehicle Congress kicks off in China's island province

BOAO (Hainan) — The 2019 World New Energy Vehicle Congress kicked off in the city of Boao, southern China's island province of Hainan, Tuesday.

To be concluded on Wednesday, the congress focuses on discussions about new energy vehicles (NEVs) market among leading worldwide vehicle manufacturers.



This 22 April, 2015 photo shows a new energy vehicle displayed at Shanghai Auto Show in Shanghai, East China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China is a global leader in manufacturing NEVs with over 200 types of new energy cars launched in the first half of 2019, and the Chinese government has a clear road map to beef up the industry, said Horbert DIESS, chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen AG, at the congress.

"Reform and opening up is a driving force for China's auto industry since it enables the industry to go global and attract world attention," said Fu Yuwu with the China Society of Automotive Engineers.

The ongoing technological revolutions have also propelled the auto industry into vigorous and prompt actions, said Wan Gang, president of the China Association for Science and Technology.

Wan added that auto retailers around the world should seek cooperation and innovation and make due contribution to the industrial upgrading of the auto market.

By the end of 2018, over 5.64 million NEVs have been sold around the world, and China accounted for 52.8 percent of them.— Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

SoftBank, KDDI to team up on 5G wireless network installation

TOKYO — Major mobile phone service operators SoftBank Corp. and KDDI Corp. said Wednesday they will team up on wireless networks for their 5G services in a bid to cut costs and speed up installation.

The two companies will study how and where they can share equipment for the next-generation network services among other options, a SoftBank spokesman said, with Japanese mobile carriers preparing to begin trial services this fall ahead of the official launch of 5G business next year.

KDDI, Japan's second-largest mobile carrier by subscribers, plans to install more than 42,000 relay devices for the fifth-generation services and SoftBank, the country's No. 3 mobile operator, will deploy over 11,000 across Japan, according to their plans submitted to the communications ministry in April.—Kyodo News ■

China's major Internet companies report double-digit growth in revenue

BEIJING — China's major Internet firms reported double-digit growth in combined revenue in the first five months, official data showed.

Companies above the designated size in Internet and related sectors raked in 428.2 billion yuan (62.5 billion U.S. dollars) from January to May, up 19.4 percent year on year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

The pace picked up 2 per centage points from the first quarter, MIIT said.

R&D investment in the sector maintained fast expansion by rising 15.6 percent year on year to 18.12 billion yuan in the period.

Revenues of information services, making up 69.5 percent of the Internet business revenue as the biggest contributor, surged 21 per cent to 297.8 billion yuan during the period, while that of Internet data services recorded the fastest growth of 36.5 percent to 4.13 billion yuan.—Xinhua ■

Kremlin says details of sub fire that killed 14 'cannot be made public'



An unidentified submarine seen in the city of Severomorsk, in Russia, on 2 July. **PHOTO: AFP**

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Wednesday said details of a fire that killed 14 crew on a deep-water submersible will not be made public because they include classified information.

The seamen died on Monday in Russia's territorial waters in the country's far-north, but the disaster was only made public Tuesday.

Officials have given little information about the vessel or the circumstances of the accident, with local media reporting the ship was a secretive nuclear-powered mini-submarine.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Wednesday there were survivors of the accident, without clarifying how many.

"This information cannot be made public completely," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said of the disaster. "It belongs to the category of state secrets."

Peskov said that President Vladimir Putin was informed immediately after the fire.

"It is completely normal when this kind of information is not made public," Peskov said, adding that this was "within the law of the Russian Federation".

Peskov said that "no decision has been made" about a period of mourning in the northern Russian region.

The defence ministry said the 14 crew were killed by inhaling poisonous fumes after a fire broke out on a "scientific research deep-sea submersible" studying the sea floor.

However the Novaya Gazeta newspaper cited sources as saying that the accident took place on an AS-12 nuclear mini-submarine, which is capable of going to extreme depths.

The presence of many senior ranking officers on board could suggest the submarine was not on an ordinary assignment.

'Conducting important research'

Minister Shoigu was in Severomorsk, the restricted-access military port in the Russian Arctic, on Wednesday to direct a probe into the accident.

"Fourteen crew members died, the rest were saved," he said, quoted by Russian news agencies, without disclosing the total number of seamen were onboard.

