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Beginning of Buddhist Rains Retreat Waso observed in pagodas nationwide

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

THE beginning of Waso, the three-month Buddhist Rains Retreat, was celebrated along with the Dhammacakka Day, the Fullmoon of Waso, in pagodas across Myanmar yesterday, with devotees taking precepts from members of the Sangha, offering robes to Buddha images, and reciting religious verses.

The holy day began in the morning at the Shwedagon Pagoda with a ceremony to donate robes to the members of the Sangha at the pagoda. Also, the members of the pagoda's Board of Trustees offered a day meal to the members of the Sangha.

The pagoda was crowded with people beginning from early morning.

Buddhist devotees can take Precepts at the pagoda every Sabbath Day during the three-month Waso, or Monsoon Retreat period.

At the Botahtaung Pagoda, Buddhists and religious associations took part in a ceremony to offer Waso robes to the pagoda at the four entrances of the pagoda. Members of the Sangha also delivered sermons at the ceremony.

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Mandalay pagodas teeming with devotees on Fullmoon of Waso

On the Fullmoon of Waso, also known as Dhammacakka Day yesterday, Maha Myatmuni pagoda and other pagodas in Mandalay were teeming with devotees, who flocked to the pagodas since dawn to offer Waso robes and other donations,

All over the city offerings were made to Sanghas at congregation halls in wards and townships and devotees listened to the sermons and recitation of parittas by the Sanghas. Donors were also distributing free food and drinks at the pagodas and congregation halls. At 4 am in Maha Myatmuni Pagoda, the morning ritual of washing the face of the Maha Myatmuni Buddha image was conducted, followed by devotees from throughout the country offering golden robes (gold flakes) to the image, robes, food, water, candle and oil lamps in all corners of the pagoda. At 6 am in front of Yunnan Buddhist monastery on 80th Street, temple monastery trustee board and donors offered dry rations and offertories to 250 Sanghas from Masoyein monastery.

Similarly at 8 am Mandalay University Rector, Pro rectors, teachers, staff, students and devotees took nine precepts from sanghas at Mandalay University Dhammayone (congregation hall) and offered offertories to the sanghas.

In addition to pagodas and religious places, visitors from all over the country were also seen visiting Mandalay palace, cultural museum, U Bein bridge and parks. — Tin Maung (Man Sub Printing House) ■

Buddhist devotees pay homage to the Maha Myat Muni Buddha image in Mandalay on the Fullmoon of Waso. **PHOTO: MNA**

Buddhists observe Waso-Dhammacakka Day in Nay Pyi Taw

Uppatasanti Pagoda is crowded with pilgrims in Nay Pyi Taw on the Fullmoon Day of Waso. **PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTEIK**

BUDDHISTS observed the Fullmoon of Waso, also known as Dhammacakka Day, at pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, offering Waso robes and flowers, taking meditation, making donations and receiving Precepts from Members of the Sangha.

A ceremony to offer Waso golden lotus robes was also held at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in the morning, attracting pilgrims, donors, merit-doers and fast keepers in Nay Pyi Taw and its nearby townships and villages.

Similarly, the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Ottarathiri Township, and the Datusaya Pagoda and the Maha Muni Buddha Image in its Pagoda compound in Zabuthiri Township were also crowded with visitors.

The Koe Khan Gyi Pagoda and the Loka Marazein Pagoda in Pyinmana Township also held Waso golden lotus robe offering ceremonies in the morning and were crowded with pilgrims, donors, merit-doers and fast keepers from various places. In the evening, the Uppatasanti Pagoda held a 9,000 oil lamp festival, and was crowded with visitors. In the auspicious Waso-Dhammacakka Day, chanting groups recited the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta.

The Fullmoon of Waso associates with the four great noble and significant events related to the precious life of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha.

On that holy day, the Buddha-to-be (the Gotama Buddha) took pregnancy in the womb of Queen Maya, wife of his Majesty Suddhodana of Kapilavatthu Kingdom, and also on that holy day at the age of 29, the Buddha-to-be renounced the world, and after having full attainment of the Buddhahood, the Gotama Buddha preached His first great sermon, Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta to His five disciples, in which He explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble-Eightfold Path, on the Fullmoon of Waso.

All five disciples received ordination and formed the first nucleus of the holy brotherhood of disciples known as the Sangha.

And also, on the Fullmoon of Waso, the Omniscient Buddha performed the great miracle called the Twin Miracle. The reason for this was to dispel the wrong views of heretics and to prove that He possessed the attributes of a Buddha. — Han Lin Naing ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

People visit National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw on the Fullmoon of Waso. **PHOTO: MNA**

People visit Aquarium in Nay Pyi Taw on the Fullmoon of Waso. **PHOTO: MNA**

Beginning of Buddhist Rains Retreat Waso…

Buddhist devotees are seen at the Kabar Aye Pagoda in Yangon on the Fullmoon Day of Waso. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Buddhist devotees pay homage to Maha Wizaya Pagoda in Yangon on the Fullmoon of Waso.
PHOTO: ZAW GYI

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The same ceremonies were held at pagodas throughout Yangon yesterday. On this day, over 2600 years ago, the Buddha preached his first sermon, known as the Dhammacakka which means "Setting in motion the Wheel of Truth".

A Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta recitation was also held at pagodas across the country.

On this auspicious day for Buddhists, pagodas were teeming with Buddhist devotees from morning to night. The Fullmoon of Waso is highly significant for Buddhists because this is the day that the Buddha was conceived. Later in his life, on this day, the Buddha renounced worldly pleasures.

During the three-month period of the Monsoon Retreat for Buddhist monks, pagoda Ovadacariya (patron) Sayadaws will administer sermons to devotees in the Ancient Buddha Images Hall at Shwedagon Pagoda.

The similar ceremonies were held yesterday at the Maha Wizaya Pagoda, the Botahtaung Kyeikdayup Pagoda, the Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda, the Kyeikwaing Pagoda, the Buddha Tooth Relics Pagoda in Yangon.

The Dhammacakka Festival marks the Buddha's delivery of his First Sermon, known as Setting in Motion the Wheel of Truth (Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta), in the Deer Park at Isipatana, near Benares in India.

He delivered this first sermon to the five ascetics with whom he had practiced severe austerities for five years.

Some months before then, when he had concluded that these ascetic practices did not produce the results he was seeking, these ascetics decided to leave him because they felt he had abandoned the holy way of life.

Left alone, the Buddha chose to follow a middle path between indulgence in sensual pleasures and the practice of self-mortification. This resulted in his attainment of Enlightenment and his discovery of the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path.—Yi Yi Myint/Ohmar Thant ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

11th Waso robe offering in Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo offers Waso robes to Sayadaw at the 11th Waso robe offering ceremony in Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CEREMONY was held at Uppatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning for the 11th Waso robe offering and the successful conclusion of the 116th non-stop recitation of Pa Htan (Patthana).

The ceremony was attended by Sanghas led by Ovadacariya (patron) Sayadaw of the Uppatasanti Pagoda trustee board, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than's wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo and wife, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Myo Aung and wife, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min and wife, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee members, departmental officials and devotees.

First Union Attorney General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Minister and officials offered Waso robes, food and water to the jade Buddha image in the Uppatasanti Pagoda's cave.

Next the ceremony attendees took the nine precepts from Ovadacariya (patron) Sayadaw of the Uppatasanti Pagoda Trustee Board and listened to the Sanghas reciting Parittas.

Afterwards Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker's wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Attorney General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials offered Waso robes and offertories to the Sayadaw and Sanghas.

Following this on behalf of the pagoda trustee board, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman accepted the transfer of elevator walkway path roof donated and constructed by Soe Electric Foundation family and presented document of honor.

Ceremony attendees then listened to a sermon delivered by the Ovadacariya (patron) Sayadaw of the Uppatasanti Pagoda trustee board. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

National committee, UN agencies discuss preventing, responding to conflict-related sexual violence against women

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and attendees pose for the photo at the coordination meeting of National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict- Related Sexual Violence. **PHOTO: MNA**

The National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict- Related Sexual Violence against women and representatives of the UN agencies concerned held a third coordination meeting on the draft work plan of the committee.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs, members of the committee and representatives of the UNFPA and UN Women discussed the draft action plan with remarks from the ministries concerned and gave suggestions.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said the committee would put the suggestions on record and would complete the agreed amendments within the time frame.

The Joint Communique on Prevention and Response to Conflict Related Sexual Violence on 7 December 2018 in New York City.

The joint communique was signed by Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the UN and Ms Pramila Patten, the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

To implement this Joint Communique, the National Committee was formed, and laid down the five tasks.

Among its five tasks, the National Committee would implement the prioritized sectors with added momentum. The committee is also tasked with drafting a national-level work plan with the technical assistance and suggestions of the United nations and the Office of the UNSG Special Envoy on Conflict Related Sexual Violence.

