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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Vice President U Myint Swe speaks at World Population Day event

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe delivered an opening address at the World Population Day 2019 event held in the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Vice President said today's world population was over 7,700 million and by 2030 it was estimated to be about 8,500 million. Due to the rapid increase of population in poor countries, many challenges were being faced. Rapid increase in population was one of the obstacles to sustainable development goals.

Family planning would raise the rights of individuals and reduce poverty. It would be very effective for social development such as education, health and gender equality.

In the world today there were countries that won population benefits and at the same time there were countries that were depopulating facing problems of higher numbers of elderlies, declining and scarcity of work force and higher funding required for social protection works.

If population benefits were used effectively, they would support economic development. In addition to this, increase of migrant workers was a major factor towards demographic change in a country.

World population Day events were held annually in every country of the world in order that each country and the entire world became aware of the importance of resolving the matter of population. Myanmar has been observing this day since 1990 and this was the 30th time it was being observed.

When the world population reached 5,000 million on 11 July 1987, United Nations designated that day as World Population Day and events like this were being held starting from 1989. United Nations Population Fund also announced themes for each World Population Day and this year's theme was "25 years of the ICPD: Accelerating the promise."

This theme was also the theme for 25th International Conference on Population and Development to be held at Kenya, Nairobi in November 2019 also.

The main aim of this year's theme was to review the work processes set down at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994 at Egypt, Cairo, the implementation of it throughout the 25 years period and to maintain and continue the implementation momentum. The main sectors were reproductive health, capacity raising of women and achieving gender equality.

According to worldwide information in the reproductive health sector women's usage of modern family planning methods rose from 52 percent in 1994 to 58 per cent in 2019.

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Vice President U Myint Swe looks at documentary photos displayed at the World Population Day Exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 24/2019



Meeting 24/2019 of the Joint Committee on amending the 2008 Constitution held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

JOINT Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held its meeting 24/2019 at the second-floor meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Joint Committee, the Deputy Speaker of both the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho, committee members including Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives, and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Minister for Defence leaves for Bangkok to attend 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting



Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win is seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport on Wednesday as he departs for Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win and party on Wednesday left from the Yangon International Airport for Bangkok to attend 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Twantay Township Administrator faces more corruption charges

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has filed corruption charges against Head of Twantay Township General Administration Department for accepting bribery in exchange of issuing alcohol licenses in three cases in the township.

The ACC had received a complaint against U Moe Khaing Tun, Head of Twantay Township GAD, for taking K500,000 in exchange of issuing alcohol sales licence, K150,000 in exchange of issuing a traditional alcohol license and K200,000 as a fund from Thingyan festival, from a man who has got the licence.

Following the complaint, an investigation team of the ACC launched a probe into the complaint and the team found him of guilty of taking the cash abusing his authority. A case has been registered against U Moe Khaing Tun under Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law at the Twantay Myoma Police Station. He is also facing corruption charges in June for taking bribery in land dispute case last month in Twantay.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 119/2019
10th Waxing of Waso, 1381 ME
11 July, 2019

Termination of registration and dissolution of political party

1. Union Election Commission permitted Chin National Democratic Party that had been allowed to form as a political party with the registration No 21 of the Notification 60/2010 on 27-5-2010, Chin Progressive Party with the registration No 26 of the Notification 66/2010 on 1-6-2010 and Chin League for Democracy Party with the registration No 75 of the Notification 25/2014 on 15-7-2014.

2. Chin National Democratic Party, Chin Progressive Party and Chin League for Democracy Party applied to the Union Election Commission to combine them and to be registered as one political party under the name of "Chin National League For Democracy Party" and the UEC permitted the Chin National League For Democracy Party as a political party with registration No 116 and with Notification 118/2019 on 11 July 2019. Hence, according to the Political Parties Registration Rule 25 of the Union Election Commission, Chin National Democratic Party, Chin Progressive Party and Chin League for Democracy Party, which were registered as political parties, shall be abolished. Properties owned by each abolished party shall be handed over to the Chin National League for Democracy Party.

3. It is hereby announced that Chin National Democratic Party, Chin Progressive Party and Chin League for Democracy Party have been terminated and the parties have been dissolved as of 11 July 2019.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 121/2019
10th Waxing of Waso, 1381 ME
11 July, 2019

Termination of registration and dissolution of political party

1. Union Election Commission permitted All Mon Region Democracy Party that had been allowed to form as a political party with the registration No 13 of the Notification 51/2010 on 24-5-2010 and Mon National Party with the registration No 58 of the Notification 34/2012 on 10-7-2012.

2. All Mon Region Democracy Party and Mon National Party applied to the Union Election Commission to combine them and to be registered as one political party under the name of "Mon Unity Party" and the UEC permitted the Mon Unity Party as a political party with registration No 117 and with Notification 120/2019 on 11 July 2019. Hence, according to the Political Parties Registration Rule 25 of the Union Election Commission, All Mon Region Democracy Party and Mon National Party, which were registered as political parties, shall be abolished. Properties owned by each abolished party shall be handed over to the Mon Unity Party.

3.It is hereby announced that All Mon Region Democracy Party and Mon National Party have been terminated and the parties have been dissolved as of 11 July 2019.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Vice President U Myint Swe speaks at World Population Day event



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the opening speech at World Population Day 2019 event in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

In countries where development was weak, women's usage of modern family planning methods was only 15 per cent in 1994 and by 2019 it had risen to 37 per cent. This was a good progress.

Birth rate of the world was 2.9 per woman in 1994 and this declined to 2.5 in 2019. In developing countries the birth rate was 5.6 per woman in 1994 and it was significantly reduced to 3.9 in 2019.

Maternal mortality was also reduced. In 1994 there were 369 maternal mortalities in 100,000 live births and in 2019 there were only about 216 maternal mortalities.

Based on 2014 Census data Myanmar population was estimated to be more than 54 million in 2019 and would be more than 59 million in 2030. Since it was achieving population benefits at the moment, this should be effectively used and the force of the youths needs to be used effectively in the country's development projects. Preparation on strengthening social protection system is required to cope with increasing numbers of elderlies in the future.

Ever since Myanmar acceded to ICPD it had been implementing the work guidelines. Maternal mortalities in 100,000 live births were reduced from 453 in 1990 to 282 according to 2014 Census. According to 2015-2016 Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey it was reduced further to 178. However this number was still high.

For reproductive health care opportunities to be within reach Myanmar's first policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights was being drawn up.

To uplift family planning health care and the lives of women in Myanmar, Myanmar made a commitment on November 2013 for Family Planning 2020. Usage of contraceptive medicines in married women rose from 16 per cent in 1991 to 51 per cent according to the 2015-2016 Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey. However, there is much still remaining to be done.

To raise the capacity of women, national level strategic plans were setup and at the moment the 2013-2022 project was being implemented. Myanmar also acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1997. It could be clearly seen that gender and women rights were included in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030).

Policies, regulations and laws required on implementing reproductive health, raising the capacity of women and gender equality sectors were to be drawn up and existing policies, regulations and laws were to be amended so that it was in accord with the prevailing situation. While inviting the participation of related local and foreign entities, Myanmar government ministerial departments were required to conduct works as a national duty, said the Vice President.

Next the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population made a Power Point explanation about the theme "25 years of the ICPD: Accelerating the promise."