He said the vessel was conducting "important research on the hydrosphere of the earth" in the Barents Sea and that those on board were "unique military specialists."

According to Shoigu, a civilian "representative of industry" was successfully evacuated by the crew that acted "heroically."

The crew managed to evacuate the civilian after which they closed the hatch to halt the spreading of flames, he said.

"They fought for the ship to survive until the end," Shoigu said, adding that all the seamen will be posthumously given state awards. The governor of Saint Petersburg, Alexander Beglov said Wednesday that the crew was based in the city.

Names of members crew have not been officially released. By Russian law, publishing names of servicemen engaged in conflict or special operations is illegal.

Putin has ordered a full investigation into what he called a "tragedy".

The incident is the latest in a string of disasters and accidents to hit Russia's navy, with echoes of the sinking of the Kursk submarine in 2000 that claimed the lives of 118 personnel and shook the first years of Putin's presidency.—AFP ■

Iraq sets up 'loophole' in US sanctions to buy Iranian power

BAGHDAD — Iraq is establishing a financial "loophole" to continue buying vital gas and electricity from Iran despite US sanctions, AFP has learned, mirroring a European mechanism that came into effect Friday. The "special purpose vehicle" (SPV) would allow Iraq to pay for imported Iranian energy in Iraqi dinars, which Iran could use to exclusively buy humanitarian goods, three senior Iraqi officials said.

The workaround would allow Baghdad to keep the lights on and avoid shortage-driven protests without triggering US sanctions, as it treads an increasingly precarious tightrope between its two main allies Tehran and Washington. One senior government official told AFP it was the product of months of talks between Iraqi, Iranian and US officials.



The US insists Iraq wean itself off Iranian energy, but Baghdad has said that could take up to four years. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The Iraqi government will continue to pay Iran for gas by depositing money into a special bank account inside Iraq, in Iraqi dinars," the official said.

"Iran will not be able to withdraw the money, but will be able to use it to purchase goods from outside Iraq."

Iraq has an outstanding bill of around $2 billion for previous gas and electricity purchases, according to Iranian Oil Minister BijanZangeneh. A US official told AFP that Washington was aware of the mechanism's creation.

The US embassy in Baghdad declined to comment, while Iran's embassy did not respond to an AFP request.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abe sets sights on winning majority of seats in upper house

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday said his aim for the Liberal Democratic Party in an upper house election later this month is to at least maintain a majority in the upper chamber with coalition partner Komeito.

Abe, who heads the LDP, made the comment during a debate with opposition party leaders a day before official campaigning begins for the July 21 election for the House of Councillors. He vowed to make clear the legal status of the Self-Defense Forces by amending the Constitution, one of his clearly stated goals. "We will aim for what is needed to carry out policy, which is to secure a majority of seats, including those uncontested this time, by the LDP and Komeito," Abe said during the debate at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo.

With 70 uncontested seats in the upper house, the ruling coalition of the LDP and Komeito will need to win at least 53 of the 124 seats up for grabs this time to achieve a majority.
—Kyodo News ■

Sharjah ruler's son buried after death in London

DUBAI — A son of the ruler of Sharjah was buried in the emirate Wednesday, as a three-day mourning period began after his unexpected death in London.

Sheikh Khalid bin Sultan al-Qasimi was reported to be 39.

His father, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, and other Emirati officials took part in the funeral procession as flags flew at half-mast. The government of Sharjah, one of seven emirates making up the UAE, said Tuesday that Sheikh Khalid died in London a day earlier, without elaborating further.London's Metropolitan Police said it was investigating an "unexplained death" in Knightsbridge on Monday but declined to reveal names. A "sudden death" was reported at a residential property and a "man in his late 30s was found deceased", said a police statement.—AFP ■

EU leaders agree on top positions, naming von der Leyen to be Commission president



EU leaders attend the special summit of the European Council in Brussels, Belgium, on July 2, 2019. The European Union leaders on Tuesday agreed on the future leadership of the EU institutions, proposing Ursula von der Leyen, the female German Defense Minister, to be the next European Commission President. Charles Michel, the Prime Minister of Belgium, was elected to be the next President of the European Council. Christine Lagarde, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, was nominated to be President of the European Central Bank. JosepBorrellFontelles, the Foreign Minister of Spain, was nominated to be the EU's foreign policy chief. Except Michel, other candidates would have to go through formalities to get on the job. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

BRUSSELS — The European Union leaders on Tuesday agreed on the future leadership of the EU institutions, proposing Ursula von der Leyen, the female German Defense Minister, to be the next European Commission President.