The progress of the work undertakings will be acknowledged to the UN and international community.The Union Minister also pointed out to carry out the public awareness activities on preventing the sexual violence against women through media in cooperation with the Ministry of Information. —MNA ■

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Court of Inquiry leaves for Rakhine State

THE Court of Inquiry formed to look into terrorist attacks and related events left for Rakhine State on 15 July to conduct further investigations into the incidents. The Court of Inquiry has already visited the Buthidaung area for the first time to establish the true facts in the terrorist attacks and related cases in Buthidaung and Maungtaw areas, according to a news release issued by the Tatmadaw True News Information Team. — MNA ■

Plans afoot to open more gates in Yangon's Aungmingala Bus Terminal

By Nyein Nyein

THE YANGON City Development Committee currently is planning to add more bus gates to the terminal, said U Than, joint secretary, YCDC.

"Plans are under way to add new bus gates for the convenience of highway buses operating in Bago and Taninthayi regions as well as Mon State," he told mediapersons at the YCDC press conference on 15 July.

He said the plan to open more bus gates has been included in the urban development master plan for Yangon, and tenders will be invited for the project and the bidding will be conducted in a transparent manner. The project will be implemented in stages on a 33-acre plot of land, he added.

At present, there are two highway bus terminals in Yangon — Aungmingala and Dagon Ayeya. The Yangon City Development Committee earns approximately K180 million annually in rent from shops and bus gates at the two highway bus terminals, said U Maung Maung Soe, the Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister.

"The Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal currently has 616 shops and 259 bus gates. The YCDC collects a monthly rental of K2,000-K7,000 from shops, based on their size, earning K85.113 million a year. It collects a monthly rental of K3,000-K7,000 per bus gate, earning K17.046 million per year. The annual income generated from the YCDC's leasing out of shops and bus gates at the terminal exceeds K100 million," he said.

"Currently, there are 209 shops and 82 bus gates at the Dagon Ayeya Highway Bus Terminal in Hlinethaya Township. The YCDC collects a monthly rental of K3,000-K5,500 from shops, depending on their size, earning approximately over K72.5 million per year. It collects a monthly rental of K5,500 per bus gate, earning over K5.4 million per year. The annual income thus generated exceeds K78.2 million," he added. ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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Persons associated with AA armed group captured

SECURITY forces conducting security operation in Rakhine State Kyauktaw Township stopped and searched a vehicle (registration number BGO-3P/----) at a location a mile east of Kan Zauk Village around 6:30 am on the morning of 15 July. The vehicle was heading toward Kyauktaw from Ponnagyun and was driven by Kyaw Myint son of U Maung Thein. Onboard the vehicle were Min Naing Htay son of U Kyaw Zin Aung and Maung Oo Nyein Wei son of U Ba Than from Yotayoke Village.

Also on the car were a handmade gun, 28 5.56 mm bullets, a dagger, a sword, 2,000 WY stimulant tablets worth about K 4 million and 5 mobile phones. Interrogation of the persons on the vehicles revealed that Tun Win son of U Maung Shwe Zan of Yotayoke Village was associated with AA armed group and security personnel conducted a search of Tun Win's house in Yotayoke Village. Tun Win was found together with U Than Shwe son of U Wai Phyo Aung and photo records and video files of wounded AA armed group sent by Viber was found on a KAMBO brand mobile phone. Western Union cash remittance receipts and accessories for using drugs were also seized. The captured persons, arms, ammunitions, drugs and vehicle were systematically transferred to Kanzauk police station and Yotayoke police station and works were conducted to open a case, according to a Press release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Nay Pyi Taw Safari, zoo, cinemas, shopping malls draw people on Waso Fullmoon Day

People visit water fountain in Nay Pyi Taw on the fullmoon day of Waso yesterday. **PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW**

Pagodas and recreation sites in Nay Pyi Taw attracted the people on the holiday of the Full Moon Day of Waso.

Yesterday, zoological garden, Safari Park, water fountain, the National Landmarks, shopping malls and cinemas are crowded with governmental employees and visitors from regions and states.

"As a special programmes, elephant show is staged on holidays in this zoological garden," said U Pyai Sone Myo, Director of the zoological garden which is under the Ministry National Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Visitors enjoyed their leisure time feeding the animals at the zoo yesterday.

National Landmarks

The Safari Park in Nay Pyi Taw was crowded with visitors yesterday.

"We have touch the heart of our ethnic brethren while visiting the region and state landmarks. We also relax ourselves seeing the people taking rest in the park," said Maung Chit of Kintha Village in Tatkon Township.

There are traditional houses of ethnic races, their traditional food stalls and playgrounds in the Nay Pyi Taw National Landmarks. Besides, on holidays, music and cultural dance troupes from Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myawady entertainment troupe entertained the visitors with music and dances.

On the Full Moon Day of Waso, Nay Pyi Taw Aungthabyay Cinema was also crowded with the people yesterday.—Min Min Zaw, MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Swollen Ayeyawady forces more people to shift to shelters in Htigyaing

Fire Fighters and policemen collect data at the temporary shelters in Htigyaing. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Ayeyawady River in Htigyaing

The water level in the Ayeyawady River reached 41 centimeter above the danger mark of 724 centimeter yesterday in Htigyaing, Sagaing Region, increasing from 16 centimeter below the danger mark on 15 July.

The number of flood victims sheltering at the temporary shelters in the town reached over 1,000.

Chindwin River in Homelin

At 2:30 pm yesterday, the water level in the Chindwin River was two feet below its danger mark at Homalin. The level is likely to reach the danger level over the next three days, according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The Meteorological and Hydrological Department has advised people settled near riverbanks and low-lying areas in Htigyaing and Homelin to take precautionary measures.—IPRD ■

(Translated by TTN)

Yangon's parks, picnics spots crowded with people on Fullmoon day of Waso

As yesterday was the full moon day of Waso of Myanmar year 1381 and a public holiday, well know parks and picnic spots were crowded with picnickers.

U Zaw Min Htut visiting Mahabandola Park said " Today is a sacred day. I take my kids here to have fun. We saw a movie, went to pagoda and have kids play in the park. We can breathe fresh air and it's so freeing. Picnicking with family takes away my stress, I hope to start new day with new energy tomorrow."

Well know parks such as and picnic spots such as Kandawgyi Park, Thakhin Mya park, People's park, U Ottama Park, Mingaladon Park, Mya Hay Won Park, Mya Kyuntha, Inya Lake(Pyay road and Kaba Aye road) and Yangon Zoological gardan were crowded with people.

Ko Zaw Min Htike visiting Kandaw Gyi said " Today is a full moon day. Because today is a holiday, I came to pray at pagoda and to relax with friends. Everywhere is crowded. Zoological garden and this park are also crowded. We see that places are well prepared for people to come and relax. For those struggling day to day like us, relaxing on holiday is true bliss.

Daw Sein Shi visiting Zoological garden from Zee Kyun village, Myaung Mya township said " I came to pagoda with daughters and nieces. We came here after Shwedagon Pagoda. I have been here before. As today is a sacred day it is very crowded".

Despite drizzle Inya Lake in Hline township was crowded with a lot of people.

Mg Thaw Zin Tun visiting Inya Lake said " we came here to celebrate a friend's birthday. We watched movie and we stop by at Myanmar Plaza. The fresh air from the lake refresh mind and brought pleasure. We are going to another park".

Yangon Zoological garden is crowded with visitors on the fullmoon day of Waso yesterday. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

