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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor receives UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener at 4:00 pm on 15 July 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Special Envoy shared her experience of her recent visit to Rakhine State and briefed the State Counsellor of her work plan including submission of the report on the situation of Myanmar to the United Nations General Assembly. They also exchanged views on stepping up efforts for commencement of the repatriation process, social cohesion among the different communities in Rakhine State, improving the ground situation including ensuring security and greater freedom of movement, providing better access to basic needs such as education, and health care for all communities.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA ■

Aid provided to flood victims in upper Myanmar

NEARLY 1,700 people from 556 households in Hsinbo, Myitkyina District, Kachin State, have been evacuated from areas flooded by the swollen Ayeyawady River.

The water level in the river crossed the danger mark of 307 cm on 14 July and inundated low-lying areas of the town.

The flood victims have been accommodated at temporary shelters set up in the highland areas and monasteries.

Eight schools have been closed on account of the floods.

Aid, including food and water, has been distributed to flood victims by volunteers, including departmental officials and the Tatmadawmen.

Htigyaing

The water level in the Ayeyawady River was 16 meters below the danger mark of 724 cm in Htigyaing, Sagaing Region yesterday.

The swollen river has forced over 107 people from 25 households to shift to the temporary shelter set up at the Shwesigon Pagoda.

At 1:30 pm yesterday, the water level in the Ayeyawady River was 2 feet more than the danger mark at Bhamo. It may fall below the danger level during the next two days.

The water level in the Ayeyawady River was one-and-a-half feet above the danger mark at Shwegu yesterday.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Thirteenth session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw begins

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commenced the first day of its 13th regular session at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaker delivers opening speech

In his opening speech, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said this session of the Hluttaw will discuss and approve the essential National Planning Bill, Union Budget Bill and Union Revenue Bill for financial year 2019-2020, as is done every year.

He said the relevant Union-level officialls will submit the National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill to the assembly on behalf of the Union Government during this meeting and will be distributed to each Hluttaw representative as well.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Speaker instructed the joint committees who will be reviewing the bills to do so with strict adherence to the existing laws, bylaws, policies and other regulations. He said it is important to finish the review process within the allotted period for the new financial year but it is equally important for it to be fair and accurate.

He told the Joint Bill Committee, Joint Public Accounts Committee and Joint Assessment Committee to emphasize hard work on submitting the reports on their designated dates.

He said there is still work to be done on amending the 2008 Constitution in addition to debating bills and other affairs in their order or priority in the various Hluttaws.

The Speaker said there were 325 townships that received allocations from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Fund for 2018-2019 FY. He said 114 townships out of that number submitted to change the nature of their work, as of 30 June 2019, and permission for them has been granted. The Speaker said so far 15 townships have submitted completion of their work and urged the remaining townships to speed up their processes in order to finish their work during the permitted financial year. He added that if the work could not be completed due to various reasons then the extra funds remaining should be promptly returned to the relevant department.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session commences

THE first-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning where Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered a message of greeting, new Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were sworn in, Hluttaw briefed about trips made by Hluttaw representatives while the Hluttaw was in recess and forming of Advisory Group on capacity raising Hluttaw affairs, asterisk marked questions raised and answered, a motion tabled and Hluttaw informed of receipt of a bill.

Swearing in of Hluttaw representatives and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker message

After four new Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were sworn in Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered a message of greeting and remarked that 14 bills will be discussed during this Hluttaw session. A total of 15 motions, 12 new and 3 motions from the 12th regular session will be discussed. 109 asterisk marked questions will be raised and out of 220 questions from early sessions that remain to be answered115 will be handled in this session while 105 will be answered in writing said the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hluttaw briefed and put on record trips made by Hluttaw representatives

After the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered his message the Hluttaw was briefed about following trips made by Hluttaw representatives while the Hluttaw was in recess between the 12th and 13th regular session.

1. A Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat attended ASEAN-AIPA Interface meeting held during 34th ASEAN Summit Meeting from 21 to 23 June in Thailand.

2. A Myanmar delegation consisting of Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Hla Hsan led by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Myint Thein of Wetlet constituency attended 108th Session of the International Labour Conference held from 10 to 21 June in Switzerland.

SEE PAGE-6

Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session holds first day meeting

THE 13th regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its first-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting a new Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative was sworn-in, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker delivers a welcoming speech, five asterisk marked questions on construction sector were raised and answered and a bill discussed.

Asterisk marked questions and answer session

After Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker delivers a welcoming speech and a new Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative was sworn-in, asterisk marked question and answer session was held.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the asterisk marked questions and answer session U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4, U Khun Thein Pe of Shan State constituency 9, U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3, U Baw Rae Soe Wai of Kayah State constituency 3 and U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency 12 raised questions on upgrading a village road in Monywa District, Sagaing Region, constructing bridges and box culverts on a village road and upgrading another road in Hsihseng Township, Shan State, plan to construct a bridge over a river on the border of India and Myanmar in Thantlang Township, Chin State, plan to upgrade Loikaw-Dimawhso-Prusho road section and plan to construct a bridge over Namma Creek in Wa Self-Administered Division Hopan District, Shan State.

The questions were answered by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw.

Discussion of Education Research, Project and Training bill

After the asterisk-marked question and answer session U Win Myint of Magway Region constituency 8 discussed the Education Research, Project and Training bill. The second-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session will be continued on Thursday 18 July 2019. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Vice C-in-C of Defence Services receives UN Secretary General's Special Envoy

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener yesterday at the Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they openly discussed evacuation and emergency aid provided by Tatmadaw members in current flood-hit areas, activities of AA group to disrupt the stability in Rakhine State, the Tatmadaw's services in Rakhine State in accordance with the law to provide security and stability to the state, cooperation between the Tatmadaw and CTFMR in preventing recruitment of minors for military service, measures taken to accept the displaced persons who left Rakhine State and allowing humanitarian organizations to visit conflict areas in Rakhine State. — MNA ■

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Vice Senior General Soe Win meets with United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Union Minister for International Cooperation receives the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin shakes hands with Mrs. Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for the Ministry of International Cooperation, received Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, at 5pm yesterday, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed the matters pertaining to the development in Rakhine State, upcoming reports to be submitted at the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, cooperation with the office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General in Nay Pyi Taw, progress on cooperation with ASEAN, Myanmar's readiness to receive returnees from Bangladesh, the planned visit of a Myanmar High Level delegation to Bangladesh to share information about the repatriation arrangements and the invitation extended to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh to Myanmar to discuss the repatriation process. — MNA ■

Aid provided to flood victims in upper Myanmar

FROM PAGE-1

The level is likely to rise further by about half a foot over the next one day, and remain above the danger level.

The water level in the Ayeyawady River has crossed the danger mark by about 1 foot at Katha. It may rise further by about one foot during the next two days, and remain above the danger level.

The Meteorological and Hydrological Department has advised people settled near riverbanks and low-lying areas in Shwegu, Katha, and Khamti townships, to take precautionary measures. — IPRD ■

Flood victims seen at temporary shelter at the Shwesigon Pagoda in Htigyaing, Katha District, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Myanmar Red Cross members carrying aids using a boat to help residents affected by flood in Sinbo. **PHOTO: KACHIN STATE IPRD**

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 14:00 hrs MST on 15-7-2019)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the 1:30 MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River has exceeded by about (2) feet at Bhamo above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the 1:30 MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River has exceeded by about (1½) feet at Shwegu above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level about (½) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level. According to the 1:30 MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River has exceeded by about (1) foot at Katha above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the 1:30 MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River has exceeded by about (2½) feet at Hkamti above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Shwegu, Katha and Khamti townships, to take precaution measure.—DMH ■

Union Election Commission office holds Waso robes offering ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw

The congregation led by UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, wife Daw Aye Thida is seen at the 7th Waso robe offering ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Office of the Union Election Commission held 7th Waso robe offering ceremony at the hall of UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Chairman of UEC U Hla Thein and his wife Daw Aye Thida, members of UEC and staff from UEC office donated Waso robes and offertories to members of Sangha.

The event was graced by Sayadaw and members of Sangha led by Chairman of Zeyathiri Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Yadanarsan Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Ganthavacakapandita Bhaddanta Viseittathaya.

During the ceremony, Chairman of UEC and the congregation were received the Five Precepts given by Sayadaw Ganthavacakapandita Bhaddanta Viseittathaya, after which they listened to the parittas recited by Members of Sangha.

Afterwards, Chairman of UEC and his wife, members of UEC, and Director-General offered Waso robes and offertories to members of Sangha, and the congregation listened to the sermon delivered by Sayadaw Ganthavacakapandita Bhaddanta Viseittathaya. After the ceremony the congregation offered 'soon' (day meal) to the Sayadaw and members of Sangha.—MNA *(Translated by TTN)*

Reduce no-fishing period to two months: association to MFF

By Aye Yamon Oo

The Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Producers' Association has requested that the duration of the no-fishing period next year be reduced to two months from the current three as locals are facing problems due to a decline in the supply of raw dried fish, said U Tun Sein, the general secretary of the association.

