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President receives MRCS delegation



President U Win Myint receives the delegation of the Myanmar Red Cross Society at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, patron of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, received its top leadership Professor Dr Daw Mya Thu and Executive Committee (Full-time) Dr Daw Amaya Maw Naing at the presidential residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Dr Daw Mya Thu gave a briefing about the organizational activities of

the MRCS, holding of its General Assembly in November 2019, election of council and EC members from the township level to the central level and celebration of the 80th anniversary of MRCS.

President U Win Myint said that the Myanmar Red Cross Society was an independent and volunteer society, functioning in line with the Geneva Conven-

tions, international principles of Red Cross societies, basic principles, while it was cooperating with UN bodies, social humanitarian organizations and NGOs in carrying out humanitarian services, natural disasters, man-made disasters, emergency cases, prevention of diseases and social welfare services.

The President remarked

that the General Assembly of MRCS should be held in line with laws, procedures and principles.

The General Assembly would comprise the Central Council, and the latter would form an Executive Committee that was responsible for selecting President, Vice President, Secretary General, two full-time members and six part-

time members of the Executive Committee.

President U Win Myint also donated K5 million to the MRCS, and received a permanent member badge. The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and officials.— MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Foreign Ministry issues press statement on FFM's report

Following is the press statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday regarding the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission-FFM on Myanmar issued on 5 August.

Myanmar opposed the establishment of Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) by the Human Rights Council as it was based on unfounded allega-

tions. We have made our position abundantly clear and we do not recognize the report of the FFM. We adhere firmly to the position that cooperation

should be the basis for the resolution of international issues, including that of human rights. We do not believe that economic sanctions will resolve the chal-

lenges that need to be overcome.

It is also our principled position that there must be accountability for human rights violations. The Government of

Myanmar is addressing the issue of accountability in Rakhine by setting up the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICoE).

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Pyithu Hluttaw agrees to support research, extended production

The 8th day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday approved a proposal on agricultural and livestock sector, discussed farmland management, dispute on land boundary and erection of telecom posts. The meeting also approved the National Record and Archives Bill.

Research and Extended production

U Sein Win, MP of Maubin constituency, urged the Union government to support research and extended production system in developing the quantity and quality of agricultural and livestock products for foreign markets.

The proposal was supported by U Min Thine, MP of Bogalay constituency, saying that the farmers are facing with deficiencies in the markets, severe weather conditions, high labour wages, less capital and lack of technologies in production of high quality products.

U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, affirmed



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

the proposal, saying that his ministry was collaborating with the relevant ministries, private sector, civil societies and development partners to narrow the gap in this sector even compared with neighbouring countries.

As no one filed objection against the proposal, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw approved it.

Query on land management

U Tin Ko Ko Oo (a) U A Tot,

MP of Belin constituency, asked about management of the Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics for accuracy in land mapping.

U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, replied that the ministry was emphasizing on production of digital land maps on the availability of staff members and funds to support for adopting land policies of the State, implementing agricultural development plans and

supporting efficiency of food-stuff and living for the people.

Measures for dispute settlements on boundaries of land and property

U Nyan Hein, MP of Thanbyuzayat constituency, asked about adopting a procedure to effectively and immediately solve disputes on boundaries of land and property.

The deputy minister replied that it is not required to adopt further procedures for settlement of land and property disputes as the Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics is handling these issue in line with the existing law to avoid any loss of land owners.

Erection of telecom towers

U Toe Thaug, MP of Mongmit constituency, asked about the plan for putting the telecom towers up at mountainous areas of Mongmit Township.

Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo, MP of Kyauktan constituency, asked about registration of

mobile SIM cards is to be carried out by national registration card or biometric system.

Deputy Minister U Thar Oo of Transport and Communications replied these questions. MP U Aung Than from Khamti constituency asked to remove the status of Khamti jewelry land as it has turned into residential areas of villages in nine village-tracts.

MP U Nay Htet Win from Sinbaungwe constituency asked to conduct educative campaigns for prevention of deforestation and reduction of carbon emission in the remote areas with no electrification.

The query was replied by Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe. MP U Thein Tan from Hlegu constituency asked about the management of Co-operative Department on the allocation of annual profit from the shares contributed to CB Bank and the savings of cancelled cooperatives in bank accounts.

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Private school quality issue brought to Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session held its eighth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting questions raised were answered, Hluttaw informed of receipt of a bill, a report read on a bill and the bill approved, a bill and a motion discussed.

Motion on private school

Yesterday, a motion urging the government to review the quality of private schools opened in connection with a foreign university or education entity or with their own curriculum and to review and announce about the certificates issued by those schools tabled by U Kyaw Htway of Yangon Region constituency 8 was discussed by U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 2, Tatmadaw representative Maj Aung Naing Oo, Dr Than Win of Mandalay Region constituency 1, U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9, U Kyaw Naing of the Yangon Region constituency 12 and U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency 7.

Discussion on the motion by Hluttaw representatives will continue on the ninth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

13th regular session scheduled for 8 August.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session U Min Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 12 asked if there was a plan to build a reinforced concrete bridge over Nan Poke Creek on the eastern part of Lahe Township in Naga Self-Administered Zone. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied that Ministry of Border Affairs had technical difficulties in building a bridge with a span of 180 ft. and above. As the subject bridge span is about 400 ft, the ministry has no plan to build it said the Deputy Minister.

On the question raised by U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region

constituency 2 on issuing degree certificates to students who were attending courses in universities under higher education department but didn't have national registration card Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the published university entrance guide specifically stated that applicants applying to attend a university must be citizens according to prevailing law. Applicants were to submit a copy of their national registration card as well as particulars about it. If the university applicant was still applying for citizenship, supporting evidence from immigration and population department was to be provided. The entrance guide also specifically cautioned on severe action to be taken if any attempt of deceit and forgery

were used in the application. All universities under higher education department will be following these guidelines and regulations said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly questions raised by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 on a plan to repair a village connecting road in Chin State Matupi Township, U Mahn Law Moun of Chin State constituency 8 on a plan to repair and maintain a bailey bridge in Chin State Mindat Township and U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3 on arrangements made to provide education to students from seven townships of Northern Rakhine State who were in camps avoiding armed conflicts were answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut and Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Receipt of a fourth bill amending the Union Judiciary Law

Following the question and answer session Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw of the receipt of a fourth bill amending the Union Judiciary Law returned with amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw and announced

for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Report on Education Research, Project and Training Bill and approval of the bill

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee reread and explained a report on Education Research, Project and Training Bill. The bill was approved and returned with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw. After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw on the supplements and amendments to the bill Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the bill

Discussion on Urban and Rural Development Project Bill

Afterwards U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1, U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10 and Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5 discussed the Urban and Rural Development Project Bill.

Following the discussion Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker decided on hearing the response of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee to the discussions made by the Hluttaw representatives.— Lu Kyaw (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar launches National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the Launching Ceremony of National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan & Earthquake Forum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE launching ceremony of Myanmar's National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with a forum attended by the union ministers, officials and natural disaster experts.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, attended the event held at Thingaha Hotel, and officially presented the National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan. He also said that the forum on earthquake hazards was aimed for preparedness of earthquake risks reduction and emergency responses as the earthquakes cannot be forecast like other natural disasters and the extent of damages will vary on the strength of earthquakes and vulnerability of the particular area.

In recent years, strong earthquakes rocked Tarlay in 2011, Thabeikkyin in 2012, Kalay in April and Chauk in August 2016.

These earthquakes cost lives and destroyed temples and pagodas in ancient Bagan heritages.

This year, a 4.7 magnitude earthquake occurred with an epicenter 13 miles southeast of Mawlaik Township on 2 August, a 3.5 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter 9 miles northeast of Mohnyin Township and another earthquake with an epicenter 28 miles northeast of Sinbo Township. The Vice President also said the risks of earthquakes must be put on alert although earthquakes rarely happen unlike other natural disasters such as fires, floods and storms as the experts have forecast that Myanmar was more likely to suffer from earthquakes rather than from other natural disasters. He also advised the attendees of the forum to develop strategies and plans with preparedness measures, adopting laws and rules, launching public educative programmes and holding rehearsals. He also called for the participa-

tion of government departments, organizations, NGOs, social communities and the public.

The first meeting of National Disaster Management Committee on 15 May last year decided that the relevant ministers were to make preparedness plans, to draw earthquake response plans and standard operating procedures, so as to be able to respond promptly, to conduct educative talks on the risks of earthquakes, to conduct frequent drills, to do surveys in the areas for required preparations and to promote awareness about the unpredictable natural disasters.

Earthquake forums were held in Yangon in 2016 and 2017 with the participation of experts, the departments, civil organizations and interested persons to discuss preparedness measures for reduction of earthquake risks.

The final version of the National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan was created after holding workshops since

2017 to seek advice from relevant departments, organizations and union ministries.

U Henry Van Thio also suggested that the relevant departments, state and regional governments, UN and INGOs and local NGOs should study and implement the plan to prevent the loss of lives and obstacles for development of the country.

He also requested all the participants in the forum to exchange views and to identify advantages and disadvantages in skills and technologies for disaster management.

The National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan included procedures for preparedness measures, response, information management, resources and funds for rehabilitation. At the ceremony, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ai Mr Knut Ostby made a speech.

A documentary video for adopting National Earthquake

Preparedness and Response Plan was shown before taking documentary photos of the event which was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr Pe Myint, U Thant Sin Maung, U Soe Win, U Han Zaw and Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council, ministers from state and regional governments, permanent secretaries, directors-general, representatives from organizations of earthquake experts, UN, INGOs and NGOs, social communities, invited guests and officials.

The second session of the event comprised discussions by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Linn of the Yangon Region Government, departmental officials, and experts in natural disasters management. -MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Foreign Ministry issues press statement on FFM's report

FROM PAGE-1

The Myanmar Armed Forces has also established its own Commission of Enquiry to address the allegation of human rights violations in northern Rakhine. Thus Myanmar already has in place its national

accountability mechanism. We oppose mechanisms that are set up without allowing for national remedies to be exhausted.

