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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Pyithu Hluttaw approves motion on completing construction tenders, works in FY first quarter



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

At the 17th meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, a motion urging the Union government to implement fiscal change by calling for the completion of construction tenders and works in the first quarter of the fiscal year, starting from the 2019-2020 financial year, was approved after discussion by

the Hluttaw.

Approval of motion on construction tenders and works

A motion tabled by Dr U Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency urging the union government to effectively implement fiscal year change by calling for construction tenders and works to be completed in the first quarter of the fiscal year starting from the forthcoming

fiscal year was discussed by 25 MPs.

MP Daw Khin Sandi of Launglon constituency said Union Ministries and State/Regional Governments need to complete calls for tender and advertise them in newspapers within the month of October after receiving the letter of approval for fund allocation from the Budget Department.

She said since the waiting

period is a month from advertising in the newspaper, the joint scrutinizing process and signing contracts with tender winning companies need to be finalized in December. She said this will allow effective construction to begin in the second three-week period and finish about 80 per cent of the project in the open season of the third three-week period.

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Low pressure over Bay of Bengal could bring more rain

THE low pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal has continued to persist and is likely to bring more rainfall today, according to observations taken at 6:30 pm yesterday by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Isolated rain or thundershowers are expected today in Eastern Shan State; scattered rainfall is likely in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway regions, and Southern Shan and Kayah states; rain is expected to be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Kachin State; and widespread in the remaining regions and states, with heavy rain in Kayin and Mon states and isolated showers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi regions of Rakhine State, with 100 per cent degree of certainty.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar's coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 m.p.h. Wave height will be about 9 -13 feet off and along Myanmar's coasts, according to the weather bureau.—GNLM

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Pyithu Hluttaw approves motion on completing construction tenders, works in FY first quarter

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Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Khin Maung Swe said changing the designation of the financial year seems to reduce the time allotted for construction projects in the tender processes of the beginning of the open season and may cause difficulties in the rainy season when the projects have to finish up. He said these facts make the previous designation model for the financial year more suitable.

Discussing in support of the motion, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin explained the requirement of calling tender systematically according to President Office tender guideline 1/2017, obtaining approval and sanction for budget funding and work approval prior to the fiscal year, inclusion of systematically drawn up Feasibility Study Report in the Project Proposals and to systematically draw up design and drawings to calculate estimates and BQ.

Therefore construction work assessment and coordination group chairman was to conduct preliminary study of construction work, obtain approval for land, preparing model and estimate of construction works were to be conducted a year ahead of the year in which the work will be

implemented. Necessary instructions and guidelines were distributed and preparing for all requirements were to be made well in advance in order for calling of construction and tender works could be completed in the first quarter of the fiscal year said the Deputy Minister.

All relevant ministries, state and region governments were also informed explained the Deputy Minister in support of the motion recommending the Hluttaw to approve it.

As Hluttaw representative that tabled the motion want Hluttaw's approval of the motion and there was no objection from the Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the motion approved by the Hluttaw.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session question raised by U Saw Victor Clyde of Thandaung constituency on plan to reform Thandaung Town Public Library was answered by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun.

Questions by U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency on plan to permit live export of buffalo and cattle and U Min Kyi

of Thandwe constituency on the correct name of some villages in Thandwe district that were called in two different names were answered by Deputy Minister of Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint.

Questions by Dr U Khin Maung Maung of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency on plan to replace or strengthen existing suspension bridges; U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency on when the construction of six rural roads by international organization could be implemented; U Myint Han Tun of Budalin constituency on the duties and responsibilities of township and other QCs and tender winning company and U Nyunt Win of Kanpetlet constituency on a plan to construct two baily bridges in Kanpetlet Township with union budget were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Oil Exploration, testing and production bill

After the question and answer session, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw that Oil Exploration, Testing and Production Bill sent by Union Government Office and the Oil Exploration, testing and production bill

submitted by Pyithu Hluttaw electricity and energy development committee were the same and will be transferred to Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee for assessment.

Hluttaw approves Bill to amend Farmland Law

Afterwards, Bill Committee member U Zaw Min tabled amendments to the Bill to amend Farmland Law approved and sent with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved it.

Six amendment motions were then discussed by the Bill Committee and a Hluttaw representative and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the consent of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Hluttaw and approved it.

Finally Pyithu Hluttaw obtained the approval of the Hluttaw to approved the Bill to amend Farmland Law as amended and announced the approval of the bill. 18th-day meeting of the 13th regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled to convene on 10 September.—Aye Aye Thant, Kyaw Zin Htike

(Translated by Zaw Min)

13th regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds 17th-day meeting

A 17th-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a report read and a motion discussed and decided on.