The association made the request at the Aquatic Entrepreneurs' Regular Meeting (12/2019), which was held on 9 July at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Yangon.

"With the no-fishing season designated for three months, local people who rely on fishing businesses are facing difficulties in earning their livelihood. Therefore, we have requested that the no-fishing period be reduced to just two months instead of three. This year, no fishing boats have been allowed to operate in the closed season. Last year, we had managed as the authorities had allowed 20 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate during the season," said U Tun Sein.

"Although entrepreneurs have not been much affected by the 100-per-cent prohibition from June to August, fishery workers who rely on fishing businesses are suffering greatly. Therefore, we will request that the closed season be reduced to two months instead of three," he added.

Currently, fishermen are drawing advances on their salaries from employers because they do not have any income.

"Myanmar does not have a baseline for fisheries business. Therefore, we have to watch the Gondala Somatic Index (GSI) to know the hatching of sea fish, which are produced on a commercial scale. Related to GSI, we need to research 20 species of sea fishes in the jetty," said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin, the senior vice chairman of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

"The decision to close fishing for two or three months depends on the countries. We need to take a look at how we can derive benefits from closing three months this year. If we see the advantages of closing for a longer period, we must close for three months. Now, we have started the no-fishing period for freshwater fish. I don't know about sea fish, and so, we have to do more research," she added. In a bid to conserve fish resources, the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation has been announcing a no-fishing season of three months annually since 2013. Barring this year, the department has been allowing a percentage of fishing vessels to continue fishing during the closed season. In 2018, the closed season was declared from 16 May to 15 August, and the department had allowed 20 per cent offshore vessels to continue fishing. There are many offshore and inshore fishing vessels in Yangon region, Taninthayi region, and Mon State. Currently, there are over 3,000 offshore fishing vessels in Myanmar.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 28/2019

14th Waxing of Waso, 1381 ME
(15 July 2019)

Appointment of Region Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g) of Region or State Government Law, U Aung Kyi has been appointed as Minister for Immigration and Human Resources in the Mandalay Region Government.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 29/2019

14th Waxing of Waso, 1381 ME
(15 July 2019)

Appointment of Judge for Mandalay Region High Court

In accord with the provisions stated in article 308 section (b) sub-section (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 82 section (d) of the Union Government Law and article 45 of the Union Judiciary Law, article 18 Section (d) of Region or State Government Law, Daw Hla Myint has been appointed as Judge for the Mandalay Region High Court.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 30/2019

14th Waxing of Waso, 1381 ME
(15 July 2019)

Appointment of State Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g) of Region or State Government Law, U Tun Min Aung has been appointed as Minister for Immigration and Human Resources in the Mon State Government.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Thirteenth session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw begins

FROM PAGE-2

The Speaker told Hluttaw representatives to use their time wisely as there are only ten weeks in this regular session and the amount of work to be done is bigger. He also told them to take care of their health during the change in weather and surroundings. He told them not to interfere in the affairs of the executive and judicial pillars while performing their duties in the legislative pillar for the benefit of the nation's citizens.

Putting affairs on record

Next, the Speaker informed the Hluttaw of the foreign trips made by President U Win Myint and his delegation, himself and other Hluttaw representatives and put them on record.

The Speaker then read to the Hluttaw the President's letters of appointment on various state and regional minister position and put them on record.

The positions included U Bo Bo Wai Maung (a) Saw Bo Bo as Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs, and U Moe Kyaw Thu, U Pwe, U Kyaw Min (a) U Poe Min, Daw Moe Moe Suu Kyi, U Myint Aung, U Min Ko Khine and U Tun Tun Oo as Ministers for Immigration and Human Resource of Sagaing Region, Chin State, Taninthayi Region, Yangon Region, Magway Region, Kayin State and Bago Region, respectively.

Joint Constitution committee report

Next, Dr Myat Nyanna Soe read a report from the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution, of which he is a member, which lists the committee's progress. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker said to incorporate the Joint Bill Committee's comments when discussing the facts, suggestions and recommendations outlined in the report. He called for MPs interested in discussing to enrol their names.

Financial projections for new fiscal year

Next, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Maung Maung Win, submitted the National Planning Bill for 2019-2020 FY, which estimates domestic production and service value will peak at K119,023.4 billion at the end of said financial year, factoring in annual price values.

The Deputy Minister said they annually project Myanmar's GDP to rise to K2,180,755. He said they estimated GDP to become K1,949,730 in 2018-2019 FY where it became K1,729,317 in 2017-2018 FY.

He said they project total investment into Myanmar to reach K10,154.9 billion, export to reach US$15.5 billion and imports to reach US$17.5 billion, totalling out foreign trade at US$33 billion.

Reading of Joint Bill Committee reports

Next, Joint Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung, MP for Mon State constituency 2, read the committee's findings and comments on the Child Rights Bill returned with comments from the President. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the bill to register their names.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win then said the projection for the GDP of 2018-2019 FY was at K106.096 trillion and to rise to 7.6 per cent. He said they reached K67.186 trillion in the first six months, thus accomplishing 63.3 per cent of their objective. He said according to normal prices there was a 6.3 per cent increase and they project business development to rise to 6.8 per cent by the end of the year.

The Deputy Minister said they project GDP to rise to K119.023 trillion and to 7 per cent in the 2019-2020 FY. He said they prioritized spending electricity and energy, transport and communications, road, bridges, education, healthcare, and social protection when allocating the budget for this financial year.

He said the Union Fund Account – Other Accounts of twenty government agencies will be incorporated into their Union Fund Account – SEE Accounts, starting from this financial year.

Next, the Speaker announced that the twenty Joint Assessment Committees formed to review the National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill for 2019-2020 FY will receive explanations from relevant government departments on their related projects and budgets during hearings from 17 to 22 July.

Following this, Joint Bill Committee member U Zaw Win read the committee's findings and comments on the Myanmar Communications Corporation Bill that has received different opinions from the Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaws.

Fellow committee member U Nay Myo Tun also read the committee's report on the 2017 Land Confiscation Bill, another controversial topic between the two Hluttaws.

The Speaker announced that MPs wishing to submit direct amendments to the two controversial bills can register their names along with the section, subsection or topic of the bills to the Director-General of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No 27/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 13 July.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 13 July.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 17 July issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of service organization transferred

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Maung Maung Kyaw, Director-General of Department of Labour Relations under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population as Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Anti-graft law not being invoked against staff yet: YCDC

Under the incumbent government, no staff member of the Yangon City Development Committee has faced action under the Anti-Corruption Law yet, said U Kyaw Min, the head of the YCDC's Administration Department.

"If the Anti-Corruption Commission of Myanmar directs us to discipline staff, we take action against them under the Civil Service Personnel Rules. But, corrupt employees will soon face legal action under the Anti-Corruption Law," said U Kyaw Min.

He made the remarks during a press conference on YCDC's performance, held on 15 July at the Yangon City Hall.

At present, if YCDC staff are found violating the Civil Service Personnel Rules, action is taken against them in accordance with the Civil Service Personnel Law and the YCDC law, said U Kyaw Min.

"Ten principles are incorporated into the Civil Service Personnel bylaws, embodying six rules regarding working hours, four rules on duty and performance, and 12 rules for the work place. Civil service personnel found not complying with the rules face action according to the Civil Service Personnel Law," U Kyaw Min said.

"All civil service personnel will soon face action according to the Penal Code for violating civil service regulations, and some shall also be punished according to the Civil Service Personnel Law. There are ten basic principles concerning civil service regulations prescribed in the Civil Service Personnel Law," said U Kyaw Min.

In addition, members of the YCDC will face strict action if found receiving any kind of bribe or tainted money, according to the YCDC. — Nyein Nyein

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Volunteer Alice Le Roux at the Sonne International Day Care Center in South Dagon, Yangon

Alice Le Roux volunteers by teaching English to vulnerable children from age 6 through 14 in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods of Yangon at the Sonne International day care center. Alice Le Roux is an American High Schooler from Spruce Creek High School living in Ormond Beach Florida, USA.

Alice said " Each child has it's own story. It's really heartbreaking that these kids can't get a formal education. Their lives are packed with extreme hardship and struggle. They are on a survival mode every day and at their very young age, they are obligated to work to support their family. Although I am teaching them, they are the ones who are really teaching me through their life experiences'"

Sonne International is an Austrian aid organization that cares for children, women, disadvantaged population groups and minorities.

Alice and her students.

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session commences

FROM PAGE-2

3. A Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Khin Aye of Nattalin constituency attended RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop on International Trade 2019 held from 11 to 13 June in Republic of Singapore.

4. A Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr U Hla Moe of Aungmyayathazan constituency attended 7th China-South and Southeast Asia Think Tank Forum held from 11 to 14 June in People's Republic of China.

5. A Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Zaw Thein of Wakema constituency attended 10th AIPA Caucus Meeting held from 16 to 19 June in Malaysia.

6. Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr U Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency attended a Statelessness Course held from 17 to 21 June in Italy.

7. Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr U Wai Phyo Aung of Thakayta constituency attended a 14th Southeast and Northeast Asia Seminar on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) held from 24 to 28 June in Viet Nam.