In setting up the FFM, the Human Rights Council exceeded its mandate and contravened the terms and practices of International Law. We do not rec-

ognize either the Fact-Finding Mission or the report that it produced. The Government of Myanmar categorically rejects the latest report and its conclusions. We regard the report as an action intended to harm the interests of Myanmar and its people, and we do not believe

that such an action contributes in any way to the resolution of the challenges that the nation faces in Rakhine State.

We believe that it is through the promotion of rule of law and sustainable development that the challenges in Rakhine will be resolved. Our immediate aim is

to concentrate on building social cohesion and creating a secure, prosperous environment where the people of Rakhine can live in peace and harmony.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
6th August 2019*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds its Joint Bill Committee meeting

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on the Land Confiscation Bill sent back from the President with remarks, at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of the Joint Bill Committee U Tun Aung (@) U Tun Tun Hein, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Bill Committee, secretary, joint sec-

retary, committee members, the Farmers and Workers Affairs Committee from the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee from the Amyotha Hluttaw, and officials from the Ministry of Union Government Office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Union Attorney General's Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Office. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Than Myint to attend UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint and party left for Singapore by air yesterday to attend the signing ceremony of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements and the High-Level Conference on Mediation and International Dispute Resolution which will be convened in Singapore.

The UN Convention is jointly organized by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Ministry of Law (Singapore), and high-level representatives from fifty countries will attend the meeting. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister Dr Than Myint and delegation seen at Yangon International Airport before leaving for Singapore to attend the signing ceremony of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Ohn Win receives Deputy Mayor of Fukuoka City



Union Minister U Ohn Win holds talks with Mr. Eiichi Nakamura, Deputy Mayor of Fukuoka City in Japan, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win received Deputy Mayor of Fukuoka City of Japan, Mr Eiichi Nakamura and his delegation at the guest hall of the ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

exchanged views on matters relating to cooperation and ties between Fukuoka City of Japan and Yangon City, ongoing exchange programme for animals living in the habitats of natural areas and animals living in the non-natural habitats, course of action on signing an MoU on

promoting bilateral friendship between the Fukuoka and the Yangon Zoological Gardens, supplying medicines, medical aids and technical assistance to the Myanmar Elephant hospital, and cooperation in on-going schemes. — MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Court of Inquiry conducts investigation in Buthidaung and Maungtau

The Tatmadaw True News Information Team announced yesterday that the Tatmadaw's Court of Inquiry conducted necessary investigations at local military units, police stations, prison and villages in Buthidaung, Rakhine State, for two times and would continue the investigation.

The Court of Inquiry established in accordance with the Defence Services Rules and chaired by Maj-Gen Myat Kyaw

carried out the investigation at three military units including a command headquarter, three police stations, a prison and five villages in Buthidaung area for the first time in making an inquiry into the terrorist attacks and related incidents occurred in Buthidaung and Maungtau regions of Rakhine State.

In order to continue the necessary investigation, the Court of Inquiry investigated a command

headquarters, a base tactical operation, three military units, two border guard police forces, one Rakhine State police force and 22 villagers for the second time on 15 July 2019.

The COI arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw on 5th August 2019. In conducting the investigation, the Court of Inquiry sought advice from the Legal Advisory Team, according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team. — MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw agrees to support research, extended production

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Deputy Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied it.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced to approve the National Records and Archives Bill as the move could avoid any objection.

MP U Nyunt Win from Kanpetlet constituency suggested the Union government to adopt policies for supplying the production areas of valuable teaks and hardwoods with building factories, technologies and capital for timber finished products.

MP U Maung Maung from Htigyaing constituency supported the proposal, saying the assistance of relevant ministry in production of finished products.

MP U Saw Victor Kalaik of Thandaunggyi constituency and MP U Nay Linn Tun from Bokpyin constituency also supported the proposal.

In response to this proposal, Deputy Minister Dr Ye My-

int Swe for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation said that Myanma Timber Enterprise has no plan yet to build timber factories for finished products in line with the State's policy to decrease timber production, to supply raw timbers for private industrial sector and to reduce the number of sawmills.

The deputy minister, however, said the MTE will sell raw timbers for economic development, and allow investment in developing private timber plantation, while private-owned factories for finished products have been along in states and regions and the government is implementing international agreements on forestation and environmental conservation.

He also insisted the proposal to be kept in records, and MPs agreed it before the conclusion of the meeting. — Maw Si, Hmwe Kyu Zin ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko accepts cash donation for Eternal Peace Pagoda from Sayadaw Bhanddanta Thubana (Suk Sungli) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Cash Donation ceremony for Eternal Peace Pagoda held in Nay Pyi Taw

Cash donation ceremony for the Eternal Peace Pagoda which is under construction in the precinct of the Eternal Peace Pagoda near the Kantkaw Circle, Yazathingaha Road, Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, was held in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, Thailand's Chaing Rai District, Meisei Town, Myauk Min See Buddhist Missionary School Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhanddanta Thubana (Suk Sungli) contributed the donation at the amount of K 70 million for the building of the Eternal Peace Pagoda. The donation was accepted by Union

Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Minister U Kyi Min, directors-general of the Department of Religious Affairs and Department of Promotion and Propagation of Sasana Permanent Secretary and officials. — MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Myanmar to issue smart ID cards to seafarers from 7 Aug



Officials inspect smart identity cards machine at the Department of Marine Administration Office in Dawbon. **PHOTO: MNA**

By Aye Yamone

THE Department of Marine Administration (DMA) will issue smart identity cards to Myanmar seafarers, instead of SID Booklets and temporary documents, from 7 August, said U Hein Htet Soe, the Director of the Seamen Employment Control Division (SECD) under the DMA.

He made the remarks at the Key Ceremony held on 6 August at the DMA office in Dawbon Township.

The smart cards will be issued in accordance with the ILO Convention C-185, and those wishing to get the cards will have to make an appointment online. Smart cards will be issued to 100-1,500 seafarers per day, he added.

"We will issue the cards to every seafarer. The cards will be valid for 5 years. Seafarers who are holding SID booklets will have to exchange their booklets for smart cards. The cards will be issued beginning 7 August," said U Hein Htet Soe.

While the SID Booklets cost K25,000, the new cards will cost only K12,000. Seafarers who are holding SID booklets and temporary documents can continue to hold them until they expire, it has been learnt.

The 1958 Seafarer's Identity Documents (SID) Convention was amended at the ILO conference held on 3 June, 2003. Although Myanmar has not signed the convention, it began issuing SID Booklets, in accordance with the convention, on 22 May, 2004.

"We need to take back the books so that they can apply for the new cards. The seafarers will have to fill up a form for making an appointment. When they receive a date and come to get the cards, they will have to show the booking number. Then, they will have to fill up another form. After that, they will have to produce the form and their passport at the card issuing counter. After undergoing the scrutinizing process with the authorities concerned, they will have to deposit the fee. They will have to do finger printing for providing their bio data. This process will

take three days," said U Hein Htet Soe.

In accordance with the Seafarer's Identity Documents Convention 185 (Revised) 2003, the ILO Director-General handed over the original memorandum to the Myanmar representative on 16 January, 2018. Then, they signed the record of deposit and the instrument of ratification.

The issuing of SID books has been stopped since September, 2017. Instead of books, seafarers have since been issued only documentation papers.

The smart identity cards for seafarers involve international security system, said U Min Thu, the GM of Omnitech Company Limited.

To issue the smart cards, the authorities had invited tenders in 2017, and selected the Omnitech Company Limited for the project. Currently, there are about 60,000 seafarers working on board ocean liners. The SECD under the DMA has issued registration books with 10-year validity to those seafarers. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated naval patrol

MYANMAR and Bangladesh conducted a coordinate naval patrol along the Naf river on Monday morning, according to information released by Myanmar police Force. The patrol of Myanmar was led by inspector Myat Zaw Oo from No 1 Border Police Sub-division (Kyikyun) Area 3, Maungdaw Township, While the Bangladesh side was led by Subedar Md Mortuja Ali from No 2 Border Guards Bangladesh Whykong BOP. The Myanmar troops in two watercrafts met with the Bangladeshi troops on their watercrafts in the middle of the Naf river and patrolled together form nautical mile 15 to 18 along the Naf river. After the patrol, two forces held a discussion on a watercraft. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
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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 3 August 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 Maung Sain and Daw Hmway who live in HmankinVillage, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 28 July 2019, police searched the house of Daw Hmway(a) Aye Hmway, 35, daughter of U Nyo Hmine, who lives in HmankinVillage, Mohnyin Tsp but she avoided from her house. Police found her father-in-law, Maung Sain, 75, son of U Phoe Tun with heroin and arrested him after discovering opium in his possession. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa(Lonton) MaYa(Pa) 30/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Min Min Aung (a) Phoe Khway who lives in Kinponchone Village and Ma Kyu who lives in Pauktaw(east) Village, Kalay Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 29 July 2019, police searched the house of Min Min Aung (a) Phoe Khway, 25, son of U Aur Ghun, who lives in Kinponchone Village, Kalay Tsp, and arrested him together with heroin and acting on an interrogating, police searched the house of Ma Kyu(a) Khin Win Mu, 37, daughter of U Khin Maung, where he bought the heroin but police did not find narcotic drugs. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa(Kalay) MaYa(Pa) 106/2019 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Maung Naing and his wife Ma Nway Nway Ei who live in No 5 Ward, MyataungVillage, Htigyaing Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 2 August 2019, police searched the house of Maung Naing(a) Yan Naing Lin, 43, son of U Tin Myint, and his wife Ma Nway Nway Ei, 33, daughter of U Kan Win who lives in No 5 Ward, MyataungVillage, Htigyaing Tsp. Police found them accompanied with Nyi Nyi Aung, 33, son of U Htay Aung, who live in No2 Ward with heroin, ‘WY’ stimulant tablets and arrested them. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa(Htigyaing) MaYa(Pa) 33/2019 under Section 19(a), 20 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Maung Cho who lives in Nanhsaung (Ywarthit) Village, Kalay Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 3 August 2019, police searched the house of Maung Cho (a) Khin Maung Cho, 38, son of U Taik Paw, who lives in Nanhsaung (Ywarthit) Village, Kalay Tsp, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa(Kalay) MaYa(Pa) 109/2019 under Section 16(c) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Win Htut Nyein(a) Gaung Gyi who lives in Yadanar Aungmyay Ward, Pale Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 3 August 2019, police searched a cycle driven by Htut Nyein(a) Gaung Gyi, 25, son of U Than Swe, who lives in Yadanar Aungmyay Ward, Pale Tsp and his accompany Hsu Hlaing Min, 24, daughter of U Tin Soe, near Pale Myoma Market, Aung Mingalar Ward, Pale Tsp and arrested them together with ‘88/1’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa(Pale) MaYa(Pa) 1/2019 under Section 19(a), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Kyar Yoe who lives in Kyauktaung Village, Palaw Tsp, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 31 July 2019, police searched the house of Kyar Yoe (a) Win Maw, 40, son of U Maung Sein, who lives in Kyauktaung Village, Palaw Tsp, and arrested him and two other – Nay Htet,24, son of U Kyaw Aye and Pyae Phyo Aung, 16, son of U Hla Tun who live in the same village – together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets, speciosa and opium tincture. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa(Palaut) MaYa(Pa) 3/2019 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Phoe Cho and Myo Oo who live in Kunlone Village, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 1 August 2019, police searched the house of Phoe Cho, 44, son of U Phoe Eei, who lives in Kunlone Village, Taunggyi Tsp, and arrested him and Myo Oo, 27, son of U Aung Aye, who lives in the same village together with ‘WY’ stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa(Shwenyaung) MaYa(Pa) 42/2019 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of 712 cases have been opened as of 3 August 2019. A total of 1115 people, including 937 men and 178 women had been arrested with seizures of 6522.7784 g of heroin, 1318.72 g of ICE, 39776.95 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 19609.27 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 316059 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, 18 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and a 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, at border gates, and to vehicles acting upon given information.

