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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session holds third-day meeting

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 July 2019. **PHOTO: HTAN PHON**

By Mawsi, Hmwe Kyuzin

THE third-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

Union Legal Aid Board 6-month work report

As the first agenda item of the day Union Legal Aid Board secretary U Khin Zaw read the board's six-month work report and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

> Following past controversies, Hluttaw approved Land Confiscation Bill, paragraph by paragraph.

Ministry of Transport and Communications explanation on acceding to MOU and Protocol

Next, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo provided separate explanations on Myanmar acceding to Memorandum of Understanding on the Improvement of Safety Standards and Inspection for Non-Convention Ships Within ASEAN Member States sent by the President and Myanmar acceding to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (LL PROT 1988) also sent by the President.

After the conclusion of each explanation Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

SEE PAGE-2

Residents near Ayeyawady River in NyaungU alerted to flash floods

AS OF yesterday, the water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU has risen to about one foot below its danger mark, and it may reach its danger level over the next three days.

The people who live near the river banks and low lying area in NyaungU Township have been warned to take precautions.

The water from the Ayeyawady River started to flood some wards in low-lying areas in Bagan NyaungU on 21 July.

The level of water in the river stopped rising two inches above its danger mark in Myinmu, and the water is likely to recede over the next two days.

The water reached 1285 cm, 27 cm above its danger mark in TadaU, Kyaukse townships, yesterday, and over 10,000 people from 35 villages in the TadaU Township have been evacuated.

Mandalay Region authorities went to TadaU to meet with flood victims and presented aid, including food and cash for them. Meanwhile, the Mandalay Region Meteorology and Hydrology Department said on Sunday that the water in the Ayeyawady River is likely to fall below the danger mark after 24 July.

On Saturday, the water reached 25 cm above its danger mark, but the level remained unchanged on Sunday. — GNLM ■

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session holds third-day meeting

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: HTAN PHON**

Union Minister U Thein Swe. **PHOTO: HTAN PHON**

U Khin Maung Cho. **PHOTO: HTAN PHON**

FROM PAGE-1

Budget, revenue and expenditures in National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill

Afterwards Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister for Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun, Union Auditor-General U Maw Than, Union Election Commission member U Hla Tint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Hla Maw Oo, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Union Civil Service Board member U Saw Valentine, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun and Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Min explained about their respective ministry and union level organization's project works in the National Planning Bill, revenues and expenditures in the Union Budget Bill for Financial Year 2019-2020.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Child Rights Bill

Following this, Joint Bill Committee secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin tabled a motion to approve by paragraph the Child Rights Bill returned with comments by the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the Child Rights Bill paragraph by paragraph.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Land Confiscation Bill

Later the Joint Bill Committee secretary also tabled a motion to approve by paragraph the Land Confiscation Bill that the two Hluttaws were in disagreement; later the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the Land Confiscation Bill paragraph by paragraph after which the meeting was concluded. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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.

MoI delegation leaves for Indonesia to attend ASEAN-China High-Level Media Forum

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun left for Indonesia from Yangon yesterday to attend ASEAN-China High Level Media Forum which will be held by the theme 'Connected for a Better Future' from 23 to 24 July.

The Deputy Minister and party were seen off by officials from Ministry of Information at the Yangon International Airport.

The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Daw Moe Thuzar Aung, Director from Myanma Radio and Television, Daw Khine Thinza, Broadcast Technician Grade-1, and U Aye Maung Kyaw, Senior Researcher from the Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies. — MNA ■ *(Translated by TTN)*

The delegation led by Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun seen at Yangon International Airport before depature to Indonesia. **PHOTO: MNA**

Export by public sector touches $173 mln in early July

THE public sector's export of four of seven major groups of products stood at US$173 million during the week between 29 June and 5 July this month, down by over $30 million or 14.8 per cent, from a year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, the sector sold roughly $1,000 worth of minerals, $44,000 worth of forest-based products, $59.1 million worth of manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products over $114 million.

From this time last 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, the public sector's export of the four groups of products exceeded $200 million, which covered $1,000 worth of minerals, $203,000 worth of forest-based products, $203.3 million worth of manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products roughly $3,000.

Between 1 October and 5 July, in the current 2018-2019 fiscal year, the public sector sold five major groups of products to the partner traders, including animal products worth $238,000, minerals worth $389.6 million, forest products worth $4.403 million, manufactured goods worth $2.867 billion and other products worth nearly $312.7 million, totalling $3.577 billion.—Shwe Khine

(Trans: Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Honour to be given for UNESCO award to Bagan

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko accepts cash donation from donors in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CEREMONY will be held today to honour individuals and the relevant organizations for their efforts to win recognition by UNESCO to Bagan as a World Heritage Site.

For the successful holding of this ceremony, private firms from hotel and tourism industry yesterday donated cash at the Sapphires Hall of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min and officials, and the representatives from the donor associations.

Union Minster U Ohn Maung expressed thanks for the cash donation to hold the hounouring ceremony and those who worked for Bagan to be named as UNESCO's World Heritage Site.

He said, "The Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, officials from relevant ministries and the organizations from both the government and the private sectors are appreciated for their works in the whole process together with the experts from tourism industry." Then, Foreign Investment Hotels Association donated K. 10 million, Myanmar Hotelier Association K 1 million, Myanmar Tourism Federation K 500,000, and Myanmar Food Industries Association K 500,000 respectively.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received cash donation, and gave honour of certificates to the donors before expressing thanks for donation.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Experts discuss sustainability in Myanmar's diverse ecosystems

Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin and attendees pose for the photo at the workshop in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

A WORKSHOP on disseminating skills and information for conducting community-based forest conservation in regions with different agricultural systems was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin first delivered opening remarks.

The workshop is part of the project to implement sustainable agricultural lands and forest resource administration system in Myanmar's different ecosystems. It is led by FAO in collaboration with local NGOs and CSOs.

The project demonstrates agricultural systems that are appropriate for the changing climate in coastal areas, highlands and the tropical region in central Myanmar and implementing a sustainable forest administration system with local residents.

The project focuses on Mindat and Kanpetlet townships of Chin State for highlands, Labutta Township of Ayeyawady Region for coastal regions, and NyaungU and Kyaukpadaung townships of Mandalay Region for tropical regions.

The project's procedure requires bringing NGOs and CSOs together and as such, this workshop is one of seven processes collaborated on by FAO and RECOFTC Myanmar.

The workshop promotes discussion on the challenges and advantages of operating public-owned forestry businesses in Myanmar's three ecosystems, and to design future project tasks based on accumulated experiences. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

CBM governor attends ACU's BOD meeting in Bhutan

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and delegation attended the 48th Asian Clearing Union's Board of Directors meeting in Paro, Bhutan, from 14 to 15 July.

Attendees at the meeting were the governors, deputy governors and representatives of the central banks of ACU-member countries which include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

During the two-day meeting, attendees discussed the current economic development and future prospects of each member state, ACU's accomplishments and improvements during the 2018 fiscal year, better efficiency for processing remittances and auditing accounts, controlling banks and financial institutions with designated rules, how central banks can prepare for possible losses that accompany developing financial technology, inviting more members into ACU and ways to strengthen it. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and attendees pose for the documentary photo at the 48th Asian Clearing Union's Board of Directors Meeting in Paro, Bhutan. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

Township staff provide cash assistance to flood victims in villages in Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: YE LIN TUN (IPRD)**

Schools are closed due to flooding by Ayeyawady River in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW**

Surging Ayeyawady water hits ancient Bagan

FLOOD water of the Ayeyawady River has reached one feet to the danger mark of ancient Bagan area in Mandalay Region yesterday morning, and is expected to hit its overflow level in three days, according to the announcement of Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The residents living near the river bank and low lands have been alerted to the possibility of flood in next three days as it has covered two to three feet at some houses and parking area of Lawkanandar Temple in Bagan-Nyaung U Township.

Floods force to close 178 schools in Mandalay

As the Ayeyawady water rises, a total of 178 schools have to close temporarily in Mandalay Region, and Singu Township is with the highest number, said U Khin Maung Toe, Staff Officer from the Mandalay Region Education Office.