Charles Michel, the Prime Minister of Belgium, is elected to be the next President of the European Council.

Christine Lagarde, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, is nominated to be President of the European Central Bank.

JosepBorrellFontelles, the Foreign Minister of Spain, is nominated to be the EU's foreign policy chief.

Except Michel, other candidates would have to go through formalities to get on the job. Von der Leyen, who would be the first female European Commission President, is facing some resistance in the European Parliament which must vote to confirm her nomination, with several lawmakers saying earlier that she was unacceptable.

The nomination is clearly a serious blow to the so-called process of Spitzenkandidat, German for lead candidate.

The process, practiced in 2014 but not generally accepted or codified into law, links with European Parliament elections by having each major political group in the parliament nominating their candidate for Commission President prior to the parliamentary elections.

Before this year's parliamentary elections, political groups in the parliament named their lead candidates for the President of the European Commission, and they campaigned across the EU. But none of them was nominated to the most important EU position on Tuesday.

Iratxe Garcia, who leads the Socialists and Democrats bloc in the European Parliament, and Terry Reintke, deputy leader of the parliament's Greens group, both voiced their disappointment in the nomination.

Jean-Claude Juncker, current President of the European Commission, agreed Tuesday's nomination wouldn't be easy in the Parliament.

However, according to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, von der Leyen faced no opposition in the European Council, made up by leaders of the EU's 28 member states.

"After all, Europe is a woman," said Donald Tusk, current President of the European Council who chairs the leaders' meeting.—Xinhua ■

China helps to train Afghan specialists in Uzbekistan

TERMEZ (Uzbekistan) — China has helped to organize a training seminar on Monday for Afghan agricultural specialists in the city of Termez, southern Uzbekistan.

"This course is different, because for the first time a third country, China, has participated in organizing a seminar on raising the qualifications of Afghan agricultural specialists," said MingbayKholmuratov, deputy director of the educational center. "For this, we are very pleased and express our gratitude to the Chinese Embassy in Uzbekistan."

"As a close neighbor of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, the Chinese side is interested in supporting the work of the center and has put forward the idea of a tripartite cooperation," said Zhang Wenchuan, deputy chief of mission at Chinese embassy in Uzbekistan, adding that "this course is the first fruit of trilateral cooperation."

"Afghanistan, being in the key direction of the Great Silk Road, is actively participating in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative. Participants of today's and future such seminars will contribute to the implementation of these noble goals," Consul General of Afghanistan in Uzbekistan SanginSakandry noted.

"The acquired knowledge and experience in this seminar will be very useful in the speedy recovery of our country's economy, peace and prosperity in the Afghan land," said Dr. KeramuddinMahmoodi, one of the workshop participants.—Xinhua ■

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TOA CORPORATION (MYANMAR BRANCH OFFICE)
Notice of Closure of Myanmar Branch Office

It is hereby notified that in pursuance of Head Office's Board of Directors' Resolution dated May 24, 2019 the above Myanmar Branch Office has been closed down with effect from June 30, 2019 since the existence of Myanmar Branch Office was no more required in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Notice to Creditors

The creditors of the above-named Myanmar Branch Office are required to send their names, addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their attorneys, if any, to the undersigned Liquidator in person or by their attorneys to come in and prove their debts or claims on or before August 5, 2019 or in default thereof they will be excluded from the settlement of such debts or claims.

Daw Thaung Mya Wai
LL.B, DA, DCA
Liquidator
Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium,
No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road,
Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0173-503W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0173-503W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V FORTUNE SUNS

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FORTUNE SUNS VOY. NO. (19080) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICES CO LTD

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Iran to exceed uranium enrichment maximum despite calls for rethink

TEHRAN — Iran ignored US and EU warnings Wednesday and announced it will exceed the maximum enrichment level it agreed for uranium within days in response to the failure of the other parties to a 2015 nuclear deal to provide it with promised relief from sanctions.

Iran is acting on its 8 May threat to suspend parts of the agreement in response to US President Donald Trump's re-imposition of crippling sanctions after withdrawing from it in May last year.

