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State Counsellor inspects Thilawa Special Economic Zone

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi emphasized on the importance of coordination and cooperation among the relevant departments and the public during her inspection tour to Thilawa Special Economic Zone yesterday.

She led Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, U Thaung Tun, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials while she was visiting the first special economic zone of Myanmar, located on the outskirts of Yangon.

At the Multipurpose Hall of Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development, the State Counsellor was briefed on the progress and the ongoing businesses of the SEZ by Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance, in his capacity as Chairman of Thilawa SEZ Management Committee, Dr Set Aung, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Chairman of Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Ltd. U Win Aung and President and CEO Mr Tomoyasu Shimizu.

In making remarks on the reports, the State Counsellor



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the production line of the Foster Electric Thilawa Co Ltd in Thilawa SEZ-A. PHOTO: MNA

The Thilawa SEZ has provided over 20,000 jobs to workers including over 9,000 permanent workers at factories.

expressed her appreciation for the progress of Thilawa SEZ as it has already developed a master plan.

She advised to take account into its safety measures as the residential buildings are found near the factories, and also suggested to gain profit from

implementing the mega project.

The State Counsellor also put emphasis on the importance of coordination among the relevant departments and cooperation in relation with the public and business companies.

She also recognized a complaint programme at the SEZ

that was a newly developed for ensuring good practices in dealing with the public. She also pointed out a relation between employment opportunities and infrastructural development in the economic policy.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears financial details of Union institutions

THE 14th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session convened yesterday.

Firstly, the Speaker read the appointment of Colonel Min Than as Minister of Security and Border Affairs of Rakhine State, sent from the President's Office, and announced the matter has been put on record.

Hluttaw hears national planning & union budget bills

Next, Joint Bill Committee member U Zaw Win read their report and comments concerning the National Planning Bill for 2019-2020 FY. He said the report was based on the findings of 20 joint scrutinizing groups and the Joint Public Accounts Committee and focuses on national projects and investment proposals. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the bill to enrol their names.

Following this, another Joint Bill Committee member, U Nay Myo Tun read their report and comments concerning the Union Budget Bill for 2019-2020 FY.

Joint Public Accounts Committee Chairman U Aung Min then said the revenue received in advance for this financial year has increased by K101,447,000 million and estimated expenditure is slated to be decreased by K418,074.648 million. He requested for the Hluttaw to give its approval.

Speaker provides guidance for effective debate

The Speaker then announced that discussion and submitting proposals to amend

the National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill for 2019-2020 FY will take place on 28 August. He said the capital expenditure amount requested in the budget bill corresponds to the project value accompanying the National Planning Bill and the amount reduced from the two is the same in both reports.

The Speaker said MPs discussing the matter must separate the discussions into three categories, with each focusing on policies and principles, planning and capital expenditure, and revenue expenditure of the budget bill respectively.

In addition, MPs must state which department or organization they wish to discuss upon, provide a summary if they wish to discuss policy matters, or provide in detail the facts and numbers of an amendment they wish to put forward.

Deputy Ministers respond to Union Budget Law 2017-2018 FY

Next, officials from Union-level institutions responded to the Joint Public Accounts Committee's Report No (11/2019) concerning the Union Budget Law 2017-2018 FY, sent from the Union Auditor-General Office, and to discussions from Hluttaw representatives on the matter.

First, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun responded to the remark made by Dr Khun Win Thaung, MP for Kachin constituency 11.

The Deputy Minister said a Broadcasting Council must be established in line with Section 7 of the enacted Broadcasting Law and they are currently working



MP U Zaw Win.
PHOTO: HTAN PHON

on passing the related bylaw. He said the state-owned broadcasting media began paying license fees for 164 FM stations across the nation to the Directorate of Communications starting from 12 July 2010. Therefore, there can be no losses to national revenue from FM companies.

Systematic management reduced overdue debts

The Deputy Minister then replied to why the MRTV's receipt proposal did not include any arrears. He said they included the advertisement revenue from MRTV's TV and radio programmes and other general receipts, annual payments from affiliated media companies made per their contract with the department, arrears for the 2016-2017 FY and for three months of 2017-2018 FY in the revenue receipt, which all amounted to K8,200 million.

The Deputy Minister said the companies are late in their payments and the ministry has notified them to be punctual and follow the stipulations in their contract on multiple occasions. He said the companies began making timely payments after



MP U Nay Myo Tun.
PHOTO: HTAN PHON

amendments were made to the provisions for payments in the contract and they properly managed the payment system. He said this reduced the arrears and allowed for the concise allocation of revenue.

Explaining why requested budget was not fully utilized

The Deputy Minister then replied to the remark in the Joint Public Accounts Committee's report saying that the ministry was unable to implement the allocated budget in a timely manner. He said they received a directive from the Central Committee on Implementing Stability and Development in Rakhine State during its meeting no. (2/2017) to provide additional FM radios in Rakhine.

The Deputy Minister said they collected funds from the ministry's various departments and handed over K400 million to their general excess funds and received permission from the Ministry of Planning and Finance to purchase the radios through a call for tender in the Kyemon Daily.

He said the winner of three



MP U Aung Min.
PHOTO: HTAN PHON

bidding companies signed a contract with the ministry after winning a tender for K399.992 million to purchase 54,480 radios at K7,342 each. He said the company failed to deliver the promised quota and only purchased 5,448 radios at K39.999 million. He said the remaining K359.992 million for the 49,032 radios left to be purchased was resubmitted.

The Deputy Minister said they notified the particular company they will not be receiving permission for purchasing in the succeeding financial years and proper action was taken against them. He said the K359.992 million for the remaining 49,032 radios was included in the capital expenditure proposal for 2018-2019 FY.

The Deputy Minister said all the radios of the proposed amount have been purchased and handed over the Rakhine State Government who have completed distribution to the local residents. He said the aforementioned reasons are why they were unable to utilize the requested budget for distributing FM radios in Rakhine State for free.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses Union Taxation Bill 2019

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discussed the Union Government's Union Taxation Bill 2019 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The attendees at the meeting were Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Commerce Minister U Aung Htoo, Deputy Planning and Finance Minister U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar

U Soe Thein, the vice-chairmen, secretaries, joint secretaries and members of the Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Affairs Development Committee, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Union Attorney-General Office, UMFCI and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

State Counsellor visits Eden Myanmar Philanthropic Group in Yangon

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, accompanied by the officials, visited the Eden Myanmar Philanthropic Group at Hanthar Yeikmon Housings in Kamayut Township, Yangon, yesterday.

The group was formed to rehabilitate the female survivors of trafficking.

Union Minister for Social Welfares, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and the responsible persons of the Eden Myanmar briefed on the rehabilitation and vocational training programmes for the trafficked women, and the State Counsellor gave necessary instructions.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the Eden Myanmar Philanthropic Group in Kamayut. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor inspects Thilawa Special Economic Zone

FROM PAGE-1

The State Counsellor then encouraged for the successful implementation of the One Stop Service Center that is helping the daily business operations in the support of coordination and cooperation. She finally congratulated the management and leading role of Chairman Dr Set Aung.

Then, the State Counsellor signed the visitor's book and posed for the documentary photo.

The State Counsellor and party then visited the One Stop Service Center (OSSC), greeted the staff members and posed for documentary photo.

The State Counsellor and officials arrived at the Thilawa



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the meeting with officials over development of Thilawa SEZ. **PHOTO: MNA**



SEZ (A) and visited the Foster Electric Thilawa Co, Ltd that manufactures earphones, speakers and headphones; the pharmaceutical company Zifam Pyrex Myanmar Co, Ltd, the healthy yogurt production factory Yakult Myanmar Co, Ltd and the automobile factory Suzuki Thilawa Co, Ltd.

A total of 113 business firms from 20 countries have invested over US\$1.7 billion in doing

their businesses. Among them, 76 companies have begun commercially and 20 of them are exporting their products.

The Thilawa SEZ has provided over 20,000 jobs to workers including over 9,000 permanent workers at factories. The 405-hectre Zone A was launched for commercial purpose on 23 September 2015, and 87 firms have been permitted to do their business there. The Zone B has been implementing phase by phase and 18 business firms have been approved for this area.—MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with workers of Suzuki Thilawa Motor Co Ltd. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Aung Khin)

VP U Henry Van Thio accepts mobile clinic vessel for flood-torn areas



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the meeting to officially accept a vessel to be used as mobile clinic vessel for health care services in flood-hit areas. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of National Disaster Management Committee and Vice President U Henry Van Thio received a vessel yesterday to be used as mobile clinic for providing first aid and emergency medical services in flood-stricken areas.

Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies, a local business firm, donated the home-made vessel that was handed over at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

The donation ceremony was

attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr Myint Htwe and Nai Thet Lwin, Deputy Ministers U Soe Aung and U Hla Maw Oo, permanent secretaries and officials.

In speaking about the donation, the Vice President said that the world is experiencing natural disasters resulted from climate change, and the respective communities are contributing in preventive measures for the risk reductions, the rescue efforts and

the rehabilitation works as the external assistance is very helpful for the victims in the disaster affected areas.

He also remarked that the victims have received more relief aid, with the increasing donations of government, private sectors and social communities while the country is experiencing natural disasters like other countries.

The Vice President expressed thanks for donation of a vessel for mobile medical ser-

vices in supporting rescue and healthcare works, and it will also be used for first aid and emergency medical services before the victims are taken to the hospitals.

He assured the relevant departments will supply the vessels with the health workers and medicines. He called for the contributions of private sector in rescue and rehabilitation works for the disaster management activities.

Daw Tint Tint Lwin, the chairwoman of donor company, explained about the donation and

presented documents for the vessels to the Vice President who returned the honorary certificate to the well-wisher.

Built in 2017, the vessel is 105-ft in length, 18-ft in width and 6-ft in depth. Its engine is Nissan RH (10) 200063 E (410) BHP, and the medical equipment for operation, oxygen cylinders and first aid kits. It has enough space for 6 to 10 beds when the vessel is used as a mobile clinic.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC, MoI hold meeting for 2020 General Election

THE Union Election Commission and the Ministry of Information held a meeting yesterday on preparatory works prior to the 2020 General Election at the meeting room of the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his opening address at the meeting, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein outlined five norms for the 2020 General Election — the polls will be free, fair, transparent, credible, and reflect the will of the people.

He also urged the Ministry of Information to undertake civic education programmes and voter education programmes and to engage in awareness building activities ahead of the election.

“There are 20 working processes to be done jointly by the

UEC and the Ministry of Information in the pre-election, election, and the post-election period. Election work cannot be done alone by the election commission, and the Ministry of Information needs to collaborate in it. The particular role of civic education includes disseminating information about political parties, their candidates, their policies and political platforms, and electoral procedures,” he said.

Then, the Union Minister for Information, Dr Pe Myint, said the meeting was being held with the aims of ensuring the smooth running of the 2020 General Election, making preparatory measures, and cooperating in electoral work with the UEC.



U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, delivers an address the meeting between the UEC and Ministry of Information over preparatory works for the 2020 general elections. **PHOTO: MNA**

“Arrangements have been made to use the community centres of the IPRD offices in townships around the country to conduct voter education programmes. The Ministry of Information is ready to cooperate with the UEC in the smooth running

of the election processes,” he said.

Thereafter, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, U Myo Myint Maung, and officials discussed the work to be carried out, and the event concluded with closing remarks

by the UEC Chairman.

The event was attended by members of the UEC Commission, officials from the Commission Office and the Ministry of Information. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears financial details of Union institutions

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NPE remaining national debts paid

The Deputy Minister then replied to the Joint Public Accounts Committee report's remark on why the News and Periodicals Enterprise did not include the remaining revenue it has to hand over to the Union Government in its initial amended allocated budget.

He said 20 per cent of NPE's profits for 2017-2018 FY was handed over and it amounted to K115.336 million. He said the financial report states the handover amount should be

K384.371 million and the remaining K269.035 million was completely handed over on 28 June 2019.

Other Union institutions respond to report

Afterwards, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and the deputy ministers for construction, border affairs, agriculture, livestock and irrigation, transportation and communications, electricity and energy, health and sports, and planning and finance, and Union Auditor-General U Maw Than responded to the Joint Public Accounts Committee's Report No (11/2019) concerning the Un-



Union Minister U Ohn Maung.
PHOTO: HTAN PHON

ion Budget Law 2017-2018 FY.

Joint Public Accounts Committee member U Khin Maung Than then moved for the Hlut-



Auditor-General U Maw Than.
PHOTO: HTAN PHON

taw to approve the report. The Speaker gathered the deliberation of the Hluttaw, received no opposition, and announced the



MP U Khin Maung Than.
PHOTO: HTAN PHON

report has been approved by the assembly.—Mawsi, Hmwe Kyu Zin ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



CBM Governor receives Senior Executive Vice President of Industrial Bank of Korea

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, received a delegation led by Mr Hyuk-Soo Oh, Senior Executive Vice President of the Industrial

Bank of Korea, at the Gangaw Hall of the CBM in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to cooperation to boost the Myanmar's small and medium-sized enterprises and offering assistances for financial, technical and human resource developments. —MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung receives the Korean delegation led by Mr Hyuk Soo Oh. PHOTO: MNA

Application forms, deposit stamps for 2020 matric exams available in September

THE Ministry of Education's Department of Myanmar Examinations (DME) will begin selling application forms for the 2020 matriculation exams and deposit stamps, each at K200 and K700 respectively, from 2 September. The exam application forms are separated by colors with green application forms for those taking

Subject Combinations No.1, 5, 6, 7 and 8, and pink application forms for No. 2, 3 and 4, in card forms.

Furthermore, external students must purchase and attach the deposit stamp to the top-left corner of the application form and submit it to the Township Education Office of their current residence between 2 to 30 Sep-

tember.

Similarly, the principals of basic education high schools, branch schools, affiliated schools and private high schools must purchase the K700 deposit stamps for each applying student's form and collectively submit it to the DME between 2 to 30 September. DME urges all

applications to be made within the designated timeframe as it will not accept any late applications nor allow changes to the subject combinations chosen in the forms. As such, it recommends applicants to thoroughly check and review their choices before submitting the form. The application forms and stamps

will be available at Office No.52, Department of Myanmar Examinations (Headquarters) in Nay Pyi Taw, at the DME office near the textbook warehouse on Parami Road in Hline University campus, Hline Township, and at the DME office at No166, Latha Road, Yangon. —MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Myanmar Motion Picture Museum gets a facelift

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Museum (MMPM) is undergoing an upgrade to enable movie buffs and the general public to learn about the history of Myanmar movies, which have enjoyed great popularity across ages, through six galleries featuring six different themes.

Currently, the building located on Wingaba Street in Bahan Township of Yangon is being renovated. While work on the outer building has been completed under the supervision of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO), work on the interiors and other minor repairs are under way. Research on the history of movies is also on.

"The MMPM plans to showcase the history of Myanmar movies. Currently, we are doing the renovation. The renovation is expected to be completed in October. As it is a historical museum, we have to be careful while conducting research. So, it will take a bit more time. This museum will showcase the history of movies. The museum will be visited by actors and audiences as well as the general public. As history can be forgotten after a long time has passed, we



The Myanmar Motion Picture Museum is undergoing an upgrade to enable movie buffs and the general public to learn about the history of Myanmar movies. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

are doing detailed historical research," said U Aye Kyu Lay, the vice chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

"The MMPM was opened in 1998. At the time, it was crowded with visitors. Afterwards, the museum was shut down temporarily. Now, we are renovating to reopen the MMPM," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

The museum will now have

six galleries, featuring the 1920-1945 era (silver jubilee), the 1946-1970 era (golden jubilee), and the 1971-1995 era (diamond jubilee); the 100th anniversary of Myanmar movies; academy award presentations from 1952 till the present time; and the filmmaking industry. While three of the six showrooms will be situated on the upper floor, the remaining will be on the

ground floor.

The MMPM will showcase photos of famous actors and actresses of all periods, historical films, antique cameras, flashguns, and broadcasting devices to help visitors widen their scope of knowledge about Myanmar movies, according to the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Yangon.—Myint Maung Soe ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Emerald Green project loans provide fillip to livestock sector



Loans granted under the Emerald Green project to breeders is helping to boost livestock sector in rural area of Myanmar.

PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYYARTINE)

LOANS granted under the Emerald Green project to breeders have helped boost the livestock sector this year, according to Daw Khin Soe Win, the head of

the Chaung-U Township Rural Development Department.

After receiving the loans, farmers engaged in the livestock and agriculture sector at

27 villages in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region have carried out livestock farming in 24 units.

Since the 2014-2015FY, a total of 1,124 local breeders have raised livestock at a cost of K273 million, and the livestock sector has seen success this year, she said.

"Although the Emerald Green project loans provided in the livestock sector are less than those provided in the agricultural sector, the loans have boosted the future business prospects of local breeders. Local breeders who have received the loans are enjoying the benefits of raising livestock. Some of the breed-

ers have a thousand sheep and goats. Over time, local breeders will enjoy greater benefits," said Daw Khin Soe Win.