Similarly, flash flooding forced to close schools in Thabeikkyin Township on 15th July, and in Singu and Madaya townships on 17th July.

More schools were also closed in Myingyan, Amarapura, TadaU and Patheingyi townships on 20th and 21st July.

The staff officer said, "More than 170 schools are temporarily closed due to inundation up to 21st July. The closure of these schools has to announce when floods occurred ever year."

Surging water has resulted in the temporary closures of 12 schools in Thabeikkyin, 52 in Singu, 39 in Madaya, 11 in TadaU, 20 in Patheingyi, 19 in Myingyan, 20 in Amarapura, two in Singaing, two in Nyaung U and one in Aungmyethazan townships, out of 4,236 schools at basic education level of Mandalay Region in 2019-2020 academic year.

"Teachers will teach the children in extra times when the flood declined," he continued.

Pwintbyu Township close three schools

Three basic education schools in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, are closed due to the swollen Ayeyawady River on yesterday morning.

The water level reached two and half feet at the schools of Thangai, Myingyansu and Kugyi village in Pyintbyu Township, and the closure is expected up to 25th July, said U Nway Wint Kyaw, deputy Township Education Officer.

However, he said missing school times will be substituted in early August.

Flood victims in Htigyaing Township receive relief aid

Flood victims in three villages of Htigyaing Township of Katha District, Sagaing Region, received relief aid yesterday.

The residents in Chungtaung, Weigyi and Tongal villages were forced to take shelters after Ayeyawady water inundated these village beginning 9:30 am.

U Ba Win, Township Administrator and U Phyo Nyunt Maung, officer of Township Fire Services Department, together with village administrators and officers, presented K1,422,100 cash assistance from Sagaing Region's Disaster Management Department to 701 flood victims of 144 households at three relief camps.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department of Pwintbyu Township has forecast Ayeyawady water has declined to 730 centimeters (23.95 ft).

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Houses are submerged by the flood in Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: YE LIN TUN (IPRD)**

Number of houses flooding in NyaungU Township. **PHOTO: PE LAIN (BAGAN)**

Basic education primary school in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, closed due to flooding. **PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNGU)**

Arrival of foreign visitors to Myanmar according to figures provided by Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Sr.	Subject	2018 (Up to June)	2019 (Up to June)	Increase / Decrease	Percentage
1	Arrival by air	651,986	839,887	187,901	+29%
2	Arrival by cruise ship	6,880	5,979	-901	-13%
3	Arrival at border gate and travel into the country	23,234	63,649	40,415	+174%
	Arrival by visa	682,100	909,515	227,415	+33%
4	Visit border only	1,039,949	1,233,953	194,004	+19%
	Total	**1,722,049**	**2,143,468**	**421,419**	**+24%**

Comparison of visitor arrival by nationality

No.	Nationality	2018 (Up to June)	2019 (Up to June)	difference	Percentage
	North America	40,233	40,921	688	2%
1	USA	34,021	34,986	965	3%
2	Canada	6,212	5,935	-277	-4%
	Other Americas	5,836	5,417	-419	-7%
	West Europe	93,138	90,656	-2,482	-3%
1	France	23,639	22,885	-754	-3%
2	UK	20,121	17,898	-2,223	-11%
3	Germany	14,797	14,559	-238	-2%
4	Italy	7,214	8,963	1,749	24%
5	Switzerland	4,912	4,417	-495	-10%
6	Netherlands	4,736	4,598	-140	-3%
7	Belgium	2,792	2,569	-223	-8%
8	Austria	1,697	1,893	196	12%
9	Spain	3,788	4,315	527	14%
10	Others	9,440	8,559	-881	-9%
	East Europe	9,432	9,280	-152	-2%
1	Russia	2,798	2,611	-187	-7%
2	Others	6,634	6,669	35	1%
	Africa	2,058	2,142	84	4%
	Middle East	2,610	2,802	192	7%
	Asia	513,072	743,591	230,519	45%
1	China	133,697	320,882	187,185	140%
2	Thailand	153,814	13,579	-16,235	-11%
3	Korea	32,343	59,568	27,225	84%
4	Japan	48,745	60,574	11,829	24%
5	Singapore	27,978	27,274	-704	-3%
6	Viet Nam	27,328	25,888	-1,440	-5%
7	India	21,648	23,086	1,438	7%
8	Malaysia	23,559	21,025	-2,534	-11%
9	Taiwan	17,783	18,979	1,196	7%
10	Hong Kong	88	16,910	16,822	
11	Macau	2	1,355	1,353	
13	Philippines	8,437	8,718	281	3%
14	Others	17,650	21,753	4,103	23%
	Oceania	15,721	14,706	-1,015	-6%
1	Australia	13,574	12,778	-796	-6%
2	New Zealand	2,003	1,849	-154	-8%
3	Others	144	79	-65	45%
	Total	**682,100**	**909,515**	**227,415**	**33%**

Remarks. Visa entries only

Re-opening of the Call for Nominations for the ASEAN Prize 2019

AS none of the candidates merits the ASEAN Prize to 2019 to be awarded at the 34th Summit, the ASEAN Secretariat has re-opened call for nominations for ASEAN Prize 2019 to recognise inspiring achievements and exemplary contributions of an individual or organization, inter alia, to the building of a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centered ASEAN Community, and intra ASEAN collaborative efforts.

Nominees should have exceptional merit in contributing to the following designated focus areas:

- Outstanding collaboration between ASEAN Member States (AMS);
- Outstanding collaboration between ASEAN and the world;
- Outstanding people-to-people engagement among AMS;
- Outstanding economic integration and promotion of standards between or among AMS; or
- Other outstanding contributions to ASEAN Community Building

The Judging Committee, consisting of eminent high-level members, including incumbent and former ASEAN Secretaries-General, will select a recipient who will be awarded the ASEAN Prize Trophy and a cash prize of US$ 20,000. This year's prize will be presented at the Opening Ceremony of the 35th ASEAN Summit in November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The nomination form for ASEAN Prize 2019 can be downloaded at the ASEAN Secretariat Website http://www.asean.org/asean-prize. Nominee must submit the duly fill-in form to the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw or dgasean@gmail.com and psaseanmmr@gmail.com no later than 6 September 2019.

Nominee must be an ASEAN citizen or an ASEAN-based organization. In the nomination form, the nominee need to elaborate within three or five pages highlighting the achievement the nominee has contributed to the building of a rule-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community and intra-ASEAN collaborative efforts since the launch of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015. The nominee should also share future plans in continuing the work after winning the prize. For further information, please visit the ASEAN Secretariat Website.

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Muse trade down $827.6 mln as of 5 July

THE value of Sino-Myanmar border trade conducted at the Muse gate plunged by US$827.6 million between 1 October, 2018 and 5 July, 2019, compared with the corresponding period of last fiscal year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the last nine month period, exports through the Muse gate were worth $2.5 billion, while imports were valued at $1.36 billion, totaling $3.89 billion, which plummeted from $4.7 billion in the one year ago period. Exports through the Muse gate drastically dropped, owing to tight confiscations and suspension of trade by China since October 2018, coupled with the closure of the border gate. Muse is the major border gate in Myanmar that performs the largest trade volume, but it saw a steep drop as trade in agricultural products have been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade.

Myanmar's merchants cannot export to China through legitimate channels, as the tax levied by China is too high for traders to pay. The import duty is set at 35 per cent to 100 per cent, and some duties are imposed up to 150 per cent. Therefore, the confiscation of rice and price manipulation often occur.

"We need to convert the government-to-government agreement into a sustainable pact. Myanmar requires government-to-government or business-to-business agreements for trade of pulses and beans, corn, sesame, fish, and shrimp to earn a share of the Chinese market. The government and the private sector also need to move forward in harmony through public private partnerships (PPP)," said U Ye Min Aung, the president of MRF.