Afterwards United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar Mr Knut Ostby explained about holding the World Population Day event.

Later a video on family planning and an animation video clip on the theme "25 years of the ICPD: Accelerating the promise" was shown.

Finally, the event came to a close after Association of Francois-Xavier Bagnoud (AFXB Myanmar) recited a silver anniversary poem.

After the event the Vice President, Union Ministers and attendees took a commemorative group photo and observed the World Population Day exhibition.

The second part of the event was then held where women and youths expressed their views regarding changes in Myanmar before and after ICPD; after this there were discussions and a Q&A session.

The event was attended by the following dignitaries, senior officials and diplomats, among others:

Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, Dr Aung Thu, U Thein Swe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye, Nai Thet Lwin and U Kyaw Tin, Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr Win Thein, foreign diplomats, representatives of United Nations organizations, departmental heads, nurses and midwives, students, representatives of INGOs and NGOs, invited guests and officials.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Seminar on China-Myanmar Economic Corridor coming to Yangon this weekend

A SEMINAR on the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) will be held at the headquarters of the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) on Theinbyu Road, Yangon, at 1 pm on 13 July.

Titled 'China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and the Strategic Change in Myanmar's Regional Value', the seminar is part of a regular series to promote Myanmar's democratic transition. It is organized by the Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies, under the Information and Public Relations Department.

The seminar will discuss how being part of the CMEC is the first step to increasing the regional value of Myanmar and how the Belt and Road Initiative opens up new avenues for opportunities in Myanmar's democratic transition. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



NRPC, RCSS delegation hold talks in Nay Pyi Taw

THE National Reconciliation and Peace Centre led by Vice Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win met with a delegation of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) led by Sao Pawng Kherh at the NRPC headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) delegation holds the meeting with Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) representatives in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr Tin Myo Win's speech

Firstly, Dr Tin Myo Win made a speech where he said the genuine feelings and beliefs of all stakeholders came to the surface when we faced difficulties in implementing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

He said what was heartening to see was the increased unity and understanding between all the stakeholders as we push forward with the peace process and gain political maturity.

He said there would always be people trying to impede the progress but strengthened trust in each other guaranteed success. He said adversity was present in any endeavour and this brought the bonds between the participants closer.

Dr Tin Myo Win said this was the eighth meeting since the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong. He remarked on how it has been eight months since the meetings started being held once a month. He said this meeting would focus on further cooperation in the peace process moving forward.

He voiced his hope for RCSS to include discussions of the government's offer of four simultaneous paths made at the informal meetings UPDJC secretaries meetings held on 13 and 14 July.

He said they would also discuss RCSS and the government's cooperation, the entire peace process and individual organization affairs, hence making this meeting very important. He urged everyone to offer their honest suggestions and opinions to find solutions to the issues presented at the meeting.

Speech of RCSS delegation

Next, Sao Pawng Kherh made a speech where he said this meeting was a continuation of the NRPC-RCSS meeting held back in 11 May and aimed to review how far the decisions made then have been implemented.

He first thanked the Union Government for releasing the 30 detained RCSS members as agreed to in the previous meeting. He said this meeting would discuss ways to organize an official political dialogue that would pave the way for the success of the peace process.

He said while a political agreement could not be reached, focus should still me made on regional development and illegal drug eradication for each region.

Sao Pawng Kherh said a secure timeframe needed to be set for the peace process and the process for establishment of a federal union before 2020 in order to build the federal republic step by step as has been envisioned.

Afterwards, officials explained the peace process related tasks of the NRPC and the RCSS.

Participants then discussed organizing national-level political dialogues, official discussions, the Fourth Session of the UPC – 21st Century Panglong within 2019, developing Mong Hta and Nant Pan Khun regions, constructing schools and clinics in rural areas, drug rehabilitation, and freeing detained RCSS members.

They then invited suggestions and opinions from both sides.

After the meeting, Sao Pawng Kherh said this meeting had increased understanding, trust and recognition between both sides and agreed to cooperate on holding the UPC's Fourth Session.

He said they would continue discussing the government's four proposals with the EAOs and said this meeting had contributed constructive results for establishing a federal republic.

Afterwards, Dr Tin Myo Win said the meeting produced eight agreements that supported the peace process and development of all regions and ethnic races.

Press conference

Following the meeting, Director-General U Zaw Htay and RCSS Secretary 2 U Sai Nguen held a press conference.

First off, U Zaw Htay said since the meeting focused on resuming official national-level political dialogues, UPC's Fourth Session, regional developments and drug eradication, the meeting could be said to be a success.

He said they would focus on setting federal principles before the year 2020 and emphasized development for regions that have joined the ceasefire. He said they would discuss with the ten EAOs and conduct the four proposals simultaneously.

Next, U Sai Nguen also said they discussed the hinderances to resuming political and peace dialogues, taking care of the drug abuse issue and regional development of their people.

He said the meeting had fostered increased understanding and mutual respect and have proposed to continue the 21st Century Panglong either in December this year or early January next year.

U Sai Nguen said they would continue national-level dialogues in line with standard operating procedures while negotiating on certain misunderstandings. He said the path forward has been cleared.

Summary

U Zaw Htay concluded by saying that there had been a multitude of positive results since the end of the UPC's Third Session. He said that they have established strong trust and understanding with the NCA signatories and the EAOs to continue stalled meetings to advance the peace process.

Present at the meeting were NRPC members Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu and U Khin Maung Tin, NRPC Secretary Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retired), Peace Commission advisory board member U Hla Maung Shwe, Director-General U Zaw Htay, RCSS delegation members Saw Pawng Kherh, U Sai Nguen, U Aung Mya, U Sao Han, U Sai Han, U Sai Oo, U Day Wein and U Sin Hseng Meung. — Myo Myint, Myo Thu Hein (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Chinese film team makes documentary under title of "Myanmar beauty, Myanmar culture"

A CHINESE team made a documentary film under the title of "Myanmar beauty, Myanmar culture" in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw to promote tourism in Myanmar.

The film crew shot scenes in Pobathiri Township, Razahtarne Road, Padonma Lottus Roundabout and Nay Pyi Taw Council Office yesterday.

On 9 July, they shot scenes in Yangon, including Kantawgyi Garden in Mingalataungnyunt Township, the whitetaw Market in Ahlon Township, Manbe Railway Station in Yankin Township and a fishing village in Dala Township.

On 10 July, they shot Yangon downtown scenes, Bogyoke Aung San Market, Yangon Central Railway Station, Chinese Cultural Centre, the People's Square and Shwedagon Pagoda.

They crew will shoot scenes in Mandalay including Mahagandaryon Monastery.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)



Chinese documentary film team shoots Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee building. **PHOTO: MNA**

Constitutional Tribunal of Union offers Waso robes to members of Sangha



The ninth Waso robes offering ceremony of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union is in progress at the Constitutional Tribunal of Union Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

CONSTITUTIONAL Tribunal of the Union offered Waso robes to members of Sangha yesterday at the office No.54 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ninth Waso robe offering ceremony of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union was attended by Chairman U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, members U Tin Maung Myint, U Myint Win, U Khin Maung Cho, Daw Khin Htay Kywe, Daw Hla Myo Nwe, U Kyaw San and staff from the office.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Myint Htoo Tha Monastery Sayadaw, and listened to the parittas recited by the members of Sangha. They then offered Waso robes to the members of Sangha.