In ChaungU Township, Emerald Green project loans amounting to over K27 million were provided to 78 local farmers in the 2014-2015FY, over K124 million to 562 local farmers in the 2015-2016FY, over K61 million to 205 local farmers in the 2016-2017FY, over K47 million to 230 local farmers in the 2017-2018FY, and over K11 million to 49 local farmers in the 2018-2019 FY. The local farmers are breeding sheep, goats, pigs, and local bulls.—Win Oo (Zayyartine) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

YRTA: 300 of 500 planned bus stops installed in Zone 1

By Nyein Nyein

THE installation of 300 bus stops out of the targeted 500 in the Zone 1 has been completed, said U Hla Aung, the joint secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

He made the remarks at a press conference held yesterday at the YRTA office.

For the project, Yangon has been divided into three zones. The Zone 1 includes six downtown townships and Kamayut, Hline, Mayangon, Yankin, South Okkalapa, and Thingyangyun townships. The FMIDecaux Company, which won the bid for the project, has been commissioned to install 500 bus stops in the townships, of which, 300 have

been constructed, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

The Zone 2 includes Hline-thaya, Shwepyitha, Insein, Mingaladon, and North Okkalapa townships. The Ganad Company, which succeeded in the bidding for the project, will install 258 bus stops in the townships. The project at Hlinethaya Township has

begun. The Zone 3 includes East Dagon, Dagon Seikkan, Dawbon, Thakayta, South Dagon, and North Dagon townships. A total of 409 bus stops will be set up in the zone by the Zenith company.

There are about 1,850 bus stops across commercial hub Yangon. The YCDC will construct the remaining bus stops. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

SEZs attract 113 enterprises as of end-July

IN ten months till July in the current fiscal year, a total of 113 enterprises, including four domestic businesses, brought in capitals of US\$1.72 billion into the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Singapore topped the list of investors, bringing in \$646.6 million, or 37.5 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Japan with \$535.43 million and Thailand with over \$174.07 million. The Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, the UK, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Panama, China, Brunei, Viet Nam, Australia, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands also invested in the SEZs.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones — Thilawa, Kyaukpadaung, and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading

with better infrastructure and successful business.

According to the Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited's 2017-2018 annual report, 97 per cent of Thilawa Zone A and 61 per cent of Zone B have been sold.

Companies in the promotion area of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) accounted for over 75 per cent of the total investment. A company exporting at least 75 per cent of the production, in terms of value, is deemed a Free Zone investor and is exempt from corporate tax for 7 years from the time it starts commercial operations. Companies such as logistics which support export-oriented manufacturing can also be considered free zone companies. Domestic-oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as promotion zone companies, and they are eligible for a five-year tax holiday on corporate tax.



Workers are seen at the assembly line of the Suzuki Thilawa Motor Co. Ltd at Thilawa SEZ. PHOTO: MNA

There are other tax incentives for free zone and promotion zone investors on importation of capital goods, raw materials, and merchandise, and consigned goods and vehi-

cles. Further information about the taxation system is available on the website <http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm>.

While the manufacturing sector absorbs the largest share

of foreign investments, funds have also flowed into the trading, services, transportation and logistics, real estate, and hotel sectors in the past.—Ko Khant ■ (Translated by EMM)

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State Counsellor, Vice Chairman of NDRC of China, discuss implementation of projects

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Power, gas suppliers selected for Yangon City infrastructure projects

TWO consortiums have been selected for providing electricity and gas for the Stage 2 infrastructure projects envisaged under the New Yangon City Project, which is being implemented by the New Yangon Development Company Limited, according to a weekly blog post by Serge Pun also known as Theim Wai, the CEO of the NYDC.

Earlier, the expressions of interest (EOIs) had been invited for the infrastructure projects, and two consortiums have now been selected — the PPT group comprising PTT, PTTEP, and GPSC from Thailand has been chosen for power supply and distribution,

and the IGL consortium comprising Indraprastha Gas Limited and Gail from India has been selected for natural gas supply and distribution, according to the blog post.

The consortiums will negotiate with the NYDC to undertake preliminary works and feasibility studies to prepare the pre-project documents (PPD), based on which the NYDC Challenge will be implemented, according to Serge Pun.

On 11 February, the NYDC had invited EOIs for Stage 2 infrastructure projects, including power supply and distribution; natural gas supply and distribu-

tion; cyber connectivity; public transport; waste management; and a convention and exhibition center for New Yangon City, according to Serge Pun's blog post.

The NYDC received 77 EOIs from 45 companies and consortiums from which two consortiums have been chosen, and the evaluation of EOIs for the remaining works is under way, Serge Pun stated. The NYDC is wholly owned by the Yangon Regional Government. Its vision is to develop Yangon as a "Productive City, Livable City", and create an estimated 2 million jobs.—GNLM ■

(Translated by EMM)

Singapore invests US\$2.12 bln in current fiscal year

TWENTY-one Singapore-listed enterprises brought in US\$2.12 billion into Myanmar in the last ten months of the current fiscal year, making Singapore the nation's largest foreign investor, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Singapore is followed by China, which invested an estimated \$558.26 million in 110

projects.

During the last mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), Singapore pulled in the largest FDI of 724.4 million into Myanmar.

Between October and July, a total investment of \$3.5 billion, including expansion capital, flowed into the country, and 224 businesses from China, France, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic

of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, the Netherlands, the UK, Samoa, Viet Nam, China (Taipei), and Seychelles entered Myanmar.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the top foreign direct investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, followed by Japan and Thailand.—GNLM ■ (Translated by EMM)

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Taking action against sale of illegal pesticides means saving soil and people

THE sale of agricultural inputs, including pesticides and herbicides, has been allowed only through registered distributors as they are crucial to farmers.

The Pesticide Law does not allow the import and export of chemicals, their repackaging, or sale, whether retail or wholesale, in the country without permission from the Registration Board.

However, unregistered agricultural inputs are still entering the country through the borders.

Widespread use of pesticides by local farmers did start around the 1990s in Myanmar, and our farmlands have suffered damage due to fake and illegal pesticides.

output are of vital importance. Only high crop yields and good quality agricultural produce can help us penetrate international markets, thereby bringing prosperity to farmers.

In this regard, the Pesticide Registration Board (PRB), constituted with 10 competent authorities from the ministries of Agriculture, Health and Sports, Forest, Trade, and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, was formed in 1992, under the law. It has been issuing licences to distributors after scrutinizing the efficiency of chemical inputs to ensure that farmers get quality inputs, to conserve the environment, and prevent undue harm to humans.

Spurious and illegal pesticides often contain chemicals which are either banned or restricted due to the risk they pose to human health and the environment. As the contents of fake and illegal products are unknown, their use can pose a high-risk to farmers, the environment, and crops.

Soil, water, and strains are essential for good crops, and to get good crops it is a must to prevent other disturbances. Crops are damaged by insects and diseases, and soil and water can become degraded due to chemicals.

Widespread use of pesticides by local farmers did start around the 1990s in Myanmar, and our farmlands have suffered damage due to fake and illegal pesticides.

To save the farmlands and to protect the people from the risks posed by unregistered pesticides, punitive action must be taken against those who sell illegal pesticides.

■ ■ ■

Recently, local authorities seized 110 tanks containing 220 litres of pesticides at a company in Hlinethaya Township on 16 August during a spot check. Those who flout the rules will face charges under the Pesticide Law.

The authorities are regularly inspecting distributors to curb illegal businesses, which hurt farmers and the country's economy.

Every year, farmers have to face problems caused by pests and diseases. Therefore, they have to pay serious attention to pest control measures to ensure high yield of crops, vegetables, fruits, and perennial crops.

As agriculture is one of the most important sectors in Myanmar economy, high yield of crops and stability in

Health hazards: Smoking, betel-chewing and drinking

By Arakan Sein

HAWKERS are seen roaming among the cars stopping at the traffic lights; they are carrying a carton of cigarettes or a bag of betel quid. Beautiful girls are sent to beer pubs or bars to promote cigarette sales. Shops of cigarettes and betel quid are seen at every corner of almost every street in Yangon.

"It is not the cigarette that kills you. It's the thought behind the cigarette that does," Raghu Venkatesh "Quitting is the only way you can stop smoking." Believe you can and you're halfway there." Theodore Roosevelt.

Tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest health catastrophes killing more than 7 million people per year across the world. In Myanmar, more than 65,600 people are killed by tobacco-related diseases, according to The Tobacco Atlas. In 2016, a school-based survey of 3000 Myanmar students aged 13-15 found that 11 percent of this age group smoke cigarettes regularly, while 6 percent consume other smokeless tobacco products, especially in betel-nut chewing.