Myanmar's rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals and animal products are exported to China, while agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods and consumer goods flow into the country. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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

Classes suspended at 39 schools in Madaya due to flooding

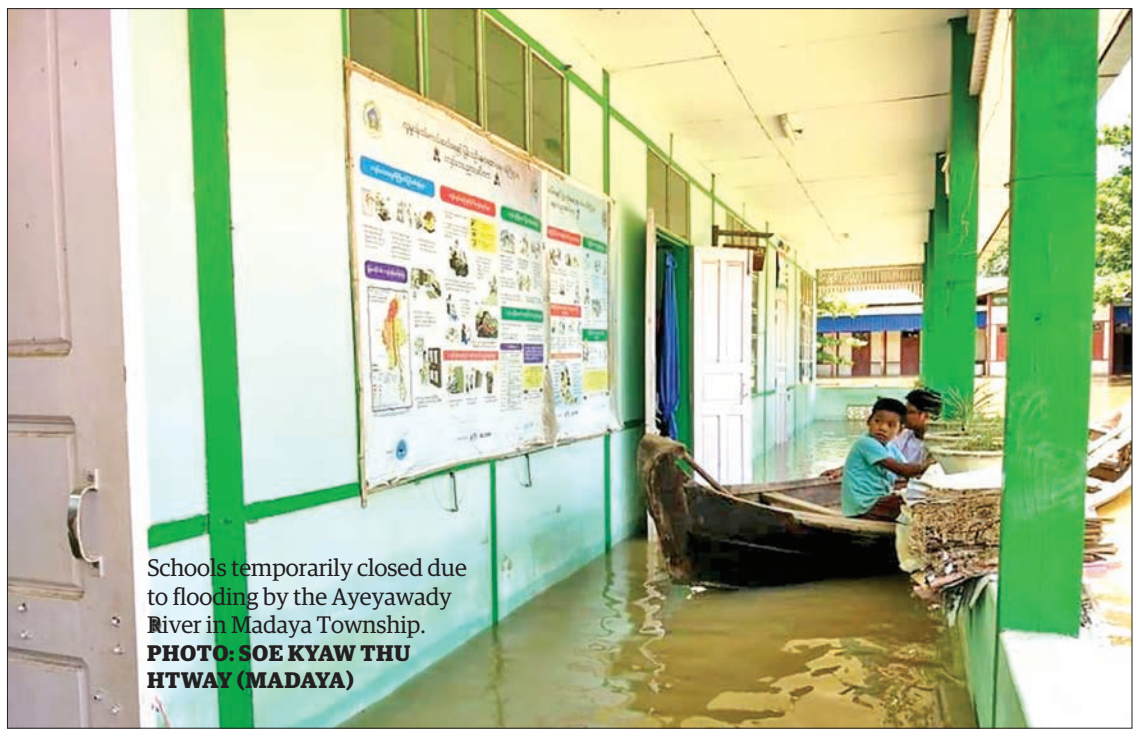
THIRTY NINE schools in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, have to be temporarily closed because of flooding by the River Ayeyawady, according to the Township Education Department.

The education department initially closed only 13 schools. Afterwards, another 26 schools were closed on 20 July.

The closed schools include high schools, middle schools and primary schools.

There are 3,814 students attending the 26 schools, according to officials.—Soe Kyaw Thu Htway (Madaya)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Schools temporarily closed due to flooding by the Ayeyawady River in Madaya Township. **PHOTO: SOE KYAW THU HTWAY (MADAYA)**

Officials inspect flooded wards in Chauk

THE township administrator and departmental officials on Monday went on an inspection tour of the flooded wards in the town of Chauk in Magway Region, after the rising of the water level of the Ayeyawady River.

During the inspection tour, the township administrator and officers inspected Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8, which are inundated by Ayeyawady river. The township administrator also provided suggestions to reduce the flooding and urged the public to call the emergency numbers of the township general administration, the township Fire Services Department, the central police station and the township health department when seeking help.

A total of 237 flood victims from 53 households from Ward 7 and 17 people from four households in ward 8 were evacuated to temporary relief camps or their relatives' homes.—Kyaw Moe (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Township officials inspect flooded areas in Chauk, Magway Region. **PHOTO: KYAW MOE (IPRD)**

Intense drought strikes, killing peanut and sesame fields in Ngathayauk

PEANUT and sesame fields have dried up due to the lack of rainfall between the third week of June and second week of July, even though there was rainfall in the last week of May in Ngathayauk Township, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region.

NyaungU and Ngathayauk townships plant oil crops that primarily rely on the rainy season. If there is erratic weather during the rainy season, the oil crops are drastically affected, said U Chan Myae Aung.

It has been about two years in which the climate has remained irregular, and most farmers do not dare to cultivate their crops. Therefore, empty fields are increasing year after year. The Ngathayauk and NyaungU townships depend on peanut and sesame cultivations, and some growers cannot cultivate due to the high prices of seeds. Previously, the pigeon pea cultivations were grown in NyaungU District, but now the pigeon pea cultivations are rare, said U Than Htike, Administrator of Kalarte village.

If there will be no rainfall in the coming five days, farmers will lose their oil crops for this season, according to U Than Htike.—Ko Htain (Ngathayauk)

(Translated by La Womon)

Drought devastated peanut and sesame fields in Ngathayauk. **PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)**

High demand for chilli seeds triple the price in Monywa

Chilli grower harvests chillies at the field in Monywa. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

WITH the number of chilli growers having increased this year, the demand for chilli seeds surpassed its supply, thereby hiking the price from K8,000 to K30,000 per packet, said U Soe Lwin, deputy chairman of the Sagaing Region Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association.

"During the 2018-19 fiscal year, there are 14,000 acres of chilli fields in the Sagaing Region, with a production rate of over 4 million viss (1viss=1.6 kg). The green chilli thermo 11 variety is mostly cultivated in Monywa District, and that variety has developed a shortage. So, similar kinds of chilli are being cultivated, rather than that. There were over 2,000 acres of chilli cultivated in Monywa last year", noted U Soe Lwin.

The chilli growing season continues from July to December. The high price of chilli in the domestic market prompted the growers to extend their cultivating areas.

Over 10 million viss of fresh and dried chilli were produced during the monsoon and winter growing season of the current 2018-19 FY in Sagaing Region.

The chilli market is growing due to local and foreign demand. The cultivation acres in Monywa District are likely to double, chilli growers said. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by La Wonn)

MFVP eyes to establish pomelo zone on 300 acres in Kayin State

By Aye Yamone

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) has requested Kayin state government to grant permit for 300 acres of land for setting up a pomelo zone in KayinState.

Although MFVP has requested the land from Kayin state government to set up a pomelo zone since 2017, the state government has not yet approved the grant. But the government called upon MFVP to submit a new proposal for land, and so MFVP again submitted the new requesr.

"We have planned to set up a pomelo zone in Kayin and Mon States. There are some foreign countries that want to purchase pomelo from Myanmar. But we could not produce enough pomelos to export it. That's why we want to establish the pomelo zone to grow sufficient quantities of pomelo to export. We have already discussed this matter with the Mon state government, as well as with the Kayin state government. But the government could not give permission yet, as there is a lack of land," said U Soe Than Min Din, the chairman of MFVP. Although some countries, including China, have offered to purchase Myanmar pomelo, Myanmar could not produce high-quality pomelos to meet the market's demand.

Kayin State is one among the states and regions that has cultivable lands, when compared with other regions and states.

"We already submitted a proposal for a grant of 300 acres of land one month ago, because Kayin state government called upon us to submit a land grant proposal for the second time. The Kayin state chief minister is interested in the establishment of a pomelo zone, and thus, the Kayin state fruit association has submitted the proposal. In fact, the state government could not grant the land. When we receive the land grant, we will handle the management and communication. The local cultivators will plant the pomelo," he added. Myanmar has over 20 species of pomelo. But pan tit pomelo and pyar pomelo species are the more marketable products in foreign countries. There are over 5,000 acres of pomelo across the country. Although Pomelo is cultivated in Mon, Kayin and Kachin States and, Ayeyawady, Bago, Taninthayi, Mandalay and Yangon regions, Pomelo is mainly grown in Kayin and Mon States.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

China Co invests $37 mln in cattle breeding, trading business

By Nyein Nyein

CHINESE company Kangrui Agriculture Livestock Development Company Limited invested US$37 million to carry out the breeding and trading of cattle in Myanmar, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"That permitted enterprise is aimed for export to China. This is the first ever enterprise that has been given the green light for cattle farming", said U Thant Sin Lwin, acting Director-General of the DICA.