Afterwards, the members of Sangha were offered with meal (soon). — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Workshop on E-commerce for Trade Negotiators held in Nay Pyi Taw

A WORKSHOP on E-commerce for Trade Negotiators was held at Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The purpose of the workshop is to build capacity of staff so that Myanmar can catch up with other ASEAN countries in implementing projects included in ASEAN economic community 2025.

At the event, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, U Thar Oo said that this workshop aims at developing digital technology and E-commerce, rising standards of national level grand strategy on development and Part of that E-Commerce plays in Myanmar's Economy and leveling up Cross Border E-commerce and collaboration within ASEAN .

Ministry of Transport and Communications aims at developing digital economy. With this aim, they are taking charge of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership(RCEP) and ASEAN Coordinating Committee on E-commerce (ACCEC). In Myanmar, they are working with Digital Economic Development Committee.



Deputy Minister for Transportation and Communications U Thar Oo presents Letter of acknowledgement to participants at the workshop on E-commerce for Trade Negotiators in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

They are also managing The ICT and E-commerce Working Committee, a committee for executing aims of ACE 2025. The workshop was held by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Economic Research institute for ASEAN and East Asia(ERIA) under the leadership of Ministry of Transport and Communications.

At the workshop, officials of the Ministry of Commerce, UNCTAD, ERIA, and private organizations discussed development of global and ASEAN digital technology and E-commerce, Myanmar's National Grand Strategy on development and part of E-commerce in it and developing cross border E-commerce and collaboration with in ASEAN.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 116/2019

10th Waxing of Waso, 1381ME
(11 July 2019)

Defence Services Personnel representative substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute one Defence Services Personnel Representative who is a parliamentarian, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following Pyithu Hluttaw representative shown on the left column under the Notification 61/2018 of the commission dated 15-5-2018 with the one shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representative of the Pyithu Hluttaw to be substituted was nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second Multi-party General Election held on 8 November 2015.

BC 28666	BC 19768
Lt-Col Thant Zaw	Lt-Col Than Oo Lwin

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 118/2019

10th Waxing of Waso, 1381 ME
(11 July, 2019)

Permission to register as a political party

Chin National League For Democracy Party headquartered at No.1097, at Pyidaungsu Road at 45 Ward in Dagon Myothit (north) Township, Yangon Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 11 July 2019.

The registration number of Chin National League For Democracy Party is 116.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 120/2019

10th Waxing of Waso, 1381 ME
(11 July, 2019)

Permission to register as a political party

Mon Unity Party headquartered at No 324, 22nd Street at Myaing Tharyar Ward in Mawlamyine, Mon State, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 11 July 2019.

The registration number of Mon Unity Party is 117.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Ministry of Border Affairs, SWISSAID sign MoU on community-based development projects

DEPARTMENT for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, Ministry of Border Affairs, and Swiss Foundation for Development Cooperation-SWISSAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding-MoU yesterday at the office of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the signing ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, the Union Minister for Border Affairs, first delivered opening speech, and Ms Claire Elizabeth Light, the Country Representative of SWISSAID, explained about the plans for development projects included in the MoU.

Afterwards, U Ye Naing, the Director-General of Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, and Country Representative of SWISSAID signed the MoU.

With the cooperation between Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and SWISSAID from 2001 to date, five levels of community-based all-round development plan that includes long-term agricultural sector sustainability, women's development and gender sector, community-based savings programme and infrastructure construction projects, were carried out in Kachin and Shan states with the use of SWISSAID fund US$ 8.5 million.

According to the MoU, the sixth level of community-based all-round development plan will be implemented in Kachin and Shan states with the use of over US$ 3 million from 2019 to 2022. The sixth level all-round development projects will be beneficial for 34,360 local ethnic people from 195 villages in 16 townships.

Officials from Ministry of Border Affairs will also be in cooperation to successfully implement the projects.



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung attends the MoU signing ceremony between Ministry of Border Affairs and SWISSAID in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The signing ceremony was attended Lt-Gen Ye Aung, the Union Minister for Border Affairs, Ms Claire Elizabeth Light, the Country Representative of SWISSAID and officials.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

UNSG's Special Envoy meets with local people in Myebon Tsp

SPECIAL Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener, and delegation, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Phone Tint, yesterday met with displaced people of IDP camp in Myebon Township, Rakhine State.



UN Secretary-General Special Envoy Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener meets with people of IDP camp in Myebon Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO; MNA**

Firstly, the Special Envoy and delegation met with, the Rakhine ethnic people who are displaced from their natives by conflicts happened in 2012 and are now living at the government-constructed housings, at the office of the leader of Kan Tha Htwet Ward in Myebon Township. During the meeting, they interviewed the people about the accommodation, food and other needs, and also gave words of encouragement to improve education, health, social and businesses.

Afterwards, the Special Envoy and delegation met with Rakhine young women association at the office of the Myebon Township rural development department.

The delegation, accompanied by the deputy minister and state minister, also visited the IDP camp in Taungpaw Ward, Myebon Township, and interviewed about the conditions of accommodation, food, education and healthcare service. They then met with women and young women at the women centre in the camp.

They then returned to Sittway, and met with Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla at the Rakhine State Hluttaw in Sittway Town. The Special Envoy and delegation also met with women organizations in Sittway at the Royal Sittwe Hotel in Sittway Town.—MNA ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Flood rescue operations undertaken in Waingmaw, Myitkyina

THE authorities provided the necessary aid and relief to flood victims in Waingmaw and Myitkyina townships of Kachin State on 10 July.

According to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, water levels in the Ayeyawady River reached 1,001 cm in the morning on 10 July and climbed to the danger mark of 1,081 cm in the afternoon in Myitkyina Township of Kachin State.

The high water levels in the Ayeyawady River led to heavy flooding in the wards of Myitkyina Township. Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Nay Lin Tun, U Zaw Win Tun, the Director of the Kachin State Fire Services Department, and concerned officials inspected the flooded areas and jointly participated in resettlement activities.

A temporary relief camp has been set up at the Aungzeya monastery in Kyatpaungchan ward of Myitkyina Town, and 273 people from 61 households have been shifted to the camp. A total of 205 flood-affected people from Legone ward are currently being provided shelter at the Myasedi monastery.

Meanwhile, in Waingmaw, 125 people are being provided temporary shelter at the high school in Ward 2. The Meteorology and Hydrology Department is planning to issue hourly updates on the level of water in the river to the public.—U Win Naing ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Firemen using a boat to help residents cross a flooded area.
PHOTO: U WIN NAING

Union Minister for Border Affairs receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung received Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai yesterday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to peace and stability and development in border areas, human resources development of national races youths, and socioeconomic development of people in border regions.

They then discussed matters related to implementing peace and national reconciliation processes, Rakhine State's peace, stability, development and repatriation of displaced people, and cooperation in development works in Kachin and Shan states.

They also openly discussed future bilateral cooperation matters including the People's Republic of China's US$ 30 million assistance to Ministry of Border Affairs to carry out development projects border region in three year.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr Pe Myint discusses community centres, media ethics at meeting

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received trainees undertaking the Media and Information Literacy Course No.1, conducted by the Information and Public Relations Department, yesterday afternoon at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the course came about due to the requirements of the present time. "It has been designed to provide a better understanding of the current situation for more effective work," he said.