8. A Myanmar delegation consisting of 3 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and 5 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives led by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu conducted a study tour of Viet Nam from 1 to 12 July.

After the briefing the Hluttaw put the trips on record.

Hluttaw explained of forming Advisory Group on capacity raising Hluttaw affairs

Next Hluttaw Speaker and Hluttaw Deputy Speaker explained about forming, duties, responsibilities, rights and terms of Advisory Group on capacity raising Hluttaw affairs.

Hluttaw Speaker also informed the Hluttaw about the numbers of members, names and leader of the group.

Asterisk marked question and answer session

In the asterisk marked question and answer session that follows questions raised by U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency and U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency on a plan to announce gold discovery near Kawlin town and to transparently allow for small or medium or large scale mining, loan for locals conducting group forest work and plan to grant permission for local farmers to work on farmlands were answered by Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe.

Questions raised by U Myint Kyi of Katha constituency, U Lwin Ko Latt of Thanlyin constituency, U Nay Soe Aung of Wuntho constituency and Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency on repair and maintenance work of Katha-Shwegu-Bhamo road, status of Bago River Bridge (Thanlyin Bridge No 3) construction, asphalt surfacing of Wuntho-Meza Road, upgrading 12 bridges and constructing box culverts on the road and a plan to reducing danger to traffic at a zig-zagging road section between mile post 205 and 206 on Pathein-Monywa Road were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Motion tabled, supported and accepted

Afterwards a motion urging the Union Government to study and review the severe climate change and rising temperature that occurs in 2019 due to deteriorating natural environment, prevent severe effect on natural environment for the benefit of the country and future generations in accordance to the law and reinforce recovery and redevelopment works was tabled by U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency and supported by U Nay Htat Win of Sinbaungwe constituency. As the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the motion an announcement was made for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

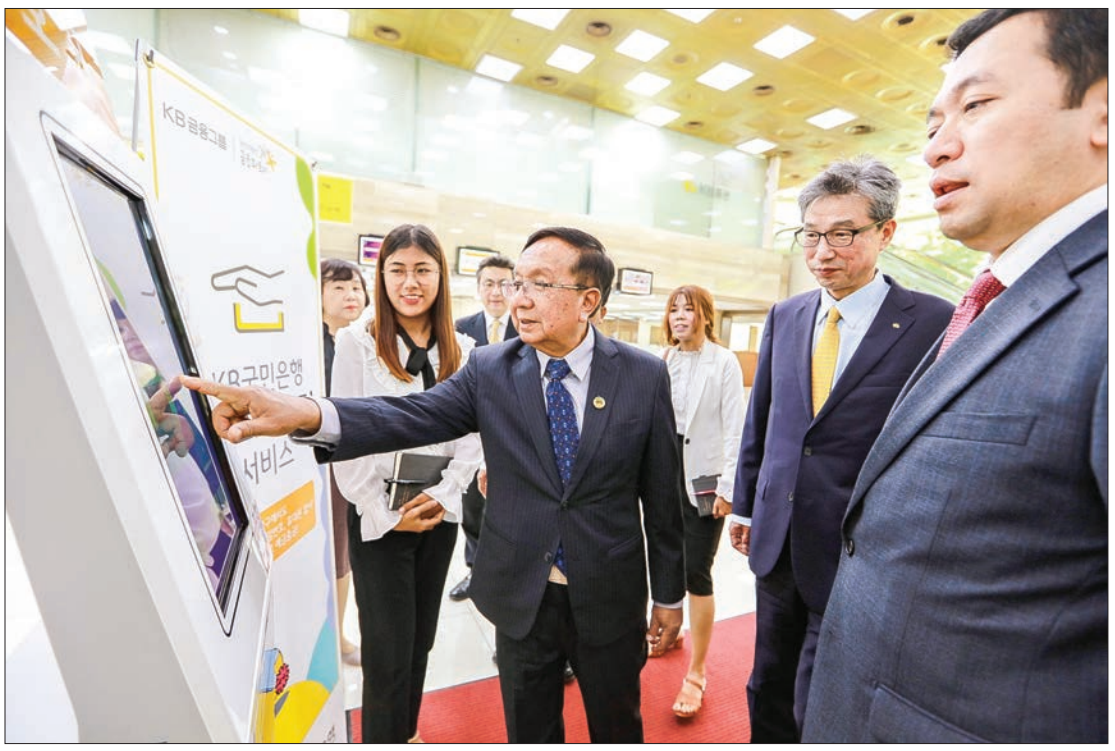
Hluttaw informed of a receipt of a bill

Later the Hluttaw was informed of the receipt of a fourth bill amending the Union Judiciary Law approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw and bill committee submitted a report about it. An announcement was made for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss and table an amendment motions to register their names.

The second-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session will be held on 18 July it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Construction Ministry, Korea Land & Housing Corporation to cooperate in policy sharing, pilot projects in housing sector



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw visits KB Kookmin Bank's headquarters in South Korea.
PHOTO: MOC

MINISTRY of Construction signed a MoU with LH (Korea Land and Housing Corporation) recently on cooperation in the housing and urban areas to share the technologies and experiences of LH's residential and urban infrastructure sector in promoting urban and sustainable economic growth of Myanmar, according to Ministry of Construction.

The signing came at the visit of Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw from 1 to 4 July to South Korea.

Under the MOU, the two agencies agreed to push for policy sharing and pilot projects in related areas, such as housing, urban and industrial complexes, and to promote continuous information and human exchanges in those areas, while LH plans to secure implementation capabilities for the MOU by inviting Myanmar officials, holding conferences and dispatching experts.

The Union Minister for Construction also visited KB Kookmin Bank's headquarters and met with the CEO of KB Kookmin Bank to discuss ways to cooperate with each other on housing financing.

SEE PAGE-11

How to be prepared against floods

The following are suggestions for department officials, humanitarian organizations and the general public may follow to reduce losses incurred from floods and related dangers.

(1) Searching for source of floods and assessing possible solutions.
(2) Ensuring canals in wards, villages and townships have smooth waterflow.
(3) Digging out sand dunes that hamper flow of rivers.
(4) Building embankments along river banks.
(5) Repairing and maintaining levees.
(6) Planting trees to prevent soil erosion along river banks.
(7) Planting trees and plants to prevent top soil erosion.
(8) Storing necessary items for repairing dams and embankments in advance (e.g. sand bags, water pumps, shovels, spades, bamboo).
(9) Installing early warning systems and signals to notify flood warnings to residents in case water needs to be released from reservoirs and embankments from exceeding capacity.
(10) Preparing people living near dams and embankments from possible breaching and flooding through cooperation between relevant departments, organizations and local residents.
(11) Arranging for residents of annual flood-prone areas to relocate in time.
(12) Selecting emergency routes beforehand in regions prone to floods.
(13) Forming rescue teams and collecting adequate rescue equipment.
(14) Assembling regional military vessels and rowboats and distributing them equally.
(15) Distributing small boats, rafts, lifebuoys for families living near bodies of water and flood-stricken areas, especially life jackets where possible.
(16) Disseminating information on dangers of floods to wards, villages and schools and practicing role plays for better preparedness.
(17) Organizing early warning systems in townships, wards and villages.
(18) Ensuring the public is aware of emergency contacts.
(19) Having disaster response strategies in place.
(20) Having special response strategies for townships, wards and villages located near dams and embankments.

Fishery exports top $610 mln in current fiscal

Workers work at a fish factory in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector crossed US$611.56 million between 1 October and 5 July in the current FY from $568.32 million in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar exports fisheries products such as fish, prawns, and crabs to 40 foreign nations, including European Union countries, China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand.

Earlier, only fish caught in the wild was allowed to be exported to the EU markets. At present, Myanmar is exporting farmed fish, prawns, and crabs to the EU.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is making concerted efforts to increase earnings from fisheries exports by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country, and Myanmar has earned over $717 million from fishery products in the last fiscal year, according to MFF statistics.

MFF Vice President Dr. Toe Nandar Tin said the federation has asked the government to tackle problems faced in export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

According to the MFF, integrated poultry and fish farming cannot ensure food safety, which is a requirement for exports. Therefore, the federation has asked for the formulation of a law to restrict that kind of mixed farming. Fish farming must be conducted as a large-scale project to get access to Project Bank loans, according to the MFF. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Fisheries Dept must ban imports of Thai shrimps: farmers' body

By Aye Yamone

THE Myanmar Shrimp Farming and Production Association has called for a ban on entry of shrimp larvae from Thailand into the country, saying that if imports continue, the Myanmar shrimp species will disappear from the market.

After Myanmar's freshwater shrimp production declined in 2012, freshwater shrimp larvae from Thailand were brought in and bred with local shrimp species to help support local breeders. Currently, nearly all local freshwater shrimp hatching camps have the capacity to meet the demands of local breeders, according to the Myanmar Shrimp Farming and Production Association.

"Now, we are assured of sufficient supply of shrimp larvae for local fish farmers. But, if we continue to import shrimps from Thailand, the Myanmar shrimp species may disappear from the market. So, the Fisheries Department must scrutinize the import of freshwater shrimps from Thailand," said U Tin Tun Oo, the secretary of the Myanmar Shrimp Farming and Production Association.