That project area is located in Nyaungoak village-tract, Mahlaing Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, according to DICA.

The livestock sector has potential for foreign investment, said U Thant Sin Lwin, referring to the Commerce Ministry's statement. The export of cattle is officially allowed from Myanmar. Therefore, Myanmar's government is planning to enter into a Government to Government pact with China. In a bid to encourage legal trade routes, increase income and create more jobs for local residents, livestock trade was allowed in Myanmar in late 2017, along with decentralized cattle exports from the respective region and state governments. But, the power was transferred from regional governments to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, as they faced certain difficulties in the movement of cattle, according to an announcement from the Ministry on 22 May.

Cattle in Myanmar are mainly exported to China through the Muse border gate, as well as to Thailand.

Normally, a large cow is valued at over K1.6-2.3 million, but the suspension of trade has led to Chinese traders resorting to manipulating prices by offering a lower price of around K1 million in early 2019.

A farmer drives cattle to home after grazing them in Tatkon, central Myanmar. **FILE PHOTO: GNLM**

Between the 2017-2018FY and 28 March in the current FY, over 464,000 heads of cattle were authorized for export. But, the actual export figure was more than 375,000 heads of cattle.

At present, cattle that are above five years old are being exported, along with the required vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

The authorities have issued cattle export licenses to more than 300 companies in Magway Region. There are some 5,000 companies holding cattle export licenses across the country.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Well informed community crucial to combating swine flu

Seasonal influenza has been impacting regional countries and others across the globe. Myanmar has seen 281 cases of the virus this year, between 1 January and 16 July. People within the 15 to 65 age group make up 51% of those afflicted.

Upon examining those who had contracted the influenza virus, we can see that although the death toll is not high, it is most dangerous to elderly people and young children, especially those with compounded health problems.

More deaths were seen in people with diabetes and hypertension. With H1N1 becoming a seasonal flu virus strain in Myanmar, it is advisable that health-care workers and others at risk are vaccinated.

> Besides vaccinations, there needs to be greater education so that people adopt precautionary measures, such as frequent hand washing, and taking precautions when coughing.

Besides vaccinations, there needs to be greater education so that people adopt precautionary measures, such as frequent hand washing, and taking precautions when coughing.

Of the 56 people who have died, 45% were from the 15-65 age group and 44 people died due to having numerous conditions, making up 75% of the deceased.

We have found that seeking medical attention too late, despite identification of early symptoms, has increased the death toll.

As of 16 July 2019, some 117 patients with seasonal influenza have recovered after their hospital treatment and have been discharged, while 44 inpatients are steadily recovering.

Further, 682 patients received medical examinations and 281 patients were confirmed to carry the virus.

The Ministry of Health and Sports collaborates, in line with International Health Regulations 2005, with the World Health Organization, as well as regional and affiliated organizations, on administering communicable disease surveillance to prevent the rise of public health problems and epidemics.

The government, departments, public citizens and affiliated organizations have increased work on monitoring, patient treatments, raising health awareness, and preventing and responding to the current seasonal influenza.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has arranged for hospital staff across the states and regions to be vaccinated first with those vaccines distributed by the ministry.

It is also important to provide health education on seasonal influenza in townships with diagnosed patients, screening of new patients, monitoring the virus and performing medical check-ups on family members.

The Ministry of Health and Sports urges the public to follow the Health Ministry's precautionary measures, which include avoiding crowds, frequent washing of hands, use of disposable tissues when sneezing and coughing, and cleaning utensils and plates before use.

The media is also requested to distribute correct information to the public on emergency responses, monitoring, prevention and control, treatment, and health awareness activities in connection with seasonal influenza.

Kungyangon flourishes after Old Thakhut River expansion

By Shin Min

THAKHUT River or Pathein River strecthes 27 miles from Yangon River to Toe River while passing through Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships.

Once carrying boats and ships along its flow, the shrunken river now flows only as far as Kama Kani Village in Kawhmu Township, 6.5 miles from Yangon River.

Eventually, the river was reduced to the size of a small canal on the outskirts of Kungyangon Township. It was prone to annual floods and the locals had to replant fields and were limited to growing hardy paddy that could survive being submerged. The floods destroyed a significant amount of crops and effectively reduced farmers' income.

Motion to reform river, canals

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Thura Tun, MP for Kungyangon constituency, and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Htwe collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to alleviate this issue plaguing farmers.

They petitioned for allocation of funds from the Union fund and State Goverment fund in 2016-2017 FY to dig up 6.2 miles of Thakhut River from Kawdun village to Kyarkat village and reform creeks and canals in Kungyangon Township.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Thura Tun.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Htwe.

Flood outbreaks reduced

The funds were allocated in the same financial year and work to dig up the old channels commenced. The channel was dug from Kawdun village to Myintaryar village and measured 6.2 miles long. This reduced flood occurrences in the west of Kungyangon.

A tributary which flows into Thakhut River has been dredged.

Asked about the project, U Soe Thura Tun replied that the region's main income was from its agriculture and aquaculture jobs. He said the local farmers had to deal with the floods for twenty years. He said he was moved to help them after seeing the difficulty they faced in their farms. He said everything was mostly resolved after the Union and State Government funds were approved.

Hope for higher crop yield

U Yi Win, a local farmer who tends to the fields between Nghat Gyi Taung village and Kawdun village, said digging up a portion of Thakhut River has significantly helped him and his fellow farmers.

"We have to work really hard to grow about fifty baskets worth of rice in one acre. The floods used to destroy about 300 out of 3,000 acres. But the floods have been reduced and this has made farming easier. They've dug up other sections this year so we can expect more crops to grow," said U Yi Win.

Daw San San Aye from Kawdun village expressed her immense gratitude for digging up the diminished Thakhut River, as it bas significantly reduced floods for locals like her.

"I have to plant about 9 pyis of crop seeds in my 12-acre farm. Before they dug up the channels, I'd have to replant the seeds at least three times since the floods wiped them out. It cost me thrice as much and was a waste of time, money and labour," said Daw San San Aye.

U Soe Thura Tun said while the flood problem has been taken care of, they will need to install a sluice gate to regulate the salinity of the river as directing freshwater into the fields will allow locals to grow summer crops.

The region is close to the sea and home to paddy fields so plenty, people describe its abundance with the allegory, "curry pot in the east, rice pot in the west". The locals also take pride for the region being the birthplace of esteemed writer and poet Min Thu Wun.

In that regard, MPs have petitioned for funds to dig 5.3 miles from Bodin to Kawdun village in 2019-2020 FY and to install a sluice gate and expand the previously dug channel, in additon to digging up new ones, about 6.25 miles long.

Farmlands susceptible to damage

The section of Thakhut River from Bodin to Kamakani lies in Kawhmu Township and to dig up that channel will require relocating the houses, roads and farmlands that have settled in the dried up area. Furthermore, the influx of saltwater from Yangon River could damage crops.

When asked about the projects conducted to help the locals, the Assistant Director for Yangon Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, U Wint Naing said they have also finished similar projects in Hlegu, Dagon Myothit, Htantapin, Hmawby, Taikkyi, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan, Thonekwa, Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Twantay and Dala townships within Yangon Region.

Municipal develops steadily

With the Union Government spearheading development and the Hluttaw representatives and public providing cooperation, Kungyangon Township has seen proper agricultural growth, paved concrete roads in its urban areas and better roads connecting its villages within the three years of civilian government administration.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Securing safe health services

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh.

ADEQUATE water, sanitation and hygiene in all health facilities is critical to patient and health worker safety. Here's how to secure it

Health care facilities are many and varied. Some are tertiary; others are primary. Many are public; some are private. Others meet specific needs, whether dentistry or occupational therapy. And some are temporary, providing acute care when disaster strikes.