"It is impossible to survive if one doesn't adapt to the current situation and do one's best. Thus, constant study is necessary," he said.

He also stressed the need to successfully establish community centres in regions and states and to make the best use of the centres.

At the centers housed at the Information and Public Relations Departments in regions and states, talk shows and reading programs are being organized, he said.

Arrangements must be made at the centres to attract people and help them discuss social, economic, and political affairs, said the Union Minister.

He also urged the trainees to attach great importance to accuracy and journalistic ethnics when they write news stories.

"The purpose of the course is to promote critical thinking as to what to believe and what not to believe in news. It is important of making collaborative efforts to attract public interest in elections and to ensure fair elections," he said.

Then, U Ye Naing, the Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department, spoke about the projects implemented by the department, gave a report on the Information and Public Relations Departments in the regions and states, and the activities held at community centers, such as talk shows and reading programs, in the regions and states.

Thereafter, the trainees reported the difficulties faced in organizing talk shows and reading programs at the state and regional community centers.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung discussed the need for working more closely with other departments and adapting to current developments.

The Union Minister made additional remarks and delivered the concluding speech.

The course is being conducted from 8 to 18 July at the training center at the head quarter of the Information and Public Relations Department. It has been reported that 19 assistant directors of regional and state public relation offices are attending the course. ■ *(Translated by Alphonsus)*



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets with trainees from the Media and Information Literacy Course No.1 at the Ministry of Information yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Foreign tourists seek interpreters over licensed tour guides

INTERNATIONAL tourists are opting for interpreters to show them around Myanmar instead of hiring tour guides, said U Tun Myat, executive member of Myanmar Tourist Guides Association, adding that they are conducting necessary evaluations.

He made the remark in a reply to the media after the 2019 Myanmar Chinese Tourist Guides meeting and Myanmar Travel Sector seminar.

Scrutinizing translators

U Tun Myat said hiring interpreters instead of tourist guides is not actually legal. He said explaining about the country requires highlighting its rich cultural history and this is something only their trained tourist guides can do.

He said interpreters would only translate what they saw and if the tour group leader will only talk about what they know then it would negatively affect our country's image, culture and history. He said this is why they are evaluating the interpreters.

Favouring interpreters

From the beginning of 2018, there was a decrease in European travellers and an increase in Chinese tourists who choose to hire interpreters to show them around, thus creating less job opportunities for Chinese-speaking tour guides. Internationally, tourist guides are the only people permitted to show foreign tourists around the area.

Daw Win Pa Pa, a Chinese-speaking tour guide, spoke of the unlicensed tour guides working in Myanmar. She said Chinese take UFL and Burmese courses and can speak the language moderately.

She said if unlicensed tour guides are not kept in check then those who can speak a bit of Burmese will lead their own groups and not hire local tour guides. She wished for authorities to take immediate action.

Other tour guides also voice their opinion for immigration checkpoints to check for tourist guide licenses.

Training qualified tour guides

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism regularly trains tourists guides and currently there are over 300 Chinese speaking guides out of 10,000.

The majority of Chinese tourists take the Mandalay tours while some enter Yangon. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population's statistics show that there were 112,158 Chinese tourists up to May 2018 and 266,301 for May 2019. —Htin Paw Win (Kamayut) ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

12 JULY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Plastic is the enemy of rivers

THE water that flows in rivers and lakes is an essential part of people's lives. We come into contact with water everyday and it impacts our health, livelihood and safety. Therefore, it is imperative that we maintain the cleanliness and integrity of the rivers we depend on.

The National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) held meeting 2/2019 on 9 July in Nay Pyi Taw where its Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio led discussions on developing aquatic sectors, effective management of water resources, and implementing maintenance efforts.

> Our entire lives and generations to come will be affected by the pollution that we do not control so we must see to it that we begin cleaning up our act before it is too late.

Ensuring rivers and other bodies of water flow smoothly is important as it will prevent floods during the monsoon season's heavy rains. Furthermore, they can provide safe drinking water and ample irrigation to the farmlands.

The Ayeyawady River is the lifeblood of Myanmar and the most important of all its rivers. But now, the treasured river is facing contamination and shrinking so much that it's causing loss of life. Statistics show that 119 tons of plastic waste is dumped into the Irrawaddy each day and it ranked as the 9th most contaminated river of the world in 2017.

Meanwhile, the Yangon River also gets 29 tons of garbage tossed into it every day. Plastic water bottles, plastic bags, plastic containers and Styrofoam containers make the bulk of the waste polluting the river. Plastic is dangerous for both the environment and the living creatures residing in it. The small particles of plastic can enter the respiratory system of animals and impede their breathing and also threatens the delicate ecosystem of rivers and oceans.

But the consequences don't end there. Plastic that enters into freshwater fish consumed by humans makes its way into our digestive systems and poses a danger to millions of people as well. While no immediate harm is visible to us yet, microplastics can remain in our body and cause health concerns in the long run, especially seeing that we continue to consume contaminated aquatic food every day.

We must band together to find a solution to the plastic crisis and we need that answer now more thane ever. Our entire lives and generations to come will be affected by the pollution that we do not control so we must see to it that we begin cleaning up our act before it is too late. And not only for us, our world and the living beings that share our planet are counting on us to save the environment.

We should not forget to owe Bogyoke a great debt of gratitude

By Saw Kyaw Aye
(Pabedan)

There are a lot of examples that indicate unity among people and would bring peace and stability. In Myanmar, it happened once during the reign of King Anawrahta, and again during the reign of Bayinnaung, King Alaungpaya and Hsinbyushin when Myanmar people were united.

IN our lifetime, there are mistakes and truth, good and bad deeds competing with each other. While being in a tug-of-war circumstance, a race happens to choose between two ways to follow; the nation's life-or-death decision will create a situation to emerge someone as a martyr. A martyr by the name of Bogyoke Aung San emerged in a crisis situation in Myanmar. His birthplace was Natmauk town from where the foot of Yoma mountain range was seen flat under the bright sun. In the morning, it was misty along the mountain ranges. The sun began setting in the west, with the villagers enjoying bluish and amazing background of the mountains.

Education of man's skills

As the world was imbued with graceful environments, what sort of mentality did Maung Aung San have? Myanmar had been under the yoke of imperialism during his young days. He was unhappy to hear that there were many people who had gross violations of Myanmar's good deeds. If it is accepted according to the adage: livelihood will be created by the surroundings of a man's life; in that case, Maung Aung San's birthplace, parents and relatives must be taken into consideration.

> ... leadership qualities were of immense benefits to our country. Only when the unity of ethnic nationals was attained, then our country would become prosperous, according to his views.

His surroundings would not tolerate any subjugation other than a whit. Maung Aung San grew up in these surroundings; he started schooling at Myanmar vernacular school and continued his studies in English-Myanmar school and then to the University to learn more man's skills. During the University days, he studied English, History and Politics and he graduated with Arts. That education sowed seeds in his mind that was somewhat similar to that of American citizens before US independence.

Struggles for independence

Many facts were repeatedly written about how Bogyoke struggled for independence against British and gained it through perseverance and mental strength. There are a lot of examples that indicate unity among people and would bring peace and stability. In Myanmar, it happened once during the reign of King Anawrahta, and again during the reign of Bayinnaung, King Alaungpaya and Hsinbyushin when Myanmar people were united.