At present, mixed breeding of Thai freshwater shrimps imported in 2012 and local freshwater shrimps is being conducted in local fish farms. So, of the shrimps hatched at local freshwater shrimp farms, at least 20 per cent belong to the Thai shrimp species.

In addition, all Myanmar freshwater shrimp hatcheries are likely to be suspended soon due to lack of demand.

"If the shrimp importers reach out to us, we will let them contact the shrimp association to discuss the shrimp farming issue or the hatching issue," said U Hla Htay, the deputy head of the Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

Imported Thailand freshwater shrimps sell for K14 per piece, while Myanmar hatched freshwater shrimps fetch K10 per piece.

Of around 200,000 acres of shrimp farms in Myanmar, there are only 20,000 acres of freshwater shrimp farms, while the rest are saltwater farms. Freshwater shrimps are mainly farmed in Twantay, Nyaungdon, Khayan, Htantabin, and Maubin townships. Bago Region has only a few freshwater shrimp farms.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

A Shrimp farm in Kawthoung. **FILE PHOTO: MNA**

MIC clears 10 foreign projects, 2 domestic investment proposals

THE Myanmar Investment Commission, at a recent meeting, has approved investments of US$105 million from 10 foreign enterprises and endorsed two domestic investment projects with estimated capitals of K7.8 billion and $2.65 million.

Three businesses have been approved by the MIC and the proposals of seven enterprises were endorsed by the Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady investment committees. The investments will primarily flow into the manufacturing sector, followed by real estate and other services sectors. The projects are expected to create more than 3,150 jobs for local residents.

The manufacturing sector attracts the largest share of foreign investments in Yangon Region.

Those enterprises are engaged in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on cutting, making, and packing (CMP) basis.

Meanwhile, the proposals of two domestic enterprises have been endorsed by the MIC.

The domestic projects will be executed in the manufacturing and other services sectors, creating 86 jobs.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 10 July, 2019, 207 foreign enterprises have obtained permits and endorsements to invest in Myanmar, pulling in a capital of $2.09 billion. Overall, foreign direct investments of $3.47 billion have flowed into the country so far, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments of over $208.3 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. During the same period, 128 domestic enterprises have invested $329.5 million and K923 billion in the country. Total domestic investments have exceeded $395.6 million and K1,141 billion, including expansion of capital.

The Myanmar Investment Law allows regional and state investment committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or $5 million, with the aim of simplifying the verification of investment projects. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

16 JULY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Safety on our waterways is a necessity

BOAT accidents are fairly common in Myanmar, especially in the rainy season. Travelling and transporting goods by boats are popular, especially in the Ayeyawady Delta, because of the low cost and the inaccessibility of many areas by road.

Myanmar is in the midst of the monsoon season, which begins in mid-May and usually ends in mid-October.

The season often generates high winds and flash storms in the delta and coastal areas.

Hence, the Myanmar Maritime Police Force has raised awareness on safety of boats in the rainy season, and it has alerted pilots nationwide to follow the do's and don'ts, in an attempt to prevent tragedies.

The transportation authorities have issued warnings and instated rules and regulations against driving at high speed and overloading in the rivers, along with fines and sentences for violations.

> It has been found that poor maintenance and overcrowding, drunk-driving, and flouting of safety rules increase the chances of a boat capsizing.

In October, 2017, over 70 people, including many teachers and students, died when their packed vessel capsized in the Chindwin River and overloading was blamed for the accident.

In April 2017, at least 20 people were killed when a boat carrying scores of wedding guests collided with a river barge at night in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region. Both boats were unlit when they collided in the middle of the river.

Earlier that year, in April, at least 21 people, including nine children, died after their boat sank off the coast of Myanmar's western state of Rakhine.

Around 60 people died in March 2015, when their ferry went down in the same treacherous waters off Rakhine.

The accident has raised safety concerns for passengers on waterways.

One may question whether the accidents were preventable or not. There were not enough life jackets for passengers, the navigational equipment was unreliable, the weather conditions were harsh, the ferries failed to follow the navigation rules for the safety of the passengers — many reasons can be provided for the mishaps. But, the direct cause of ferry accidents is almost always human error and negligence.

It has been found that poor maintenance and overcrowding, drunk-driving, and flouting of safety rules increase the chances of a boat capsizing.

If boat operators do not obey rules and regulations and the authorities do not enforce them, accidents on the rivers will never cease.

If everyone respects the law and follows it strictly, there won't be such sad accidents.

Our attitude needs to change. Safety on our waterways is a necessity.

The Shwedagon Pagoda is crowded with Buddhist devotees on the Fullmoon Day of Waso in 2018. **FILE PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Waso, the month of religious and socio cultural significance

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
(Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu)

THE fourth month of Myanmar Lunar Calendar is Waso [July] the first month of rainy season in Myanmar [Wathan Kala] lasting three months. Waso, Wagaung and Tawthain [July, August and September respectively].

Waso's astrological name is Kataka [Caneer] with the symbol of Crab. The queen flower of this month is Myat Lay [fragrant Jasminum grandi florum]. Depending upon the result of the yearly calculation of Myanmar Calendar Board, in some years there can be two Waso months—First Waso and Second Waso. Such two Waso year is known as Wa-htat year.

In old stone inscriptions Waso was called "Nweta" meaning the month for measuring land. Before beginning of wet cultivation paddy and other grains farmers measure the extent of their fields or farms. But after Theravada Buddhism was introduced and wide spread across the country the month changed, to Waso of religious import.

Two words Wa and So have the same meaning wa is a Pali word Waso meaning "to recite" or "to say" or "to tell". "So" is Myanmar word meaning to say. Loitering Buddhist monks accidentally or unknowing stepped on insects, or on crops in the fields destroying little creatures and spoiling cultivatin, and farmers, on seeing monks, stopped their work and paid respect to the monks and give offertories, their work was disturbed. When these happenings were reported to Lord Buddha he prescribed Rain Retreat of three months of cultivation period Waso, Wagaung and Tawthalin [July, August and September respectively] during which monks take the religious vows of not going out of the residential monasteries on pain of religious punishment.

Buddhist devotees are seen at the Shwedagon Pagoda on the Fullmoon Day of Waso in 2018.
FILE PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

On the first waning moon day of Waso all monks of the residing monastery gathered in the assembly hall with decorated altar of Buddha Statues. The Abbot or most senior monk leads the Waso rite and ceremony. By turn, every monk takes the vow in Pali as follows.

Imasmim vihare iman temasam vasam upemi meaning "I shall stay in this monastery during the three months of rainy season". Once, twice or three times, always followed by a chorus of Sadu [welldone] by the assembly. But due to unavoidable circumstances e.g. monk's parents are sick or someone in the family passed away, the monk has to go home, he can ask for leave of absence not more than one week from the Abbot. Without that leave or overstay, the monk suffers the punishment "Wakyo" [wa vow is broken]. He is not entitled to receive Kathein robe and his ordained years become invalid. He has to start again for his vasa [ordained years].

So Waso or rain retreat is Buddha's way of preserving green environment. In Waso, Buddhists in Myanmar hold the festival of Waso robe offering to monks who need extra robe to change their wet robes. But traditional festival of Waso is the ordination festival. Only on reaching the age of 20 years, novices are allowed to be ordained as full-fledged monk. By now they are physically matured, mentally versed in character. With the permission of their parents, they are ordained. In the ordination hall they undergo the procedure of ordination-answering correctly, the questions by a chapter of five senior monks. Are you really man? Are you free from diseases, debt, Do you have permission from your parents, family or from your boss, Do you promise to abide by Vinaya [Disciplinary Rule for monks]. When the whole chapter agrees he is formally ordained.

> Waso or rain retreat is Buddha's way of preserving green environment. In Waso, Buddhists in Myanmar hold the festival of Waso robe offering to monks who need extra robe to change their wet robes.

The Ordination Festival in Waso is to recruit new blood into Sangha Order. Free choice for the ordained monk-either the remain ordained monk for life, for some years or for one day, one week or one month. Parents or donors of ordained monk and ordination become "Inheritor of Buddha Sasana သာသနာ့ အမွေခံ၊ They were awarded by Myanmar Kings-such as immunity from taxation, hard labor military service and the right to prefix their names with Rahan daga Rahan Ama. Two ceremonial gold umbrellas shade their bodies at their funerals.