Smoking in Taipei and Singapore

Smoking in Taipei is regulated by the Tobacco Hazards Prevention Act. Tobacco advertising is banned and smoking is all indoor public places. The government is planning to extend the smoking bans to cars, motorbikes and pedestrians. In Singapore, it is not allowed in most indoor and



Bad habits can cause a host of health problems. GRAPHIC: BT

outdoor places in the city-state, such as cinemas, shopping malls, rest places, bus stops, swimming pools and sports stadiums. The law stated that people are not allowed to smoke near the building areas and within 5 kilometers from them.

Smoking In Japan

Smoking in Japan, though historically less restricted than in many other nations, has significantly changed in recent years; Smoking is banned on the streets of all the main wards of Tokyo. The adult smoking rate is 19.3% of which 29.7% of Japanese men and 9.7% of Japanese women.

Smoking in China

It is prevalent as the People's Republic of China is the world's largest consumer and producer of tobacco: there are 350 million Chinese smokers and China produces 42% of the world's cigarettes. Nearly 60% of Chinese doctors are smokers, which is the highest proportion in the world.

Betel-chewing

Although not well known in the West, betel-chewing is a habit of an estimated one-tenth of the world's population, and betel is considered to be the fourth most-common psychoactive drug after nicotine, alcohol and caffeine in the world.

A quid of betel is made up of areca nut, slaked lime (calcium hydroxide) and catechu which is then wrapped in a betel leaf. Betel is used in a manner similar to the Western use of tobacco or caffeine. Arecoline is responsible for some of the effects of betel-quid chewing such as alertness, increased stamina, a sense of well-being, euphoria and salvation. Chewed betel nut produces a stimulant response, that, in low doses, is similar to caffeine or nicotine. In high doses, betel nut produces cocaine-like effects, including elevated heart rate, high blood pressure, dilated pupils, anxiety and insomnia

and cardiac arrhythmia. Chewing betel quid is extremely popular in Myanmar, making the teeth and lips very red, sometimes permanently if chewed a lot. When chewed over long periods of time, it can also lead to gum and teeth diseases.

Drinking alcohol

The consumption of alcohol plays an important social role in many cultures. Most countries have laws regulating the production, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages. There is no general prohibition on drinking in the street but certain offences relating to alcohol may not be allowed to commit in public places.

Other offences include being drunk and disorderly in a public place and in any highway or other public places.

Drinking in a public place is legal; but drinking age is 18 years whereas German drinking age is 16 for soft drinks like beer and wine; but hard drinks like spirits and liquors are only allowed to adults over 18. Malaysian law forbids Muslims from imbibing alcoholic beverages, the rest of the population is free to do so. Licensing laws for the sale of alcohol are regulated by local municipal councils, however, and will vary from state to state.

Currently, there are no alcohol bans being enforced in Indonesia, with exception of Aceh. In 2015, the Government banned the sale of alcohol from mini-markets and small shops, with the exception of Bali province, though the sale was allowed in supermarkets, restaurants, bars, clubs and hotels. Drinking in India is not traditionally part of Indian culture. Due to this, you will find legal age for drinking quite high. In most parts of India, the age is 20 with Delhi reaching 25.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the authorities concerned to take tough actions against those who sell illegal alcohol and serious actions should be taken against those betel shops which sell cigarettes. I would like to request the authorities to deal with the issues of drinking, betel-chewing and smoking from now on.

Plastic crisis: New survey reveals 119 tons of plastic enter Ayeyawady, Yangon rivers every day

A new research conducted by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) in collaboration with Thant Myanmar has shown that 119 tons of plastic waste is entering the Ayeyawady River every day.

The Ayeyawady River is suffering from extreme plastic pollution according to a new study by Fauna & Flora International and Thant Myanmar, a nonprofit organisation fighting plastic pollution in Myanmar.

Water samples along the river from Mandalay to Pyay taken by experts found that 119 tons of plastic waste is entering

the river every day. The most polluting area is the Delta Region, which is responsible for around 32 tons per day, followed by Yangon where approximately 29 tons of plastic waste enters the river per day.

At the workshop in last month in Nay Pyi Taw, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe supported the fact that the plastic pollution was damaging the beauty of Myanmar and affecting people's health and agreed that the government and private sectors can tackle the problem by encouraging and supporting

a national reduction of plastic waste.

Microplastics study

A related study conducted by the Fridtjof Nansen research vessel found that Myanmar's coastlines are also heavily polluted by microplastics – small pieces of plastic that break off from larger plastic items over time.

The researchers found that the ocean surrounding Myanmar—especially in the Bay of Bengal—is heavily polluted with contamination rates on Myanmar's coasts reaching up to 28,000 micro plastic particles

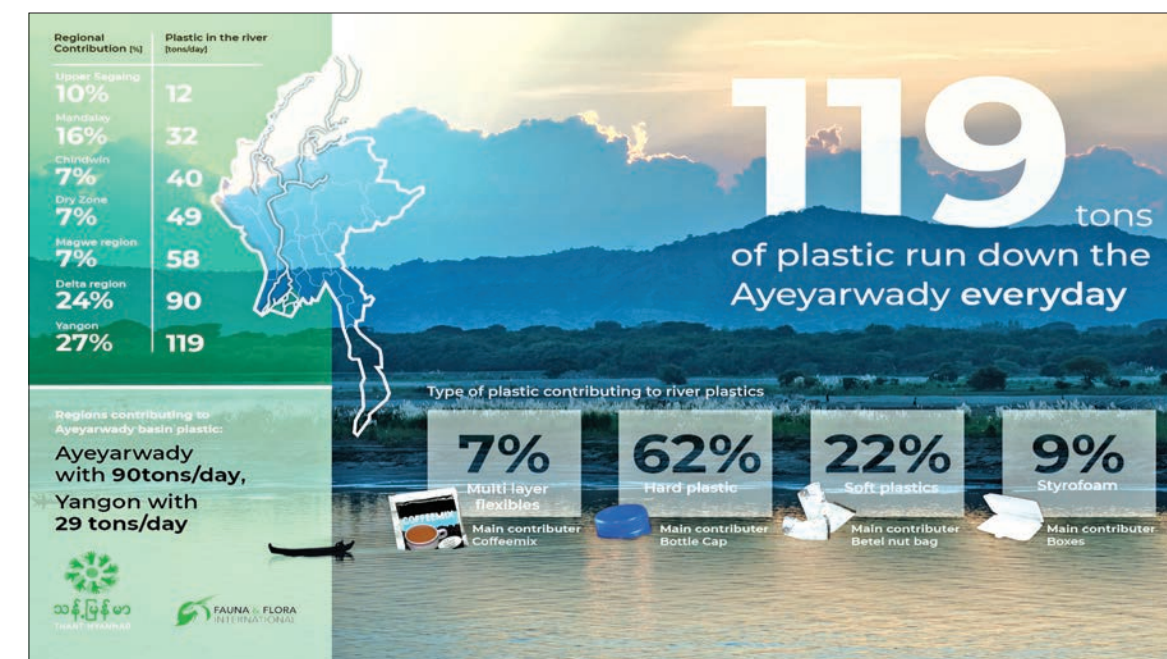
per square kilometer, which is 8,000 more micro plastic particles per square kilometer than off India's coasts (Fauziah Shahul et al. 2018).

"The crisis is pressing but solutions exist," said Frieder Jeske of Thant Myanmar and one of the key researchers behind the study presented in Nay Pyi Taw. "It is up to all of us; policy makers, producers and civil society, to find the right solutions for Myanmar, put them into action and make sure we stop the plastic pollution before it gets worse."

The workshop successful-

ly stimulated and contributed to the general debate on how to tackle the urgent plastic pollution issue Myanmar is facing.

Recycling of plastic can be supported by policy makers by requiring producers to use recycled plastic in their products. Reducing packaging was another option discussed with these companies. The Environmental Conservation Department is currently in the process of drafting their "Master Plan for Solid Waste Management". — GNLM



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 21st August, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 22nd August, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9–12) feet in Deltaci, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts and about (5–8) feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd August, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd August, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd August, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Scientists find novel way to extract hydrogen from oil without releasing methane

BARCELONA — Scientists said Tuesday they have developed a way of extracting hydrogen from oil without releasing greenhouse gases — a breakthrough they hailed as a “silver bullet” for cleaner energy and the climate.

Unlike petrol and diesel, hydrogen produces no pollution when burned. It is already used by some car manufacturers to power vehicles and may also be burned to generate electricity. But until now the wide-scale roll-out of hydrogen technology has been prohibited by the high



A oil pumpjack hard at work pumping oil. **PHOTO: AFP**

cost of separating it from hydrocarbons.

Currently, the vast majority of hydrogen used for vehicles is derived from natural gas, the extraction process of which produces planet-warming methane.