Whatever their differences, and wherever they're located, adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), including waste management and environmental cleaning services, is critical to the safe functioning of each one.

Why?

Because when a health care facility lacks adequate WASH, infection prevention and control is severely compromised. This has the potential to make patients and health workers sick from avoidable infections.

As a result (and in addition), inadequate WASH in health care facilities directly undermines efforts to improve maternal, neonatal and child health. It also contributes to the unnecessary use of antibiotics, thereby spreading antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR is already estimated to kill some 700 000 people across the world annually and is one of the most pressing threats to health we face.

Much work is to be done.

As a joint WHO and UNICEF report published earlier this year outlines, WASH services in too many facilities across the world are missing or substandard. According to data from 2016, an estimated 896 million people globally had no water service at their health care facility. More than 1.5 billion had no sanitation service. One in every six health care facilities were estimated to have no hygiene service (meaning they lacked hand hygiene facilities at points of care, as well as soap and water at toilets), while data on waste management and environmental cleaning was inadequate across the board.

In the WHO South-East Asia Region, efforts to tackle the problem and achieve related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets are being vigorously pursued. As outlined at a WHO-supported meeting in New Delhi, India in March, improving WASH in health care facilities is crucial to accelerating progress towards each of the Region's Flagship Priorities, especially its quest to achieve universal health coverage. Notably, improving WASH was deemed essential to enhancing the quality of primary health care services, increasing equity and bridging the rural/urban divide.

SEE PAGE-10

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear certiorari cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Aung Zaw Thein and U Myo Tint of Special Appellate Bench sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and passed judgment on five (Certiorari) civil cases. It also heard one (Certiorari) criminal case and four other (Certiorari) civil cases. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 22nd July, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 23 July, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway region, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing and Magway regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 – 8) feet off and along Myanmar Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 July, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 July, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 July, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

Securing safe health services

FROM PAGE-9

A World Health Assembly Resolution endorsed in May, which the Region's Member States supported, will hasten momentum, particularly by catalyzing domestic and external investment to help reach the time-bound global targets. These include ensuring at least 60% of all health care facilities have basic WASH services by 2022; at least 80% have the same by 2025; and 100% of all facilities provide basic WASH services by 2030.

To reach these targets and help achieve the Region's Flagship Priorities, Member States Region-wide should implement each of the eight WHO- and UNICEF-recommended practical steps to improve WASH in health care facilities, with a specific focus on several key areas.

First, health authorities should conduct in-depth assessments and establish national standards and accountability mechanisms. Across the Region, as across the world, the lack of quality baseline data limits authorities' understanding of the problem, making the assessment of existing sector-wide services key.

As this is done, and national roadmaps to improve WASH in health care facilities are developed, health authorities should create clear and measurable benchmarks that can be used to help improve and maintain infrastructure and ensure facilities are 'fit to serve'. Given governments are more than service providers, effective stewardship is vital to providing better WASH governance across the sector.

Second, health authorities should increase engagement and work to instill a culture of cleanliness and safety in all health care facilities. Alongside information campaigns that target facility administrators, for example, all workers in the health system – from doctors and nurses to midwives and cleaners – should be made aware of current WASH and infection prevention and control (IPC) procedures. They should also be encouraged to practice them.

To help do this, modules on WASH and IPC should be included in pre-service training and as part of ongoing professional development. In addition, health authorities should work more closely with communities – especially in rural areas – to promote demand for WASH services and collect valuable input and feedback.

And third, health authorities should ensure the collection of data on key WASH indicators becomes routine. Doing so will help accelerate progress by promoting continued action and accountability. Importantly, it will also help spur innovation by documenting the links between specific policies and their outcomes.

To make that happen, WHO is working with Member States across the Region, as well as key partners, to develop a data dashboard that brings together and tracks indicators on clean and safe health facilities, including WASH services, with a focus on the primary care level. Once finalized and implemented, rapid and lasting gains are expected.

As Member States Region-wide strive to achieve the Flagship Priorities and work towards the SDG targets, that outcome is crucial. Indeed, whatever the health care facility, whoever the provider, and wherever it is located, securing safe health services is an imperative Member States must boldly pursue. Together, it is an imperative we must achieve.

(Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh is the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia.)

Portugal firefighters control wildfires, but warn of strong winds

MAÇÃO (Portugal) — Portuguese firefighters were cautiously optimistic Monday that they have largely controlled a massive wildfire in a central region where dozens of people were killed in huge blazes in 2017, but warned that strong winds could cause the remaining flames to spread.

Some 1,200 firefighters backed by five water-dropping planes were deployed to fight the blazes in the heavily forested Castelo Branco region, 200 kilometres (120 miles) northeast of the capital Lisbon, the civil protection force said.

The wildfires have been "90 per cent controlled" but winds were expected to pick up in the afternoon, with gusts of up to 35 kilometres per hour expected which could fan the flames and cause them to spread, the force's spokesman Pedro Nunes told a news conference in the central town of Serta.

"These are complex conditions to fight fires. We are going to have a complicated day. The wind has been the great motor of this fire," he said, adding the fire is still active "mainly in hard to reach areas".

Smoke from the wildfires was visible from space, satellite images broadcast on Portuguese television showed.

Around 30 people, including eight firefighters, have been injured, mostly from smoke inhalation, from the blaze which broke out on Saturday amid scorching temperatures, according to the interior ministry.

President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa on Sunday visited a badly burned civilian who was evacuated by helicopter to a Lisbon hospital.

In a message, he expressed his "solidarity with the hundreds fighting the scourge of the fires".— AFP ■

A villager shouts for help as a wildfire approaches a house at Casas da Ribeira village in Macao, central Portugal on 21 July 2019. Planes and helicopters joined nearly 2,000 firefighters in central Portugal on 21 July, 2019 to battle huge wildfires in a mountainous region where more than 100 people died in huge blazes in 2017. Around 20 people have been injured in the blaze, including eight firefighters and 12 civilians, according to the interior ministry. **PHOTO: AFP**

Death toll in India's floods rises to 169, army sets up medical camps

NEW DELHI — The death toll in India's flood-hit states has risen to 169, including 102 deaths in Bihar and 67 in Assam over the past eight days, official data provided by the two states showed on Sunday.

Among the Bihar's 12 flood-affected districts, the maximum of 27 deaths have been reported from Sitamarhi district alone, while 23 deaths reported from Madhubani, 12 from Arariya, 10 each from Darbhanga and Seohar, and nine deaths from Purnia district.

As per the latest updates, lives of a total of 7.27 million people have been directly affected, as nearly 115,000 people who lost all their belongings in the floods have been rehabilitated in around 133 relief camps set up across the flood-affected districts.

The number of those taking refuge in relief camps has come down as some of them left for their homes since water level receded at their place of residence.

Situation is equally grim in northeastern state of Assam, where five people died in the past 24 hours, taking the total death toll to 67, out of which two died in landslides triggered by floods. A total of 3.83 million people have been affected across 18 districts.

Water level of Brahmaputra river, which flows through the state, continues to be at the danger mark. Meanwhile, considering the evolving situation due to floods in Assam, the Indian Army has set up three medical camps in the flood-affected Barpeta, Moigaon and Sonitpur districts, and two veterinary camps in the flood-affected districts of Dhubri and Nalbari.

"The medical camps have been set with intent to address issues pertaining to waterborne infectious diseases and epidemic threat, both to live stock and human. The said camps are also providing Mobile Detachments of an effective outreach to neighbouring villages which are still inundated," said a statement issued by the Indian Army. —Xinhua ■

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan-2 (Moon Chariot 2), with on board the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-mark III-M1), launches at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, an island off the coast of southern Andhra Pradesh state, on 22 July 2019. India launched a bid to become a leading space power on 22 July, sending up a rocket to put a craft on the surface of the Moon in what it called a "historic day" for the nation. **PHOTO: AFP**

Proud India launches historic bid to put spacecraft on Moon

SRIHARIKOTA (India) — India on Monday launched a low-cost rocket on a historic bid to put a landing craft on the surface of the Moon and join an elite space force.