Four important events took place on the full moon of Waso in the life of Buddha. There is a Myanmar rhyme to tell these four events သန္ဓေ၊ တောထွက် မွေစက်၊ တရုက် ဗျာဒိတ်ဟာ၊ Firstly, it was on the full moon day of Waso, Thursday that Prince Siddhartha was conceived in the womb of Maha Maya, Chief Queen of King Suddhodana of Kapilavatsu Kingdom. Secondly, it was on the full moon day of Waso, Monday that Prince Siddhartha at the age of 29 years after seeing four Omens, renounced his mundane life and left the palace to go into the forest to become a recluse searching for truth Dhamma. Thirdly, it was on the full moon day, of Waso, Saturday that the Lord Buddha gave his first sermon "Dhammacakya" to the Five Recluses namely Kondanna, Vappa, Bhaddya Mahanan and Assaji in the Deer Park Migada wunna. Fourthly, it was on the full moon day Waso that Lord Buddha under the Mango Tree in the capital Sawutti showed his miracles to subdue the infields and herelies. A pair of water and fire coming out from the apertures of his head—eyes, ears, nostrils and mouth to subdue the in fields and herelies who now listned to Lord Buddha's Dhamma. The Dhammacakya Day is also the Day of forming Sangha Order. The Five Recluses who became Arahats saint monks after hearing Anatha Lekkana Sutta delivered by Lord Buddha the following day formed the first Sangha Order.

Myanmar Buddhists celebrate Dhammacakya Day by group recitation of it and explanation of it by monks. Till today the above special events are observes and festivals are held, without fail. In that way Theravada Buddhism is preserved, promoted and propagated. Its socio-cultural impacts wellmaintained among Myanmar people regardless of race, religion and creed.

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.

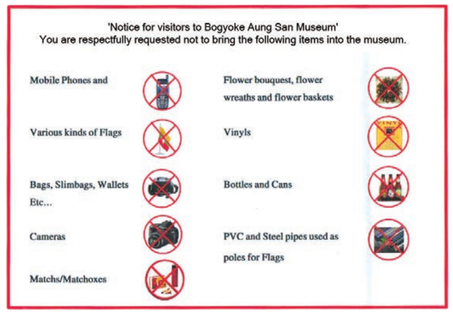
Arzarni Road, the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the western archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed on that day.

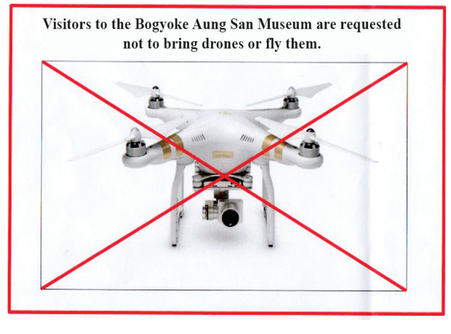
The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

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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Weaknesses in forest sector found in first report of Myanmar EITI

By Aye Yamone

THE first report of the Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 fiscal years concerning the forest sector noted some weaknesses, said Daw Moe Moe Tun, a representative of the civil society sector from the Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA).

The report was released during a ceremony held at the Sule Shangri-La hotel in Yangon on 11 July.

"This report is related to the Ministry of Commerce. The question is whether the quality of our country's forest is really in bad condition, since US$ 100 worth of timber is being sold for only $ 10. Additionally, it is difficult for enterprises to obtain export licenses. Such a problem is caused by the weakness in forest money management and forest sector management. We want to suggest that the EITI report on the forest sector be continuously released," she added. In the report, production and sales data were found to be different between the Forest Department and Myanma Timber Enterprise.

In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, K 47,945 million from Myanma Timber Enterprise flowed into the Internal Revenue Department, while K 38,356 million was contributed to the government budget and K 408,401 million flowed into other accounts in the Myanmar Economic Bank, according to the report.

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Myanma Timber Enterprise paid K 112,520 million to the Internal Revenue Department, K 90,015 million to the state budget and K 407,153 million to other accounts at the Myanmar Economic Bank.

"We need to analyze who gave permission to extract forest resources and how they were produced, who made the decision to sell the produced forest resources, and how permission was sought to purchase forest resources at which price. We also need to draw a comparison chart as to how much tax or revenues the government received and what advantages could be derived from the production of forest resources. There are many weaknesses mentioned in the report," said Dr Sein Win, the chairman of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association.

The report, which is part of the forest resource history, is not fully satisfactory because it is only the first report, he added.

According to the report, a total of K 698,834 million were earned from the forest sector in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, while K 714,663 million was earned in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. This amount represented 0.2 per cent of Myanmar's total GDP.

According to the Myanmar EITI report, Sagaing Region has the highest harvested quantities, with 46 per cent teak and 66 per cent hard-wood across the country, and Shan state is the second highest with 27 per cent teak and 6 per cent hardwood.—

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Embankments along Mone creek to be completed soon

The almost completed embankment along the Mone creek is seen. **PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNG U)**

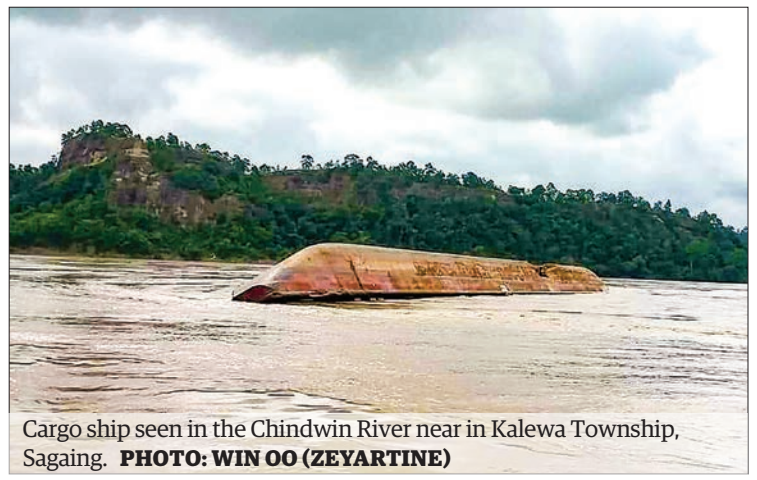
THE construction of three embankments along the Mone creek will be completed soon, according to the Magway Region's Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

The regional DWIR began building the embankments from 1 February to reinforce the existing walls in Yawar Htaung, Magyi Gone, and Min Myay villages along the Mone creek in Pwintbyu Township.

"In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, three embankments are being constructed by the Magway Region DWIR in three villages. The department has allocated a budget of K150 million each for three embankments in Yawar Htaung and Magyi Gone villages. The department has also allocated K50.57 million as an emergency fund to construct a embankment in Min Myay village. Work on the two embankments in Yawar Htaung and Magyi Gone villages has been complete since 1 July. The construction of the embankment in Min Myay Village is 90 per cent complete now, and the wall will be ready next week. So, the construction project will be over very soon," said U Thurein Tun, the engineer in charge of the regional DWIR. —Ye Win Naing (Nyaung U)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Vessel laden with charcoal capsizes in Chindwin River



Cargo ship seen in the Chindwin River near in Kalewa Township, Sagaing. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZEYARTINE)**

A CARGO ship loaded with charcoal from the Htoo Han Thit company capsized on the morning of 15 July in the Chindwin River near Shwekyin Village in Kalewa Township of Sagaing Region.

According to reports, when the cargo ship carrying 1,751 tons of charcoal came near Zeedauk Village, Kinetaw Village-tract, its paddle wheel got blocked by floating timber. The vessel's operator, identified as U Ko Naing (aka) U Aung Tin, lost control and the cargo ship capsized near Shwekyin Village after the hull sprang a leak. There were no confirmed casualties. Officials carried out rescue operations in the Chindwin River.

The Sagaing Region Department of Marine Administration had issued a whirlpool warning to vessels plying in the Chindwin River in the second week of June.—Win Oo (Zeyatine)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Construction Ministry, Korea Land & Housing Corporation to cooperate in policy sharing, pilot projects in housing sector

FROM PAGE-6

At the meeting, KB Kookmin Bank CEOsaid, "KB has provided various cooperation and support, including a housing finance policy workshop, with Myanmar's Ministry of Construction for the past five years, and will provide active support for the successful settlement of the country's housing finance policy."

"KB will expand our banking business in Myanmar to acquire bank licenses and strengthen our partnership with Myanmar's Ministry of Construction in the housing and infrastructure finance sectors, KB Kookmin Bank's biggest strength, in order to successfully pursue various projects promoted by the South Korean government, such as the KMICproject and other regional development projects," he said.

Current Status of Housing Provision in Myanmar

According to a report released by KB during a housing policy workshop with the Ministry of Construction, Myanmar has experienced remarkable economic growth over recent years, with an average growth rate of 7~9% per annum.

The robust economic growth is expected to bring about rapid urban growth, and Myanmar's housing sector is struggling to cope with rapid urbanization, internal migration, and new demand arising from recent economic growth, particularly in the larger metropolitan districts of Yangon.

The number of households is expected to reach 15.68 million in 2040, according to the Ministry of Construction.

Hence, there will be need for additional 4.8 million housing units. From the same data source, there are 1.58 million housing units in Yangon and the number of households is expected to reach 2.65 million housing units in the city. Over one million new housing units will be required by 2040.

In response to the meeting the imminent demand for housing, the Government of Myanmar aims to develop 1 million new housing units by 2030.DUHD planned to supply 20% of total units, and among these 90% is for low income people and 10% for lower middle income people.

Under the plan, DUHD has built its own Affordable House and Low-cost houses in order to provide them to the people of Myanmar, including Hlaingthaya, Shwepyitha, Dagon,Seikan and Insein Township.