Famous pagodas, cinemas, picnic spots and amusement were also crowded with people. —Zaw Gyi ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No 27/2019
14th Waxing of Waso 1381 ME
(15 July 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offences up to 13 July 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1.	Information received of Tun Win who lives in Shwekyeena Ward, Bhamo Tsp, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7 July 2019, police searched the house of Tun Win, 26, son of U Maung Sint, who lives in Shwekyeena Ward, Bhamo Tsp, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Bhamo) MaYa(Pa) 100/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Tun Aung who live in Inngon Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7 July 2019, police searched the house of Tun Aung, 42, son of U Aung Khant, who lives in Inngon Village, Mawlaik Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Maelaik) MaYa(Pa) 31/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of people using, selling and distributing in Kyaukwartu camp, Innet Village-tract, Thabeikkyin Tsp, Mandalay Region.	On 10 July 2019, police searched the house of Ko Ko Naing (a) Phoe Thar, 34, son of U Tin Win, in Kyaukwartu camp(Kwetthit), Innet Village-tract, Thabeikkyin Tsp, and arrested him and his wife Ma Kyu, 48, daughter of U Khin Oo together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa(Dagaung) MaYa(pa)8/2019 under section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Ko Hnin Hnin and wife Win Win Tint who lives in Phonkone Village, Thabeikkyin Tsp, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11 July 2019, police searched the house of Ko Hnin Hnin (a) Min Min Than, 43, son of U Aye Kyaw, in Phonkone Village, Thabeikkyin Tsp, but police found his wife Daw Win Win Tint, 38, daughter of U Kyaw Nyein, and arrested her together with '88/1' and 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa(Dagaung) MaYa(pa)9/2019 under section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Ko Shan who live in Myothit Ward, Dawbon Tsp, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 July 2019, police searched the house of Ko Shan (a) Aung Soe Min, 45, son of U Inn Ei Cho, in Myothit Ward, Dawbon Tsp, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Dawbon) MaYa(pa) 29/2019 under section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Nyi Phoe Wei who live in Yayayekwin Ward, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State (south), distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 7 July 2019, police searched the house of Nyi Phoe Wei (a) Maung Ngwe, 33, son of U Hnin Wei, in Yayayekwin Ward, Taunggyi Tsp, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and opium. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Taunggyi) MaYa(pa)60/2019 under section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of people using, selling and distributing in Phayaphyu Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State.	Police have opened 6 cases and arrested 6 men and a woman together with heroin and stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. On 7 July 2019, acting on a tip off, police searched the house of Ko Pyae (a) Pyae Son, 52, son of U Tun Pe, in Phayaphyu Ward, Taunggyi, and arrested him and three other — Maung Khine, 38, son of U Tun Myint; Aung Ko Oo, 19, son of U Maung Khine; and Yan Naing Saw, 27, son of U Saw Oo — together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa(Taunggyi) MaYa(pa)61/2019 under section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Soe Naing (a) Myaukma who lives in Thayattaw Ward, Kalaw Tsp, Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 July 2019, police searched the house of Soe Naing (a) Myaukma, 53, son of U Tun Myint, in Thayattaw Ward, Kalaw Tsp, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Kalaw) MaYa(pa)14/2019 under section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 688 cases have been opened files as of 13 July 2019. A total of 1077 people, including 904 men and 173 women had been arrested with seizures of 6482.6084 g of heroin, 73.72 g of ICE, 39771.95 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 19399.27 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 303916 stimulant tablets, 8363.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 29.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 17 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.
   During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates.
   Upon acting on a tip-off, in Kachin State, police arrested a man with 30 gram of heroin in Khatcho Village, Waingmaw Tsp. Police searched a man with a motorcycle on the road of Mawhan Village, Mohnyin Tsp, and arrested him together with 990 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle. Police searched a man and a Crown vehicle on the road of Lwejel-Momauk, Weainkham Village in Momauk Tsp, and arrested him together with 46800 stimulant tablets, 100 g of heroin and a motor vehicle. Police arrested a man with 400 stimulant tablets in Kaungsan Village in Phakant Tsp. A woman was arrested with 0.001 g of heroin and 0.01 litre of heroin liquid in Siin Village, Bhamo Tsp. In Kayah State, information received of three Dongfeng vehicles carrying narcotic drugs, police seized and searched those vehicles at the Loikaw District Police Station and arrested six men together with 500000 g of ICE, 649000 g of Ketamine, 1150000 g of caffeine and three motor vehicle. A man was arrested with 175 stimulant tablets in Aungthabyaygone Village. Police arrested a woman with 745 stimulant tablets in Wankan Village, and a man and a woman with 145 stimulant tablets in Nantmann Village in Maese Tsp. In Kayin State, police arrested a man with 970 stimulant tablets in Mukawar Village, another man and a woman with 653 stimulant tablets and 201 g of marijuana in Peinnetaw Vilage, a man with 83 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle on the road of No 4 Ward, and two men and a woman with 106 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle in No 9 Ward in Hpa-an Township. Police arrested a man with 199 stimulant tablets in No1 Ward in Myawady Tsp.

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Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

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Acting on a tip-off, a man and a woman were arrested with 100 stimulant tablets in the same ward. A woman with 1986 stimulant tablets in No 4 Ward and a man with 232 stimulant tablets in No 5 Ward were arrested in Myawady Tsp. Police arrested a man with 898.15 g of speciosa and another man with 134 stimulant tablets in Panga Village, Thanbyuzayet Tsp, in Mon State. In Rakhine State, police seized an ownerless seizure of 3266 g of marijuana and 44 bottles of Phensedyl hidden in a bag on a road side to jetty near Abuja Village in Maungtaw Tsp. A woman was arrested with 184 stimulant tablets in Kyatyoepyin Village. Police arrested a man with 117 stimulant tablets in Kanpine Ward, Taungup Tsp. In Shan State, police arrested six men with 376 stimulant tablets, 192 g of opium block and four motorcycle in Chanmyathazi Ward, Taunggyi Township. Acting on an interrogation, a man was arrested with 750 g of opium block in Yadanarthiri Ward. Police seized 24700 g of opium and a motorcycle on the road of Ywangan-Kyaukse, Kyaukkupyin Village in Ywangan Tsp. Police searched two men on a motorcycle at 49/7 milepost on the Pinlaung-Nyaungshwe road in Pinlaung Tsp, and arrested them together with 6000 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle. A woman was arrested with 820 stimulant tablets, 5 g of heroin and 200 g of opium in Saingphe Village, Mongnai Tsp. Police searched a six-wheel vehicle at the Oriental tollgate, the entrance of Lashio Township, and arrested three men on the vehicle and seized 16940 g of heroin and a vehicle. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested a man with 195 stimulant tablets, 14 g of opium block and 3.5 g of low quality opium in No 6 Ward, Lashio Tsp. Police searched a man with a motorcycle on a road of No 11 Ward, and arrested him with 1950 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle. A man in Maehan Village was arrested with 1015 stimulant tablets and a man on the road of Gurkha Village was arrested with 590 stimulant tablets, 14.4 g of heroin and a motorcycle. A woman was arrested with 1170 stimulant tablets in Naungnghut Village, Tangyan Tsp. Police arrested two men with 975 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle on the Khowein-Muse road in Muse Tsp, a woman with 23750 stimulant tablets and 20 g of heroin in No12 Ward in Namhkam Tsp, and a man and a woman with 360 stimulant tablets, 242 g of heroin and two vehicles on the road of Kutkai-Kaungkha near Kholone Village in Kutkai Tsp. Police arrested two men with 5175 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle at the 80/4 milepost of Muse-Mandalay road in Nawnghkio Tsp, another man on that place with 14935 stimulant tablets, 275 g of heroin, and a motorcycle, and two men with a motorcycle at the 79/4 milepost. Information received of a man with 10000 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle was arrested on the road of Muse-Mandalay, Parhat Ward, Nawnghkio Tsp. Police arrested a man with 1900 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle in Upper Mangyipin Village, Mongmit Tsp.

Acting on a tip-off, two men absconded while leaving their motorbike before the arrival of the inspection team and a seizure of 590000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike was caught on Mabein-NgaOh raod, Mabein Tsp. A man was seized with 403 stimulant tablets and 3 g of heroin in No 1 Ward, Laukkai Town. Two men were caught together with 1320 g of heroin, 26000 g of crushed stimulant tablets powder at Yarbargone inspection gate in Chinshwehaw Town. A man was seized with 2870 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in front of Naung Phar Police Outpost in Kengtung Tsp. A man and a woman were caught with a seizure of 737 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Matkyan Village. A man was caught with 4500 stimulant tablets in Sonhite Village. A woman from Nantkhan Village was caught with 23760 g of heroin. An ownerless seizure of 164445 stimulant tablets, 200528 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 140000 g of Soda and 10000 g of plastic powder was caught in Mei Kyoke (1) Village. A woman was caught with 5432 stimulant tablets and 2.65 g of heroin in Kantharoo Ward, Monywa Town, Sagaing Region. A man was caught with 1220 stimulant tablets, 70 g of stimulant tablet powder and one motorbike in No 5 Ward, Katha Town. A man was caught with 235 stimulant tablets in No 7 Ward. A man was seized with 1540 g of heroin and one motorbike in Laepyin Village, Indaw Town. A man from Ywar Thit Village, Htigyaing Tsp. A man and a woman from Shwepyitha Villag was seized with 2640 stimulant tablets. A man was seized with 4000 stimulant tablets and 20 g of heroin in Kazaukphar Village, Bamauk Tsp. Two men was seized with 13 g of heroin, 21 Buprenorhine Tablets and one motorbike on Tamu-Kalay road. A man from Kayar Village was seized with 54 g of heroin and two men from Talinesu Ward, Myeik Town were seized with 16 g of ICE. Upon acting on a tip-off, police seized the house of the accused and found 9800 stimulant tablets and 540 g of ICE in Daweisu Ward. A man from Yaykantaung Village was caught with 723 stimulant tablets. A man from No 7 Ward, Autha Myothit Town, Bago Region was seized with 955 stimulant tablets and 2.5 g of ICE. Three men from Aung Yadana (B) Ward, Magway Town, Magway Region were seized with 166 stimulant tablets. Two men from Yemontaung Ward, Mahaaungmye Tsp, Mandalay Region were seized with 68 stimulant tablets, 60 ecstasy tablets, 9 g of ICE, 5.4 g of Ketamine, 2.2 g of marijuana. A man from Aungpinlei Ward, Chanmyathazi Tsp, Mandalay Region was caught with 2192 stimulant tablets, 27 g of heroin and one motorbike. A man was caught with 216 g of heroin and one motorbike in the street of Shwesaryan Village, Patheingyi Tsp. A man from Kyakchaw Village was seized with 189 stimulant tablets and 9 g of heroin. Acting on a tip-off, a man from PyinOoLwin was caught with a motorbike. Two men were arrested with 3 stimulant tablets, 42.5 g of marijuana and one motorbike in No 11 Ward, Shwe Pauk Kan Myothit, North Okkalapa Tsp, Yangon Region. Acting on a tip-off on Bagan road, two men and one woman were caught with a seizure of 1965 stimulant tablets, 10 g of heorin and one motor vehicle. A woman from No 12 Ward was seized with 25 stimulant tablets, a woman from No E Ward was caught with 3600 stimulant tablets and 16 g of ICE, and a man was seized with 1352 stimulant tablets. A man from No 22 Ward, Dagon Myothit (South) was seized with 2000 stimulant tablets, a man from No 91 Ward, Dagon Seikkan Tsp, Yangon Region was seized with 475 stimulant tablets and 5 g of ICE, a man from Hline Tsp was caught with 134 stimulant tablets, 3 g of ICE and one motor vehicle, a man from Panglong Ward, Kyonpyaw Town, Ayeyawady Region was caught with 770 stimulant tablets.