A week after an initial launch was halted just before blast-off, Chandrayaan-2 — or Moon Chariot 2 — took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre carrying national pride and the hopes of Indian scientists.

India is seeking to become just the fourth nation after Russia, the United States and China to land a spacecraft on the Moon. If the rest of the mission goes to plan, the Indian probe will land on the lunar South Pole in early September. "Every Indian is immensely proud today!," tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has vowed to send a manned mission into orbit by 2022.

"Special moments that will be etched in the annals of our glorious history!"

There were applause, handshakes and hugs in the mission control room as the rocket blasted off from the base on an island just off the coast of Andra Pradesh state.

President Ram NathKovind watched the launch alongside 7,000 dignitaries and flag-waving children, with the crowd bursting into cheers at the spectacle.

"Today is a historic day for space, science and tech in India," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K. Sivan said as he hailed the efforts made to fix a fuel leak that forced the earlier launch to be postponed.

India was also hailed by its international counterparts. The US state department said on Twitter that the launch was "an incredible achievement!" while the European Space Agency sent congratulations.

Shooting for the Moon

Chandrayaan-2 was launched on India's most powerful rocket, the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) MkIII. It carried an orbiter, a lander and a rover almost entirely designed and made in India.

The country's love affair with the film industry saw the media dub the rocket "Baahubali" after one of India's most popular screen heroes, known for his ability to lift heavy items.

Sivan said the mission's next stage would be critical to its success, with scientists set to conduct some 15 crucial manoeuvres of Chandrayaan-2 over the next month-and-a-half to position it around the moon.

"After that, D-day will come — and that day we are going to experience 15 minutes of terror to ensure that the landing is safe," he said. —AFP ■

Cambodian PM terms report of Cambodia-China secret deal on military base as "fake news"

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister SamdechTecho Hun Sen on Monday denied a Wall Street Journal's report that the country signed a secret agreement with China to allow Chinese armed forces to use its Ream naval base in southwestern Preah Sihanouk province, terming it as "fake news."

"This is the worst fabricated news against Cambodia. There is no such a story because the presence of any foreign military base is contrary to Cambodia's Constitution," Hun Sen said in an exclusive interview with Fresh News service provider.

"Why does Cambodia need the presence of Chinese military on its territory?" he asked. "We have never even discussed this with Chinese leaders, not to mention about the signing of the agreement."

"(They) should stop using 'fake news' on the presence of Chinese armed forces in Cambodia's territory to campaign against us," the Cambodian prime minister said, according to Fresh News.

Hun Sen's denial came a day after the Wall Street Journal cited anonymous US and allied officials as saying that China has signed a secret agreement allowing its armed forces to use Cambodia's Ream naval base. —Xinhua ■

IAEA's long-serving chief Amano dies at 72

VIENNA — International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano, a former Japanese diplomat who worked for the peaceful use of nuclear technology, has died, the UN nuclear watchdog said Monday. He was 72.

The IAEA "regrets to inform with deepest sadness of the passing away" of its director general, it said in a statement. He had been in poor health since last year and had planned to resign in the middle of his third term through 2021.

Amano, who became the first Asian to be elected to the post in 2009, worked to address the Iran nuclear issue as well as to beef up the watchdog's oversight of North Korea's nuclear program.

He also sought to improve the safety of nuclear power plants following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in northeastern Japan.

"During the past decade, the agency delivered concrete results to achieve the objective of 'Atoms for Peace and Development,' thanks to the support of member states and the dedication of agency staff.

I am very proud of our achievements," the IAEA quoted Amano as saying in a letter to its board of governors conveying his decision to resign.

The sudden announcement of Amano's death came after diplomatic sources said last week that he intended to step down, possibly by spring next year. While the cause of death was not immediately clear, he missed the IAEA's general conference last September to recover after receiving medical treatment.— Kyodo News ■

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

ARVIS CROPSCIENCE CO., LTD was distributor of **Shandong Vicome Greenland Chemical CO., LTD** the following products registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board. Now, **ARVIS CROPSCIENCE CO., LTD** transfer the following products to **Shenbon Agrosciences Co., Ltd**.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Htult Toe 10 WP	Bensulfuron-methyl 10% WP	Provisional Reg:	P2019-4605
2.	Hight voltage 480 SL	Bentazone 480g/l SL	Experimental Reg:	E2019-4603
3.	Shwe Nwar 40WG	Carfentrazone-ethyl 40%WG	Experimental Reg:	E2019-4578
4.	Tyault Sitt Hmuee 288 EC	Fluroxypyr-meptyl 288g/l EC	Experimental Reg:	E2019-4621
5.	Khi Shin 10 WP	Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 10% WP	Provisional Reg:	P2019-4604
6.	Paung Ma Shi 10 EC	Fluoroglycofen-ethyl 10%EC	Experimental Reg:	E2019-4609
7.	Mee Tanact 1.14 EC	Emamectin Benzoate 1.14% EC	Provisional Reg:	P2019-4612

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary , Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West of Gyogone Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the distributor changing.
Address - **ARVIS CROPSCIENCE CO., LTD** BL.44/1, No.385/Ka, Shwe Oo Daung Street1 Quarter, Hlaingtharyar Township, Yangon. Ph. 09 791301854, 09403723854

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We**, Zhejiang Heben Pesticide & Chemicals Co., Ltd**. would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Myanmar Arysta Lifescience Co, Ltd.** to **Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co., Ltd.** If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
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(3)	Gold Super 72 WP	Metalaxyl 8% + Mancozeb 64%WP	Full Registration	F2011-785
(4)	Shogun 1.8% EC	Abamectin 1.8%EC	Full Registration	F2011-782
(5)	Ninja 20%EC	Chloropyrifos 20%EC	Full Registration	F2011-783
(6)	Nichimexyl 25 WP	Metalaxyl 25%WP	Full Registration	F2015-1173

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Abe says open to "flexible" debates on constitutional revision

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday he is prepared to be more flexible in any future discussions in parliament on revising Japan's Constitution, a day after pro-amendment forces failed to retain in an upper house election their two-thirds majority needed to initiate the process.

"Although we have provided a basis for debate, which we believe is the best, we want to have flexible discussions without sticking to our proposal," Abe said in a news conference.

Abe's Liberal Democratic Party has proposed a constitutional revision plan centering on clarifying the status of the Self-Defense Forces in the war-renouncing Article 9 of the supreme law.

On Sunday, the LDP and its coalition partner the Komeito party, along with like-minded opposition and independent lawmakers, secured 81 seats in total. Combined with seats uncontested in the election, they secured 160, falling short of the 164 needed in the chamber to propose amending the pacifist Constitution.

Noting that one of the major issues of the election was constitutional revision, Abe said the fact that his ruling bloc was able to take a majority of the seats that were up for grabs, proved that voters judged it is necessary to "at least" start discussions on the issue.

He called for other political parties, including the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, to face the will of the voters and present their proposals. "I am certain that serious debates will take place regardless of positions of the ruling and opposition parties," he said, expressing his desire to craft a constitutional revision plan that could be approved by the Diet.

Amending the Constitution requires two-thirds majorities in both chambers and simple-majority support in an eventual national referendum. The ruling coalition maintains a two-thirds majority in the more powerful lower house. Abe said he is planning to convene an extraordinary Diet session on Aug. 1 to choose the House of Councillors' new president.

Asked about a reshuffle of his Cabinet and senior LDP executives, Abe, who is president of the party, said he has yet to decide and will take time to think about it.—Kyodo News ■

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

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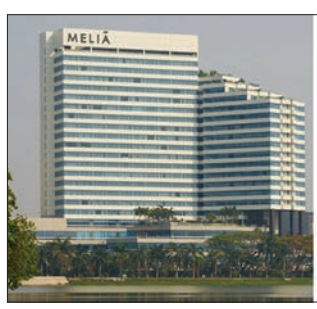

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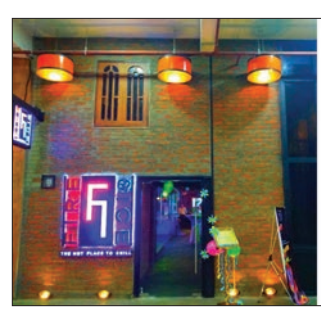
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Terracotta votive tablets of Sri Kseetra. **PHOTOS: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

Votive tablets in Sri Ksetra

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

BUDDHA images can be seen at religious edifices such as pagodas and monasteries where members of the Sangha stay in Myanmar where the majority of the people follow the Theravada Buddhism.