Now a group of Canadian engineers say they have come up with a method of getting hydrogen directly from oil sands and oil fields while leaving carbon dioxide and methane in the ground. The team behind the research, which was unveiled at the Goldschmidt Geochemistry

Conference in Barcelona, said the technology had the potential to supply Canada's entire electricity requirement for the next 330 years — all without releasing any greenhouse gases.

“Low-cost hydrogen from oil fields with no emissions can power the whole world using mostly existing infrastructure,” Grant Stem, CEO of Proton Technologies, which is commercialising the extraction method, told AFP. “This is the silver bullet for clean energy and clean climate.” — AFP ■

Chinese researchers find new target for treatment of polycystic ovary syndrome

BEIJING — Chinese researchers have found that gut microbiota plays an important role in regulating polycystic ovary syndrome, a common health problem in women of childbearing age, providing a new perspective for the prevention and treatment of the symptom.

Polycystic ovary syndrome is a hormonal disorder that can

affect women's periods and lead to difficulties in getting pregnant. It is often accompanied by insulin resistance. The mechanism of ovulatory dysfunction and insulin resistance in the symptom remains elusive, thus limiting the development of therapeutics.

Researchers from Peking University Third Hospital and Peking University Health Science

Center have investigated the impact of the gut microbiota and its metabolites on the regulation of polycystic ovary syndrome-associated ovarian dysfunction and insulin resistance.

They found that the gut bacteria *Bacteroides vulgatus* was markedly elevated in the gut microbiota of individuals with the symptom. — Xinhua ■

Water pollution can reduce economic growth by a third: World Bank

WASHINGTON — Heavily polluted water is reducing economic growth by up to a third in some countries, a World Bank report said Tuesday, calling for action to address human and environmental harm.

The report, called ‘Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis’ relied on what the Bank said was the biggest-ever database assembled on global water quality using monitoring stations, satellite data, and machine learning models.

“Clean water is a key factor for economic growth. Deteriorat-

ing water quality is stalling economic growth, worsening health conditions, reducing food production, and exacerbating poverty in many countries,” said World Bank Group President David Malpass.

Algae bloom from pollution can be toxic, posing a threat to wildlife and people.

The report found that when Biological Oxygen Demand — an index of the degree of organic pollution and a proxy for overall water pollution — crosses a threshold of 8 milligrams per liter, GDP growth in downstream regions drops by 0.83 percentage

points, about a third for the mean growth rate of 2.33 per cent used in the study. This is because of impacts on health, agriculture, and ecosystems and a “stark indication that there often trade-offs between benefits of economic production and environmental quality, and that the externalities... can be circular,” the report said. A key contributor to poor water quality is nitrogen, essential for agricultural production but which leaches into rivers and oceans where it creates hypoxia and dead zones, and in the air where it forms nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas.

The report said that early exposure of children to nitrates affects their growth and brain development, reducing their health and earning potential.

For every additional kilogram of nitrogen fertilizer per hectare, yields may rise up to five percent, but childhood stunting increases as much as 19 per cent and future adult earnings fall by up to two percent compared to those not affected. — AFP ■



Algae bloom from pollution can be toxic, posing a threat to wildlife and people. **PHOTO: AFP**



Photo taken in 2015 shows an F-2 fighter jet of the Japanese Air Self-Defence Force. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Japan eyes developing next fighter jets from FY 2020

TOKYO — Japan is considering launching development in fiscal 2020 of fighter jets to succeed the Air Self-Defence Force's F-2s, which are expected to be retired in the 2030s, governmental sources said Wednesday.

The Defence Ministry had intended to earmark starting costs for the development in the budget for the year from April 2021. Lawmakers said, however, that might be too late and the ministry is set to move up the schedule by a year, according to the sources. The ministry will

specify the amount before the Cabinet endorses a fiscal 2020 draft budget by the end of this year.

Japan has been considering co-developing the future fighters with US or British companies, the sources said, noting US defence giant Lockheed Martin Corp. may be the top option for a partner. A “hybrid model” of the US military's stealth F-22 and F-35 fighter jets, both of which Lockheed Martin was engaged in developing, is thought to be a possibility. — Kyodo News ■

Snapped up: Pre-wedding photo industry booms in China

BEIJING — A happy couple exchange a kiss for the camera, the bride in a white off-the-shoulder dress holding a delicate bouquet, the groom in matching white suit, standing together on a green lawn lined with pink blossom.

It looks like the perfect wedding memory — except it's not their wedding day. Instead, it is part of a booming industry in China for increasingly elaborate pre-wedding photos, as young couples spend time and cash lining up glamorous photo shoots to display on their big day.

But for those who can't afford to travel overseas or to Chinese tourist hotspots in search of suitable backdrops, companies like the Love Story in Rome studio bring a range of backgrounds, costumes, acces-

sories and themes together — all within one Beijing complex.

"It's really tiring to shoot outside, moving from one place to another place. This wedding shoot centre is indoors and it provides everything you want," said bride Zhao Tianyou, 25, who had been shooting since 8am that morning.

Rows of couples pose for photographs inside the sprawling complex in Beijing, with settings ranging from tropical gardens to autumnal fields, waterfalls to starlit skies.

In one carefully stage-managed shot, a bride in a white dress floats half-submerged in water, drinking a glass of wine.

"Chinese wedding photography has become more customised," said general manager Zhao Rongchang. — AFP ■



A wedding shoot centre in Beijing provides settings ranging from tropical gardens to autumnal fields, waterfalls to starlit skies. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rwandan brewer apologises for sexist jokes on beer bottles

KIGALI — A Rwandan brewery apologised Tuesday for printing sexist jokes on its beer labels after its attempt at humour drew a stinging rebuke from some of the country's top female officials.

Skol Brewery Limited also promised to immediately discontinue its "Live Laugh Lager" campaign, which saw the offending gags grace the back of its lager bottles and encouraged drinkers to share jokes to win prizes.

"When can a woman make you a millionaire? When you are a billionaire" read one, alongside a cartoon of a woman surrounded by shopping bags dreaming of a red sports car.

Displeasure at the sexist

tone of the campaign — it was promoted by an image of three men laughing over beers — started on social media but soon high-ranking public officials were joining the fray.

"Such language demeaning women is not acceptable in our country, Rwanda.

It shouldn't be tolerated... and should be punished by law," said Soline Nyirahabimana, minister of gender and family promotion, on Twitter.

Rose Rwabuhiri, who heads Rwanda's Gender Monitoring Office, a public watchdog, said the campaign was "totally unacceptable", comments echoed by one of the country's top crime fighters. — AFP ■

In high-tech Japan, cash is still king

TOKYO — Once a pioneer in cashless transactions, Japan is now lagging behind as the world's biggest economies increasingly embrace electronic payments — because its ageing population still prefers physical money.

Four out of five purchases are still made with cash in Japan, despite its reputation as a futuristic and innovative nation. In South Korea, some 90% of transactions are digital, while Sweden aims to be a cashless society as early as 2023.

But in Japan, where crime and counterfeiting is virtually non-existent so people feel more comfortable carrying cash, consumer response has been sluggish.

At Katsuyuki Hasegawa's bike repair shop customers are



Payment cards are used for small transactions such as at vending machines or convenience stores but cash remains king. **PHOTO: AFP**

invited to settle their bills using PayPay — a tie-up between Softbank and Yahoo — using a QR code via their smartphones.

But only "two or three" people a week are using the service, Hasegawa tells AFP.

"In a place like this, everything is very slow. We get lots of old people who like to chat while getting out their money. They don't need quick transactions," says the 40-year-old shopkeeper. — AFP ■

Brazil bus hijacker, armed with fake gun, killed by police

RIO DE JANEIRO — A hijacker armed with what turned out to be a fake gun was shot and killed by police in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday after he held a busload of passengers hostage for several hours on a major bridge in peak-hour traffic.

Dozens of people were trapped on the bus on a heavily transited bridge connecting Rio with the neighboring city of Niteroi after it was commandeered by the man, who police said was also carrying a stun gun, lighter and plastic bottle filled with gasoline.

Describing the man as "psychotic," Lieutenant Colonel Maurilio Nunes told reporters a sniper was given the green light to shoot the hijacker when he briefly exited the bus for fear he was about to set the vehicle alight.

The man had placed plastic bottles cut in half and partially

filled with gasoline throughout the bus, said Nunes, a member of an elite police squad.

He was taken to hospital where he died, military police said in a statement.

Thirty-seven people were in the vehicle when it was hijacked. Of those, six were freed during the terrifying, nearly four-hour ordeal.