Asterisk marked question session

In the asterisk marked question session, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 asked if plans were made to provide timely agriculture loan for farmers planting monsoon paddy in Rakhine State Kyauktaw Township. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that resignation of ward and village administrators in Kyauktaw Township causes some delay in providing agriculture loan during 2019 but through arrangement of township administrators, the loan works were smoothly conducted through appointment of ward/village elder as an administrator. Agriculture loans were being provided in a time until September 2019 said the Deputy Minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Min Swe Naing of Kachin State constituency 6 on upgrading Mohnyin degree college in Mohnyin Township as a university, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said considera-



Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session held its 17th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

tion to upgrade the degree college will be made after necessary collection of data were conducted.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun also responded to questions raised by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 on arrangements made to raise the low success rate of students from Rakhine State sitting in the matriculation examination and U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 on constructing a two-storey Township Education Head office in Chin State Thantlang Township.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win also responded to a question raised by U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1 on pension while Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Hla Maw Oo responded to a question

raised by U Pe Tin of Mon State constituency 6 on amount of fund allocated for state/region ethnic affairs ministers and the management of the fund.

Questions raised by Daw Thiri Yadana of Mon State constituency 12 on a unused traffic light in Mon State, Thaton District, Biln Township, Kanthaya road junction and Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10 on utilization of Yangon City Development Committee's staff house in Mingaladon Township were answered by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun.

Report on 2019 New Tree Species Protection Bill

Following the asterisk marked question session, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt read and ex-

plained a committee's report on 2019 New Tree Species Protection Bill sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw to approve the bill as amended by Amyotha Hluttaw Committee.

Next, U Hsan Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3 tabled a motion for the bill disagreed by Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw be sent to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for discussion and decision and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the decision to submit to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to deliberate and decide on the 2019 New Tree Species Protection Bill disagreed by the two Hluttaws.

Motion on low interest ed-

ucation loan discussed and turned down

Finally, a motion tabled by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 urging the government to draw up and implement a low interest education loan to enable students to obtain vocational training or higher education was discussed by U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1, U Min Oo of Bago Region constituency 6, U Maung Maung Latt of Sagaing Region constituency 9, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3 and Dr Than Win of Mandalay constituency 1.

In discussing the motion Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said the National Education Strategic Plan 2016-2021 drawn up and implemented had specified raising student support programs but didn't specify providing loans and recommended the motion to be put on record only.

As Daw Htu May wanted the Hluttaw to vote on the motion, the decision of the Hluttaw was obtained where 19 supported the motion, 125 objected to it while 22 abstained and an announcement was made of Hluttaw turning down the motion.

18th-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session will be held on 10 September.—Aung Ye Thwin, Han Maw (MNA) (Translated by Zaw Min)

ROK President, First Lady conclude state visit



ROK President Moon Jae-in and First Lady Kim Jung-sook being bid farewell by Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and dignitaries at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in and First Lady Kim Jung-sook, on their goodwill visit to Myanmar, departed from Yangon at 10:20 am yesterday by a special flight.

The delegation led by ROK President and First Lady was seen off by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and his wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and his wife Daw Khin Mi Mi Kywel, Yangon Region cabinet members and their wives, the Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Thant Sin and his wife, the ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Lee Sang-hwa and his wife and departmental heads at the Yangon International Airport.

At the airport, the Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein presented the documentary video and photo album to the ROK President and First Lady.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister U Win Khaing accepts the ASEAN Energy Award at the 37th ASEAN Energy Business Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister attends 37th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting, related meetings in Bangkok

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing attended the 37th ASEAN Energy Ministers' Meeting and related meetings, opening ceremony of the 2019 ASEAN Business Forum, a meeting between ASEAN energy ministers and International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency meeting-IRENA and other related meetings.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with Singaporean Senior Minister of State Chee Hong Tat of Ministry for Trade and Industry and Laotian Minister of Energy and Mines, Dr Khammary Inthirath separately to discuss matters concerning electricity and energy between Myanmar and those countries.

The Union Minister attended 13th ASEAN and East Asian Ministers on Energy meeting and 16th ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and South Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting yesterday.

During the meetings, the Union Minister met with Thai Minister of Energy Mr Sontirat Sontijirawong, Senior Vice President and Regional Managing Director for the US-ASEAN Business Council Mr Michael Walter Michalak and Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura from Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) separately and discussed matters concerning collaboration regarding electricity and energy and capacity development.

Before the meetings, the energy ministers from ASEAN countries paid a courtesy call on Thai Prime Minister Mr Prayut chan-o-cha in Bangkok.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Myanmar, Denmark launch 2nd phase of labour market project

THE launching ceremony of the second phase of the Labour Market Project was held at MGallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The project is initiated in line with the MoU for developing Myanmar's labour industry signed between the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Denmark.