Although people in successive eras have been passing the oral history on to new generations that Theravada Buddhism reached Bagan in the reign of King Anawrahta, some evidences have been found that the Theravada Buddhism arrived in Myanmar in Pyu era which was earlier than Bagan era. Palm leaves made of gold bearing excerpts of Buddha Pitakat literature excavated from Khinba mound in ancient Pyu city state Sri Kestra as well as pagodas and Buddha images built in Pyu era can be seen till today.

Earthen-baked votive tablets

People in Myanmar have carved Buddha images made of stone, timber, brick, concrete, gold, silver and bronze in successive eras, including earthen-baked votive tablets.

Votive tablets are found at the confluence of Ayeyawady and Shweli rivers in northern Myanmar, in Myeik region in southern Myanmar, and in Rakhine State in western Myanmar. As anybody may make votive tablets easily, the votive tablets made in success eras can be found in various parts of the nation.

Votive tablets are shaped with Buddha images made of earth or clay which were moulded and then baked. As such, it can be called the earthen-moulded Buddha image. Votive tablets can be found in excavation with research purposes, in repairing of old pagodas and in unearthing the caves. Sometimes, a large number of votive tablets may be found in a single place. For example, votive tablets in good conditions and broken ones with the measurement of five bullock carts were discovered at Shwezigon Pagoda in ancient Tagaung city.

Some persons travelling between India and Myanmar brought votive tablets to their regions. Then, they made the tablets themselves and production process gradually spread out other regions. As people can make votive tablets to be donated to pagodas and stupas, the tablets can be seen in various parts of the nation in successive eras. Of them, some votive tablets were brought from India. Earliest votive tablets were found in Pyu era and a large number of votive tablets were made in Bagan era. Among the tablets, the votive tablets with inscriptions that these tablets were made by Anirudda Deva (King Anawrahta) were the most popular and these became invaluable heritages in literature, culture and archaeology.

New structures of votive tablet

Various types of votive tablets were made in Myanmar during the period from 5th century to 15th century. The majority of votive tablets in Pyu era was made in shapes of banyan leave and of arch types but the tablets in Bagan era were in 17 types of designs. An eight inches high and six inches wide motive tablet unearthed from Bagan mound No 1526 was significantly found with bearing 125 shapes of pagodas. Likewise, a motive tablet found from the field, east of Ananda Pagoda in Bagan, was expressed with 65 names of crops, flowers and plants, without concerning the religion.

Generally, the motive tablets were expressed with inscriptions on names of donors and letters of prayer on the reverse and the Buddha image surrounded with His followers on the converse. Mostly, these tablets were five inches long, seven inches high and two inches thick. Inscriptions in Sanskrit and Pali languages were mentioned under the Buddha image in ancient Pyu, Mon and Myanmar alphabets. Embossed Sylheti Nagari alphabets were expressed on the conserve of the votive tablets with inscriptions on both frames of converse side.

As votive tablets were kept at pagodas and stupas, bricks at some pagodas were paralleled with votive tablets in a row and some tablets are kept in the caves as well as enshrined at the pagodas. Sometimes, already baked votive tablets were found in good conditions because these objects did not suffer impacts of bad weather.

With regard to works of fine arts, votive tablets in Bagan era were shaped with eight episodes of Buddhology on giving birth of embryo Buddha, enlightenment of Lord Buddha, preaching of the Lord Buddha on Dhammacakka, descending of Lord Buddha from the Tavatimsa celestial abode to human abode, staying of Lord Buddha at Palileyaka forest, demonstration on supernatural powers, victory over Nalagiri elephant and final rites as Parinibbana. The tablets in Pyu era described nine episodes including the scene of offering Ghana milk meal by lady Sujata to the Lord Buddha.

Although various types of hand postures (Mudra) and foot postures (Asana) of Lord Buddha were made on the tablets, the Buddha images in majority of votive tablets were expressed with the shape of touching the ground with fingers called Bhumiphassa Mudra and the shape of taking intense concentration mind called Jhanasana. Likewise, the tablets in Pyu and Bagan eras were made with Buddha images in Bhumiphassa Mudra and Jhanasana placed on the lotus flower thrones. It can be seen that votive tablets were carved with

Sri Ksetra World Heritage zone in Pyay, Bago Region. **PHOTO:YE HTUT TIN (NLM).**

Sri Ksetra Museum. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN(NLM)**

the Lord Buddha or the Buddha-to-be rounded by disciples, wife and congregations. Mostly, the tablets in Bagan era were found with Buddha images flanked by disciples or Buddha-to-be.

In respect of the votive tablets, King Bodaw supplicated to first Maunghtaung abbot, asking what languages and meanings were expressed in inscriptions at the foot of votive tablets. The abbot replied that they were in Sanskrit and Pali languages, but Yun language and that generally, the inscriptions mentioned Yedhamma Hetuppabhava in Sylheti Nagari alphabets.

As votive tablets were found from the Pyu to Konbaung eras, the works in Pyu era were better than those of Bagan era. The tablets in late Bagan era were better than those of early Bagan era but did not meet the works in Pyu era.

Nonetheless, votive tablets depending on initiatives of donors express many works of Buddhist culture. Names of donor were described at the foot of throne of the Buddha on the conserve and on the reverse. Well-wishers consist of kings, queens, counsellors of court and members of the Sangha as well as ordinary people. Thanks to donor lists, the tablets expressed titles of kings, princes and princesses in Bagan era.

Large votive tablets similar to King Anawrahta's votive tablets found from Maungtee Pagoda in Twantay Township were excavated from the prayer hall of Kyauksagagyi Pagoda, south of Thiripissaya Village in 1993. These works were 15.75 inches long, 10.5 inches high and 3.75 inches thick. In 2017, a large votive tablet, 16 inches long, 21 inches high and four inches thick, was unearthed from the west of Kyauksagagyi Pagoda together with large votive tablets with the title of King Sawlu and broken ones with images of 28 Buddhas.

Experts can identify the works of Buddha images on the tablets to estimate who made them and when they were made. Although votive tablets are not in similar among them, all the works dedicate religious heritages. Likewise, the tablets expressing eight episodes of Buddhology are evidences of Myanmar's cultural heritages. As such, it needs to systematically preserve the works of votive tablets in order to uplift cultural prestige of Myanmar.

Votive tablets in ancient Sri Kestra city

The earliest votive tablets of Myanmar were found from ancient Sri Kestra city. However, no votive tablet was found in ancient Pyu city states such as Beikthanoe, Hanlin and Mongmaw. The tablets were found from Sri Kestra bear Buddha images of Theravada Buddhism as well as Mahayana Buddhsim.

The votive tablets found in Sri Kestra were in oval shape at the base and sharpening to the tip. Moreover, the tablets were in shapes of square, circle and rectangular, and the shape with rectangular at the base and circular at the top. Among them, the tablets in oval shape and oval shape at the base and tip at the top were found in large number. The smallest votive tablet was 1.5 inches wife. Generally, the tablets were in sizes of 2.25 inches to five inches wide and three to four inches high. Some votive tablets in Sri Kestra were framed and some were not framed. Many earthen-baked votive tablets found from Muhtaw Village in ancient Sri Kestra city were discovered in 1927 and 1928, and these works were five inches high and three inches in radian.

Hand posture of the Buddha image on the votive tablet of Sri Kestra mentioned Bhumiphassa Mudra. The Buddha image was flanked by a pagoda each on either side. The throne was seen with a head of lion with a vase each on both sides. The base of the throne was scripted with Gatha which started Yedhamma. The reverse of the tablet was scripted with Bamcake in Pyu alphabets assumed as name of donor. Experts estimated the tablet was made between 8th centuries AD and 9th centuries AD.