During the previous weeks, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates.

Upon acting on a tip-off, police arrested a man with 130 stimulant tablets in Aungthayar Ward, Pobbathiri Tsp, Nay Pyi Taw. In Kachin State, police arrested a woman with 129.33 gram of opium in Akyae Village, Myitkyina Tsp. Police searched a man and a woman with a vehicle at the Kyauk inspection gate in Momauk Tsp and arrested them together with 17,100 stimulant tablets and a vehicle. Police searched a taxi at a bridge near Phatmarder Village, Putao Tsp and arrested two passengers, a man and a woman, with 4,000 stimulant tablets and 396 g of heroin. In Kayah State, police arrested a man with 144 stimulant tablets Ohkhuyi Village, Dimawhso Tsp. In Kayin State, police arrested three men with 170 stimulant tablets in Lakar Village, Hpa-an Tsp. In Mon State, police arrested a man with 43 stimulant tablets in MiHtawlay Village, Ye Tsp and acting on an interrogating, three men from the same village were arrested with 397 stimulant tablets. In Rakhine State, police arrested a man with 165,750 stimulant tablets in Maungni Village, Maungtaw Tsp. Police tried to search a man on the boat on Magyi creek, Maungni Village, the man left the boat and swam away and police seized 72,000 stimulant tablets on the boat. Police searched four men with two cycle on the road of Thetkinenyar-Thamanthar in Thetkinenyar Village and arrested them with 95,000 stimulant tablets and two cycle. A man and a woman were arrested 210 stimulant tablets in Zedipyin Village. Police arrested a man with 60 stimulant tablets in Sinkhulan Ward and three men with 7 stimulant tablets in Kyaunggyi Ward, in Sittway Tsp.

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

FROM PAGE-6

Police searched two men on a cycle on Tunye Street, Minbargyi Ward in Minbya Tsp and arrested them with 140 stimulant tablets and the cycle. Two men together with 605 stimulant tablets were arrested in Meeyatharseik Ward, Buthidaung Tsp. Police searched two men on a cycle at the Pepadon bridge inspection gate, An Tsp and arrested them with 6,000 g of marijuana and a cycle. In Shan State, police searched a man with a cycle on the road of Nyaungphyusakhan Ward, Taunggyi Tsp and arrested him together with 50 stimulant tablets, the cycle and another 1,900 stimulant tablets from a hotel room he stayed. Police searched a car and arrested a male passenger with 10,000 stimulant tablets at an inspection gate of Kalaw Tsp. Similarly, police searched a highway bus from Taunggyi to Yangon at 65/3 milepost near Yeyar Village and arrested a male passenger with 2,600 stimulant tablets. A man was arrested with 1,890 stimulant tablets in Taungpogyi Village, Pekhon Tsp. Police arrested two men and a woman with 4,000 stimulant tablets, 1,000 g of ICE and a vehicle on the Loilem-Taunggyi road near Hotint Village, Loilem Tsp. Other two men and a woman were arrested with 40,000 stimulant tablets and a vehicle on the same road. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested two men and a vehicle in No 2 Ward, Panglong Tsp. A man was arrested with 1,200 stimulant tablets in Nyaungpinhtaut Ward, Aungban Tsp. A woman was arrested with 1,240 stimulant tablets and 151 g of heroin in Loisaunghtaut Ward Mongshu Tsp. Police of Drug Enforcement Division arrested two men with 41,400 stimulant tablets Chanmyathazi Tsp in Mandalay Region. Police arrested a man with 575 stimulant tablets and 5 g of heroin in No 4 Ward, Hsenwi Tsp. Police searched a highway bus near Nanpartet bridge on the road of Tangyan-Panghsan, Tangyan Tsp and arrested a female passenger with 12,000 g of stimulant tablets. A man was arrested with 1,840 stimulant tablets and 10 g of heroin in Homon Ward, Muse Tsp. Police searched two men and a vehicle at 80/4 milepost on Muse-Mandalay road near Nawngkhio and seized 90,000 stimulant tablets and a vehicle from them. On the same road, police searched two men and three women on two cycles and arrested them with 3,960 g of heroin and two cycles. A man was arrested with 20,000 stimulant tablets on bypass road of Oriental toll gate. A woman from Pinphayar Village was arrested with 7020 stimulant tablets. Police found and seized 5,409 stimulant tablets under a firewood in a farm hut near Kyukyaing Village, Monhsi Town during patrolling in this area. Two men were arrested with 2,000 stimulant tablets in Wanpon(Ahkar) Village, Kengtung Tsp. Police searched a man and a cycle and arrested him with 850 g of ICE and a cycle on the road of Kengtung-Tachilek, near Yankham Vilage, Mongphyat Tsp. Police searched a man and a woman with a cycle at the Wunpha Village bridge, Mongyawng Tsp and arrested them with 19,800 stimulant tablets and a cycle. A man was arrested 10,000 stimulant tablets and a cycle on the road of Tachilek-Monghe, Lwesiton(lower) Village, Tachilek Tsp. In Sagaing Region, police arrested three men with 271 stimulant tablets and 2.4 g of heroin in Tonetaw Village, Indaw Tsp. Police searched two men with two cycles on the Tamu-Kalay road near Kanhla Village, Kalay Tsp and arrested only a man and two cycles and 2,420 g of heroin, one man left his cycle and ran away. Two men with 152 g of heroin and a cycle were arrested on the road of Homalin-Naungpo, Khopewa Ward, Homalin Tsp. In Taninthayi Region, 2,095 stimulant tablets and 9g of ICE were seized from

three men at Nan Sin Gyi Village, Yebyu Township. Acting on a tip-off, 5,000g of speciosa powder were confiscated from two motor boats where motor boat drivers dived and swam away on Ba Pain Creek, Mae Taw Village in Kyunsu Township. In addition, 160,000g of speciosa powder covered with tarpaulin on the bank of the creek were also seized. Five men were also arrested with 4 stimulant tablets and 95g of ICE and 1,200g of speciosa powder at the Tara Pine Village, and a man was arrested with 2,000 stimulant tablets and 5g of ICE at the Taungya Village, Pu Law Township.

In Bago Region, a woman was arrested with 2,065 stimulant tablets at the Myo Chaung Village, Kyauktaga Township.

In Mandalay Region, 25,900g of stimulant tablets and two motor cycles were confiscated from two men at Suugone Ward, Kyaukse Town.