Bogyoke's political and leadership qualities were of immense benefits to our country. Only when the unity of ethnic nationals was attained, then our country would become prosperous, according to his views.

During the British occupation, Myanmar was divided between the Highlanders and Myanmar Proper. The regions served the British not as the shields to protect against the outsiders, but also served as stooges for controlling internal rebellion. That is why the policy for the highlanders is an outcasting one depending on the two facts Ayeyawady valley and delta and related regions were Myanmar Proper under the British Occupation. In order to have the power at their fingertips, the British named Myanmar ethnic highlanders as Shans, Jingphos, Chins and Was, thus becoming a backward part of the country. Later their places were christened as the Regions. However, Highlanders and Myanmar Proper had to live separately.



Highly respected leader

Bogyoke's intelligence saw Myanmar's independence without the highl and was meaningless. In ancient times, a national unity among the people was by means of arms. Nowadays, organization by arms is no longer updated; things must be no longer thought of. All indigenous people in Myanmar are of the single story, day and place. In order to get the people convinced of that principle, Bogyoke went every nook and cranny of our country to deliver lectures for a unity. Wherever he went, he was highly respected by all ethnic nationals.

> In order to have the power at their fingertips, the British named Myanmar ethnic highlanders as Shans, Jingphos and Chins, thus becoming a backward part of the country.

Bogyoke won the love of indigenous people in Jinpho's Manaw Festival, Panglong Conference in Shan State, gayal meat as a gesture of peace in Falam in Chin State and New Year Festival by Karen Christian and Buddhist nationals in Hlaingbwe township. By winning the love of indigenous people of our country, Myanmar gained unity among all ethnic nationals. Goodwill does not come from a superficial impression of warmth and friendliness, but from the bottom of people's hearts. After getting the unity of Myanmar ethnic nationals, we will be on equal terms with other nationalities to solve the great world peace, thus paying the way to emerge as a Myanmar citizen. The result is due to the efforts of Bogyoke and all Myanmar nationals should not forget to owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Translated by Arakan Sein

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July on account of the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township from 4 a.m. till the completion of the ceremony.

While roads will remain closed, bypass routes will be kept open for vehicles 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.

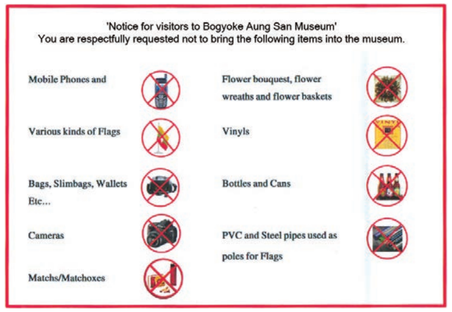
Arzarni Road, and the eastern, western, and southern archways of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, and the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will also remain closed.

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement

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

For the convenience of visitors headed to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum on Martyrs' Day (19 July), the Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed from 5 a.m. until the museum's closing time. Commuters are advised to use other routes while the road is temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement





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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Few water vessels under repair at Mandalay Yadanarbon Dockyard

ONLY a few water vessels are currently under repair at the Mandalay Yadanarbon Dockyard as some vessels have been docked after a drop in the flow of goods. The shipyard is carrying out minor and major renovations to strengthen the vessels.

At the shipyard, maritime transport operators submit requests for repair of water vessels from Inland Water Transport (IWT) to the budget, depending on their use, said U Zaw Win Myint, the Deputy Command Engineer of the shipyard.

"Currently, we are not building any water vessels. We are only servicing water vessels and carrying out minor renovations. We first target how many vessels will be repaired per year depending upon the use of the vessels. Then, we calculate the cost of repairs. The demand for water vessels for transportation has been less," he added.



Vessels docking to repair at Mandalay Yadanarbon Dockyard. **PHOTO: KHIN SAT WAI**

From January to September, 2019, the Yadanarbon Dockyard has targeted to repair nine water vessels, including from Patine, Paukton, and Pon Nyar. Currently, two water vessels owned by IWT are being repaired at the Dockyard. "The main income for the department comes from building new vessels. Conducting repairs on vessels earns us only K20,000 per day. And, the repairs can be finished within five days. Yadanarbon Dockyard is a high quality dockyard. There are some privately owned dockyards in Mingun which are carrying out repairs alone on a manageable scale," he added.

"The IWT is operating 21 motor vessels in Upper Myanmar. All water vessels are required to be repaired at the Yadanarbon Dockyard. Sometimes, the shipyard is hired to repair other privately owned motor vessels or build new ones. Building of new water vessels costs K20 million," he said. Passenger vessels need to be repaired every two years, while tug have to be repaired every five years at the Yadanarbon Dockyard.—Khin Sat Wai ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Yazagyo Dam resumes power generation, starts supplying to national grid



Aerial view of Yazagyo Dam. **PHOTO : SHIN NAY MIN (GANGAW)**

THE Yazagyo Dam, which received reduced water supply from the Nerinjara River this summer and was in danger of drying up, resumed power generation at its 2MW plant and began supplying electricity to the national grid on 9 July according to Staff officer U Myo Tun, incharge of the dam. The dam, located in the northern part of Kalay, Sagaing Region, has a storage capacity of about 52,000 acre feet. It has been filling up with silt and logs ever since a naturally formed landslide dam on Chin Hill collapsed in 2015.

The authorities have been working to provide sufficient irrigation water for plantation and electricity generation since ever water began flowing into the dam this rainy season. The dam has also begun providing irrigation water to fields through channels.

A step-by-step process was implemented and power transmission to the national grid began on 9 July, he said.

The volume of water fed into the dam by the Nerinjara River, which originates in Chin State, had decreased from over 60,000 cubic feet per second in the rainy season to 70 cubic feet this summer. — Shin Nay Min (Gangaw) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Access to public healthcare remains a challenge in Myanmar: report

EXPANDING the reach of public healthcare services remains a challenge in Myanmar, according to the 3MDG Fund report, released on 10 July.

According to the report, when the 3MDG Fund was established, Myanmar was politically isolated and investment in the country's health sector was among the lowest in the world. Barriers to quality healthcare — high costs, poor transport, stigma, low levels of health-seeking behaviour — seemed insurmountable, the report stated. The healthcare system itself needed improvement on account of infrastructure gaps, an unreliable supply chain, and limited human resources for health, it added. Challenges to healthcare access were more pronounced in areas of conflict, the report stated.

According to the report, during the operation of 3MDG Fund between 2013 and 2018, there have been many transformations in Myanmar. The health budget increased from a low starting point, but this still meant more money was spent on health, and signified a greater commitment to meet the healthcare needs of the people of Myanmar, and a concerted space for funds like 3MDG to operate with the assistance of 3MDG's donors, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the report stated.

The '3MDG End of Fund and 2018 Annual Report: Delivering Health in Changing Times' shares the accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learnt from the entire lifetime of the fund, with a specific focus on 2018. Crucial to Myanmar's accomplishments documented in the report is a focus on flexibility, responsiveness, and agility in the face of a rapidly changing context, and never straying from the core objective to bring better healthcare to the needy.