"On 7 July, our enrichment level will no longer be 3.67 per cent. We will put aside this commitment. We will increase (the enrichment level) beyond 3.67 per cent to as much as we want, as much as is necessary, as much as we need," Rouhani said during a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The enrichment maximum set in the agreement is sufficient for power generation but far below the more than 90 per cent level required for a nuclear warhead.

Rouhani stressed that Iran's action would be reversed if the other parties to the nuclear deal made good on their side of the bargain — relief from sanctions.

"We will remain committed to the (nuclear deal) as long as the other parties are committed. We will act on the JCPOA 100 per cent the day that the other party acts 100 per cent (too)."



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani ignores US and EU warnings and announces it will exceed the limits a 2015 nuclear deal set on its uranium enrichment within days in response to the other parties' inaction over promised sanctions relief. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran has sought to pressure the other parties — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — to save the deal.

It announced on 8 May it would no longer respect the limits set on the size of its stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water.

It threatened to abandon further nuclear commitments, including exceeding the agreed uranium enrichment maximum from 7 July.

Rouhani said Iran will also deliver on its threat to resume construction of a heavy water reactor after 7 July and will bring it to the condition that "according to you, is dangerous and can produce plutonium."

He added the measures can be reversed in "hours" if the other parties "live up to their commitments."

'Playing with fire'

US President Donald Trump warned Monday that Iran is "playing with fire" after Tehran said it had exceeded the limit set on its enriched uranium stockpile. Rouhani said it was the US that started the fire and Washington has to "put it out" by returning to the nuclear deal.—AFP ■

Climate change made French heatwave 'more likely' in hottest June ever

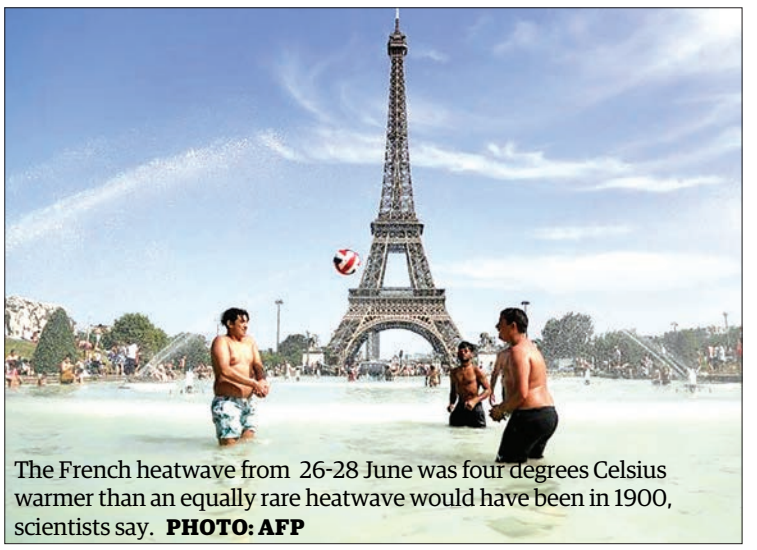
PARIS — The record-breaking heatwave that gripped France last week was made at least five times more likely by climate change, scientists said Tuesday as other data showed that last month was the hottest June worldwide in history.

Compared to weather stretching back more than a century, the three-day temperature peak from June 26-28 in France was four degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than an equally rare June heatwave would have been in 1900, the World Weather Attribution (WWA) team told journalists in a briefing.

Global readings, meanwhile, taken by the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) showed European temperatures were around 2C hotter than normal, and globally Earth was 0.1C hotter than the previous June record.

The heatwave last week smashed national records for the hottest single day as scorching weather spread across Europe from the Sahara. It was so intense that temperatures were as much as 10C higher than normal across France, Germany, northern Spain and Italy, C3S said.

Global warming probably amplified France's devastating hot spell by far more than five times, said Friederike Otto, acting director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford.—AFP ■



The French heatwave from 26-28 June was four degrees Celsius warmer than an equally rare heatwave would have been in 1900, scientists say. **PHOTO: AFP**

Condemnation as 40 killed in air strike on Libya migrant centre

TRIPOLI — More than 40 migrants were killed in a late night air strike on their detention centre in a Tripoli suburb blamed on Libyan strongman KhalifaHaftar, triggering international outcry at the bloodshed on Wednesday.