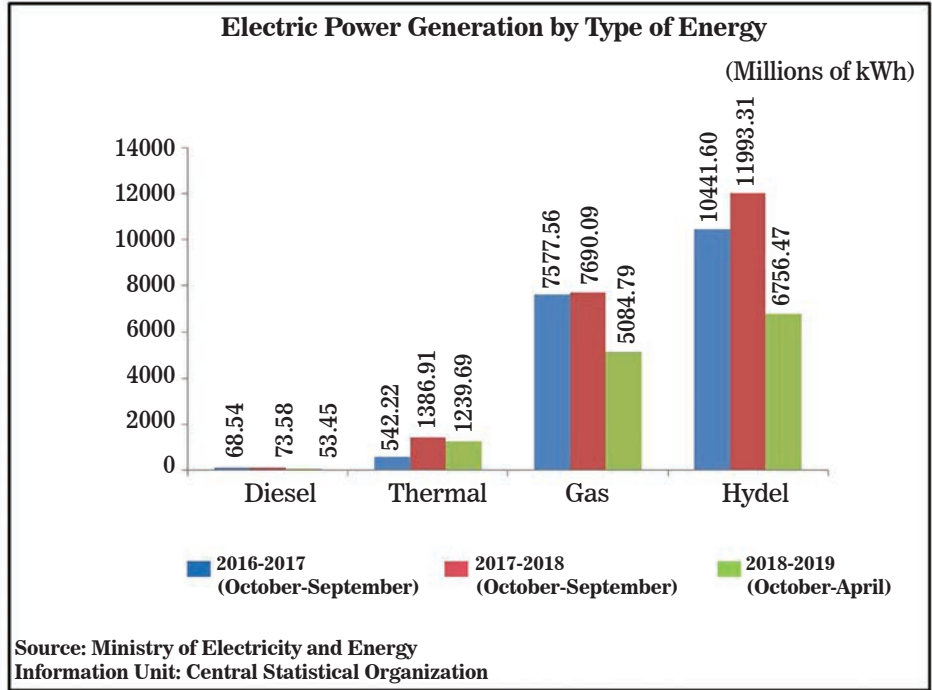
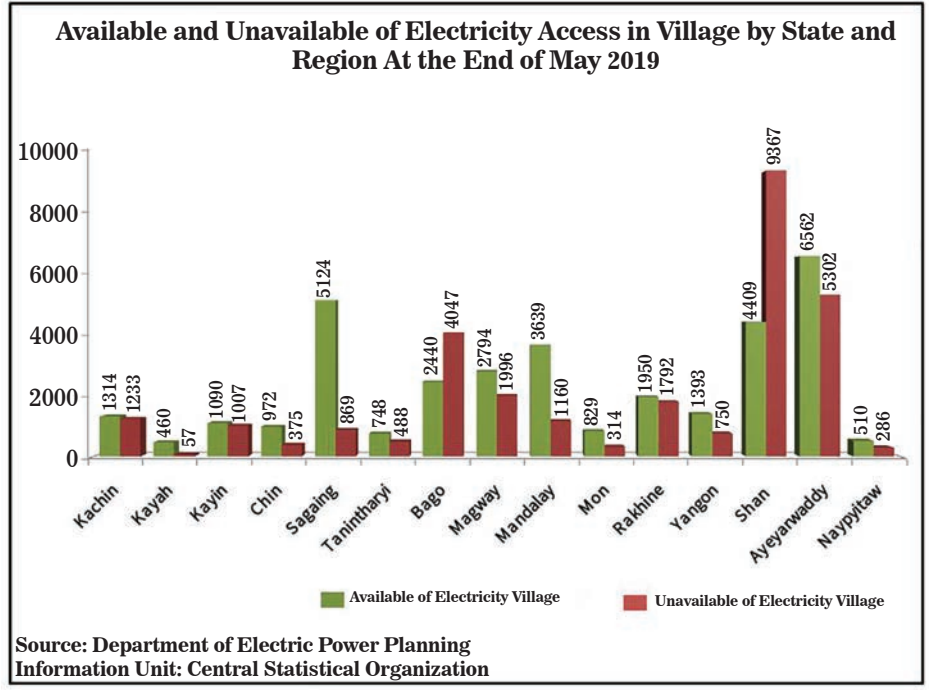
In Yangon Region, acting on a tip-off, a stopped Honda Fit car was searched on a road at Ward A in Thingangyun Township and a man was arrested with 230g of ICE and the car. In connection with this case, a Succeed car on Gandama road, Ward No.23 Thuwanna was searched and two men and two women were arrested with 340 stimulant tablets and the car. In addition, 13,750 stimulant tablets and 50g of heroin were seized from a suspect house in this ward. In Ayeyawady Region, 28.06g of marijuana and a motorcycle were confiscated from a man on Bo Myat Tun road, Phakhan Ward, Hinthada Twonship. In addition, 63.27g of marijuana seized from the house of the suspect in Shwe Ku Ward. Three men were also arrested with 600 stimulant tablets at Gyone Gyone Kya Village, Mawlamyinegyun Township.

There have been two seizures of ammunitions. A man was caught with 3,800 stimulant tablets, 100g of crushed stimulant tablets, a short gun and two bullets at Watsaukkhone Village, Tachilek Township, Shan State. Another man was arrested with 330 stimulant tablets and a bomb at the corner of 62nd Street and Matkhaya Street in Setmu (Za) Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region.

There have been 252 cases being opened between 28-7-2019 and 3-8-2019. The total number of 369 people, including 322 men and 47 women, were arrested with a seizure of 559,577 stimulant tablets, 7,467.022g of heroin, 2,194.6g of ICE, 38,081.33g of opium, 166,230g of speciosa powder, 100g of crushed stimulant tablets, 6,215.33g of marijuana, a short gun, two bullets and a bomb.

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 number

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



Moving with unwavering steps on the path to a mature democracy

WE have been on the path of democratic transition for over eight years. In comparison with other countries which have made the transition, Myanmar is still a young democracy. This means there has been progress on our journey to democracy, but we still need to mature into a full-fledged democracy, which is our goal.

The World Bank, which conducted research on 30 countries that made the democratic transition between 1985 and 2009, found out that on an average, a 20-year period was required to reach a stage where a democracy became strong.

As per the study, the fastest a country took to realize its democratic ambitions was 12 years.

Involvement of the military was found in some of these countries. For countries with military involvement to transition into a democracy, it took an average of 17 years. The quickest was 10 years. But, those countries did not see as much internal conflict as Myanmar. They did not have problems like the Rakhine issue that Myanmar is facing.

Considering these two conditions, the fastest a country took to transition into a democracy in the absence of internal armed conflicts was 12 years.

There was another assessment conducted in 2010, which covered 115 incidences of democratic transition between 1995 and 2007. It was found that of the 86 countries scrutinized, only 15 had realized the democratic norms set by the West. There were 27 incidences of back-tracking.

There were 27 incidences where democracy was not achieved. Without back-tracking, some did not achieve a stable democracy for 30 to 40 years. This means that these countries were stuck in the transition stage. Region wise, none of the Latin American countries met the democratic norms set by the West, and there were only a few in Europe.

Myanmar started its transition with the 2010 election. The current civilian government came into power after the 2015 elections. At that time, the transition faced many challenges.

In fact, the conflict in Rakhine State and internal armed conflicts have added to the complexity of issues besieging Myanmar, almost one-third of which is conflict-ridden.

But, however many challenges we face, we are committed to reaching the goal of establishing a Democratic Federal Republic. Our transition to democracy may be long, but there will be no backsliding.

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Friendly Microbes in Our Gut

By Professor Dr Maung

We are only ten-percent humans

In terms of cells, we are only ten-percent humans. Ninety percent of the cells in our body are non-human microbial cells.

Gastrointestinal tract, which starts from the mouth and ends in the anus, is the living place of at least 500 different species of bacteria amounting to the total number of up to 200 trillion, which is ten times as many as human cells. Those bacteria are called Gut Microbiome or Gut Microbiota or Gut Flora.

Residing mainly from duodenum onwards, those microbes are basically categorized into friendly bacteria (Probiotics) and harmful bacteria (Pathogens). Lactobacillus, the bacteria found in yogurt, and Bifidobacteria, those having Y shape, are in the group of friendly bacteria. Among pathogens, there are Clostridium species, Klebsiella species, and many others.

Take care of your gut and you will have no worry

Dr Theodor Escherich discovered the presence of bacteria in our gut, in 1880. It was named after him as Escherichia coli. From then on researchers found out one after another.

Nowadays, it is realized that these gut bacteria influence our health in many ways, from helping to extract energy out of food to building the body's immune system, to protecting against infections. It is also shown that those gut flora influence body weight and lowers the risks of diabetes mellitus and heart disease.

The most attracting evidence is that the gut bacteria



This finding is in accordance with a saying in Myanmar culture stating 'If you take care of your gut, you will have no worry'.

are connecting with the brain via gut-brain axis and having an effect on brain and behavior. The friendly bacteria are capable of stimulating intestinal cells to secrete 'serotonin'. Serotonin is the 'happy messenger' for the brain, the deficiency of which is associated with anxiety and depression. It was published in a study that when volunteers followed a 30-day course of probiotic bacteria they experienced decreased anxiety and depression and alleviated psychological stress.

This finding is in accordance with a saying in Myanmar culture stating 'If you take care of your gut, you will have no worry'.

Unusual treatment for a diarrhea outbreak

In 2003, North America and Europe had uncontrollable diarrhea outbreak due to Clostridium difficile (C.difficile) infection. C.difficile is one of the pathogens of gut flora, the growth of which is normally suppressed by

friendly bacteria. However, when they become overpopulated diarrhea will result. This diarrhea was resistant to the treatment with usual antibiotics.

Physicians used an unusual treatment for the control. They used the fresh stool of a healthy person as the drug. Thirty to 100 grams of fresh stool that contains good bacteria was diluted 5 times with sterile water or normal saline. After preparation, the fecal suspension was given to the patient through nasogastric or nasoduodenal tubes. This treatment was named 'Fecal Microbial Transplantation' (FMT). FMT was found to be efficient in the treatment of C.difficile infection with the cure rate as high as 90 percent. As a result, 'Stool Banks' emerged in United State, across Europe, and in Hong Kong.

Since then more and more researches were focused on health beneficial effect of gut flora.

The ways the gut bacteria are helping us

Our friendly bacteria in the gut play an important role in defending against pathogens by fully colonize the space, and by killing or inhibiting the harmful organism. In addition, they are preventing the actions of some bacteria that are causing obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes mellitus.

Some bacteria readily convert the dietary carbohydrate into fats causing obesity. It was found out that when the gut flora of an obese person was trans-

ferred into mice, the mice became obese as well.

Some harmful bacteria release a compound called trimethylamine-N-oxide (TMAO) into the blood which is capable of increasing risk of heart disease 2.5 times.

However, the good bacteria secrete short-chain fatty acids into circulation, which increase the sensitivity of the action on Insulin hormone. Diabetes mel-

The commonest way of destroying healthy gut bacteria is the indiscriminate use of antibiotics. Overusing or frequent taking of antibiotics can kill off healthy ones and allow the overgrowth of unhealthy ones.

litis is the disease of poor action of Insulin on the cells.

Babies who are receiving breast feeding have well developed intestinal immune system as breast milk is the good source for growing healthy bacteria.

There are ways to keep our healthy gut bacteria

Having good friends is important not only for our social lives, but also in our gut, as gut bacteria are saying to us.

The commonest way of destroying healthy gut bacteria is the indiscriminate use of anti-

biotics. Overusing or frequent taking of antibiotics can kill off healthy ones and allow the overgrowth of unhealthy ones.