Also, Yangon Regional Government will start building housing projects for illegal squatters on government-owned land in six Yangon townships.—GNLM

Citigroup earnings climb on lower expenses

NEW YORK (United States)— Citigroup reported increased second-quarter earnings on Monday, benefitting from higher lending and lower expenses despite worries over a slowing economy.

The first of the large US banks to report this week, Citigroup notched net income of $4.8 billion, up 6.9 per cent from the year-ago period.

Profits were lifted by a one-time $350 million gain from the initial public offering of the Tradeweb trading platform, which was led by Citigroup and other large banks.

Revenues rose 1.6 per cent to $18.8 billion. The results, the first from a group of large financial companies to report this week, come as the banks navigate a tricky environment due to the continuing US-China trade war and expectations of lower Federal Reserve interest rates due to slowing growth. Lower interest rates typically pinch bank earnings.

"We navigated an uncertain environment successfully by executing our strategy and by showing disciplined expense, credit and risk management," said chief executive Michael Corbat.

The bank reported a drop in investment banking revenues, with advisory and underwriting revenues both falling. But Citigroup scored increases in both total loans and total deposits.

Expenses dropped, with the company spending less on employee compensation and technology investments. Citigroup also had lower tax payments compared with the year-ago period.

Shares of Citigroup rose 0.7 per cent to $72.15 in pre-market trading. —AFP ■

US stocks dip at start of heavy earnings week

NEW YORK (United States) — Wall Street stocks edged lower early Monday ahead of a deluge of quarterly earnings reports from large banks and other companies.

All three major indices had closed at records on Friday on optimism that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates.

But investors hit the pause button to start a week that includes reports from JPMorgan Chase and other banks, as well as other companies such as Netflix, United Continental and Johnson & Johnson.

Key economic releases this week include retail sales for June as well as industrial production and housing starts for the same period.

About 20 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 27,313.17, down 0.1 per cent.

The broad-based S&P 500 declined 0.1 per cent to 3,011.25, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index was down a hair at 8,242.42.

Citigroup fell 1.3 per cent as it reported a 6.9 per cent rise in second-quarter profits to $4.8 billion, kicking off the reporting season for large banks. Executives said uncertainty over trade conflicts weighed on corporate lending.

Dow member Boeing fell 1.4 per cent as both American Airlines and United Continental extended their plans for grounding the 737 MAX planes due to uncertainty over when regulators will allow the jets to fly after two crashes. —AFP ■

In this file photo taken on 23 May 2019 traders work after the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Wall Street in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Viet Nam's HCM City offers talents financial incentives

HO CHI MINH CITY — Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City will provide experts, scientists and people with special talents initial support of 100 million Vietnamese dong (over 4,300 US dollars) each along with other incentives, local media reported on Monday.

They will also receive a grant of 30-50 million Vietnamese dong (1,300-2,170 US dollars) each person per month to cover living expenses, and support for accommodation and transportation costs, the Vietnam News daily reported.

To encourage scientific research and technological development, Ho Chi Minh City will give them additional income equivalent to 1 per cent of the city's budget spent for their research work and products. This bonus can be up to 1 billion Vietnamese dong (43,400 US dollars) for each expert or scientist.

The municipal authorities earlier this month decided to offer incentives to experts, scientists and people with special expertise in various fields, including information technology, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, smart city, supporting industries, logistics, high-tech agriculture, biotechnology, stem cells, new materials, nano-technology, digital technology, renewable energy, and electronic components, in the 2019-2022 period. Besides, the city needs talented policymakers, state managers and urban planners, as well as personnel in infrastructure development and management, public transport, construction, underground spaces, environmental issues, natural disaster prevention and climate change adaption.

The fields of high-tech healthcare, public services, education and training, culture, art, sports, tourism and social sciences also need more talented staff. — Xinhua ■

S.Africa's Zuma tells graft probe he's a victim of conspiracy

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa)— South Africa's former president Jacob Zuma on Monday dismissed multiple graft allegations against him, telling a judicial inquiry he was the victim of conspiracies, years of "character assassination" and plots to kill him.

In an often rambling monologue, Zuma accused unnamed foreign intelligence agencies and spies of working against him and added: "I have survived attempts to kill me."

Zuma testified at the inquiry in Johannesburg into the so-called "state capture" scandal after previous witnesses gave damning evidence against him.

He is accused of overseeing mass looting of state assets during his nine-year tenure before being ousted by the ruling ANC party in 2018 and replaced by his deputy, Cyril Ramaphosa.

"I have been vilified, alleged to be the king of corrupt people," he said. "I have been given every other name."

Zuma, who will face questioning by lawyers during an appearance that could last all week, said he had been the victim of "character assassination over 20 years."

"This commission, according to those who are implementing things, must be the grave of Zuma, he must be buried here," Zuma said.

"There has been a drive to remove me from the scene, (they) wish that I would disappear... there is this conspiracy against me."

Zuma, 77, was not legally required to attend the inquiry, but it invited him to appear after other witnesses testified against him.

Led by judge Raymond Zondo, the probe is investigating a web of deals involving government officials, the wealthy Gupta family and state-owned companies.

Blanket denial

"I never did any... breaking the law with this family — never," he said.

"This commission from my understanding was really created to have me coming here and perhaps to find things on me," he alleged.

Dismissing the term "state capture", he said it was impossible for one family to corrupt the government, parliament and the judiciary. "It's an exaggeration, it is meant to enhance this narrative against Zuma," he said.

"There have been people sent from outside the country to come and kill me, but I have been patient not saying a thing — but I have been provoked to the last degree."

The former president is accused of fostering a culture of corruption. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sitting in central Johannesburg, the inquiry has heard from scores of witnesses over 130 days in session since last year.

"The commission is not mandated to prove any case against anybody but is mandated to investigate and inquire into certain allegations," judge Zondo said, thanking Zuma for appearing.

Zondo asked Zuma's supporters in the venue not to applause his answers.

According to Angelo Agrizzi, one of the inquiry's previous witnesses, Zuma allegedly accepted a monthly $2,200 bribe (1,951-euro) delivered in luxury bags from a contracting firm that was trying to evade police investigation.

The money was in theory for his charity foundation. Agrizzi said his company also organised free parties, bulk alcohol supplies and birthday cakes to keep favour with Zuma's associates.

Former finance minister Nhlanhla Nene, who was sacked by Zuma in 2015, testified that Zuma pushed policies on nuclear power and aviation designed to benefit the Gupta family.

Separate court charges

The Gupta brothers are accused of fraudulently profiting from government contracts including energy and transport deals under Zuma.

The family owned a uranium mine, which would have seen profits soar from the nuclear deal, as well as a portfolio of mining, technology and media companies.

They allegedly held such sway over Zuma that they were able to select some of his cabinet ministers.

Former deputy finance minister Mcebisi Jonas told the inquiry that the Guptas offered him the finance minister's job and even threatened to kill him after he refused to accept a $40 million bribe.

Zuma has separately been charged with 16 counts of graft linked to an arms deal from before he became president.

The Indian-born Gupta brothers — Ajay, Atul and Rajesh — have left South Africa and are now based in Dubai. They also deny any wrong-doing.

Eager to distance himself from the Zuma era, Ramaphosa has declared his presidency as a "new dawn" for the country and described the inquiry as a "very painful process".—AFP ■

Trump under fire for 'racist' attack on US congresswomen

WASHINGTON (United States)— US President Donald Trump took aim at progressive Democratic congresswomen Sunday, telling them to "go back" where they came from in remarks that sparked yet another firestorm over his views on race and immigration.

Trump — whose comments were branded "racist" and "xenophobic" by Democratic presidential candidates and senior legislators — last year reportedly referred to countries in Africa as "shithole" nations, and has spoken of an "invasion" of migrants.

He was also a leading proponent of the "birther" conspiracy theory that Barack Obama was not born on US soil and therefore could not legally be president.

On Sunday, Trump referred on Twitter to "'Progressive' Democrat Congresswomen" in remarks that appeared to be aimed at a group of outspoken relatively young, liberal women of color, all first-time members of the House of Representatives.

These include Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts.

They "originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world," Trump tweeted.

He accused the women of "viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run."

"Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came. Then come back and show us how it is done," Trump wrote. —AFP ■

Comic-Con hits 50: from hotel basement to Hollywood hangout

LOS ANGELES (United States)— From Peter Parker's run-in with a radioactive spider to Superman fleeing an exploding Krypton: comic book fans love a good origin story.

So when 135,000 geeks and nerds invade San Diego next week for the 50th edition of Comic-Con — the world's largest celebration of pop culture -- the event's humble beginnings will be a hot topic of discussion.

The sprawling convention today draws Hollywood A-listers like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Patrick Stewart and the cast of "Game of Thrones" to its frantically hyped panels, where billion-dollar franchises are launched.

But the first iteration — the brainchild of an unemployed 36-year-old comic collector and his five teenage acolytes — drew just 100 people to a seedy hotel basement down the road in March 1970.