None of the hostages was hurt, police said. The man, identified by local media as 20-year-old Willian Augusto da Silva, had been carrying what turned out to be a fake gun, military police said, without specifying if it was a pistol. Heavily armed police had surrounded the bus as they negotiated with the hijacker.

A live broadcast of the scene showed several ambulances parked nearby, receiving hostages as they were released one by one. — AFP ■



The bus in which a gunman held 31 hostages before being shot dead by police is being taken away, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mexican court rules to allow recreational cocaine use

MEXICO CITY — A Mexican judge has granted two people's requests to be allowed to use cocaine recreationally, the organization behind the cases said Tuesday, calling it a "historic step" — though it must first be reviewed by a higher court.

The rulings, the first of their kind in Mexico, would allow the two petitioners to "possess, transport and use cocaine," but not to sell it, according to Mexico United Against Crime, an organization devoted to ending the Latin American country's "war on drugs."

The Mexico City court ordered the national health regulator, COFEPRIS, to authorize the petitioners' cocaine use in personal, recreational doses, the organization said.

However, a COFEPRIS official told AFP the regulator has moved to block the court order, which was delivered in May, arguing that issuing such authorization would be outside its legal remit.

The case must now be reviewed by a panel of judges. The ruling will only take effect if they side with the original decision, and would only apply to the two people who brought the cases, whose names were not disclosed. — AFP ■



Liz Truss leaves Number 10, Downing Street on 24 July, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

British trade secretary to visit Japan by October for FTA, TPP talks

LONDON — British trade secretary Liz Truss said Tuesday she hopes to visit Japan by the end of October for talks on a possible bilateral trade agreement and her country's potential participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade framework.

During a teleconference, Truss told her Japanese counterpart Hiroshige Seko of her plan and spoke of Britain's commitment to a future trade agreement after leaving the European Union by its 31 October deadline, according to the

Department for International Trade. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, a Brexit hard-liner and former foreign secretary, became prime minister on July 24. His administration seeks to conclude its own trade agreement with Japan. "Japan is one of the UK's most important trading partners," said Truss, who was appointed to the position by Johnson last month. "We are working with Japan to make sure our trade relationship thrives after Brexit," she added. —Kyodo News ■

South Korean visitors to Japan down 7.6% in July amid tensions

TOKYO — The number of South Korean visitors to Japan dropped 7.6 per cent in July from a year earlier despite overall growth in foreign tourists, amid escalating bilateral tensions over wartime history and trade policy, government data showed

Wednesday.

While the estimated number of foreign visitors in July rose 5.6 per cent from a year earlier to 2,991,200, an all-time high for any month, the figure of South Korean tourists fell to 561,700, ranking second after Chi-

na at 1,050,500, up 19.5 per cent, the Japan Tourism Agency said. The agency attributed the decline in the number of South Korean tourists to an economic slump in the Asian neighbor as well as the deterioration in bilateral ties.

The row over wartime labor that developed into a tit-for-tat trade dispute has led to cancellations or reductions of flights linking cities in the two countries and affected new hotel bookings by South Koreans. —Kyodo News ■



Nakamise shopping street in Tokyo's Asakusa district is crowded with tourists. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foregin manufacturer ZIBO NAB AGROCHEMICALS LIMITED will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name.

Sr	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	NAB-Kyaw Kyar 20 SP	NAB-Super Queen 20 SP	Acetamiprid 20% SP	Provisional	P2018-4078

It is Therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address - Topagri Myanmar Co., Ltd.
FL-22, Kan Yeik Thar Lane(1), FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph-09401579935.

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foregin manufacturer SHANDONG TOPAGRI LIMITED will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name.

Sr	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	AM-MAHAR 1 EC	AM-Super King 1 EC	Emamectin Benzoate 1% EC	Provisional	P2018-4197

It is Therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address - Agriman Myanmar Co., Ltd.
No. Da Out Chite-8/49, 67 Street, Between 42 43 Street, Mahar Myaing 1st Ward, Mahar Aung Myay Township, Mandalay. Ph-09-456367237

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V LILY QUEEN VOY. NO. (041 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LILY QUEEN VOY. NO. (041 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-8-2019 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 INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (931S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (931S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-8-2019 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.

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Robotics industry sees booming growth in China

BEIJING — Industrial robot production in China reached 148,000 pieces in 2018, accounting for more than 38 per cent of the world's total, according to a Chinese official at the 2019 World Robot Conference.

The power of robots is on full display at the conference held in Beijing from Tuesday to Sunday, where more than 700 exhibits of the latest robot technologies and products are on display.

The global growth of industrial robots has slowed down this year due to the global economic environment and technological development problems, said Miao Wei, China's minister of industry and information technology.

However, with the global industrial upgrading accelerating, as well as technology innovation developing in the robotics industry, the industry will continue growing at a rapid pace, Miao added.

In recent years, China's industrial robot market has become the world's largest, accounting for one-third of global sales, according to a report released by the Chinese Institute of Electronics this month.

There are expected to be more than 130 robots per 10,000 people in China by 2021, according to the International Federation of Robotics.—Xinhua ■

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The foregin manufacturer Zibo NAB Agrochemicals Limited, would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by Myanmar Shwe Thein Trading Co.,Ltd to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor Topagri Myanmar Co.,Ltd If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Topagri Myanmar Co., Ltd FL-22, Kan Yeik Thar Lane(1), Hlaing Tharya Township, Yangon. Ph-09-456367237

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	Registration Type
1	NAB-Friend 80 WP	Thiophanate-methyl + Thiram 80% WP	P2014-1939	Provisional
2	NAB-Queen 25 SC	Quinclorac 25% SC	P2017-3425	Provisional
3	NAB-Htate Tan 10 EC	Bifenthrin 10% EC	P2018-4077	Provisional

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The foregin manufacturer SHANDONG TOPAGRI LIMITED, would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by MYANMAR SHWE THEIN CO., LTD to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor AGRIMAN MYANMAR CO.,LTD If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. AGRIMAN MYANMAR CO., LTD No. Da Out Chite-8/49, 67 Street, between 42×43 Street Mahar Myaing 1st Ward, Mahar Aung Myay Township, Mandalay. Ph-09-401579935

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	Registration Type
1	AM-ET 25 WG	Thiamethoxam 25% WG	P2018-4079	Provisional
2	AM-PYRAMID 20 SL	Acetamiprid 20% SL	P2018-4080	Provisional
3	AM-FORWARD 430 SC	Tebuconazole 430g/l SC	P2018-4135	Provisional

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The foregin manufacturer Shanghai Topchems Industry Co.,Ltd , would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by MYANMAR SHWE THEIN CO., LTD to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor AGRIMAN MYANMAR CO.,LTD If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. AGRIMAN MYANMAR CO.,LTD No.Da Out Chite-8/49,67 Street, between 42×43 Street Mahar Myaing 1st Ward, Mahar Aung Myay Township, Mandalay. Ph-09-401579935

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	Registration Type
1	Top-Carbsect 20 EC	Carbosulfan 20% EC	P2017-3410	Provisional
2	Top-Prince 50 SC	Fipronil 50g/L SC	P2017-3411	Provisional

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Individual Consultant
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Department of Rural Development (DRD)
Myanmar: National Electrification Project (NEP) (IDA Project No. 152936)
International Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist Ref. C2-TA 35

1. This Request for Expressions of Interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business online on November 3, 2015.

2. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the *International Development Association (IDA)* and applied part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contract for an **International Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist** for National Electrification Project (NEP) under **ref. no C2-TA35**.

3. The National Electrification Project includes an off-grid electrification component with \$80 million in IDA credits. IDA support in off-grid areas will target communities located far beyond the existing national grid and, thus, unlikely to receive grid-based access in the next 10 or more years. More importantly, the IDA support will be directed to the peripheral States/ Regions with social and ethnic cohesion and peace building. Off-grid electrification will be technology neutral, depending on technology assessment for target communities, including solar photovoltaic (PV), mini-hydropower, wind, diesel, and hybrid (eg. diesel/solar). Deployment of household solar PV systems in target communities includes households, public institutions (schools, health clinics and other community building) as well as public street light. Moreover, funds are provided for technical assistance and management of the off-grid component. The budget for technical assistance is \$10 million from IDA. This component will support: (a) strengthening of institutional capacity to implement the National Electrification Plan, including capacity building and training of the DRD Project Management Office (PMO), capacity building at the Union, State/Region, district, township and village levels and for the private sector; (b) improving policy and regulatory framework related to electrification; (c) securing technical advice and consulting services on standards, technology assessment and technical design, economic and financial analysis, environmental and social impact management, procurement and financial management; and (d) strengthening project management. In addition, the Project attracts additional financing from various multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, including but not limited to, € 30 million soft-loan from Italian government through Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and \$ 3.45 million grant for Result Based Financing from the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) of the World Bank Group. This grant is explicitly designed to bridge public and private service provision, the Project complements IFC activities as part of the overall, integrated World Bank Group's Joint Implementation Plan. The objective of the Project is to help increase access to electricity in Myanmar. The Project is expected to benefit around 6 million people with new electricity connections by 2021.

The Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist (the Specialist) will assist the Project which operates within an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), inclusive of a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF). The ESMF provides guidelines for screening all sub-projects and all Project activities including procurement of goods that would result in investments, determination of requirement for assessment and preparation of further documentation in accordance with the World Bank safeguards policies including site-specific environmental and social safeguard documents. The Specialist will also provide training and capacity building to members of the Union, State/Region and District level, NEP Project Management Office (NEP-PMO), and where required, other off-grid and community based stakeholders.

4. The Department of Rural Development now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the Services as per criteria below (CV with academic background, experience in similar assignment, knowledge of local conditions (if any) etc.) Consultants may be invited for interviewing, if necessary. The evaluation criteria are:

a) A degree (preferably to at least a Master's Degree) in Environmental Science, Ecology, Environmental Engineering, Agricultural Engineering or Natural Resources Management or a related field from a recognised university.

b) At least 10 years' experience in environmental & social impact assessments and management of international environmental & social safeguards in projects, plus working experiences at least 3 projects financed by international donors with specific aspects of environmental & social safeguards.

c) Strong technical knowledge in relevant areas such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment; environmental and social issues in the Myanmar context including addressing social impacts; environmental and social risk assessment and management; a knowledge of small power generation and mini-grid distribution systems (small hydro, solar PV, solar-diesel hybrid and biomass) in remote, rural communities would be an advantage.

d) Familiarity with implementing international environmental and social standards/ best practices (i.e. ADB, WB, etc.).

e) Membership in a related professional association or registration as an environmental expert is advantageous.

f) Excellent fluency, presentation and technical writing skills in English as well as proficiency in the use of computer software (including MS Word, MS Exel and MS PowerPoint) are essential; knowledge of Myanmar language is advantageous.

g) Solid understanding of Myanmar Energy/ Electricity Sector, Environmental Sector and Socio-economic, and political issues around development projects in Myanmar is crucial.

h) Respect to different gender, social classes and all ethnic groups of Myanmar and excellent interpersonal skill is essential.

i) Able to work with multidisciplinary multicultural teams.

j) Able to travel to different parts of Myanmar on project work.

5. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrows dated January 2011 (revised July 2014) ("Consultant Guidelines"). The attention of interested consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the Consultant Guidelines, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

6. Interested individual consultants may obtain the Terms of Reference at the address given below from 09.30 to 16.00 hours or direct request through e-mail address - drdnep.procurement@gmail.com. DRD will provide prompt responses to all interested individual consultants, should there be any questions.

7. Expressions of interest must be delivered by registered mail or by e-mail to the address below no later than September 11, 2019.

Attention
U Maung Win, Deputy Director General,
National Electrification Project (NEP)
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Office No. 36, Pandita Road, Oattara Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Tel/FAX : +95 0673 418636, E-mail: neppmo.drd@gmail.com, ksaung@gmail.com, drdnep.procurement@gmail.com

Australia to join US-led coalition to protect shipping off Iran

SYDNEY — Australia has agreed to a request from the United States to join a coalition of countries protecting oil tankers and cargo ships from threats posed by Iran in

the Strait of Hormuz, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Wednesday.

Australia becomes the third country to join the coalition after Britain and Bahrain.

Washington has since July called on around 60 countries including Japan to join its operation to secure the narrow waterway, one of the most volatile transit routes for the

world's oil supply. "This destabilizing behavior is a threat to Australia's interests in the region," Morrison told a news conference.

The prime minister described Canberra's intended contribution of a maritime surveillance aircraft and a Royal Australian Navy frigate as "modest, meaningful, and time limited."

Australia's decision to join the coalition comes after Canberra and Washington held "two-plus-two" security talks of defense and foreign ministers earlier this month. At the time Australia was still undecided on joining, despite US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo describing the situation in the Strait of Hormuz as one of the "most pressing foreign policy challenges of our time." —Kyodo News ■



The US Navy is already keeping watch on the Strait of Hormuz and trying to build a coalition of partners to help. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cameroon anglophone separatist leader gets life sentence

YAOUNDÉ — A military court in Cameroon on Tuesday handed a life sentence to the head of the country's anglophone separatist movement, Julius Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, in a move that analysts said could inflame the 22-month-old revolt.

Ayuk Tabe, a charismatic leader widely deemed as a moderate in the separatist movement, was convicted with nine others of charges including "terrorism and secession", the state's lawyer, Martin Luther Achet, told AFP. They were given life terms. The sentences were confirmed by a lawyer for the separatists, Joseph Fru, who added the 10 had also been fined 250 billion CFA francs (Rm 1.7 billion).

Fru condemned what he called a "parody of justice" and said the defendants refused to recognise the right of the military tribunal in Yaounde to try them. Their lawyers have yet to say whether they will file an appeal.

Ayuk Tabe, a 54-year-old computer engineer by training, is the first self-proclaimed president of "Ambazonia" — a break-away state declared in October 2017 in two English-speaking regions of the central African country. —AFP ■

Transfer from Okinawa to Guam "progressing well": US Marine head

TOKYO — The new commander of the US Marine Corps said Wednesday the transfer plan of its personnel from Japan's Okinawa to the US Pacific territory of Guam is "progressing very well."

But US Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, speaking at a media roundtable in Tokyo, refrained from expressing a clear view on whether the move will be affected by a plan to relocate an air base in a crowded residential area in Ginowan to a less densely populated coastal area in Nago within Okinawa Prefecture. Berger, who assumed the top post in July, said the transfer of the Marines and the relocation

of the Futenma air base within the southern island prefecture are "different but related issues."

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga acknowledged last October that the projects are "consequently linked," suggesting that the United States would not proceed with the Guam relocation unless the Futenma base transfer is realized.

Berger did not deny media reports that the planned Marines' transfer, based on a 2006 Japan-US agreement on the realignment of US forces, may start as early as October 2024. But he went on to say that there are "too many variables" to "tell the exact

timeline."

He also pointed out the importance of improving ties between Japan and South Korea and beefing up their cooperation, as the United States shares the same perception with the two Asian allies that North Korea is a "near-term threat" and China is a "long-term strategic threat to stability in the region and the world." The force realignment plan revised by Japan and the United States in 2012 stipulates that approximately 9,000 of the about 19,000 Marines in Okinawa will be relocated outside Japan, to such places as Guam and Hawaii. —Kyodo News ■



FILE PHOTO: US marines on exercise from their base in Okinawa, Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS In BRIEF

Trump accuses Jewish Democratic voters of 'great disloyalty'

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said Tuesday Jewish Americans who vote for Democrats display "either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty," sparking accusations that he is promoting and politicizing anti-Semitism.

His comments, which drew fierce rebuke from Jewish groups, came amid his ongoing dispute with Democratic Muslim congresswomen Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, both of whom support a boycott of the Jewish state for its treatment of the Palestinians.

"Five years ago, the concept of even talking about this — even three years ago — of cutting off aid to Israel because of two people that hate Israel and hate Jewish people — I can't believe we're even having this conversation. —AFP ■

US 'prepared to engage' with North Korea in nuclear talks: Envoy

SEOUL — The United States is ready to sit down with North Korea to resume long-awaited working-level nuclear talks, a US envoy said Wednesday.

Nuclear discussions between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since a second summit in Hanoi in February ended without an agreement over differences on the extent of denuclearisation and sanctions relief in return. But anticipation for renewed dialogue has been on the rise after the US and its security ally South Korea wrapped up their two-week joint military drill on Tuesday. "We are prepared to engage as soon as we hear from our counterparts in North Korea," said Stephen Biegun, the US special representative for North Korea, after his meeting with South Korean counterpart Lee Do-hoon in Seoul.

The comments come amid speculation that Americans could meet with North Koreans at the demilitarised zone dividing the North and South to kick start working-level talks during Biegun's three-day stay in Seoul, which began Tuesday. —AFP ■

Gist of Japanese, Chinese, S Korean foreign ministerial talks

BEIJING — The following is the gist of talks among the foreign ministers of Japan, China and South Korea, held at a resort area in Beijing on Wednesday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono:

— calls on China and South Korea to bolster tri-lateral cooperation even when respective bilateral ties sour.

— urges China and South Korea to fully implement UN sanctions resolutions against North Korea.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi:

— asks Japan and South Korea to seek solution to resolve differences “through

dialogue.”