Lacking sound sleep and regular physical exercise are associated with a disturbance of healthy growth of bacteria. The habit of eating too many red meats, high fats and high sugar foods are also having the same effect. Spicy foods, by changing the acidity of the intestinal contents, provide a favorable condition for diarrhea-causing bacteria.

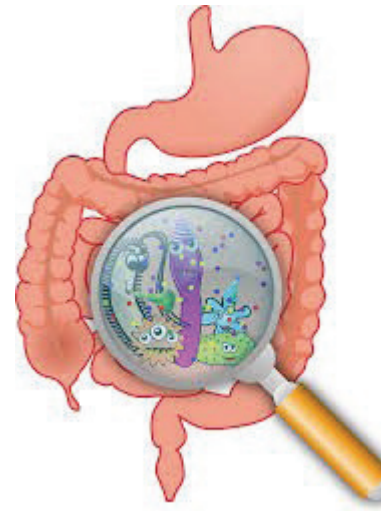
There are some evidence-based ways to improve our gut bacteria.

1. Eating Probiotic Foods

Probiotics are foods that are rich in healthy bacteria. Yogurt contains Lactobacilli and fermented foods such as preserved soya bean biscuit (Pe Pote) and soya bean sauce (Pone Ye Gyi) are good sources of both Lactobacilli and Bifidobacteria.

2. Eating Prebiotic Foods
Prebiotics are foods that promote the growth of beneficial microbes in the gut. All kinds of fruits and vegetables are in this group.

3. Eating high fiber foods



Enough sound sleep, regular physical exercise, and managing stress can all have a positive impact on the gut bacteria.

Take home message

The gut microbiome is extremely important for many aspects of health.

Many studies have shown that a disrupted microbiota can lead to numerous diseases.

The best way to maintain a healthy gut microbiome is to eat a range of fresh whole foods, mainly from plant sources like fruits, veggies, legumes, beans and pulse and, of course, to keep a healthy lifestyles.

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U Myint Swe presents Credentials to President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 1 August 2019, in Abuja.—MNA

Occasion the Eid ul-Adha Day Public Holiday Announcement

THE Union Government has issued Notification (No.48/2019). According to notification, 12th Waxing of Wagaung, 1381 ME, (12 August, 2019) shall be the Gazetted holiday for the Government Offices and public holiday on the occasion the Eid ul-Adha Day under the Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 4:00 pm Tuesday 6th August, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (13:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal has moved over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and has intensified into a depression. It is centered at about (70) miles South-Southeast of Digha and (85) miles Southeast of Blasore (India). Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 7th August, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in the whole country with regionally heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Chin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Frequent squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (10- 15) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th August, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th August, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th August, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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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.

Yangon Region takes steps to tackle informal settlements

The Yangon Region Government has teamed up with UN Habitat (Myanmar) to find sustainable solutions for Yangon's slums and informal settlements, where over 500,000 people are experiencing obstacles for dwelling.

"We need to draw short-term and long-term plans for the upgrade of slums," said U Phyo Min Thein, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, at a recently concluded workshop on Slums and Informal Settlements in Yangon Region, and he promised to find ways to provide job opportunities, income, education, and health-care to slum dwellers.

As a possible short term solution, the Yangon government plans to arrange for low-cost housing zones and basic infrastructure.

The Chief Minister also emphasized the long term solution will look at relocation as a possible solution for the most vulnerable slum dwellers. Speaking at the event, U Min Htein, the Director General of the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD), Ministry of Construction, highlighted the need to find sustainable solutions for the slum dwellers living in informal settlement areas in Yangon with proper planning



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivers the speech at the "Workshop titled Slums and Informal Settlements in Yangon" yesterday. **PHOTO: SAN KYAW OO (IPRD)**

in line with rules and regulations.

The Country Programme Manager of UN-Habitat Myanmar, Mr Bijay Karmacharya called for addressing the problem of informal settlements in the city. He also dwelt on the universally recognized means of solutions to informal settlements, emphasizing that all were in agreement that eviction is no longer a solution.

The two-day workshop, which was jointly conducted by the the Yangon Region Government, Urban and Housing Development Department, and UN-Habitat, took place at

the Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon. A comprehensive mapping exercise conducted by the UN-Habitat in 2016 identified a total of 423 informal settlements in Yangon, the country's most populated city. The settlements are spread over more than 1,800 acres, or approximately 1.23 per cent of Yangon's total land area, and house an estimated 365,000 people, or between 6-8 per cent of the city's total population.

The study noted that 270 of the 423 identified settlements were formed between January, 2010 and July, 2016, primarily in response to the migration from

the Delta region post Cyclone Nargis and increased employment opportunities.

About 15 million people, or about 30 per cent of Myanmar's population aged over 51, are living in urban areas.

The figure is expected to increase rapidly: projections indicate that an additional 7.1 million of the current rural population will migrate to cities by 2050.

The Yangon Region Government has issued smart cards to over 150,000 households. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by La Wonn)

No Swine Fever outbreak detected in Yangon: YCDC official

By Nyein Nyein

DISMISSING reports of an African Swine Fever outbreak in Yangon, U Min Aung, the Head of the Yangon City Development Committee's Veterinary and Slaughter House Department, said no cases of ASF have been detected in Myanmar.

He made the remarks during a press conference on the YCDC's performance.

"The virus has not reached Yangon, and it is a false alarm. No ASF infection has been reported in Myanmar. However, preventive and precautionary measures are being undertaken," he said.

"The virus is easily spread between pigs, to pig farms, and other areas, with high mortality. The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is preparing the necessary preventive

measures," said U Min Aung.

Yangon Region produces about 1,500 pigs daily, and there are two slaughter houses in the region: Ywathargyi and Insein (Ywama). About 450-500 pigs are slaughtered at the Ywathargyi house daily, while the Insein Ywama facility processes 900-1,000 pigs every day, according to the YCDC.

Since August, 2018, an ASF outbreak has been reported from some northeast, central, and eastern provinces of China, including the Yunnan Province, which is adjacent to Myanmar's border, he said. Therefore, Myanmar needs preventive and precautionary measures to guard against possible ASF infection, he added. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had reported African Swine Flu in Menghai County, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture of the People's Republic of China, on 29 May. The region

neighbours Myanmar's Mongla area.

According to an announcement by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the ASF outbreak started in Liaoning Province on 3 August, 2018 and spread to 32 provinces and counties in 10 months, with 136 outbreaks registered in total. More than 1.1 million pigs were slaughtered to control the infection. Upgrading farm biosafety and biosecurity is essential to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever to Myanmar, according to the LBVD.

With highly virulent forms of the virus, the ASF is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and boars. The virus is easily spread between pigs through direct contact, or indirectly by contact with contaminated objects. The biosecurity at pig farms plays a pivotal role in preventing an ASF outbreak. Preventive measures such as

spraying acaricides in pig markets, avoiding feeding of leftover feedstuff to domestic pigs, systematic farming, purchase of only pedigree pigs, and separate farming of newly purchased and existing pigs need to be undertaken, the LBVD has stated in a notification.

The department has also urged people to avoid imported frozen pig and pork products such as bacon, ham, and sausage. The department has also said that hunting and farming of boars and domestic pigs must be avoided, and has asked people to report any suspicious signs at pig farms to the nearest LBVD and the Myanmar Livestock Federation. It has also asked people to cooperate with the concerned departments and organizations to carry out preventive measures and research on the disease. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Traditionally woven cotton clothes selling well in Katha

TRADITIONAL cotton clothes and garments woven by local ethnic people from Thargaya Village in Katha Township are highly demanded in the local market.

“Weaving skills are handed down from one generation to the next in Seik Khon Village in Shwebo Township and Thargaya Village in Katha Township. Weaving of a sarong-like nether garment, known as longyi in Myanmar parlance, takes two days. We sell one longyi for K18,000. Before we can weave the longyis, we have to purchase raw materials, and they are costly. We have to spend K65,000 for a cotton roll and K1,100 for a viss of 2/100 cotton. If we weave daily, we can generate extra income for our family. So, the local women here are learning how to weave longyis,” said Ma Hnin Phyu, a local

weaver from Thargaya Village.

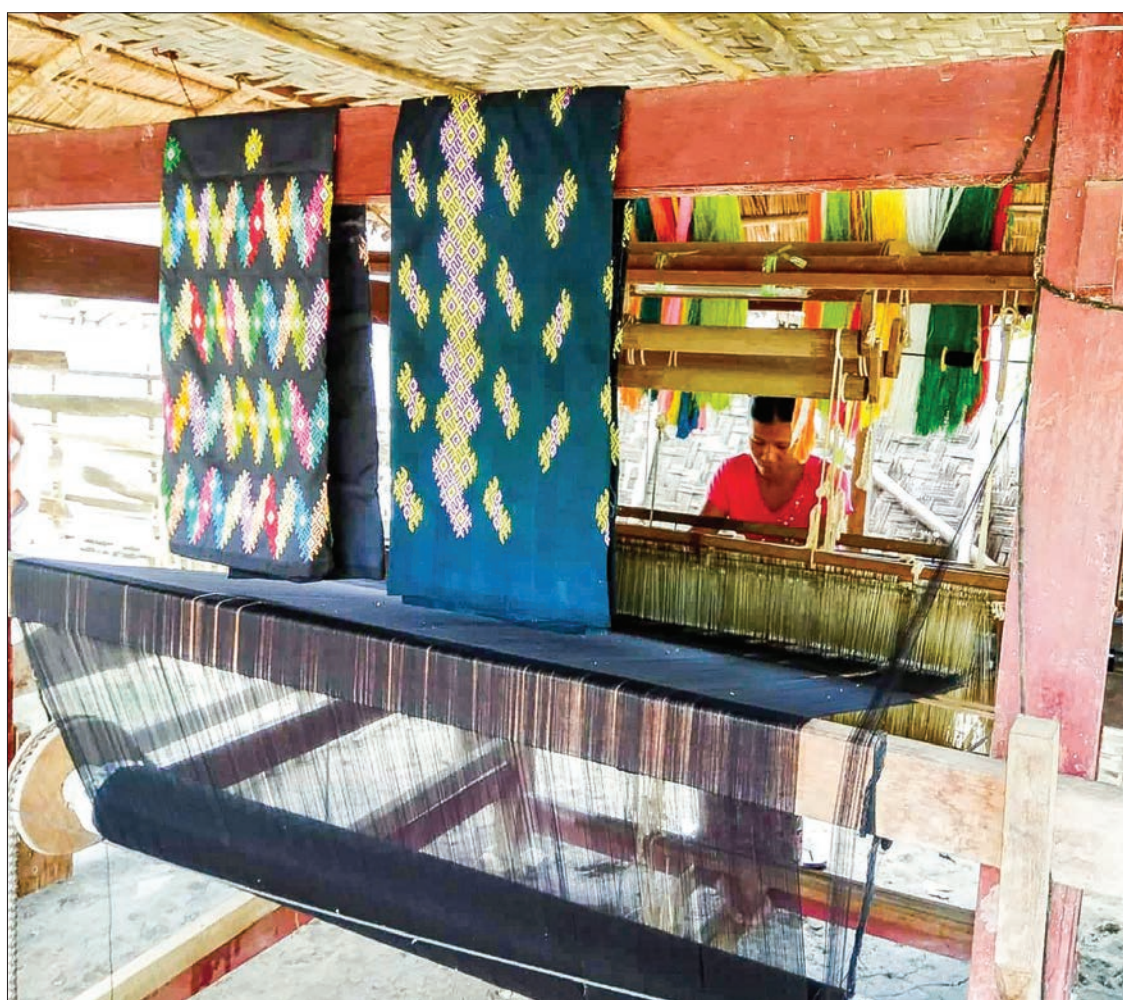
“Nether garments made of silk are quite different in texture from cotton clothes. Additionally, their patterns and designs are also different from cotton clothes,” she said.