The "Golden State Comic-Con" was first designed as a way for fans to connect with each other and meet their heroes — the comic book creators — at a time when the genre was a million miles away from the mainstream.

"We never thought we'd be as big as we are. We never thought we'd be around in 50 years' time," David Glanzer, Comic-Con's marketing chief, told AFP.—AFP ■

Some 135,000 comic book fans will invade San Diego for the 50th edition of Comic-Con – the world's largest celebration of pop culture. **PHOTO: AFP**

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Barry weakens, but US officials warn of heavy rains, floods, tornadoes

MANDEVILLE (United States)— Barry weakened further on Sunday as the storm churned across the US state of Louisiana, bringing along heavy rains and the possibility of flooding and tornadoes.

There have been no reported deaths so far in Louisiana or neighboring states from Barry, which had briefly become the first hurricane of the Atlantic season before the National Hurricane Center downgraded it to a tropical storm and then a tropical depression.

Still, as the storm moved inland on a northern track, it packed a serious punch.

Louisianans kept a wary eye on rivers and canals badly swollen by the torrential rainfall, following an extraordinarily wet season farther up the Mississippi River.

This is "the wettest year we've had since 1895," Major General Richard Kaiser, who heads the Mississippi River Commission, said on Fox News.

He said the broad river is "the highest it's been for a long time" — just below flood stage.

A couple walks their bikes through a flooded street after major storm Barry came ashore in Mandeville, Louisiana 14 on July 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bands of heavy rain continued to lash New Orleans, the state's biggest city, but its airport was able to resume normal service after canceling all flights on Saturday.

Fears that the levee system protecting New Orleans could be compromised eased.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell, who a day earlier had urged residents not to be complacent, said in a news conference Sunday that "we absolutely made it through the storm. We are lucky; we were spared."

Dangers remain

As of 4:00 pm Sunday (2100 GMT), the storm's maximum sustained winds had dropped to 35 miles (55 kilometers) per hour. It was located north-northeast of Shreveport in western Louisiana, moving towards Arkansas, the National Hurricane Center said.

"Further weakening is expected as the center moves farther inland, and Barry is forecast to degenerate into a remnant low pressure system by Monday night," the NHC said.

US Senator Bill Cassidy said of the storm on Fox News: "We have seen worse."—AFP ■

9 civilians killed in landmine explosion in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan) — Nine civilians were killed and 18 others injured in a landmine explosion in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province on Monday, the provincial governor said Monday.

"The incident occurred when a truck carrying civilians set off a landmine in Darhazab locality of Khakriz district at around midday," Governor Hayyatullah Hayyat told Xinhua.

The wounded people were shifted to a district hospital and the death toll may rise as many injured were in critical condition, he said.

The ill-fated vehicle was travelling from the provincial capital Kandahar city to Khakriz along the dusty road.

He blamed enemies of peace, referring to the Taliban militant group, for the attack.

Taliban militants have been using roadside bombs and landmines to target security forces, but the lethal home-made weapons also inflict casualties on civilians. — Xinhua ■

DR Congo urges calm after Ebola case in key city

KINSHASA (DR Congo) — Authorities in Democratic Republic of Congo have appealed for calm after a preacher fell ill with Ebola in the eastern city of Goma, the first recorded case of the disease in the region's urban hub in a nearly year-old epidemic.

Goma, which has a population of around one million, is the capital of North Kivu province, the epicentre of an outbreak that has claimed more than 1,600 lives -- the second highest toll in Ebola's history.

In a statement, North Kivu Governor Carly Nzanzu Kasivita stressed the new case "not only was detected at an early stage but also was isolated immediately, avoiding any further contamination."

"I call on the population of the city of Goma and its outskirts to keep calm... (and) cooperate with response teams by observing hygiene and prevention measures and notifying any suspected case of Ebola," he added.

According to the latest health ministry figures, issued on Saturday, 1,655 people have died from the notorious haemorrhagic virus since August 1 last year, when the disease broke out in North Kivu and spread to neighbouring Ituri.

Nearly 700 people have been cured, and more than 160,000 been vaccinated.

The Goma patient is a Christian pastor who had preached at a church in another town, Butembo, where he would have touched worshippers "including the sick", the health ministry said Sunday.

His symptoms first surfaced last Tuesday.

The preacher on Friday took a bus from Butembo, one of the towns hardest hit by the outbreak, and arrived two days later in Goma where "the results of the laboratory test confirmed that he was positive for Ebola", the ministry said.

"Given that the patient was quickly identified, as well as all the passengers on the bus from Butembo, the risk of the disease spreading in the city of Goma is low," it added.

The pastor was swiftly taken back to Butembo, about 300 kilometres (180 miles) from Goma, the governor added.

The other passengers on the bus, 18 in all, and the driver will be vaccinated against Ebola on Monday, said the ministry, urging the population of one of Africa's largest countries to "keep calm".

The United Nations was convening a "high-level event" in Geneva on Monday to discuss response and preparedness for the Ebola outbreak.

It will be attended by government ministers from the DR Congo and Britain, senior officials of the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other UN agencies.

Last month, the WHO said the outbreak did not qualify as an international threat — a category that significantly ramps up global response to a contagious disease.—AFP ■

The Red Cross says the biggest challenge is ensuring robust monitoring along the porous border with DRC. **PHOTO: AFP**

India races for launch fix after moon mission aborted

SRIHARIKOTA (India) — Indian space chiefs pressed to quickly set a new date to launch a landmark moon mission after aborting one liftoff Monday just 56 minutes ahead of schedule, media reports said.

A committee of experts was looking into the causes of the technical hitch that put back the bid to become just the fourth nation — after Russia, the United States and China — to land a spacecraft on the Moon.

The Chandrayaan-2 — or Moon Chariot 2 — rocket, a key part of India's ambitious space programme, could still blast off on 29 or 30 July, media reports said. If that is not possible the launch would have to wait until September or beyond.

"Right now, it is not possible to say when the launch can be scheduled. A committee is still investigating what went wrong," an official from the Indian Space Research Organisation told the Hindustan Times on condition of anonymity.

ISRO blamed "a technical snag" for calling off the launch with 56 minutes and 24 seconds left on the countdown.

"As a measure of abundant precaution Chandrayaan-2 launch has been called off for today," it added.

The agency gave no immediate indication when it would try again, but experts said ISRO would be cautious.

"If the launch does not happen in the next 48 hours, it could be postponed for a few months until we get an opportune launch window," said Ravi Gupta, a scientist formerly with the state-run Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Gupta said the last-minute halt to the countdown was "a truly courageous decision" after all the effort put into the preparations.

Low-cost missions

News reports quoted an unnamed ISRO official as saying a problem occurred during the last stage of powering up the rocket, and fuel would have to be taken out — which could take 10 days — before a new launch date is announced.

India has spent about $140 million on Chandrayaan-2, designing and building almost all of its components domestically. It has hailed the mission as one of the cheapest in the crowded space race.

The launch would have been the third to the moon this year.

China put its Chang'e 4 mission on the lunar surface in January, while Israel's $100 million Beresheet crash-landed when it sought to become the first privately-funded mission in April.—AFP ■

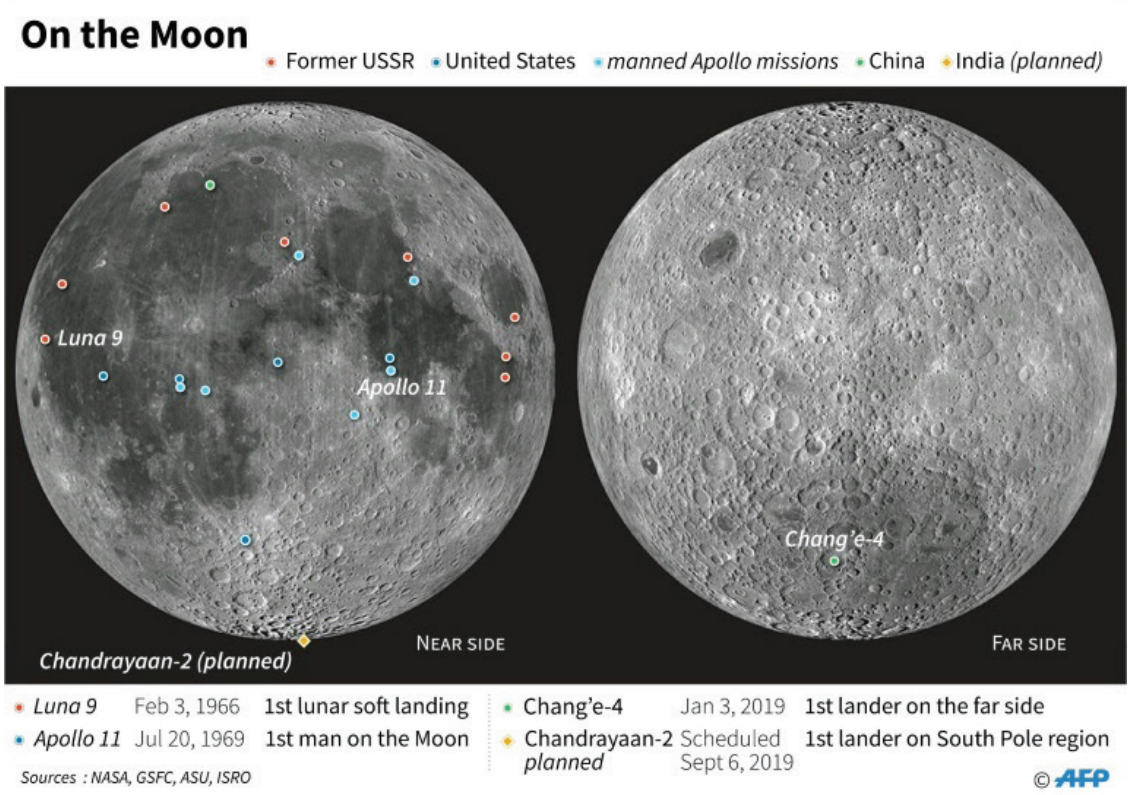

PHOTO: AFP

2 killed in M7.3 quake in Indonesia

JAKARTA — Indonesian disaster officials said Monday that two people died in the magnitude 7.3 earthquake that struck the Maluku Islands in the eastern part of the country the previous day.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency AgusWibowo told a press conference that two women died, both residents of South Halmahera Regency where the quake struck at 6:10 pm Sunday.