The Buddha image was carved with the posture of staying on the lotus throne in the centre of the votive tablets, found in Sri Kestra, in shape of rectangular at the base and sharpening to the tip. Hand posture showed Abhaya Mudra expressing that two hands kept on the chest. The base of the throne was scripted with the properties of Lord Buddha which were excerpts from Mahavagga Pali, Dhighanikaya, Suttanta Pitakat Treatise. An archaeologist professor made analysis that inscription style on the tablet was similar to Telagu writing style used in Southern India from 5th to 7th centuries AD.

The earthen-baked votive tablets found from Sri Kestra concerning Mahayana Buddhism were expressed with pictures of Bodhisattha, Avalokitesara, Adibhuta Buddha and Lokanatha. Some Avalokitesara images could be seen with crowns on the heads and some without crowns. Bodhisattha images on the earthen-baked votive tablets excavated from Hmawza were depicted with a sitting posture on the lotus throne in dangling positions of legs.

The votive tablet unearthed from Taunglonnyo Village was 4.5 inches high with carving of three Buddha images. The middle image among the three was carved with sitting on the lotus throne and a headdress on the head. The remaining two were carved with sitting positions facing the middle one.

The votive tablets found from Sri Kestra can be classified as that of Theravada Buddhism, that of Mahayana Buddhism, and the mixed ism between Theravada and Mahayana. As votive tablets expressing Buddha images and Bodhisattha images as well as Buddha images flanked by god images of Mahayana Buddhism were found, it can be assumed that Pyu people in Sri Kestra had religious faith not only of Theravada Buddhism but of Mahayana Buddhism. Likewise, three types of earthen-baked votive tablets were discovered from Sri Kestra. The first one was scripted with Itipiso Bhagava Gatha, the second with Yedhamma Gatha and the third with Yedhamma Gatha together with Bodhisattha or Avalokitesara or Lokanatha image.

In BC 200, the Buddhism split into Mahayana and Theravada isms. Mahayana Sect used Sanskrit language while Hinayana called Theravada Buddhism used Pali language, according to the Indian researchers. Some votive tablets found in Sri Kestra were related to Theravada Buddhism because they were carved with Yedhamma Gatha in Pali language. The votive tablets made in 5th to 7th centuries AD scripted with Itipiso Bhagava Gatha were also related to Theravada Buddhism.

Experts assumed that the votive tablets bearing Bodhisattha image scripted with Yedhamma Gatha in Sanskrit language might be made in 8th or 9th centuries AD. As such, it was possible that Theravada Buddhism might arrive in Sri Kestra before 7th century AD but Mahayana Buddhism after 7th century AD.

That is why earthen-baked votive tablets found in Sri Kestra dedicate faiths of Pyu people residing in Sri Kestra. As earthen-baked votive tablets were found in Hmawza, Mahtaw Village, Ngashint mound, Myinbahu Pagoda, Kanthonhsint Hill, Tavatimsa Kywekyaungkon Pagoda and Pyokhingyi, not far from Sri Kestra, these tablets can be observed in the book with title of Buddha images on ancient votive tablets in second volume compiled by stone inscription director U Mya.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

Mandalay to host International U-16 Boys Tournament from 14 to 18 August

By Shine Htet Zaw

THE Myanmar Football Federation-MFF will host the International U-16 Boys Tournament 2019 in Mandalay from 14 to 18 August.

Under the AFC-UEFA Assist Program, U-16 teams representing Montenegro, Myanmar, South Korea and Indonesia will take part in the tournament, which is the first of its kind in Myanmar.

On 14 August, Myanmar will play against Indonesia and South Korea will face Montenegro at the Mandalar Thiri Sports Grounds.

Myanmar will play against South Korea and Montenegro will face Indonesia on 16 August. Myanmar will play against Montenegro and South Korea will play Indonesia on 18 August.

The Myanmar U-15 team is being trained by German Coach Torsten Frank.

(Translated by Lin Thit)

PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Mata hopes 'positive' Pogba remains at Man Utd

LONDON — Manchester United midfielder Juan Mata hopes Paul Pogba remains at Old Trafford next season and rubbished suggestions the Frenchman could be a disruptive influence if he is not allowed to move.

Pogba has publicly stated his wish for a "new challenge," amidst interest from Real Madrid.

The World Cup winner's agent Mino Raiola also told The Times earlier this month that "everyone knows the willingness of Paul to move on."

However, Pogba has travelled with United on their pre-season tour of Australia and Singapore and shone in victories over Perth Glory, Leeds United and Inter Milan.

"We all know Paul and he is a fantastic midfielder, and a very good guy, very positive, and a good influence for everyone," Mata told Sky Sports.

"I think he is happy and brings everyone together, but I cannot speak for other people — I speak for myself.

Marcus Rashford of Manchester United (C) celebrates scoring a goal with teammates Juan Mata (L) and Paul Pogba (R) after scoring a goal during their pre-season friendly match against Perth Glory at Optus Stadium in Perth on 13 July 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

"As a team-mate and a friend I would like him to stay and be happy because he is a very good player for us."

David de Gea does look set to remain with the Red Devils despite entering the final year of his contract with a new deal for the Spaniard reportedly to be finalised in the coming days.

"David is the best goalkeeper in the world and one of my best friends so I want him to stay," added Mata, who himself signed a new two-year contract to stay at United last month.

"On a professional level, it would be great if he stays because he will give us many points over the next season, so I'm very happy if he stays."—AFP ■

Ajax face awkward Champions League qualifier against PAOK

PARIS — Last season's Champions League semi-finalists Ajax were on Monday drawn to face Greek champions PAOK Thessaloniki in the third qualifying round for this year's group stages.

The Dutch side do not get automatic entry into the group stages despite winning the Eredivisie for the 34th time and coming within seconds of reaching the Champions League final.

If they beat PAOK, Erik ten Hag's team will still need to win a play-off to join the likes of Liverpool, Real Madrid and Juventus in the main competition.

It is not the easiest of ties for Ajax who have already lost several players from their exciting young squad.

Central defender Matthijs de Ligt has left for Juventus while midfielder Frenkie de Jong has joined Barcelona.

PAOK went unbeaten on their way to winning the Greek Super League, finishing five points ahead of Olympiakos as they conquered their first league title in over three decades.

The first leg will be played at PAOK's Toumba Stadium on August 6 or 7 with the return in Amsterdam a week later.

Two-time European champions Porto, who finished two points behind champions Benfica in Portugal, will face Krasnodar, who finished third in Russia while Belgian runners-up Club Brugge will meet their Ukrainian counterparts Dynamo Kiev.

If Scottish champions Celtic beat Estonia's Nomme Kalju in the second round of qualifying, they will face either Romanian side Cluj or Maccabi Tel-Aviv of Israel.—AFP ■

Toyota robots for Tokyo Olympics to allow "virtual participation"

TOKYO — Toyota Motor Corp said Monday it has developed special robots for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics to allow "virtual participation" of people who cannot come to the venue, using a camera and communication technology.

Toyota's communication robots, resembling the Games' doll mascots Miraitowa and Someity, works with the help of an installed camera. They can recognize when an athlete or guest approaches, and then welcome them with various eye and arm movements.

Toyota will offer a way for a person who cannot be at the venue to feel that they are physically present by using the mascot robots and another humanoid robot located at the venue.

The humanoid robot will be able to mimic the interactions with the mascot robots in almost real time.

For example, when a child, who is at a remote location, shakes hands or high-fives with the mascot robot, the humanoid robot, which is at the venue, will make the same movements.

If an athlete is in contact with the humanoid robot, the child can feel as if he or she is interacting with the athlete even though they are far away.

Similarly, a mobile robot, equipped with a nearly life-size display of a person, will allow a user's virtual participation at the venue by having his or her image projected on the screen.

As the robot moves around the venue, following a designated guide, the user can converse with people near the robot through speakers and enjoy the atmosphere of the venue using 360-degree cameras.

Toyota also developed a self-driving robot, powered by artificial intelligence technology, for retrieving and returning items in the Games' throwing events. — Kyodo News■