There has been one arrest involving foreigner. Five Thai men who illegally entered Tachilek were caught with a seizure of 18 stimulant tablets and 0.9 g of ICE.

There have been five seizures of ammunition. A man was seized with 765 stimulant tablets, one grenade and one Caldina vehicle in Thazi Village, Ponnagyun Tsp, Rakhine State. A man was caught with 79 stimulant tablets, 2.2 g of heroin, one percussion lock firearm and one motor vehicle on Lashio-Tangyan Road, Lashio Tsp, Shan State. A man was arrested with a seizure of 10 stimulant tablets, one motorbike, one .38 pistol and its 15 bullets and one magazine. A man was caught with a seizure of 26 stimulant tablets, 60 g of opium, two percussion lock firearms in Phatimargone Village, Tachilek Tsp. A man was caught with a seizure of 28 stimulant tablets and 34 .22 bullets in Hwelan Village.

There have been 299 cases being opened between 7-7-2019 and 13-7-2019. The total number of 419 people, including 372 men and 47 women, were arrested with a seizure of 936096 stimulant tablets, 226598.55 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 44949.3841 g of heroin, 0.01 g of liquid heroin, 500601.18g of ICE, 25092.657 g of opium, 3.5 g of low quality opium, 898.15 g of speciosa, 956 g of opium blocks, 3514.32 g of marijuana, 60 Ecstasy Tablets, 21 Burprenorphine Tablets, 649005.4 g of Ketamine, 1150000 g of caffeine, 44 bottles of Phensedy, 140000 g of Soda powder, 10000 g of plastic powder, other materials required for manufacture of narcotic drugs, four firearms, 49 bullets, one magazine and one grenade.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers.

Contacts

Auto Telephone No.	—067-590200
Fax Phone No.	— 067-590233
Email Address	—antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Jade stones seized in Indaw, Sagaing Region

AN illegal consignment of jade stones was seized from two vehicles near Lai Naung village, Shwebo-Myitkyina road, Indaw Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region on Monday.

Acting on a tip off, the Indaw Myoma police stopped and searched two cars, bearing number plates DD/- - - and 3L/- - -, and found 276 jade stones weighing 958 kilograms, which were being transported illegally. The driver of one vehicle has been identified as Ye Lin Tun from Minthar village, Mawluu Township. He had one other person one board, who has been identified as Aung Kyi Thaung from Mandalay. The second car had two occupants, driver Aung Zaw from Chanmyathazi township and passenger Kyaw Thu from Wetlu village-1 in Natogyi township. The police have filed charges against Ye Lin Tun, Aung Kyi Thaung, Aung Zaw, and Kyaw Thu under the Myanma Gemstones Law.—Lu Aung (Katha) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Family of Bo Let Yar donates old English records, gramophone to MRTV

BO LET YAR, a member of the Thirty Comrades and his wife Daw Hla Hla Myint, their son and daughters U Aung Let Yar, Dr Khin Let Yar and Daw Yu Let Yar living at No (18/D), Inya Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region donated 103 old English phonograph records together with one Dual gramophone to the Yangon Bureau, MRTV yesterday. The officials from the department accepted the donation and, in return, presented them with a certificate of honour at the event.

The donations to the MRTV old Myanmar/English records and gramophones are welcome and donations can also be made directly through the Director of MRTV (Broadcasting) phone 067 79212, 09 250107903, Assistant Director U Yan Naing Tun (Record) phone 09 252412813, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) and U Tin Ohn (Staff Officer), Phone 09 420252068 and the MRTV Yangon Bureau. — MNA

Improving the quality of education through autonomy of universities

THE Union Government is working towards helping Yangon University become an institution that offers quality education and produces well-rounded individuals.

Only when universities have autonomy can our country's education system develop and become complete. Such a system would involve each university building on its own characteristics and strengths.

To reach that goal, the Yangon University needs to play a leading role in implementing the country's education system, which has been designed in accordance with the 2015 law amending the 2014 National Education Law.

The centenary of Yangon University in 2020 is a reminder to bring back its past glory.

At a recent meeting in preparation for the centenary celebrations, the State Counsellor spoke of quality education, referring to Yangon University as the alma mater capable of producing skilled human resources.

> The Yangon University needs to play a leading role in implementing the country's education system, which has been designed in accordance with the 2015 law amending the 2014 National Education Law.

The past glory of the university was witnessed not only in the country, but also in the region. A majority of its students from earlier eras were all men of great weight and substance.

This prestigious institution played a vital role in sowing the seeds of the fight against colonialism, and for national education, national freedom, and independence. It produced leaders such as the architect of our independence, General Aung San, and former General Secretary of the United Nations, U Thant. Experts of international fame also studied at this center of education once.

During the pre-war era and the post-independence era, Yangon University was not only one of the world's leading universities but the best in Southeast Asia, with respect to the quality of education. Its name was well-known across Asia.

Yangon University was legitimately founded in December, 1920, and it will observe its centenary on 1 December, 2020. This once magnificent and prestigious university faced a decline and the bustle in its halls ceased due to an epoch of misfortune. Under the leadership of the Union Government, educational experts are now working towards restoring its former glory.

We are confident that the all-out efforts of Yangon University alumni, who once obtained quality education within its walls, under the leadership of the Union Government, will help the varsity reclaim its rightful position in the centenary period.

Resurrecting the historic and once prestigious university is a move aimed at the improvement of the standard of education in the country so its people can draw level with the world.

■■■

Change in electricity bill payments, and their view

Electric production costs K110 to K115 per unit and if the consumer purchases for K35 then there is a K80 gap. As a result, the State has to subsidize about K800-K900 billion a year.

Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing

By Shin Min

(Continued from 15 July)

U Ko Ko: Could you give us an economic or managerial perspective on the Deputy Minister's discussion?

Dr Aung Tun Thet: The focus of this discussion is the word 'subsidy'. Cross subsidy is related to electricity and is where the range is raised for businesses and the finance collected from them is distributed to the general public.

Businesses have to pay more and lowering the rates for consumers benefits them. High expenditures for businesses are one part. To recap, it won't be noticeable for someone who uses less lighting. There would be no profit or losses.

However, it will be very noticeable for someone who opens 10 air-conditioners. It's convenient. What happens is that is we businesses bearing the brunt of people using ten air-cons. This is something to ponder on.

Of course, commodity prices will inevitably rise. Commonly in our country, other prices will rise before the electricity rate is increased. We need to be wary of that. Before, when staff salary would increase, commodity prices increased first so the new salary was all spent. How will authorities prevent that effect?

Another fact is that economists sometimes make emotional analyses when it comes to predicting costs. They won't like this being said.

There are people who use mobile phones everyday but don't put its costs in their heads. Compare the costs between using a phone and using electricity over 24 hours. No one will look at it like that. They will say they are using on their own will and to keep out of their matters.

Now, the electric bill will rise because of the government. You need to explain this so the public can accept it. There needs to be short, medium and long term solutions after increasing the price. How much will supply follow to meet the increase in demand.

Then we have to consider generation, distribution and consumption of electricity. The ministry is inviting foreign investment too. If decreasing the subsidy is meant to create incentives for big foreign companies investing here then we can expect supply to increase.

The supply in our country will increase without a doubt but there are those emotional complications. Crowds of people will protest against any move of hydroelectric power and fossil fuel is another matter.

People mention 'solar' when talking about costs but it's overall cost is still too high. Our country is actually abundant in hydropower but it has its own set of difficulties. But I hope the subsidy is made for adjustment.

The people of Myanmar need to understand that it's not just the ministry that will be producing electricity. The private sector will be in on it as well. I believe if the Union Government is involved then we will overcome the subsidy matter in a short period of time.

Deputy Minister: I want to discuss on the same topic as Dr Aung Tun Thet. Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe asked if we can promise there will be no more power cuts and the doctor asked if we can scale up production.