One of the women, aged 51, was killed by the collapse of her house, while the cause of death of the other woman is still unknown.

A total of 59 houses in four villages near the epicenter were damaged and around 2,000 people have been displaced, he said, adding that as of 7 am Monday, 65 aftershocks were recorded.

Meanwhile, according to tsunami expert WidjoKongko of the government-sanctioned Technology Assessment and Application Agency, the quake caused two small tsunamis of heights of 20 centimeters and 50 cm. The Maluku Islands are located between the islands of Sulawesi and New Guinea.

Indonesia is located in one of the most active seismic regions in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire, where a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. — Kyodo News

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump at the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating the South and North Korea on 30 June 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ARF to welcome US-N Korea talks, urge dialog

BANGKOK — Ministers attending a region security forum in Bangkok in August will welcome the recent talks between the leaders of the United States and North Korea and urge dialog among concerned countries in order to realize the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, according to the draft statement.

The ASEAN Regional Forum, to be held in the Thai capital on 2 August, gathers 27 foreign ministers — including those of the United States, China and North and South Korea, Russia and Japan — to discuss security issues. It is one of the few multilateral forums that North Korean attends.

Given recent changes in the situation such as the decision by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump to resume working-level denuclearization talks in their impromptu meeting on June 30, it seems there is an aim to give priority to the push for dialogue without criticizing or provoking North Korea.

The draft chairman's statement seen by Kyodo News welcomes initiatives and efforts by South Korea, the United States and China to promote dialogue with North Korea.

"We urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working toward the realization of lasting peace and stability in a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Panmunjeom Declaration, the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the Joint Statement by the US and DPRK leaders," it said.

At their summit on 27 April last year, Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae In issued the Panmunjeom Declaration calling for "complete" denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and efforts to declare a formal end to the 1950-1953 Korean War.

In their summit in September, the two leaders signed the Pyongyang Joint Declaration, in which Kim pledged to Moon that North Korea will permanently dismantle its major nuclear complex if the United States takes corresponding actions.

The ministers also note "international efforts to bring about the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

The draft of the joint statement of the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting to be held at the end of July in Bangkok and the draft chairman's statement of the East Asia Summit foreign ministers meeting in early August have almost the same content as the draft ARF chairman's statement on the issue of North Korea.

ARF comprises the 10 ASEAN states, China, Japan, the United States, Russia, North and South Korea, India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the European Union, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, East Timor, Mongolia and Sri Lanka.

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

Kayan ethnic martial artist Antoniyar secures 3rd ONE Championship win

TWENTY-four-year-old Kayan ethnic mixed martial artist Bozhena Antoniyar defeated Bi "Killer Bee" Nguyen, 29, of Viet Nam and the United States at the 'ONE: Masters of Destiny' bout on Friday at the Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This is the third ONE Championship victory for Antoniyar. She previously defeated Shwe Sin, 23, of Myanmar, and Audreylaura "Ice Comet" Boniface, 29, of Malaysia to claim the title.

Antoniyar competed against Nguyen in the women's atomweight division of the 'ONE: Masters of Destiny' event, and the match was refereed by Motohiro Tsuruwa.

In the match, Nguyen relied on her diverse Muay Thai striking tactics. But, it was Antoniyar who found success with her boxing.

After three three-minute rounds, the Muay Thai contest was left in the hands of the judges. In the end, the referee raised the hand of Antoniyar, and declared her the winner via a split decision.

Bozhena Antoniyar is seen at the Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12 July 2019. **PHOTO: BOZHENA ANTONIYAR FB**

Antoniyar is training out of Bali MMA and Team Toto, and now has 3 wins and 1 loss. Nguyen is training out of Tiger Muay Thai, and has recorded 5 wins and 4 losses.

A total of 19 countries — Myanmar, Viet Nam, the US, Australia, Brazil, China, Finland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand — participated in the 'ONE: Masters of Destiny' event, according to *Canon Daily*. — Kyaw Khin

Barcelona complete signing of rising Japan star Abe

BARCELONA (Spain) — Barcelona announced on Monday they had completed the signing of young Japan winger Hiroki Abe from the Kashima Antlers of the J-League.

The Catalan club said they had paid 1.1 million euros ($1.25 million) for the 20-year-old and assigned him to their reserve team, which plays in the third-tier Spanish Segunda B.

Barcelona said Abe had signed a four-year contract with a 40 million euro buyout clause which would rise to 100 million euros if he is promoted to the first team.

He "is considered to be Japanese football's big promise ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games," Barca said on their website.

Abe, who made his international debut in the Copa America last month, can play anywhere across the front line, but "has predominantly been used on the left flank," the Catalans said.

He was the J-League's young player of the year in 2018 and started both legs as Kashima won the Asian Champions League title in the same season.

He made 79 appearances for the Antlers over the last three seasons scoring 10 times.

Barcelona matched Real Madrid who last month signed teenager Takefusa Kubo, nicknamed the 'Japanese Messi', from FC Tokyo.—AFP ■

Arsenal fan groups call on Kroenke to reinvigorate flagging club

LONDON (United Kingdom) — A group of influential Arsenal supporters' organisations, fanzines and blogs have joined forces to call for better leadership of the club and have hit out at Stan Kroenke's "passive ownership".

A total of 16 signatories, including the Arsenal Supporters' Trust, published a statement on Monday demanding change as the Gunners prepare for a third successive season without Champions League football.

Under a hashtag "#WeCareDoYou", it highlighted a number of issues including the "soulless" atmosphere at the Emirates Stadium and a lack of transfer strategy. "As Arsenal fans we have watched with frustration as the team's football performances have declined over the past decade," the statement began.

"When Stan Kroenke began buying Arsenal shares the club had just competed in a first Champions League final. Twelve years on, Arsenal are about to play in the Europa League for the third year running."

Kroenke began investing in the club in 2007 and through his company, Kroenke Sports Enterprises (KSE), he continued to increase his stake until he eventually took full ownership of the club in 2018.

"Off the pitch, fans have never felt more marginalised, less listened to or valued," the joint statement said. It added: "Our club feels like an investment vehicle, personified by the owner's statement that he didn't buy Arsenal to win trophies. It is sad that an institution like Arsenal FC has such passive ownership."

The timing of the statement coincides with Arsenal facing Colorado Rapids, a Major League Soccer franchise also owned by KSE, in their first pre-season match on their tour of the United States on Monday.

Kroenke also effectively owns the Denver Nuggets of the NBA, the NHL's Colorado Avalanche and the Los Angeles Rams of the NFL. None of the franchises has won a title under his control, but the Rams reached the Super Bowl last season.

At Arsenal, "Kroenke Out" campaigns have gathered pace over recent seasons but were often overshadowed by calls for former manager Arsene Wenger to be replaced.—AFP ■

Myanmar U-18 national team leaves for Japan to undergo training

THE Myanmar U-18 national team left for Japan yesterday to undergo training as preparation for the ASEAN Football Federation's U-19 Youth Championship and the Asian Football Confederation's U-19 Championship.

Chief Executive Officer-CEO of Myanmar Football Federation-MFF U Phone Naing Zaw and officials saw off the team at the Yangon International Airport.

The Myanmar U-18 team will undergo training at the J-Green Sakai Training Centre in Osaka, Japan for ten days, from 16 to 25 July.

During the training, the team will play three friendly matches against the Cerezo Osaka U-18 team on 18 July, the Osaka Sangyo University team on 21 July, and the Hannan University team on 24 July.

The training tour which includes nine admin/coach members and 25 players of the Myanmar U-18 team was led by the team's administrator U Ye Win Aung and Chief Coach U Soe Myat Min, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. — Kyaw Khin

Footballers and admin/coach members of Myanmar U-18 national team pose for group photo at the Yangon International Airport on 15 July 2019 before they leave for Japan. **PHOTO: MFF**