“Silk longyis are light to wear and the colors are brilliant. Therefore, they are quite expensive,” she added.

Some of the ethnic longyis are more expensive and cost nearly K100,000, according to a local villager.

The authorities have already discussed ways to attract foreign and local visitors to come to observe the local weaving industries in these villages in the tourist season. The local authorities will submit a proposal in this regard to the ministry, said an officer.—Ngwe O (Katha)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



A woman is weaving ethnic textile on the loom in Katha. PHOTO: NGWE O (KATHA)

FDI into Myanmar reaches \$3.5 bln in Oct-July

IN the ten months since October in the current fiscal year, foreign direct investment of US\$3.7 billion has flowed into the country, including capital expansion by existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The total figure includes an investment of \$221.4 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

According to a press statement issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission, 224 foreign enterprises obtained MIC permits and endorsements from regional and state investment

committees between 1 October 2018 and 31 July 2019 in the current FY, bringing in a capital of \$2.2 billion. Singapore-listed enterprises were the largest investors during the October-July period, followed by China and Hong Kong.

The transport and communications sector absorbed FDI of over \$1.4 billion, topping in the investment sector line-up, followed by the manufacturing sector.

In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, foreign investments have flowed into the agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, power, transport and communications, hotels and

tourism, real estate, industrial estate, and other services sectors.

The MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the current FY, according to the DICA.

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

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic investments touch K1,262 bln in current fiscal

BETWEEN 1 October and 31 July in the current fiscal year, domestic investments by Myanmar citizens reached K1,262 billion and US\$395.9 million, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to a recent press statement issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

During the ten-month period, 139 local enterprises were allowed to invest in various sectors, with estimated capitals of over K1,043 billion and \$329.78 million.

Investments flowed into the real estate, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, construction,

industrial estate, energy, mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other services sectors, according to figures from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

To simplify the verification process of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the regional and state investment committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.

While some projects no longer need MIC approval, businesses that are strategic to the government require a permit

from the commission. In addition, businesses that have large capital investments exceeding \$5 million and projects which may have a possible impact on the environment and the local community need to be approved by the DICA's proposal assessment team.

With a fast-track way of setting up a business in Myanmar having been introduced, investors can apply to the MIC or the state and regional investment committees for endorsement of their investment proposals, depending on the business type. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Stock trades on YSX since launch have crossed K128.9 bln

SINCE the launch of the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in March, 2016 till the end of July this year, 124.02 million shares worth K128.9 billion have been traded on the exchange, said U Thet Htun Oo, the senior executive manager of the YSX.

In the month of July, 256,241 shares of five companies listed on the YSX, worth K1.2 billion, were traded in normal trade, while the volume of block trades reached 235,000 shares, worth K1.63 billion.

“There has been no significant rise in trading, and the exchange saw only a slight increase in trading. Regarding foreign participation on the YSX, they will be allowed to start trading shares on the YSX in two or three months, as some steps involved in opening up the stock market to them are still under process,” said U Thet Htun Oo.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of My-

anmar, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, issued a press statement on 12 July, announcing that foreigners will now be allowed to invest in shares listed on the YSX.

The YSX and Securities Companies will monitor the daily trades of foreigners, in keeping with the rules and regulations, so that they do not exceed the limit set by each listed company.

With the aim of increasing the number of individual investors in Myanmar's financial market, support the growth of business enterprises, develop the ecosystem of the Myanmar capital market, and bring about financial literacy among people, the YSX Expo 2019 has been organized on 1 September at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, according to the YSX. —Zar Ni Maung

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends earthquake preparedness, response plan forum

A FORUM on earthquake preparedness under the title of “National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan & Earthquake Forum” was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The forum was chaired by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye with Chairman of Myanmar Engineer Society, U Aung Myint as its Co-chair.

Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs, U Naing Ngan Lin of Yangon Regional Disaster Management team, secretary of Mandalay Regional Disaster Management team, Director U Aye Min Thu, Director U Soe Win of Fire Services Department, Deputy Director of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Dr Yin Myo Min Htway participated in the discussion.

At the event, Dr Win Myat Aye said that earthquake is an unpredictable thread and large measure of preparation must be taken to withstand the impact of it. It is necessary to have awareness and knowledge of earthquake preparedness, to educate the public on disasters extensively and to carry out disaster preparedness systematically.

He said National Earthquake Preparedness



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses earthquake preparedness and response plan during the forum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Response Plan has been drawn up and invited suggestions concerning preparation for the plan.

Then, U Aung Myint discussed pre earthquake assessment, construction in accordance with Building Code, strengthening rescue teams and research.

Afterwards, U Naing Ngan Lin explained about education process, earthquake forums and workshops, drills, drilling performances and plans for the future in the matters of these tasks.

Then, U Aye Min Thu discussed mapping earthquake prone area in Mandalay Region, boosting awareness programmes in those areas, collaboration of related departments with rescue teams, drilling performances and

preparation for possible disasters.

Afterwards, U Soe Win explained about formation of rescue teams, allocation responsibilities and drilling performances.

Then, Dr Yin Myo Min Htwe discussed evaluation of earthquake and tsunami disasters that occurred in Myanmar, location of earthquake fault lines, earthquake victim camps, collaboration of earthquake committee and other organizations and international collaboration on earthquake research.

Then, the Union Minister and officials responded to queries in Q&A session.

Afterwards, a discussion was held under the title of “Future Plans for Earthquake Preparedness”.

The discussion was chaired by Director General of Department of Disaster Management, Dr Ko Ko Naing and co-chaired by Director General of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, U Kyaw Moe Oo.

Dr Min Thein, Director of Disaster Management Department, Deputy Director from Ministry of Construction, Daw Mya Moe Win, Dr Myo Thant of Myanmar Earthquake committee and Daw Lat Lat Aye of DRR Working Group participated in the discussion.

The meeting was supervised by National Disaster Management Committee under the leadership Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Cambodia takes tough measures to curb plastic waste imports

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia has taken tough measures to curb illegal imports of plastic waste after the Southeast Asian nation found 83 containers filled with the waste at its seaport last month, officials have said.

Environment Ministry Secretary of State and Spokesman Neth Pheaktra said on Tuesday that Cambodia is not a dustbin where foreign countries can dispose of plastic waste or other out-of-date e-waste.

“To prevent the illegal imports of plastic waste and other types of hazardous waste in the future, our authorities, especially customs of-

ficers, will be extra-vigilant in checks and will strengthen cooperation with other countries in the region through information sharing,” he told Xinhua.

Kun Nhim, director general of General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), said any import of plastic waste is banned under the kingdom’s law and the importer is subject to penalties.

“Any company found importing plastic waste or other hazardous waste will be fined and ordered to return it to the country or countries of origin,” he said at a press conference here last week.

—Xinhua ■

Invitation For Open Tender No.(1/2019)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (2000) Metric Tons, (15) Lot of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow,
(a) (100) Metric Tons each, (10) Lot Monywa, Mine Site
(b) (200) Metric Tons each, (5) Lot Monywa, Mine Site
2. Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the LME price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
3. Tender Closing Date and Time is 2nd September, 2019 (14:00) hrs and Opening Tender is (15:00) hrs.
4. Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to (+ 95) 067 3 409378 and 3 409372 within the Office hours.

Tender Committee
Department of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environmental Conservation

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (1914E/W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (1914E/W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (931W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (931W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2019 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0122 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0122N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

UAGO holds second meeting to review UPR draft

THE Union Attorney-General Office reviewed the draft of the Universal Periodic Review-UPR of Myanmar before sending it to the national-level committee, according to the UAGO Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Preparation Work Committee on writing the UPR held the second meeting on Friday to edit, amend and add the UPR based on suggestions by the departments concerned, said a news release of the Office of Attorney-General.

The amended draft of the UPR would be sent to the national-level committee and it would see advice and suggestions from UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, in his capacity as the chairman of the work committee, called on the departments concerned for providing their progress and developments and for giving suggestions to the working committee.

Myanmar's UPR reports were submitted twice in 2011 and 2015.

The UPR is a process which makes a periodic review of the human rights records and which carries out in accordance with the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/251. Myanmar has submitted the first and the second UPRs to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – OHCHR in Geneva, Switzerland in 2011 and 2015.