With the Ministry of Health and Sports gearing to fulfill the healthcare needs of the majority of the population, it is towards the unreached populations that the Access to Health Fund will target its efforts, the report stated. This means working to support ethnic health organizations in non-governmental controlled areas, seeking out the most vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, prisoners, and people dependent on drugs, and making sure they can access the care they need, the report stated. And, it means finding ways to continue delivering care even when conflict threatens to disrupt the health system, and understanding that health can bring people together, and good health is central to social cohesion and peace, the report stated, adding that this work has already begun.—GNLM ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Four firms submit request for proposal to foreign bank selection group

FOUR firms out of eight consulting subsidiaries in Myanmar have submitted Requests for Proposal to provide consultation services for the selection of foreign banks. The RFPs were invited as the Central Bank of Myanmar is moving forward with the liberalization process.

Following the announcement inviting RFPs, Deloitte Touche Myanmar Vigour Advisory Limited, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) Myanmar Co Ltd, EY UTW Advisory Limited, and Roland Berger Co Ltd submitted their requests for proposal to the Foreign Bank Selection Group on 24 June.

One of the firms will be selected soon based on a 15-point criteria set by the Foreign Bank Selection Group, and the final selection will be submitted at the upcoming meeting of the group.

At present, foreign banks can provide only corporate banking services in the country, and they have been restricted from providing retail banking services and direct lending to the public. They are not allowed to take immovable assets as collateral. Financing instruments include opening letter of credit, bill discount, and bill purchase. Lenders offer loans against fixed deposits.

The 13 foreign bank branches that have been permitted by the Central Bank of Myanmar so far are MUFG Bank Ltd, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, United Overseas Bank Limited, Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank), Mizuho Bank Limited, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited, The Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV), Shinhan Bank, E.Sun Commercial Bank Limited, and the State Bank of India.

The CBM has been working to open up the banking sector. It granted licences to the first nine foreign bank branches in 2015, four licenses in 2016, and more licenses are expected to be granted this year.—Mon Mon ■

(Translated by EMM)





Farmers plant rice seedlings in a paddy field on the outskirts of Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Weakness in rice processing capacity hindering exports: traders

By Nyein Nyein

WEAKNESSES in the rice processing capacity, poor logistics, and supply chain infrastructure are impeding exports, said U Than Oo, the secretary of the Bayintnaung rice depot.

"There is a mismatch between the capacity of rice mills and demand. Rice mills do not have the capacity to produce enough rice to meet the demand, despite a large supply of raw material. Poor processing technology is hindering the export process," said U Than Oo.

"Weakness in the manufacturing capacity is leading to stockpiling of raw materials and posing obstacles to exportation. Only well-milled rice varieties are traded in the domestic market, and rice needs to be processed — refined and polished — for export," he said.

"Earlier, only well-milled rice was shipped to African countries at a cheap price. This year, sortexed rice is being traded. However, the capacity of rice mill machines is limited when it comes to processing rice and producing sortexed rice, which is devoid of impurities, discoloration, and broken grains. All the mill machines in Yangon are busy," said U Than Oo.

At present, rice mill machines are running 24 hours, and ships are docked at the port to load the rice, according to the rice market.

The rice millers have sought government loans to operate the rice mills using advanced technology and deregulation of rules and regulations.

"Most rice mills are executing milling business on a manageable scale. We require large-scale production, like international producers. If rice can be produced in a strategic location, it can reduce certain costs. For example, rice is supplied from Shwebo Town to Yangon and Mandalay markets. Then, the rice is processed again in Yangon. If the finished rice products are directly loaded onto ships, it will help reduce logistics and supply chain costs," said U Than Oo.

Myanmar exports rice through the border gates as well as via maritime trade. However, agricultural products trade with China through the border gates has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade. This has resulted in a drastic drop in rice exports through the border. Therefore, rice traders have been mainly relying on maritime trade.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 28 June, 2019, over 561,364.8 tons of rice, worth US$168.78 million, was exported through the border gates, while maritime exports crossed 1 million tons, valued at $363.19 million, data from the Myanmar Rice Federation showed.

In the nine months since October in the current fiscal year, over 1.7 million metric tons of rice and broken rice were shipped to foreign countries, with an estimated value of $531.98 million. ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

MFF to send trade mission to China to resolve aquatic exports issues

By Aye Yamone

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation is planning to send a trade mission to China to hold discussions with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) and resolve aquatic exports issues.

Five representatives from the fisheries federation, the Fisheries Department, the Customs Department, and the Trade Department will be part of the mission.

"All officials from the concerned departments have agreed to go on the trade mission for holding discussions with the export and import organizations from China so trade can be conducted with the neighbouring country officially.

To be able to do so quickly, four or five officials from the fisheries federation will follow the trade mission. The GACC is overseeing not only export-import matters but also food safety in China. Previously, the AQSIQ had this jurisdiction in every sector, but now the responsibility has been handed to GACC for all sectors. So, we need to meet with the GACC," said Dr Toe Nandar Tin, senior vice president, MFF.

While the MFF had sent a letter to GACC, requesting a meeting with the concerned officials, on 5 September, 2018 through Myanmar's commercial attaché in China, the MFF has not able to implement the plan yet.

Currently, Myanmar fish need to be sent to GACC along with the guarantee that the fish and prawns meant for export are free from disease. Then, China will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Myanmar, allowing it to export fish legally.

To boost trade, the MFF has sought a preliminary meeting to discuss resolving the difficulties encountered whenever Myanmar aquatic products are exported to China, as well as to ensure smooth trade with China. The federation made the request at the 28th regular meeting held between the private sector development committee and private entrepreneurs on 29 June.

Myanmar aquatic products are being exported to more than 40 countries including China, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Japan. Myanmar striped catfish are demanded mainly by China. ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

UN rights council orders 'report' on Philippine drug war

GENEVA — The UN Human Rights Council on Thursday narrowly approved a resolution mandating a "comprehensive" international review of the drug war in the Philippines, which watchdogs say has claimed more than 20,000 lives.

The resolution had faced strong pushback from President Rodrigo Duterte's government, which counters that the toll has been exaggerated — its estimates say 5,300 have died — and that the crackdown enjoys widespread popular support.

Duterte's three-year so-called drug war has unleashed a surge of bloodshed in the Asian island nation, with reports of nightly slayings of suspects by police and masked gunmen.

Activists said they had initially hoped the UN would demand a formal "inquiry", but compromised on calling for a "report" to win a majority.

The text, proposed by Iceland, was backed by 18 states in the 47-member council, with 14 nations voting against and 15 abstentions.

It gives UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet a year to prepare a "comprehensive written report on the situation of human rights in the Philippines".

Bachelet's spokeswoman, RavinaShamdasani, said the report would offer an opportunity to "get clarity around the contested facts, figures and circumstances" of the drug war.

Manila dismissed the vote.

"The Philippines rejects this resolution," foreign secretary TeodoroLocsin said in a statement.

"We will not accept a politically partisan and one-sided resolution, so detached from the truth on the ground," he added, warning "there will be consequences."

Speaking shortly before the resolution was approved,Duterte called the text "crazy" but said he would consider allowing UN rights staff into the country.