A few days ago, we called for open tender on a 1,200 MW power plant project in the state newspapers, inviting both domestic and foreign investors. I presume the public has seen these ads as well. The investors must also be aware of the changes to the electric rates too. We hope that investors will boldly take a step for this endeavour.

Replying to Sayama's question on whether the electric generation will increase, it will get better than the current situation. This includes voltage stability. The old transformers at the electric substations had to be turned off when regulating them and it was all manual.

Consumers want electric supply and voltage to be steady. The truth is voltage is always changing and to regulate it requires automatic systems. Authorities are now installing more transformers with automatic systems. They weren't so easy to acquire in the past as they cost a lot.

In order to provide better services in the future we need to generate more income. Then we can invest in better machinery and provide more stable voltages to the consumer. This is why the electricity rates have been changed. It's to push forward in that direction.

U Ko Ko: After announcing the changes in the meter prices there were calls for tenders too. They are related. Could you tell us if changing the price was intended to give independent power producers (IPPs) some sort of incentive?

Deputy Minister: Yes, because for domestic and foreign investors, only 20 to 30 per cent of their project costs for constructing power plants is their own money. The remaining 70 ore 80 per cent is acquired from bank loans.

The banks counter check them by asking if the project they are investing in has secure annual income in order to repay the bank. This also becomes a question for the IPP to ask the ministry if they can afford the electricity they will produce.

If the ministry has high subsidy rates every year and is unable to pay the electricity rates in the long run, well, it becomes a high risk venture for the IPPs. No one will come to such a volatile situation. There aren't a lot of banks that will lend to IPPs either, who won't come invest without a loan.

When the banks see that the electricity rates have changed then they will know that the ministry will be able to purchase electricity from the IPPs over a long period. Hence, they will approve the loans and IPPs will come in to invest.

They have shown interest since three to four years ago because investors see the opportunity in Myanmar's inadequate power supply status and the large number of people without access to electricity.

However, they saw that the rate the ministry is redistributing the electricity is different from the rate purchased from them and they viewed this as a high risk. Now, we are able to reduce the challenges and hopefully increase investment to fulfil the electric demand.

Dr Aung Tun Thet: When we amend the subsidy and discuss this with the IPPs, this creates a good situation in our favour which will allow the Myanmar Investment Commission to act more easily.

We are the priority sector and support the electric sector to drive sustainable development for the nation. Now that the ministry has adjusted the subsidy there is all the more reason for investors to come in.

U Ko Ko: Industrial zones demand a stable and steady electric supply. They don't want to rely on standby generators anymore. Can you give your opinion on this, Sayama?

Daw Khine Khine Nwe: We can see the visible direct cost go up but there is still the not-so-visible indirect cost. It can't be estimated and that is what I worry about. If IPPs enter then the prices will be evident enough for calculations. But what are the invisible costs that will follow it.

The direct costs include the 30 per cent we discussed earlier, so they are calculable. But our business depends on our workers having good living conditions, so we are more worried about their wellbeing.

Htet Htet Htun: I see that main issue being the gap between the costs of generation and distribution. Can increasing the rates levied from the public be the only solution? which other ways are there?

Increasing electric rates on part of the public will reduce subsidy and generate more investment for the future. But the public may wonder if investment from somewhere else can be used to resolve this issue instead of taxing them more. Are there other ways to get more investments to provide better services?

Deputy Minister: Electric production costs K110 to K115 per unit and if the consumer purchases for K35 then there is a K80 gap. As a result, the State has to subsidize about K800-K900 billion a year.

Here, I want to give the public a clear example. People want hospitals and clinics near where they live, so they request cottage hospitals to be constructed nearby. Now, construction costs around K500 million and building two would cost a billion kyats. If we had to subsidize K500 billion then consider how many hospitals we'd be able to build.

Hluttaw representatives are asking the State for hospitals and schools that the people and the nation greatly require but the ministries are unable to construct them. Why? Because the subsidy to the electric sector is taken out of the Union budget. The budget that has to be used for development is put into the subsidization of the electric sector every year.

Some suggest using loans to solve this issue. We would need to borrow US$800 million to construct a 500 MW electric station. Even if construction was completed in a year it would only be enough for that one year. We would have to borrow another eight hundred million dollars next year. And all those loans would have to be repaid with public revenue.

Then we must ask what difference it will make when everyone has to bear the rising loan repayments just to decrease the payments for their electric bill.

Another thing is while the people with electric access are thinking of ways to keep the electric rates the same, there are still 55 per cent of citizens who have no access and the budget to link them up is needed.

Everyone should be given equal opportunities. Which is why even if electric access is not yet perfect, we must think for those people who do not have access to electricity.

We must also reduce the burden of repaying massive loans. Setting appropriate rates from each household will strengthen the Union budget. Instead of borrowing from someone else and being restricted, if we used our own budget, we can achieve better and faster management.

(To be continued)
(Translated by Pen Dali)

■■■

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.

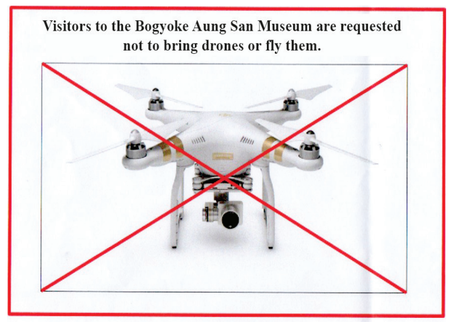
Arzarni Road, the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the western archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed on that day.

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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Over 1,000 bus stops being set up in Yangon: official

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 1,000 bus stops are being set up in Yangon in three zones, said U Lin Khaing, Secretary, the Yangon City Development Committee's Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges).

He made the remarks at a press conference on the YCDC, which was held at the Yangon City Hall on 15 July.

For the project, Yangon has been divided into three zones. The first zone includes six townships in downtown and Kamayut, Hline, Mayangon, Yankin, South Okkalapa, and Thingyangyun townships. The FMIDecaux Company, which won the bidding, will install 500 bus stops in the townships, of which, over 270 have been constructed, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

The second zone includes Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Insein, Mingaladon, and North Okkalapa townships. Another company which succeeded in the bidding will install 250 bus stops in the townships. The project at Hlinethaya Township has begun.

The third zone includes East Dagon, Dagon Seikkan, Dawbon, Thakayta, South Dagon, and North Dago townships. Over 400 bus stops will be set up in the zone by another company.

At present, the YCDC and the companies are preparing to sign an agreement on the installation of bus stops. There are about 1,850 bus stops across commercial hub Yangon. The YCDC will construct the remaining bus stops.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

YCDC: 90% of Yangon to get drinking water supply by 2025

By Nyein Nyein

AROUND 45 per cent of people living in Yangon Region have access to drinking water, and the Yangon City Development Committee is aiming to increase the water supply network to cover 90 per cent of the region's population by 2025, said U Than, Joint Secretary, YCDC.

"We are carrying out a project to expand the drinking water supply network to increase coverage to 90 per cent of the region from the current 45 per cent by 2025," said U Than at a press conference on YCDC's performance, held on 15 July at the Yangon City Hall.

At present, Gyobyu, Phugyi, and Ngamoeyeik reservoirs are the main sources of water supply in Yangon. To expand the water distribution network, projects are under way at Lagunpyin and Kokkowa, which are slated to be completed in 2025, and they will help ensure sufficient water supply in the region, according to the YCDC.

In addition, the YCDC is creating water supply resources to provide adequate drinking water to Yangonites and is taking measures to reduce wastage in urban water distribution, with the assistance of international development donors.

"Globally, wastage in water distribution is registered at only 3 per cent, whereas Yangon has 40-45 per cent wastage in water distribution, owing to water pipe leakage and unsystematic water consumption. Having water meters installed in homes could reduce bills, and Myanmar has started to adopt this system," said U Than. The population of Yangon is expected to grow from 5.2 million to cross 10 million in 2040, and therefore, the committee is expanding the water supply network and coverage.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Ancient Buddha statues found in Twantay Township

ANCIENT Buddha statues were found while removing the bushes around the pavement in Thawuntaw village-tract, Twantay Township, Yangon Region on Sunday.

The six Buddha images were discovered by the farm owner, U Chit Swe while he is cleaning up his farm for pavement and he informed the village administrator. Those Buddha statues including three each of sitting and standing Buddha statues were discovered in various sizes.

The Buddha statues are currently maintained at U Chit Swe's house and they have apprised the respective departments of the ancient Buddha statues found. – Myo Hlaing (Twantay)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Ancient Buddha statues found in Thawuntaw village-tract, Twantay Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MYO HLAING (TWANTAY)**

Forest Department officials check illegally timber in Kaleinaung Township, Dawei District. **PHOTO : IPRD**

Over 10 tons of illegal timber confiscated in Kaleinaung Tsp

OVER 10 tons of illegal timbers have been seized on Monday morning near 63-milepost in Tharyarmon village, Yarphoo village-tract, Kaleinaung Township, Dawei District of Taninthayi Region.