For the second cycle, Myanmar received 281



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the speech at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Preparation work committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

recommendations from 93 countries. A third cycle will be submitted in 2020 and a

National Level Committee implementing 12 work sectors.—MNA (Translated by GNLM)

Myint Swe was formed and

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (044W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (044W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2019 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1064)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1064) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (027 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (027 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2019 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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Rare earth elements and rare earth minerals in Myanmar

By Zaw Min (GNLM)

TRADER friction between China and United States of America unexpectedly placed a spotlight on a Myanmar mineral resource. That mineral resource was Rare Earth Element (REE) or Rare Earth Mineral (REM).

As defined by IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry), rare earth elements in the periodic table are scandium, yttrium and the fifteen Lanthanides.

The 17 rare-earth elements are cerium (Ce), dysprosium (Dy), erbium (Er), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), holmium (Ho), lanthanum (La), lutetium (Lu), neodymium (Nd), praseodymium (Pr), promethium (Pm), samarium (Sm), scandium (Sc), terbium (Tb), thulium (Tm), ytterbium (Yb) and yttrium (Y).

Rare earths are not naturally found as native elements, but reside as compounds with-

in other minerals. To use layman words rather than technical terms, rare earths were called rare not because they are scarce. It simply couldn't be found in its concentrated form like iron or copper in huge ore deposit. Because of its geochemical properties, rare earth elements are typically dispersed rather than in an economically exploitable ore deposit form.

Rare earth was used as crucial component of modern products not only in tech sector but energy, automobile and defence industries as well. It is in every product that the people use including television, computers, cell phones and hybrid cars.

Major REE/REM producers of the world

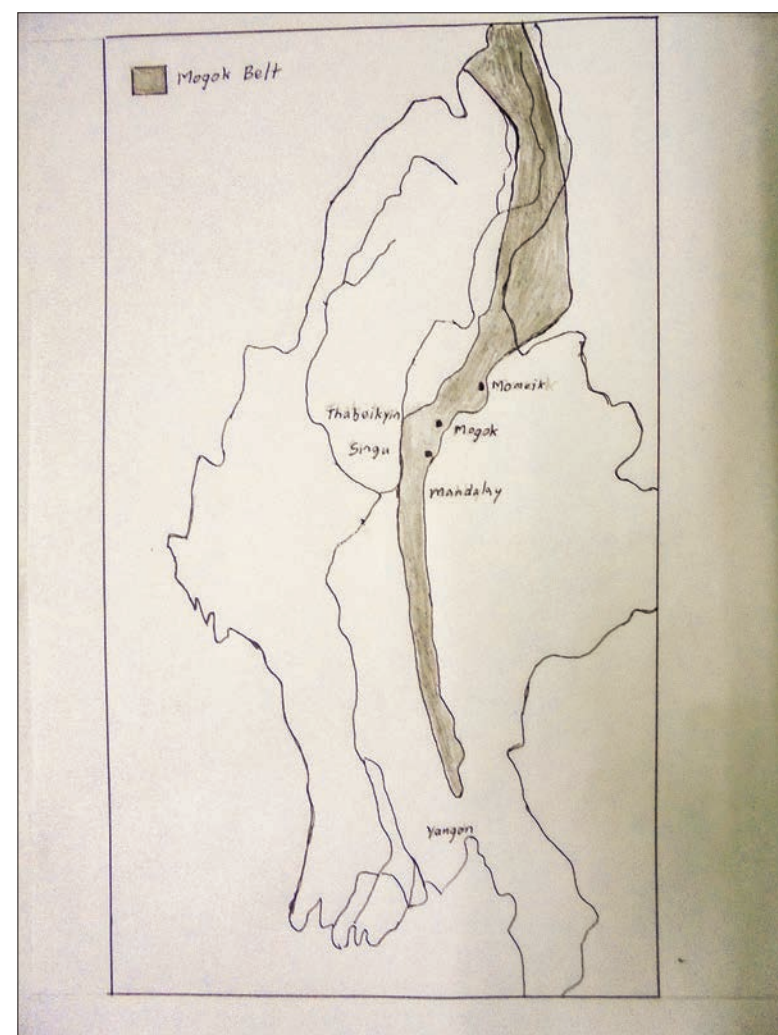
Earlier in the 50s and 60s India, Brazil and South Africa were the world's rare earth source. From the 60s to 80s USA became the leading producer.

Natural depletion in these initial sources, increasing demand and environmental concern in producing rare earth causes China to become the major producer in the world today. More than 80 per cent of world's REE/REM was supplied by China while Australia comes in at a distant second with 15 percent.

Search for alternative supplier

In 2010 tension between Japan and China flared in the aftermath of a collision between a Chinese trawler and a Japanese coast guard vessel. The Chinese trawler captain was arrested but eventually let go. This was reported to be due to the fact that China cut off supply of REE/REM to Japan. The accuracy of the Japan REE/REM embargo report was debatable but the search for alternative supplier of REE/REM starts from that period.

When trade friction mounts

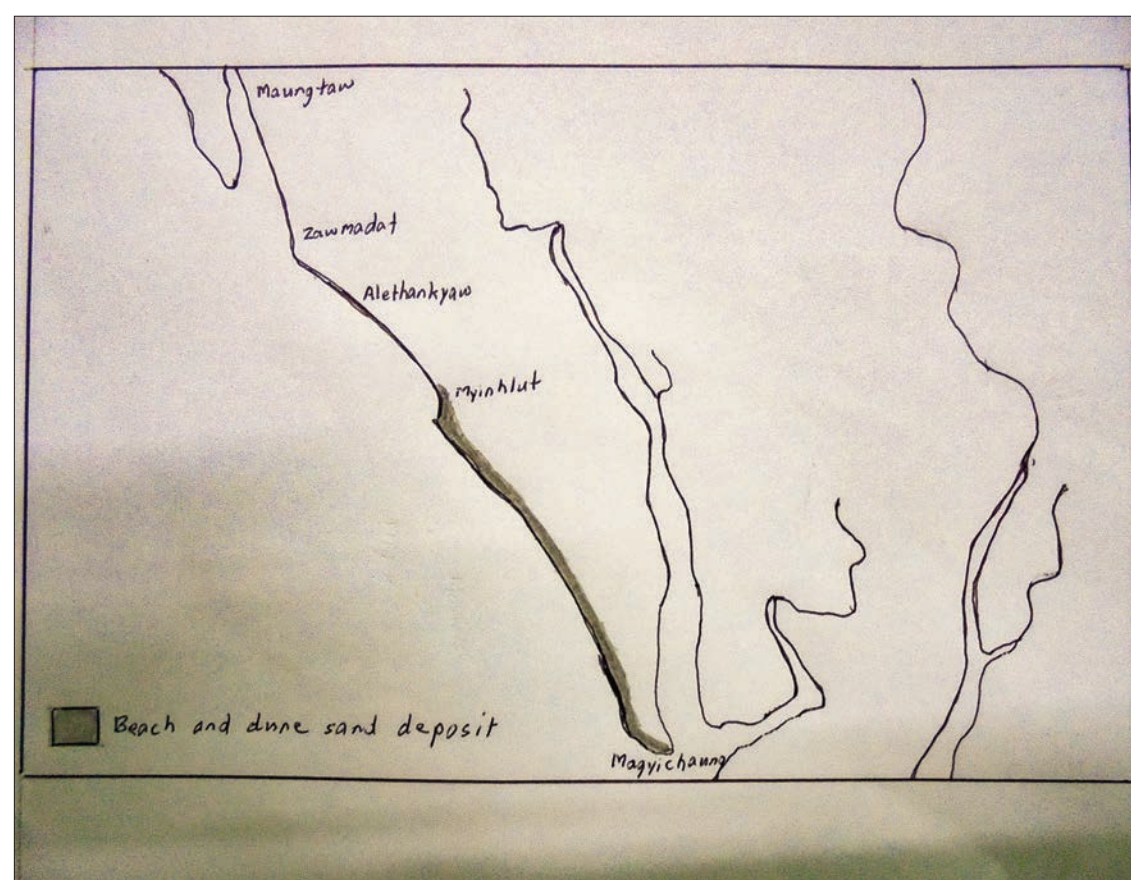


A sketch of Mogok Belt.



In a picture taken on 5 September, 2010 a man driving a front loader shifts soil containing rare earth minerals to be loaded at a port in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu province, for export to Japan.

PHOTO: AFP



A sketch of beach and dune sand deposit.

between China and US, news started appearing of the possibility of China restricting export of REE/REM to US. Here too whether China will restrict its supply of REE/REM to US is debatable but the fallout from this news was the appearance in some news article of Myanmar being a possible alternative supplier of REE/REM.

REE/REM in Myanmar

Around the year 2000 a

foreign company conducted explorations and production of heavy mineral sands in Myanmar. Heavy mineral sands are a type of ore deposit which is an important source of zirconium, titanium, thorium, tungsten, REEs, industrial mineral diamond, sapphire, garnet and occasionally precious metals or gemstone.

Based on this company's activity, a government ministry conducted studies and



A machine selects raw materials with high content of rare earths at a mine in Bayan Obo, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 27 October, 2010. **PHOTO:XINHUA**

field survey for heavy mineral sand in Myanmar. By product or result of this studies and field survey was the finding of possible REE/REM sources in Myanmar.

Primary source: Primary source for REE/REM in Myanmar was found in the Mogok Belt. Singu, Thabeikyin, Mogok and Momeik area turns up pegmatite related deposit and mineralization related to

Myanmar was found at the Momeik Shweli River confluence, locally known as Myitsone (not to be mistaken with Myitsone, where the Ayeyawady River begins), which also lies in the Mogok belt. Placer fluvial source does not produce as much as a primary source but this single location was found to have a possibility of producing commercial amount of REE/REM. Just like the case



the hydrothermal stage of a carbonatitic differentiation. It was from such similar sources around the world that REE/REMs were produced commercially. The Mogok Belt extends up toward Bhamo and Myitkyina and further on northward where no studies or field survey was conducted.

There is a high possibility of more areas like Singu, Thabeikyin, Mogok and Momeik turning up in those locations too.

Placer fluvial source: Placer fluvial source for REE/REM

of the high possibility of finding more primary sources along the Mogok Belt, there is also a high possibility of finding more placer fluvial sources too.