"Let them state their purpose and I will review it," he said. When then UN rights chief ZeidRa'ad Al Hussein raised concern about the drug war in 2016, Duterte called him an "idiot" and a "son of a bitch". —AFP ■



The so-called drug war launched three years ago in the Philippines has unleashed a surge of bloodshed. **PHOTO: AFP**



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Denmark's Prime Minister MetteFrederiksen gave a joint news conference. **PHOTO: AFP**

Merkel sits during anthems after shaking spells

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday insisted she took care of her health after remaining seated during national anthems at an official ceremony, in a rare change of protocol apparently to prevent a repeat of uncontrollable shaking.

With questions swirling about Merkel's health after she suffered three episodes of shaking in public in less than a month, the veteran leader opted to play safe. After greeting Denmark's new Prime Minister MetteFrederiksen at the portico of the chancellery, a smiling Merkel walked her over to a podium where both leaders took their seats before the anthems played.

Asked by journalists if she had seen a doctor over the shaking incidents and about the results of any medical checks, Merkel declined to give specifics.

"You can assume that firstly, I know the responsibilities of my office and that I therefore act accordingly with regard to my health," Merkel said at the joint news conference with Frederiksen. "And secondly, you can also assume that as a person, I have a strong personal interest in being in good health and that I take care of my health," she said.

Standing next to her at the press conference, Frederiksen said she found the chancellor "as strong and competent as before I came to Berlin today."

'Live with it'

The unusual decision to use seats came a day after a similar ceremony when the German chancellor was seen shaking involuntarily for the third time.

On Wednesday, Merkel began trembling as national anthems were being played at the reception of Finnish Prime Minister AnttiRinne.

Just over an hour later, she attended a press conference as planned and told journalists that her health was no cause for concern.—AFP ■

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M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (926S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (926S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Trump escalates war on social media at White House 'summit'

WASHINGTON — Escalating his attacks on Silicon Valley, President Donald Trump hinted Thursday at new regulations on social media as he gathered critics of major online platforms at a White House "summit."

Trump invited conservative activists who have been curbed or banned on social media to press his argument that big social networks are discriminating against conservatives, notwithstanding his large online following.

"A big subject today at the White House Social Media Summit will be the tremendous dishonesty, bias, discrimination and suppression practiced by certain companies. We will not let them get away with it much longer," Trump tweeted.

The comments stoked fears that the White House may seek to eliminate the legal framework that protects online services from liability over harmful content posted by others but hosted on their platforms.



US President Donald Trump is escalating his attacks on social media, alleging bias and discrimination as he gathered with critics of Big Tech at a White House 'summit'. **PHOTO: AFP**

Digital rights activists and others warned that removing the protection — codified as Section 230 of a 1996 law — could undermine free speech protections and harm the internet ecosystem. "The government shouldn't require — or coerce — intermediaries to remove constitutionally protected speech that the government cannot prohibit directly," said a letter signed by 27 civic and digital rights organizations and 50 legal scholars.

The letter said such demands would violate the US constitution's First Amendment on free expression. "Also, imposing broad liability for user speech incentivizes services to err on the side of taking down speech, resulting in overbroad censorship — or even avoid offering speech forums altogether," it added. Trump has repeatedly claimed that firms such as Facebook, Google and Twitter — who were not invited to the summit — discriminate against him and his supporters, even though his own Twitter account has nearly 62 million followers.—AFP ■

German arms exports increase significantly in H1 2019

BERLIN — The German government approved arms exports worth 5.3 billion euros (5.9 billion US dollars) in the first half of 2019, which was more than in the entire previous year, official data revealed on Thursday.

Compared to the first six months of the previous year, exports more than doubled in the first half of 2019, according to the response by the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy to an inquiry by Green party parliamentarian Omid Nouripour sent to Xinhua.

Over the past three years, the volume of German arms exports had declined steadily. In 2017 exports were still worth 6.24 billion euros but dropped to 4.8 billion euros last year.

At 40 percent, the share of German arms exports to countries outside NATO and the European Union (EU) in the first half of 2019 was lower than recent years, when it reached well over 50 percent.

One third of the total export volume was accounted for by Hungary, which is both a member of the EU and NATO. German arms exports to Hungary totaled 1.76 billion euros.

In May this year, Hungarian Prime Minister Orban announced that his government would double spending on the armed forces. "Hungary's defense is not a task for NATO or the EU, but for us. There can be no strong Hungary without a strong army," said Orban.

According to the German economy ministry, the second most important recipient country of arms exports in the first half of 2019 was Egypt, at 801.8 million euros, followed by South Korea at 277.7 million euros.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the sixth most important recipient of German arms exports in the first half of this year at 206.1 million euros.

Both Egypt and the UAE are involved in the ongoing war in Yemen. Saudi Arabia had formed a coalition of predominantly Arab countries in 2015 to support the Yemeni government in its fight against the Iranian-sponsored Shiite Huthi rebels.

The German government set itself the goal in March 2018 of severely restricting arms exports to the states directly involved in the Yemen war.

Germany's arms deliveries to Egypt and the UAE "violate coalition agreements and arms export guidelines", said Omid Nouripour, Green Party spokesperson for foreign policy.

"These record figures make absurd the declarations of a restrictive arms export policy", said Nouripour.

Only two weeks ago, the German government had set itself stricter rules for the approval of arms exports. The new rules prohibit the sale of small arms to countries outside the EU and NATO.—Xinhua ■



The UK's Eurofighter Typhoon military has parts made in Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Slain Danish student's mother urges death sentences in Morocco trial

SALÉ (Morocco) – The mother of a Danish student beheaded along with another Scandinavian woman while hiking in Morocco's High Atlas mountains called Thursday for the suspected jihadist killers to face the death penalty as their trial neared its end.

"The most just thing would be to give these beasts the death penalty they deserve, I ask that of you," said Helle Petersen in a letter read by her lawyer in an anti-terrorist court in Sale, near the capital Rabat. "My life was destroyed the moment that two policemen came to my door on December 17 to announce my daughter's death," the mother of 24-year-old Louisa Vesterager Jespersen wrote in the letter, read out in total silence and with the defendants' faces impassive. Journalists flocked to the court where the trial of the 24 suspects reopened for what could be its last day, in a case that has shocked the North African country.–AFP ■

Huge fire erupts at power station outside Moscow

MOSCOW – A huge blaze broke out Thursday at a gas-fired power station just outside Moscow sending a plume of smoke and flames 50 metres (165 feet) into the sky, Russian television showed.

The fire at Power Station No. 27 broke out around 11:00 am on Thursday around 20 kilometres (13 miles) from Moscow.

The emergencies ministry said that 11 people received medical treatment including five people with minor burns but no one was hospitalised. There was no risk of the fire spreading to nearby residential areas, it said.

The energy ministry said a high-pressure gas pipe supplying fuel was burning outside the power station itself. Russian television reported that the cause of the fire "could have been an explosion".–AFP ■

ASEAN defence ministers discuss South China Sea in annual meeting

BANGKOK — Defence ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Thursday exchanged views on the situation in the South China Sea in which some members of the grouping and China are at odds.

A joint declaration signed by the ministers after the meeting said they commended the first maritime exercise between ASEAN and China conducted last year, and welcomed the ASEAN-US maritime exercise to be held later this year.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit-Wongsuwon, who chaired the meeting, said at a press conference that the ministers reiterated the importance of an early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea on a mutually agreed timeline soon.

The ministers also reaffirmed the importance of seeking a peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law and avoiding actions that could further complicate the situation in the South China Sea.