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha:

— expresses hope that Japan, China and South Korea will stick to “free and fair” trade for prosperity in region.

— emphasizes necessity of eliminating “unilateral and arbitrary” trade retaliatory steps and remove uncertainties in East Asia.

Japan, China, South Korea agree to:

— continue to work together to hold trilateral summit by year-end.

— accelerate negotiations to reach regional free trade agreements.—Kyodo News ■



(From l) Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono and South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha are pictured after their talks in Beijing on 21 August, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

China threatens sanctions on US firms linked to Taiwan warplanes sale

BEIJING—China on Wednesday blasted a huge planned US arms shipment to self-ruled Taiwan and threatened to sanction firms involved in the sale of F-16 fighter jets.

The US State Department on Tuesday approved the transfer of 66 Lockheed Martin-built F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan in a

US\$8 billion deal, following another huge military hardware sale agreed just last month.

The deals come as ties between Washington and Beijing are already strained by a punitive multi-billion dollar trade war.

“China will take all necessary measures to safeguard our interests including imposing

sanctions on the US companies participating in this arms sale to Taiwan,” foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a news briefing. The sale “is a serious interference in our internal affairs and undermines our sovereignty and security interests”, he said.

China views Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary. It bristles at any countries that might lend Taiwan diplomatic support or legitimacy.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement Tuesday that President Donald Trump had approved the proposed sale after Congress was notified last week.

The F-16s “are deeply consistent with the arrangements, the historical relationship between the United States and China”, Pompeo said. “Our actions are consistent with past US policy. We are simply following through on the commitments we’ve made to all of the parties.”—AFP ■



FILE PHOTO: A fleet of Taiwan’s F-16 fighter jets fly in formation over the eastern Hualien air base, 17 August, 2004. PHOTO: AFP

China says British consulate staff from Hong Kong detained

BEIJING — A staff member of the British Consulate General in Hong Kong who went missing earlier this month has been detained by mainland authorities following a trip to southern China’s Shenzhen, the Chinese Foreign Ministry confirmed Wednesday.

Spokesman Geng Shuang, at a regular press briefing, said

Simon Cheng, a trade and investment officer at the consulate’s Scottish Development International Section, was detained for violating a law relating to security control.

Cheng reportedly left Hong Kong for Shenzhen, on the opposite side of a bay, on Aug. 8 to attend a conference and has not been seen since. The British

Foreign Office, in a statement Tuesday, said it was “extremely concerned by reports that a member of our team has been detained returning to Hong Kong from Shenzhen. We are providing support to his family and seeking further information from authorities in Guangdong Province and Hong Kong.”—Kyodo News ■

Two killed in Kashmir as Trump offers to mediate

NEW DELHI — A suspected militant and a policeman were killed in the first gun battle since New Delhi stripped Indian Kashmir of its autonomy, police said Wednesday after US President Donald Trump offered to mediate the “explosive” situation.

In a further sign of rising tensions, Pakistan said meanwhile that three of its civilians died in Indian gunfire from across the de-facto border in Kashmir known as the Line of Control (LoC).

The Press Trust of India news agency quoted officials as saying one Indian soldier died and four were wounded when Pakistani troops opened fire on forward posts and villages along the LoC in the Poonch district on Tuesday.

Both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers and the situation in Kashmir, divided between them since 1947, is further com-

plicated by the fact that China also claims part of the Himalayan region.

Trump — who has previously spoken of his willingness to mediate — said he would raise the situation over the weekend with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both men are expected in France for a summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

“Kashmir is a very complicated place. You have Hindus and you have the Muslims and I wouldn’t say they get along so great,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

“I will do the best I can to mediate,” he added. At least 4,000 people have been detained in Indian-controlled Kashmir, according to security and government sources, since early August when authorities imposed a communications blackout and restricted freedom of movement in the region.—AFP ■



The lockdown in Kashmir began in early August. PHOTO: AFP

14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship: Myanmar wins two gold medals

MYANMAR has won two gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze medal at the 14th World Dragon Boat Racing Championship, which started on 20 August in Pattaya, Thailand.

Organized by the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF), the championship will conclude on 25 August.

On the first day of the event, Myanmar competed in five events and grabbed two gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze medal.

In the men's and women's mixed 2,000-meter Small Boat event, the Myanmar U-24 team secured the gold medal by beating teams from Italy, France,

Japan, Sweden, Hong Kong, Australia, the Philippines, India, host Thailand, Greece, Britain, and Canada, with a winning time of 9 minutes and 27.980 seconds.

In the men's U-24 boat race, two Thailand teams won the gold and bronze medals with a time of 9 minutes and 22.515 seconds and 9 minutes and 39.093 seconds, while Myanmar grabbed the silver medal with a time of 9 minutes and 39.767 seconds.

In the women's 2,000-meter Small Boat race, the Myanmar U-24 team won gold (10 minutes and 28.797 seconds), while the Thailand team won silver (10 minutes and 31.854 seconds) and the United States team won the



The Myanmar women's boat team celebrate after winning the 2,000-meter small boat race at the World Dragon Boat Racing Championship. **PHOTO: KYAW KHINE (ISPE)**

bronze medal (10 minutes and 51.273 seconds).

In the ten rowers boat event for women, host Thailand won gold, China got silver, and Myanmar secured the bronze medal.

In the Premier Mixed event for men, Myanmar secured the

fourth place, while Italy came first, Thailand second, and Canada third.

"The championship is of world level and world-ranking teams and ASEAN countries are competing in it. We have prepared our best as the champi-

onship is the greatest of its type. We are hoping to get seven gold medals during the championship," said U Thaung Htike Min, the chairman of the Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation.—Ar Kar Soe (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar Judo delegation pose for a group photo at Yangon International Airport on 20 August before they leave for Japan to take part in World Judo Championship. **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**

Judo athletes leave for Japan to compete in World Judo Championship

A Myanmar Judo delegation led by U Tun Tun Oo, the president of the Myanmar Judo Federation (MJF), left for Japan on Tuesday to attend the Tokyo Congress and to compete in the World Judo Championship.

The delegation comprises MJF vice president Oo Oo Khaing, executive U Zaw Tun Aung, chief coach Mr. Oshima, executive U Min Thein (team manager), and athletes Aung Zaya Tun (66-kg weight class), Zaw Myo Oo (100-kg weight class), Khin Khin Su (52-kg weight class), and Khin Myo Thu (78-kg weight class).

The delegates will attend the Tokyo Congress organized by the International Judo Federation and other related meetings on the sign-

ing of the agreement for forming the Myanmar Kodokan Committee, observing the 55th anniversary of Olympic Games, and the Japan Foundation Asia Center meeting. The delegation will also meet with the presidents of Japan's Kodokan Judo Federation, Judo Union of Asia, and International Judo Federation separately to discuss Myanmar Judo development.

The Myanmar Judo athletes in the delegation will be competing in a world-class competition for the first time, and aim to gain experience rather than awards and to make the International Judo Federation familiar with the Myanmar Judo community.

MJF vice president Oo Oo Khaing said the athletes will get

good experiences which will help them achieve success in the 30th Southeast Asian Games and compete in the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics. The Tokyo Congress will be held today, and the World Judo Championship take place from 25 August to 1 September.

A total of 889 athletes from 151 countries—537 men athletes and 352 women athletes—will take part in the championship.

The World Judo Championship, one of the world championships in which a large number of athletes take part, will be held at the Nippon Budokan Stadium, which will also host the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics. —Saw Thien Win (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar prepares for AFF Futsal Championship 2019

MYANMAR national futsal players are preparing to their best for the AFF Futsal Championship 2019, which is scheduled to take place from 21 to 27 October in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

Under the guidance of head coach U Htay Myint, the Myanmar national futsal team have been preparing for the tourney with the final selected squad of 22 players since 15 August.

The team also conducted preliminary training sessions in July, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar are meeting with the defending champions, Thailand, in the group stage. Besides Thailand, who will be their one big competitor at the group stage, Myanmar has drawn an easy group.

Myanmar has been placed

in Group A with defending champions Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Cambodia for the tourney.

Meanwhile, host Viet Nam are in the tough Group B, with fierce battles on the cards against strong opponents — Australia, Malaysia, and Indonesia. As the 2019 AFF Futsal Championship is also serving as the qualifying round for the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship, all teams will do their best for getting a chance to enter the 2020 championship.

Myanmar will also compete in the Four Nations Futsal Championship in Chengdu, China from 7 to 10 September, as part of preparations for the AFF Futsal Championship 2019, said officials from the Myanmar Football Federation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar futsal players take their training in Yangon under the guidance of head coach U Htay Myint. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**