The strike "clearly could constitute a war crime", said UN envoy to Libya GhassanSalame.

"It killed, by surprise, innocent people whose dire conditions forced them to be in that shelter", he added in a statement.

Bodies were strewn on the floor of the hangar, mixed with the belongings and blood-soaked clothes of migrants, an AFP photographer said.

Tuesday night's strike left a hole some three meters in diameter at the centre of the hangar, surrounded by debris ripped from the metal structure by the force of the blast.

More than 130 people were also wounded in the raid on Tajoura, the UN statement added.

An emergency services spokesman Osama Ali told AFP 120 migrants were detained in the hangar which was directly hit by the strike.

Rescuers were searching for survivors under the rubble, while dozens of ambulances rushed to the scene.

The head of the centre, Noureddine al-Grifi, said others had been wounded in a neighbouring hangar that was also damaged by the strike.

The five hangars in Tajoura held around 600 migrants and refugees, he said.



Emergency workers recover bodies after an air strike killed nearly 40 at Tajoura detention centre. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Heinous crime'

In a statement, the internationally recognised national unity government (GNA) based in Tripoli denounced the attack as a "heinous crime" and blamed it on the "war criminal Khalifa-Haftar".

Haftar, who controls much of eastern and southern Libya, in early April launched an offensive to take the capital.

The GNA accused pro-Haftar forces of having carried out a "premeditated" and "precise" attack on the migrant centre. No-one has so far claimed responsibility, but pro-Haftar media reported Tuesday night a "series of air raids" in Tripoli and Tajoura.

The suburb of Tajoura, which has several military sites belonging to pro-GNA armed groups, is regularly targeted in air raids by Haftar's forces. —AFP ■

Ahnawrahtar Art Gallery opens in Yangon



Dignitaries open the Ahnawrahtar Art Gallery in Thuwunna, Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

A ceremony to open the Ahnawrahtar Art Gallery was held in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township on 11 June, with the congratulatory speeches by classic artist Dr U Lun Gywe, artist U Hla Tin Tun, U Thein Naing (Gon Htoo Myanmarsar), Ahlinkar Kyaw Swar Panchi Soe Moe and PMG U Thein Win. The patron of National League for Democracy U Tin Oo, classic artist Dr U Lun Gywe and the chairperson of Ahnawrahtar Art Gallery committee U Myo Thaw pressed the button to open the Gallery.

Over 200 watercolour, oil and ink sketch paintings by classic artist U San Hlaing (expired), artist U Ngwe Gaing, artist U M Tin Aye, artist Bagyi Soe Moe, artisan U Aye Myint (an old master of Myanmar traditional design), artist U Lun Gywe and other famous artists, were displayed at the opening ceremony. The Ahnawrahtar Art Gallery is located in a quiet environment and has a wide parking lot. All kinds of art works created by the famous artists will be on display at the gallery from 10 am to 6 pm every day.—GNLM ■

South Korean general sacked for failing to detect boat from North

SEOUL — A South Korean general was sacked Wednesday for a lapse in border security after a fishing boat from North Korea managed to cross the intensely monitored sea between the countries and dock undetected.

The military failed to identify the small wooden boat — carrying four North Koreans — until a civilian alerted the police after it arrived at a port roughly 160 miles east of Seoul on 15 June.

Two of the passengers defected to the South, while the other two chose to return to North Korea. General Lee Jin-sung was fired after an investigation found the military had failed to pick up the vessel, Defence Minister JeongKyeong-doo said at a press conference.

"As a failure in security operations is a serious mistake that cannot be accepted in any circumstances, we have decided to strictly censure those involved," he said.

"I'd like to express an apology as the defence chief," he added. "Under no circumstances is failed military surveillance acceptable."

The sacking was confirmed by the South's Defence Ministry in a separate statement saying the government "will dismiss the army's eighth corps commander" over the mistake.

South Korea's major opposition Liberty Korea Party has demanded a parliamentary probe into the case, claiming the army had tried to cover up the botched incident — a charge Jeong denied.

Later Wednesday, the presidential Blue House said Kim You-geun, a senior official at the National Security Office, had received a "strict warning" from President Moon Jae-in over the incident.

During years of prolonged economic hardship compounded by international isolation, over 30,000 North Koreans have escaped from the reclusive state to the South, according to government data.