Defence ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. **PHOTO: KYODONEWS**

Among six concept papers adopted by the ministers is one covering the terms of references tied to the "Our Eyes" initiative for sharing strategic information on terrorism and other non-traditional security threats.

The also signed the Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Sustainable Security, which emphasizes the importance of working together to safeguard security and stability in the region, and their commitment to exploring new mutually beneficial areas of cooperation.

Thailand, which holds the rotating chair of ASEAN this year, proposed new initiatives including improving the role of ASEAN defense establishments in supporting border management to address cross-border challenges.

ASEAN consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam.—Kyodo News ■

Bangkok's skytrain system takes trial runs on northern extension route

BANGKOK — Bangkok's BTS skytrain system is conducting trial runs on daily basis on a stretch of its northern extension route from 8 July.

The BTS Green Line extension route between Mor Chit station and Lard Prao Intersection station is scheduled to open for daily commuters on 11 August, confirmed SurapongLaoha-unya, director of Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Co., which runs the BTS skytrain system.



Bangkok's elevated transit system, the BTS Skytrain. **PHOTO: AFP**

BTS is conducting trial runs on daily basis between the two stations for a one-month time during which passengers are provided free rides.

The Green Line northern stretch is primarily designed to alleviate congestion of an estimated 40,000 daily commuters at Mor Chit station.

It is designed to be stretched further north from Mor Chit station to Kaset Intersection station passing Lard Prao Intersection station within this year and then to KhuKhot station in PathumThani province by the end of next year, according to the BTS Co. president.

The BTS skytrain fare from Bang Wa station in the Thonburi side of Bangkok to KhuKot station would be in a maximum of 65 baht (about 2.10 US dollars), he said.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia's Bali court sentence Russian man over smuggling orangutan

JAKARTA — Indonesia's Denpasar court in Bali sentenced Russian man Andrei Zhetkov one-year imprisonment over a violation of wildlife conservancy codes on Thursday after his attempt to smuggle a protected animal, an orangutan.

The 28-year-old Zhetkov received a higher sentence than the six-month imprisonment given by the prosecutor in the previous trial.

"We hereby hand down one-year imprisonment against the defendant which will be deducted with his detention period," head of the judging panel BambangEkaputra said.

Besides the jail sentence, Zhetkov was also fined 10 million rupiahs (about 710 US dollars) which can be replaced by two more months of imprisonment if he could not afford the fine, Bambang said.—Xinhua ■

Train collision kills 13, injures over 70 in eastern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — A passenger train rammed into a freight train in Pakistan's eastern city of Rahim Yar Khan on Thursday morning, killing 13 people and injuring over 70 others, officials said.

District Police Officer of Rahim Yar Khan Umar FarooqSalamat said that women and children were among the deceased.

The official said that apparently the accident happened when the signal went wrong on the track, leading the passenger train to go on to the loop line where the freight train was parked. Railways officials said the passenger train Akbar Express was heading to southwest Quetta city from eastern Lahore when it collided with the freight train near the Walhar railway station in Rahim Yar Khan of Punjab province. Following the accident, police and rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to nearby hospitals. Doctors said the death toll might further rise as twelve of the injured were in critical condition.—Xinhua ■

Myanmar to face Viet Nam in AFF Women's Championship 2019

THE Myanmar women's national football team will play against team Viet Nam in the AFF Women's Championship 2019, which is scheduled to be held in Chonburi, Thailand from 15 to 27 August, according to the ASEAN Football Federation.

The 10th edition of the championship will be mainly organised by the ASEAN Football Federation, said AFF officials.

Myanmar is in Group B with Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Indonesia.

Group A comprises host Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Timor-Leste.

The first Group B match will take place between Myanmar and Indonesia at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 16 August at the Stadium of Institute of Physical Education in Chonburi.

In the second group match, Myanmar will take on Cambodia at 5:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 18 August at the Stadium of Institute of Physical Education in Chonburi.

In the third group match, Myanmar will face Viet Nam at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 20 August at the Stadium of Institute of Physical Education in Chonburi.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar women's national football team seen at an international football match. **PHOTO: MFF**

Mandalay youth teams to meet in U-14 football tourney final

THE Mandalay Youth Football Team (A) will play against the Mandalay Youth Football Team (B) in the final of the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 today at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

In the first match of the semi-finals, held yesterday at the same venue, the Mandalay Youth Football Team (A) beat the Kyaukse Youth Football Team by a decisive 10-1 result.

In the second semi-final match yesterday, the Mandalay Youth Football Team (B) beat the Social Welfare Youth Football Team by 4-2.

The final match will be held at 3 pm today at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, and an awards ceremony will be held afterwards, according to the Myanmar National League.

The Kyaukse Youth Football Team and the Social Welfare Youth Football Team will compete for the third place at 8 am at the same venue, according to a statement from the Myanmar National League.

The tournament's organizers have invited football fans to the match via the Myanmar National League's social media page, and fans will be allowed to watch the final and third place matches free of charge, officials stated.

The matches will be also streamed live on the Facebook page of the Myanmar National League, officials stated.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



The Mandalay Youth Football Team (B) pose for a group photo before their semi-final match against the Social Welfare Youth Football Team yesterday at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNL**

Federer, Nadal braced for Wimbledon epic

LONDON — Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal battle for a place in the Wimbledon final on Friday, 11 years after they mesmerised Centre Court in a Grand Slam championship match widely regarded as the greatest ever played.

Nadal emerged triumphant that day, winning in five sets in a four-hour 48-minute epic of fluctuating fortunes that stretched out over seven hours because of constant, momentum-shifting rain interruptions.

The Spaniard won 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-7 (8/10), 9-7 as the clock ticked past 9pm and with the famous stadium in near-darkness.

Over a decade later, the sport's two most successful players now have 38 Grand Slam titles between them and more than $100 million in prize money each.

Nadal, the 2008 and 2010 champion at Wimbledon, has the edge overall, leading his great rival and friend 24-15 and 10-3 at the Slams.

However, it is eight-time champion Federer who just edges their Wimbledon head-to-head 2-1 after winning the 2006 and 2007 finals before Nadal famously broke the spell in 2008.

Nadal, who demolished Federer in straight sets in the semi-finals at Roland Garros last month on his way to a 12th title in Paris, admits his game has developed since 2008.

Mostly, that's due to his age as well as the desperate need to protect his creaking knees which so often conspired against him on the low-bouncing lawns of the All England Club.

"I am running less so I need to serve better. I probably cannot play 20 weeks a year any more,' said 33-year-old Nadal.

"I am serving better. I am hitting the backhand better. Maybe volleying better, slicing better."

In terms of the bare statistics, there is little to choose between them.

Nadal has served up 47 aces so far and been broken just four times; Federer has 42 aces, dropping serve on only three occasions.

The Spanish third seed has yet to face a seeded player and has only been truly tested once, in his four-set second round victory over Nick Kyrgios in what was comfortably the tournament's most bad-tempered match.

Federer, 37, is the oldest man in the semi-finals of a Slam since 39-year-old Jimmy Connors at the 1991 US Open.

He is in his 13th semi-final at the tournament and 45th at the majors. In a career illuminated by landmarks, he became the first man to register 100 match wins at a single Slam when he came back from a set down to beat Kei Nishikori in the quarter-finals.—AFP ■