Acting on a tip-off, a comprising team led by U Hla Htway, Minister for Taninthayi Region Natural Resource, officials from Region Forest Department, Police Force, and other respective departments inspected and confiscated a total of 49 logs weighing 10.737 tons of illegal timbers.

Kaleinaung Township Forest Department has filed to take action against the owner of the illegal timbers under the Forestry Law. — Township IPRD

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar border trade reaches $8.02 bln in current FY

MYANMAR'S border trade with neighboring nations reached US$8.02 billion between 1 October and 5 July in the 2018-2019Fiscal Year, an increase of $1.15 billion compared with the same period in the previous fiscal, according to figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

The country's exports via the border gates amounted to $5.64 billion, while imports were valued at $2.38 billion. During the same period in the last FY, border trade had touched $6.87 billion. Trade at Muse, the major border trade camp, has declined slightly to $3.89 billion. During the same period last year, trade at Muse was valued at $4.72 billion, down $827 million this year.

Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighboring China through Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete, and Kengtung. Trade with Thailand is carried out through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung, and Maese.

Myanmar also conducts border trade with Bangladesh through Sittway and Maungtaw, and with India through Tamu, Reed, and Thantlang border gates.

The country mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, fisheries, minerals, and forest products, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumer goods.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Goods flow restricted on Myanmar-India friendship bridge

THE flow of goods on the Myanmar-India Friendship bridge in Reedhorda town of northern Chin State has been restricted since 15 July.

The movement of goods has been restricted following a directive issued by the Aizawl Customs Division of Mizoram State, India. Although, the reason for the trade restriction has not been revealed, cross-border traffic and people are being allowed on the bridge.

Indo-Myanmar Friendship Gate in Reedhorda Town, northern Chin State. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Myanmar conducts border trade with neighboring India through Tamu and Reed gates. Border trade vales were registered at $83.2 milling at Tamu and $75.9 million at Reed gate.

The value of trade between India and Myanmar totalled US$159.16 million between 1 October and 5 July in the current fiscal year, according to trade data from the Ministry of Commerce. In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, the trade value was nearly $100 million.

Exports surpassed imports in border trade with India, with importsvalued at $19.35 million and exportspegged at $139.8 million.

Myanmar exports mung beans, pigeon peas, green grams, areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves, and other fruits and vegetables, and fishery and forest products to India.It imports pharmaceuticals, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, steel, and other construction materials. —IPRD/ GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Daiwa Securities sets up venture fund in Myanmar

MAJOR JAPANESE brokerage Daiwa Securities Group Inc has established a venture capital fund in Myanmar to invest in promising unlisted firms mainly in the consumer products and services sector as well as the infrastructure field.

Daiwa's two wholly owned subsidiaries — Daiwa PI Partners Co. and Daiwa Corporate Investment Co — have set up the $30 million Daiwa Myanmar Growth Fund LP. to become the first Japanese financial institution to create such a venture fund exclusively tailored to unlisted firms in Myanmar, Daiwa Securities spokesmen told NNA on Friday.

Japan's Taiyo Life Insurance Co will partner with the fund, which is scheduled to operate in the next 12 years, they said.

The fund plans to inject capital equivalent to stakes of 10 to 30 per cent in ventures for an investment period of up to five years while sending board members to support management, the two Daiwa subsidies, said in a joint statement.

Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co, an equally owned joint venture between Daiwa Securities Group and Myanmar Economic Bank, will assist firms in the sectors going public, the statement said.

Daiwa Securities Group is an investor in Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Co, which opened the local bourse in 2015. —NNA/Kyodo News

Consumer goods imports decline 7.8% this FY

THE value of consumer goods imported by Myanmar between 1 October and 5 July in the current fiscal has reached US$2.528 billion, a decline of $200 million, or 7.8 per cent, compared to the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The total figure includes imports of $36.270 million by the public sector and $2.49 billion by the private sector. In the 2018-2019FY, imports of consumer goods by the two sectors have shown a continuous decline compared with the previous fiscal. During the same period in the last FY, Myanmar imported consumer goods worth $2.74 billion, with public sector imports crossing $65.1 million and private sector imports reaching almost $2.67 billion. In the first week of this month, consumer goods imports totalled $224.41 million, with the public sector importing products worth $0.81 million and private importers buying goods valued at $223.6 million. The country's consumer goods imports totalled $2.6 billion during the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018).

As per the Commerce Ministry's annual report, Myanmar's consumer goods imports stood at $4.403 billion in the 2017-2018FY, over $4 billion in the 2016-2017FY, $3.5 billion in the 2015-2016FY, $2.9 billion in the 2014-2015FY, $2.3 billion in the 2013-2014FY, $1.4 billion in the 2012-2013FY, and $1.245 billion in the 2011-2012FY. .—Shwe Khine

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/ Contract for the following packages. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Lot	Description	Unit	Quantity
G 130	1	Maintenance and Repair Service for the NCDDP Fleet of HONDA 125 cc, total number 412 motorcycles in use over the country	Service point	50
	2	Maintenance and Repair Service for the NCDDP Fleet of TVS NEO 110 cc, total number 2661 motorcycles in use over the country	Service point	75
G 123	1	Supply and Installation of a CCTV Security System in the project office and related area of DRD	Pack	1

Expressions of Interest for one or both Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible bidders having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ) by return email procurement@ncddpmyanmar.org. They will be invited to a pre-bid meeting at the address by corresponding date and time stated in respective ITQ. Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding **date and time stated in respective ITQ** too, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted on lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to the NCDDP, Procurement Unit: Attention to U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Department of Rural Development, Office No.36, Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067418637. Email: procurement@ncddpmyanmar.org. please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

Daiwa House launches 1st logistics base in Viet Nam

HO CHI MINH CITY — Japanese homebuilder Daiwa House Industry Co. has opened its first logistics base in Vietnam for the rental of warehousing space to forwarders as part of investment in Asia to meet rising Japanese demand for local products.

Daiwa House on Monday launched the base in LocAnBinh Son Industrial Park in Dong Nai Province, some 40 kilometers east of Ho Chi Minh City, and expects to open another by February 2020, with a total investment of up to 3.3 billion yen ($30.6 million), Tatsuya Urakawa, the company's managing executive director, told NNA.

Daiwa House Industry Co launches on 15 July, 2019, its first logistics base in LocAnBinh Son Industrial Park in Dong Nai province, 40 kilometers east of Ho Chi Minh. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

According to Urakawa, the new base, having a total floor space of 36,000 square meters, maintains the temperature as low as minus 60 ˚C, which is adjustable to other ranges such as 10-25 ˚C or 0-10 ˚C according to customer needs. Daiwa House said it hopes the completion of the new facilities with freezers would contribute to expanding the cold-chain network in the region and help increase transportation of frozen food to Japan. The Daiwa House group has so far developed logistics facilities in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, and "is planning (another) in Singapore and Australia," Urakawa said, adding that he expects the expansion of the logistics network to help Japan cope with falling food self-sufficiency. The group placed member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, better known as ASEAN, as a core area of its overseas business and expects to expand its foreign sales to 400 billion yen by fiscal 2021 from 278 billion yen in fiscal 2018 ended last March, according to Daiwa's sixth medium-term management plan released in May. —Kyodo News ■

About 50,000 Bitpoint Japan customers had cryptocurrency stolen

TOKYO — Cryptocurrency exchange operator Bitpoint Japan Co said Tuesday that around half of its 110,000 customers have been victimized by the recent hacking in which digital currencies worth 3.02 billion yen ($27 million) were stolen.

Bitpoint Japan President GenkiOda apologized for the incident at a Tokyo press conference and vowed to fully return the stolen assets in virtual currencies after the company resumes services that were suspended following Thursday's hacking.

But he said the timing of restarting the suspended services and transactions remains unclear, as the theft is still being investigated.

In addition to the 3.02 billion yen hacked in Japan, Bitpoint has said an additional 250 million yen worth of digital currencies have been stolen at overseas exchanges that use its trading system.

The company said it reported the initial theft to police on Friday morning.—Kyodo News ■

Submission of EIA Study of Exploration Drilling in Onshore Block RSF-5 by Eni

Eni Myanmar B.V. (Eni) is planning to conduct Exploration Drilling in Myanmar Onshore Block RSF-5, located in Magway Region, Myanmar, scheduled to commence between November and December 2019 and finishing in June 2020. Eni Myanmar, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), and Sustainable Environment Myanmar (SEM) have prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed activity. The EIA study was submitted to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) on 1st July, 2019. The report is publically available at the following locations:

- Eni's office in Yangon: Sakura Tower, 6th floor - Office# 0602, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar
- Magway District General Administrative Department Office, Magway Region
- Yangon Region ECD office
- Magway Region ECD office
- On Eni's website as follows: https://www.eni.com/enipedia/en_IT/international-presence/asia-oceania/enis-activities-in-myanmar.page

Feedback on the report can be submitted to Eni in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: info.enimyanmar@eni.com

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M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0119 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0119 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (025 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (025 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (927S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (927S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-07-2019 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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AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (928W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (928W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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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Wave Money announces stellar growth in H1 2019

WAVE Money, the leading provider of mobile financial services in Myanmar, reported phenomenal growth in the first half of 2019. From January to June, the company paid 22 Billion Myanmar Kyat (US$ 15 Million) in agent commission, which was more than triple compared to the same period last year (US$ 4 million). In addition, Wave Money moved approximately 2.6 Trillion Myanmar Kyat (US$ 1.7 billion) in remittance in the first six months of 2019.