Pyongyang is under heavy economic sanctions because of its multiple nuclear tests and long-range missile launches.

It denounces defectors — who are an important source for accounts of the regime's brutal treatment of its citizens — as "human scum". AFP ■



South Korean soldiers are locking a military gate as they withdraw from a border guard post in the DMZ © South Korean Defence Ministry. **PHOTO: AFP**





City Love & Hope Foundation marks Mother's Day, donating cash, stationary

CITY Love & Hope Foundation of CMHL made its 18th cash and stationary donation in commemoration of Mother's Day yesterday at the headquarters of City Mart Holding Co., Ltd. in Yangon.

In the annual social welfare programme, CMHL donated a total of over K 76 million for this year over K 24.3 million in cash and over K 54 million worth stationary which was the profits yielded from its "Mother's Day Specials" selling festival.

City Mart Holding Co., Ltd established the City Love & Hope Foundation in February 2013 to implement Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR).—GNLM ■



Attendees pose for the photo at the 18th cash and stationary donation ceremony to mark Mother's Day in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar, China U-15 to play friendly match

THE Myanmar U-15 boys' football team left for Haikou, China yesterday to play a friendly match against China's U-15 boys' team, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The friendly match between the Myanmar and China U-15 teams will take place at 4:30 pm. (Local Standard Time) on 6 July at the Wutuanhe sports stadium.

Team Myanmar comprises 23 young footballers, and they have gone to China with a coaching team led by head coach Mr Koga Takuma, said a source with the MFF.

The Myanmar U-15 team will stay at the Guanlan Lake Football training base from 4 to 7 July, where they will participate in training and physical exercises to prepare for the friendly match, officials stated.

The friendly match will help team Myanmar to prepare for upcoming tournaments, supervised by the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) this year, said MFF officials.

The Myanmar U-15 boys' football team will also compete in the 2019 AFF U-15 Boys' Championship this month in Thailand and the 2020 AFC U-16 Championship qualifiers in September.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



The Myanmar U-15 football squad sings the national anthem before a group match during the Hua Shan Cup International Youth Football Tournament in China on 6 April. **PHOTO: MFF**

MFF Youth FC leads U-21 Myanmar National League

THE youth team of the Myanmar Football Federation, the MFF Youth F C, is leading the standing table for the U-21 competition of the Myanmar National League 2019 at the end of Week 16.

The MFF Youth team has played 18 matches so far, and has earned 46 points from 15 wins, one draw, and two losses.

Shan United is placed second on the standing table with 30 points from 14 matches played, which have resulted in 8 wins and 6 draws.

Yangon United is in the third position with the same points as Shan United, but the team has played one more match. It has chalked up nine wins, three draws, and three losses. Magwe FC is fourth with 26 points from 8 wins, 2 draws, and 6 losses in the 16 matches played. Southern Myanmar FC stands in the fifth place with 7 wins, 5 draws, and 3 losses in the 15 matches played.

There are 13 teams competing in the U-21 national league, and Rakhine United FC is sitting at the bottom of the table with 3 points from one win and 13 losses.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Messi vows to play on after latest Argentina heartache

BELO HORIZONTE (Brazil) — Lionel Messi vowed to extend his international career after yet another bid to win a major title with Argentina ended in failure at the Copa America on Tuesday.

The 32-year-old Barcelona star, who infamously quit international football after Argentina's defeat in the 2016 Copa America Centenario final, said he had no plans to hang up his boots after a 2-0 semi-final loss to Brazil.

"If I can still help in any way, I will continue to do so. I feel really good in this group," said the five-time Ballon d'Or winner."This is a good, talented generation who showed that they love the national team," he added. "They have a future and great foundations, they just need to be given time." Messi will get another chance to break his tournament duck next year when the Copa America takes place in Argentina and Colombia, with the 2022 World Cup looming further on the horizon. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni meanwhile insisted his new-look squad had a bright future despite the defeat. "Without a doubt, today we showed that this group of players feel the jersey like no-one else," he said. "We showed an image for the future of this squad and these players and the great path they are on. "To play in this stadium, in these conditions and to be superior to our opponents.—AFP ■



Lionel Messi has vowed to continue his international career despite another tournament disappointment. **PHOTO: AFP**