Beach and dune sand deposit: Beach and dune sand deposits were formed by a combination of tide, long shore currents, waves and wind action. Sand dunes along the beach consist of front or fore dune or sands that are at the shore line while back dune are sands deposited throughout hundreds or thousands of years. Along the 1,200 miles shore line of the

country, the coastal area along northern Rakhine State from Myinhlut to Magyichuang, separated by a thin strip of water from Angumaw near the state capital Sittwe has beach and dune sand deposit from which there is a high possibility of producing commercial amount of REE/REM.

The few primary sources, placer fluvial source, beach and dune sand deposits mentioned above were the findings from a studies and field survey conducted on some part of the country only. If a more comprehensive survey was conducted, there is a high possibility of finding REE/REM sources in Myanmar in which case, Myanmar would certainly become an alternative source for REE/REM from China.

Finding source and producing REE/REM

In the age when REE/REM were used in many if not almost all commercial and military software and hardware, REE/REM would be a valuable product to produce. Based on the rather brief study and field survey conducted, there is a high possibility of finding commercially viable sources of REE/REM in Myanmar.

It wouldn't be a miracle to find REE/REM anywhere in the world as it is indeed everywhere in the world.

However, it is through certain geological condition that commercially extractable REE/REM can be found only in few places in the world. Myanmar seems to have such geological conditions in place.

Finding a commercially viable source of REE/REM isn't a complicated work. However, producing REE/REM from the commercially viable source is a completely different story.

REE/REMs are found in very low concentration in the environment and the commercially viable source isn't of a concentration that is of a concern for the environment or human beings. But mining, refining and recycling of REE/REMs have serious environmental consequences if not properly managed. So more work is required to find a commercially viable source in Myanmar but even more work, much more work than in finding a commercially viable source in Myanmar will be required to produce REE/REM from that source.



Actress Thin Zar Wint Kyaw poses in front of the Changhe Q35 SUV during Gold AYA Motors Brand & New Model Q35 Launch Ceremony in Wyndham Grand Hotel Yangon Royal Lake on 2 August. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Gold AYA Motors launches brand and a new model Q35 in Yangon

GOLD AYA Motors launches its brand and a new model Q35 at a ceremony held in Wyndham Grand Hotel Yangon Royal Lake on 2 August. The event raises a lot of excitement and some surprises for audience who came over from all parts of Myanmar. Gold AYA Motor International Company was focusing on investing in the intelligent use of technology to secure a future of comprehensive development. The event illustrates Gold AYA Motor's first new model Q35, a Changhe Q35 Motor Model, while also showing the company's potentials in Myanmar auto industry.

Present at the event were Shining Star Group Company and Gold AYA Motor Chairman Mr. Yan Yu, Shining Star Group Myanmar Subsidiary Company General Manager Mr. Li Jifeng, Gold AYA Motors International Group Company Vice-General Manager Mr. Yan Jun, clients, distributors, over 60 media personnel and 7 Myanmar celebrities.

At the ceremony, Mr Yan Yun and Mr. Yan Jun presented the group company's development background and future development plans of Gold AYA Motors. VIP guests of the event were then invited onto the stage to unveil the Gold AYA brand. Next Gold

AYA Motors International Group Company Vice-General Manager Mr. Yan Jun conducted a product presentation of Changhe Q35. Promotional and presentation videos of Changhe Q35 were also shown.

Finally Shining Star Group Company Chairman pressed a button to unveil the first new model Changhe Q35 for official public viewing. This was followed by a group photo taking session with the new Changhe Q35. Later the guests were hosted to a Thank You Dinner reception.

After the ceremony came to an end Gold AYA Motors International Company signed more than 20 distributors' partnership agreements. Gold AYA Motors International Company also signed MOU with more than 30 distributors. At the moment Gold AYA Motors International Company has set up 4S showrooms in both Yangon and Mandalay. With a bigger and a stronger distributor network Gold AYA Motors expect to realize a nationwide sales and after-sales services in Myanmar.

The Changhe Q35 is SUV that appeal to youth, freedom, adventure and independence. It is not constrained by roads and provides a freedom of travel different from travelling in a saloon. — GNLM

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Myanmar beat Laos 3-0 in AFF U-18 Next Media Cup 2019

MYANMAR beat Laos in their group stage match of the AFF U-18 Next Media Cup 2019 yesterday at the Binh Duong Fields in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper PyaePhyo-Thu, and players Wai Yan Soe, Sithu Moe Khant (Captain), Thet Hein Soe, Nyan Lin Htet,

Yan Kyaw Soe, Zaw Win Thien, Aung Ko Oo, La Min Htwe, Saw KyawAe, and Pyae Phyo Aung.

The goals for Myanmar were scored by Saw Kyaw Ae at the 28th minute, Wai Yan Soe at the 36th minute, and Zaw Win Thien at the 90th minute. The lone goal for Laos was scored at the 48th minute.

Next, Myanmar will compete against the Philippines

on 8 August, Timor-Leste on 10 August, Brunei on 12 August, and Indonesia on 14 August. The group stage matches will conclude on 15 August.

The semifinals will be played on 17 August at the Go Dau Stadium, and the play-off for the third place and the final will take place on 19 August at the Thong Nhat Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City. — KyawKhin



The Myanmar U-18 players celebrate after scoring a goal during their match against Laos on 6 August at the Binh Duong Fields in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. **PHOTO: MFF**

AFF Women's Championship 2019: Final squad for Myanmar selected

THE final Myanmar senior women's squad for the AFF Women's Championship 2019 was announced yesterday by the Myanmar Football Federation. The tourney will see participation from nine teams.

The final squad includes goalkeepers May Zin Nwe and Thandar Oo from Myawady F.C., and Khaing Zar Win from Sport and Education F.C., and defenders Ei Yadanar Phyo, Khin Myo Win, Wai Wai Aung, and Zin Zin Naing from ISPE F.C., Khin Than Wai, Aye Aye Moe, and Khine Thazin from Myawady F.C., Chit Chit of Thitsar Arman F.C., and Phyu Phyu Win of YREO F.C.

The midfielders selected on the team are Nge Nge Htwe and Khin Mo MoTun from Thitsar Arman F.C., Khin Malar Tun and Thin Thin Yu from ISPE F.C., Le Le Hlaing from Zwekapin F.C., and May Thu Kyaw from Myawady F.C.

The selected forwards are Win Theigi Tun from Myawady F.C., Khin Moe Wai and July Kyaw from Thitsar Arman F.C., and Nu Nu and Ye Ye Oo from

ISPE F.C.

Officials for the squad are Team Manager Tin Myint Aung, Head Coach Win Thu Moe, assistant coaches Khin Maung Htwe and Sa Thet Naing Win, goalkeepers' coach Mya Ko Min, team secretary Than Than Htwe, team doctor Dr Yu Nandar Tun, Sport and Science official Juan Roman Mellado, and the team's media officer Aung Thaw Phyo.

The Myanmar women's team has been placed in Group B for the tourney with Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Indonesia. Group A comprises host Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Timor-Leste.

The AFF Women's Championship 2019 is scheduled to be held from 15 to 27 August in Chonburi, Thailand.

Myanmar will compete against Indonesia on 16 August, Cambodia on 18 August, and Viet Nam on 20 August in the group stage at the Institute of Physical Education Chonburi Campus Stadium, Chonburi, Thailand. — KyawKhin

Swiss charge German football officials in 2006 World Cup fraud probe

LAUSANNE (Switzerland) — Swiss prosecutors said Tuesday they had charged three former German Football Association (DFB) officials, including ex-president Theo Zwanziger, with fraud relating to the 2006 World Cup.

In a statement the attorney general's office said the accused "are alleged to have fraudulently misled the members of a supervisory body of the DFB organising committee for the 2006 World Cup in Germany" in April 2005 about the true purpose of a payment of around 6.7 million euros.

Hors Schmidt, former secretary of the German football federation, has also been charged with fraud — along with the Swiss Urs Linsi, secretary general of FIFA from June 1999 to June 2007.

Wolfgang Niersbach, who was a member of the 2006 bid

committee and vice-president of the organising committee, has been charged with complicity in fraud.

Charges of money-laundering were dismissed in July. All four have denied the claims.

"This whole Swiss campaign is wretched, malicious and will completely fail, because I have nothing to reproach myself for," Zwanziger told AFP subsidiary SID.

"These incompetent investigators are banging their heads against a brick wall, and the wall will always win. The whole thing has long been a judiciary scandal and there has been no truly reproachable behaviour on the part of the accused."

Niersbach said the accused only found out through the media that they had been charged and described the investigation as 'unspeakable.'—AFP ■

Wayne Rooney holds talks with Derby over English return

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Wayne Rooney could be on his way to Championship side Derby after owner Mel Morris confirmed on Tuesday that the club were attempting to finalise a move for the former England captain.

The 33-year-old has been linked with a player-coach role at Pride Park, where his former England teammate Frank Lam-

pard was given his first opportunity in management last year.

He is under contract at MLS side DC United until the end of the 2021 season but reports suggest his wife Coleen is homesick and has returned to Britain with their children. Reports of Derby's interest in the former Manchester United star emerged shortly before the side, under new boss

Phillip Cocu, opened their Championship campaign with a 2-1 victory at Huddersfield on Monday.

"It's literally only been a couple of days in the offing," Derby owner Mel Morris told Talksport.

"The starting point was that we understood he (Rooney) was keen to return to the UK and we decided to see if we could do something off the back of that. "It's never done until it's done and obviously we are very focused and keen to get this over the line."

Premier League side Burnley and second-tier West Brom have also reportedly declared an interest in Rooney, who is the record goalscorer for England and United. Rooney has engineered an upturn in DC United's fortunes since he arrived from Everton and teammate Steve Birnbaum said he had had a major impact.

"He's changed everything, he's changed the culture of the club," Birnbaum told the Daily Telegraph.—AFP ■



Derby bound? Wayne Rooney is holding talks with the Championship side over a player-coach role. **PHOTO: AFP**