Officials of Wave Money and Ananda shaking hands at the signing Ceremony. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Officials of Myanmar Economic Bank and Wave Money pose for documentary photo at the partanership MoU Signing ceremony. **PHOTO:SUPPLIED**

Wave Money operates the largest financial services network in Myanmar and has added 5,000 agents to its network in the first half of the year. Now with more than 45,000 agents throughout Myanmar, Wave Money has a foothold in 89 per cent of the country. There are Wave Shops in 293 out of the total 330 townships, covering 85 per cent of rural Myanmar.

"Wave Money is very proud that the first half of the year 2019 shows a significant increase in our results such as agent network, commissions, and volume growth. We are committed to continuing to drive financial inclusion in Myanmar by deeper rural expansion and increased volume growth in the second half of 2019" said Brad Jones, Wave Money CEO.

Safeguard the growth of customers and mobile money usage

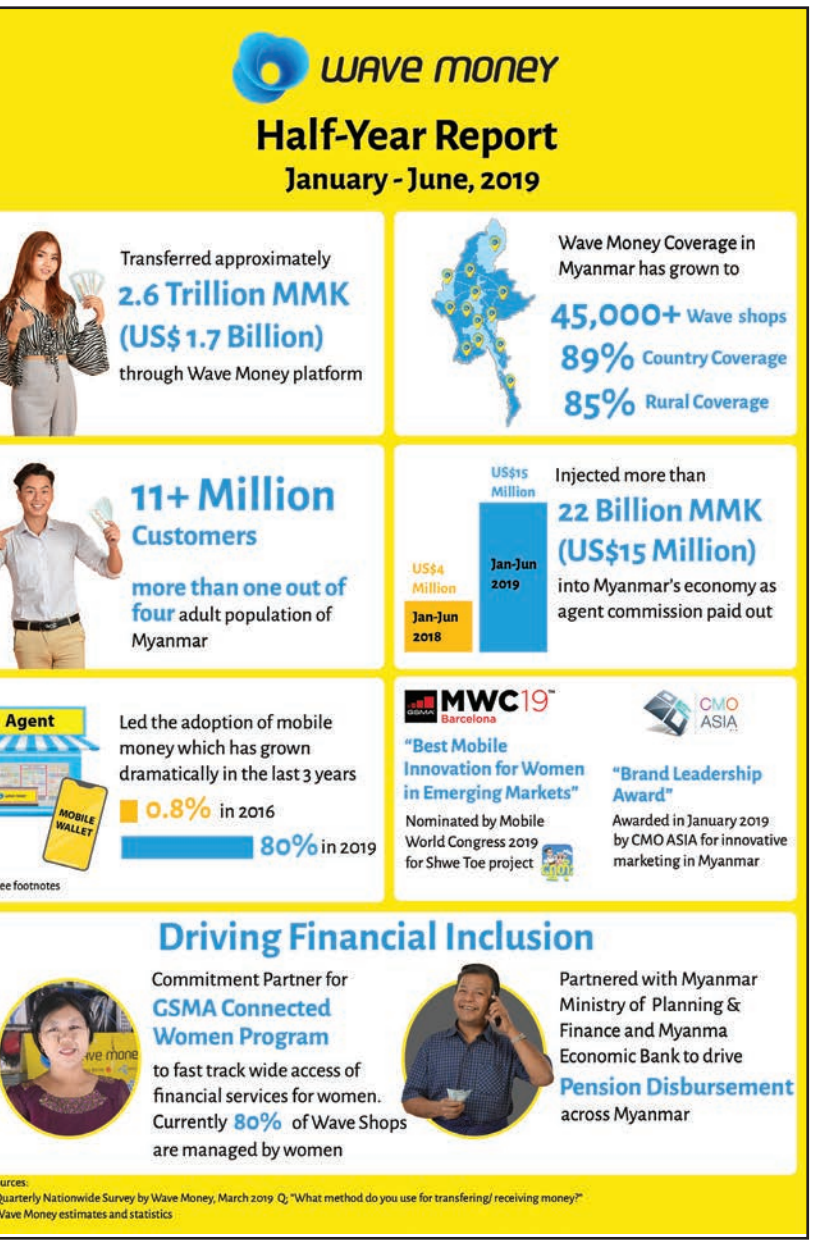
As of June 2019, more than 11 million people in Myanmar have used the Wave Money platform to send and receive money, buy airtime, pay utility bills and process digital payments. Since entering the market, the company has established itself as the most trusted mobile financial service provider in the country, being a license holder under the Mobile Financial Services Regulation which has strict guidelines to safeguard the funds of agents and customers.

"The usage of mobile money continues to grow dramatically in Myanmar. For people who send and receive money, usage of mobile money has increased from 0.8% in 2016 to 80% in 2019 as shown by the recent survey conducted by Kantar TNS. Myanmar has reached a point of mobile money maturity that is quicker than most other markets who have implemented similar businesses," Brad Jones added.

Financial inclusion to a new level

In March, Wave Money and Myanma Economic Bank (MEB) made pension payments more convenient for pensioners through a Digital Pension Disbursement Partnership. The partnership takes Wave Money's commitment to financial inclusion to a new level, enabling government retirees in Myanmar to easily and securely access their pension through from more than 45,000 Wave Shops around the country, any day of the week.

Wave Money and Myanma Economic Bank Partnership MoU Signing Ceremony. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Empowering women also remains high on Wave Money's financial inclusion agenda. In April, the company announced its partnership in the GSMA Connected Women Programme in line with the vision to "Create a Fairer Future for Myanmar". This reinforces a long-standing social impact commitment to enable women so they can reap the benefits of the booming mobile economy.

For its initiative to help increase financial literacy for women in Myanmar, Wave Money has received global brand recognition from Mobile World Congress 2019 and was nominated for "Best Mobile Innovation for Women in Emerging Markets". It'sShwe Toe app is a unique financial education mobile app developed in partnership with UNCDF. Wave Money also won the "Brand Leadership Award" at the CMO Asia Award early this year for its innovative and effective marketing practice in Myanmar. As Wave Money's vision is to "Create a Fairer Future forMyanmar", Wave Money aims to surpass last year's results for even greater growth and increased positive impact for the people in Myanmar for the second half of the year 2019.—GNLM

'Microfinance Success Asia' event coming to Myanmar for the first time

FIRST ever 'Microfinance Success Asia' event is reported to be held in Park Royal Yangon from 23 to 24 July 2019. The event is organized by Singapore-based HBZ Events in consultation with Myanmar Microfinance Association (MMFA).

Microfinance Success Asia focuses on microfinance in emerging Asian economies, offering delegates a world-class conference, a market-leading exhibition and networking opportunities.

According to the organizers, more than 150 attendees are expected to attend the event including Myanmar government officials and representatives from the finance sector specifically microfinance institutions (MFIs), SME and entrepreneurship promotion agencies, banks, farmers associations, technology companies, consultancy companies, financial cooperative experts, development partners as well as policy makers and regulators.

Managing Sustainability & Impact in a Rapidly Evolving Microfinance Sector

Under the theme of 'Managing Sustainability & Impact in a Rapidly Evolving Microfinance Sector' Microfinance Success Asia 2019 will provide a forum for stakeholders to tackle issues and share successes that are at the forefront of the industry. It will also provide opportunities for participants to engage in professional exchanges and to network with players from all sectors of the industry. Herman Zaidin, Managing Director of HBZ Event said, "This is a very timely event for Myanmar as well as other emerging Asian countries where microfinance plays a critical role in economic empowerment. We invite all stakeholders to join us in this cornerstone event which will be attended by delegates from over 15 countries."

Key topics which will be discussed at the event include microfinance industry regulations, best practices for MFIs to enjoy sustainable growth, designing microfinance products that are localized to fit culture and social norms, digitalization of processes in microfinance and opportunities in the Myanmar microfinance sector. Some of the industry leaders that will speak at the event include Mr Gonzalo Gongzalez A, CEO, Dawn Microfinance and Chair of MMFA ICT Working Group; Daw Phyu Yamin Myat, Managing Director, Myanmar Development Partners Co, Ltd and a member of MMFA's leadership team; Said Syed Mamun Quader, Group Managing Director, Southtech; Cameron Goldie-Scott, CEO, Musoni and Alison Grun, Regional Director Asia Pacific at Software Group.

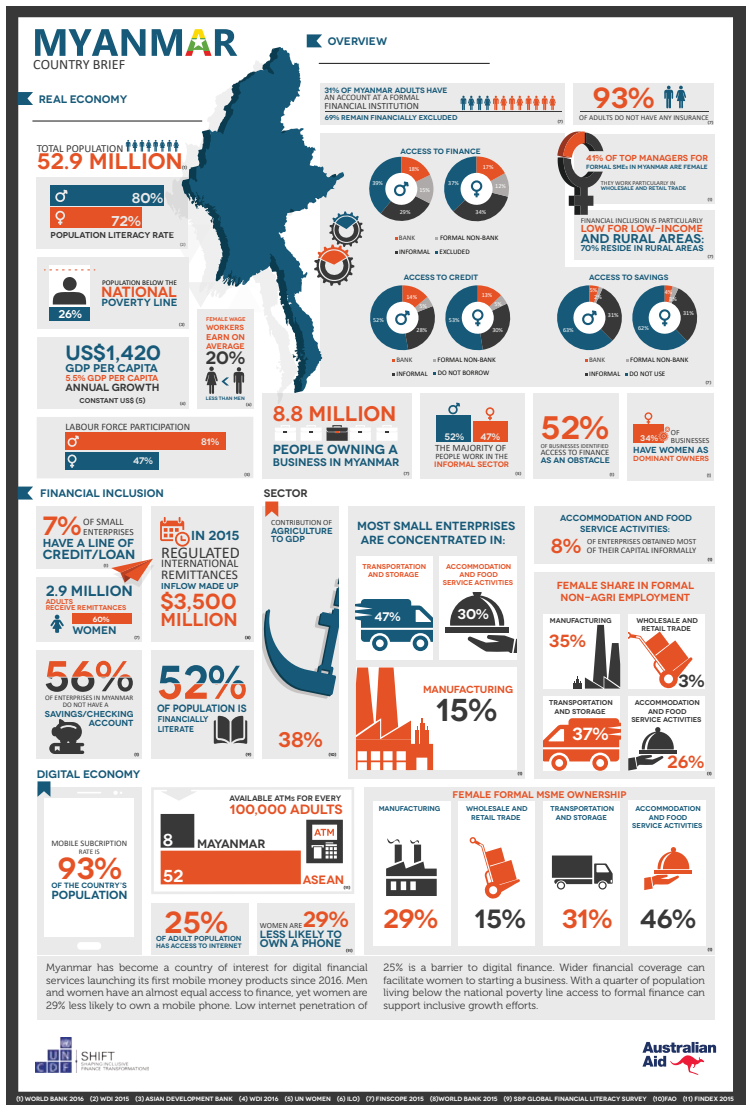
The event is available only to registered delegates and partners. Microfinance Success Asia 2019 claim to be the first event in the region to have its own dedicated app for both Android and Apple platforms, in line with the dynamic and fast-evolving microfinance sector that has identified digitalization as one of its core tenets. Participants can expect an engaging experience through a host of seamless features such as live polls, Q&As, digital agenda and guide, opportunities for sponsors and exhibitors. The networking experience will be seamless and convenient through the app contacts features leading to ease of forming new relationships.

Microfinance in Myanmar

The demand for microfinance is high in Myanmar. However, few institutions had provided microcredit in the past and unmet demand is estimated by industry experts at close to US$ 1 billion (UNCDF 2012). In November 2011, the government adopted a new Microfinance Law as well as Notification 277 and Instructions. This framework allows local and foreign investors to establish fully privately owned MFIs.

According to "Financial Inclusion in Asia: An Overview by Meghana Ayyagari & Thorsten Beck, 23 December 2015" 1.7 billion people are unbanked, globally. In Asia, less than 27% of adults and only 33% of enterprises have an account or a line of credit or loan from a financial institution.

As can be seen in "Infographic Country Brief Myanmar" 8.8 million of the population in Myanmar own businesses. 56% of enterprises in Myanmar do not have a saving/checking account. Only 7% of SMEs have a line of credit. 52% of businesses identified access to finance as an obstacle. These figures as well as many others in the infographic point to the potential for microfinance in Myanmar and the "Microfinance Success Asia 2019 is expected to play a role in pointing out more potentials and possibilities. — Myanmar Microfinance Association



GV Athletic celebrate MFF Warrix Futsal Cup 2019 (Mandalay) victory

AN awards ceremony for the MFF Warrix Futsal Cup 2019 (Mandalay) was held yesterday at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

In the final match of the Cup, GV Athletic beat AKS F.C. (A) with a 6-0score. The awards ceremony was held after the final match, and the first one to receive a gift was the match referee.

Nyi Nyi Thant of GV Athletic team received the 'best goalkeeper' award, Thant Sin Tun from AKS (A) got the 'best player' award, and the GV Athletic team won the 'best fair play' award.

The president of the Myanmar Football Federation, U Zaw Zaw, presented the GV Athletic team K3 million in cash prize and individual medals. Then, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung presented the MFF Warrix Futsal Cup 2019 (Mandalay)to the team.

Afterwards, the first runner-up AKS F.C (A) was awarded K2 million, the second runner-up Linn Latt received K1 million, and the third runner-up JZM F.C (A) walked away with K500,000 in cash prize.

A total of 41 teams took part in the MFF Warrix Futsal Cup 2019 (Mandalay). — Kyaw Khin

GV Athletic celebrate their win at the MFF Warrix Futsal Cup 2019 (Mandalay) awards presentation ceremony on 16 July at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MFF**

Lampard 'won't look backwards' as he takes over Chelsea

YOKOHAMA(Japan)— Chelsea legend Frank Lampard said Tuesday he won't be looking backwards as he takes on possibly the biggest challenge of his career: managing his former team.

Speaking in Japan where the Blues are playing two friendlies, Lampard said he was "very happy" with his squad but expects to work the team hard during the pre-season.

"For me the story is not to look backwards," said Lampard, whose return to his former club as head coach was confirmed earlier this month.

"I know the club very well, I know the players very well. I have my own way that I want to work with the players," he told reporters in Yokohama, where Chelsea will face Japan's Kawasaki Frontale on 19 July.

Lampard acknowledged taking on leadership of the Blues will be a major undertaking, with Chelsea having lost their best player of recent times, Eden Hazard, to Real Madrid last month, and serving a two-window transfer ban that prevents him from making new signings.

But he said there was no reason to dwell on the ban.

"I think I inherited very good players. We cannot bring in any players we know that... But I'm very happy with the squad.

"My job now is to work hard in pre-season with them. I like my teams to play with a lot of energy and speed, with and without the ball, so I want to win it back as quickly as we can," he said.

Chelsea's new $72 million signing, Christian Pulisic, is listed as one of the team members visiting Japan, but it was not year clear when he will arrive.

Lampard declined to reveal the line-up for the two friendlies on Chelsea's calender, which include a much-anticipated face-off against Barcelona on July 23.

American international Pulisic signed a five-and-a-half year contract with Chelsea in January but was immediately loaned back to Germany to finish the season at Borussia Dortmund.

Lampard won 13 trophies in 13 years and became Chelsea's all-time leading marksmen with 211 goals from midfield during a decorated playing career at Stamford Bridge.

But he has a lot to prove in his new role. The former England midfielder has just one season of managerial experience having led Derby County to the Championship play-off final in May, when they were beaten by Aston Villa. —AFP ■

WLC to host 'King of Nine Limbs' in Mandalay on 2 August

THE World Lethwei Championship will host the 'King of Nine Limbs' event at 5 p.m on 2 August at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, according to the WLC website.

The main event will be a bout between Dave Leduc and Seth Baczynski.

The co-main event will feature Artur Saladiak and Sasha Moisa.

The other bouts included in the event are Myanmar's Mite Yine vs Thailand's O Top, Viet Nam's Nguyen Tran Duy Nhat vs Malaysia's Izat Zaki, Myanmar's Hein Tun Tun Aung vs Linn Het Aung, and Myanmar's Htet Naing Aung vs Sai Maung Maung.

The first women's division bout will also be included in the event,in which Muay Thai expert Souris Manfredi will make her Lethwei debut.

She will face Cambodia's highest ranked female fighter Eh Yanut, the daughter of legendary kickboxer Eh Phutong.

The event includes two prelims of Myanmar fighters — Paing Htet Aung vs Aung Paing and Saw El Kaluu vs Saw Lin Lin.

The World Lethwei Championship has recently announced that Dave Leduc will be making his promotional debut against UFC veteran Seth Baczynski under the vacant cruiserweight (79 to 84kg) World Lethwei Championship.

Artur Saladiak will also defend his Light Middleweight title for the first time against Sasha Moisa.

U Zay Thiha, the WLC chairman, was quoted as saying that the upcomingevent will be the biggest in Lethwei history by theThe Body Lock website. The event will be streamed live on Canal+ and UFC Fight Pass.

Tickets can be booked on www.majortickets.com.mm and hotline number 09-799 88 5858. — Kyaw Khin

The 'King of Nine Limbs' event of World Lethwei Championship is scheduled to be held on 2 August 2019 at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: WLC**