The ceremony first heard separate speeches from Union Minister U Thein Swe, Danish Minister for Employment Mr Peter Hummelgaard, and Danish Ambassador Mr John Nielsen. This was followed by the ministers exchanging information on the project's second phase.

The Danish Government



Union Minister U Thein Swe addresses the launching ceremony of the second phase of the Labour Market Project in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



signed an MoU in 2015 to help develop Myanmar's labour industry and implemented the first phase from 2016 to 2018. There has been increased tripartite cooperation between the key stakeholders of the labour market, namely the government, employers and employees and the second phase seeks to further promote the good results. Next, Counsellor Ms Nanna Sars Schewitsch of the Danish Embassy explained the objective behind signing the MoU on improving the labour market.

The MoU agrees to establish safer and healthier workplaces, multi-sectoral cooperation, improving the skills of workplace safety and health inspectors from the Department of Factory & General Labour Laws Inspection, conducting social seminars, providing training to the Department of Labour Relations in resolving labour disputes, and organizing observation trips and trainings to Denmark.

The ceremony was also attended by the Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, departmental officials, and representatives from employer and employee unions.—MNA (Trans: Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win receives Ambassador of Thailand



Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win meets with Ambassador of Thailand Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephitak at the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION MINISTER for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received Ambassador of Thailand Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephitak at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to cooperation between the two armed forces, mine clearance and opening the border trade posts at the border of the two countries. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Rural Development Department receives ASEAN Renewable Energy Project Award

THE 37th ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2019 took place at Bangkok in Thailand from 3 to 5 September 2019 Awards alongside the 37th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting, including the renowned ASEAN Energy Awards. Department of Rural Development under Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was chosen as a winner for ASEAN Renewable Energy Project Award at the category: On-Grid- Local Grid in this forum hosted by Ministry of Energy, Thailand.



Director General U Khant Zaw accepts the ASEAN Renewable Energy Project Award at the ASEAN Energy Awards ceremony held in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

The Department of Rural Development competed for the ASEAN Energy Award with Solar Mini-grid Project on the Khanti Island at Palaw Township in Taninthayi Region, one of Mini-grid Projects implementing under Off-Grid Component of National Electrification Project. National Electrification Project (Off-Grid Electrification Programme) is started implementing in 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. Solar Home Systems are still in installation process for 100,000 and above households of 2437 Villages and also, Mini-Grid Systems for 10025 households of 38 villages in this 2018-2019 fiscal year. According to this programme, the installed capacity will be 137 MW and the CO₂ Emission could be reduced up to 810.91 tCO₂e within these three year periods.

Director General U Khant Zaw for Department of Rural Development attended to the Gala Dinner and the renowned ASEAN Energy Awards of the 37th ASEAN Energy Business Forum, and received the ASEAN Renewable Energy Project Award as Winner.

The 500 and above Senior Delegates from the private sector, government agencies and ministries, and Ministers from 10 ASEAN Countries attended as well. —MNA

UAG receives Int'l Bridges to Justice delegation

UNION ATTORNEY-GENERAL U Tun Tun Oo received a delegation from the International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) led by its director Mr Martine Reik Witteveen at his office yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the rule of law, accessible justice and legal support, legal protection on defendants and plaintiffs, ensuring defendants have access legal aid before facing charges, the role of centers for rule of law and fairness in spreading legal awareness and knowledge, and current and future cooperation between the Union Attorney-General Office and IBJ. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) Director Mr Martine Reik Witteveen yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reiterates Myanmar's request to the Bangladeshi Ambassador for early repatriation of 444 Hindu displaced persons

U SOE HAN, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called in Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar, on 5 September 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw and reiterated Myanmar's request to the Bangladeshi side to send back soonest the 444 displaced persons of Hindu Faith who have expressed their desire to return to Myanmar.

During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary noted the efforts by Bangladesh in the unsuccessful attempt to commence the repatriation process scheduled for 22 August 2019 and reaffirmed Myanmar's desire to continue working together with Bangladesh in line with the existing bilateral agreements to realize the commencement of repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State at an early date.

Furthermore, the Permanent Secretary recalled the Press Release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 25 August 2019, stating that "it maintains its principled position of not preventing anyone, regardless of one's ethnic and religious identity, who intends to return to Myanmar anytime." The Permanent Secretary urged the Bangladesh Ambassador to repatriate the 444 displaced persons of Hindu Faith soonest in pursuant to Bangladesh's stated policy, explaining that, among those 444 Hindus include a number of holders of Naturalized Citizenship Cards of Myanmar, according to the press release of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 32/2019

MEETING 32/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint

Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA



Meeting 32/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

IBK donates \$30,000 for flood victims



PHOTO: MNA

THE Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK) donated US\$30,000 as aid for regions affected by floods to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday. Union Minister of the aforementioned ministry and Chairman of the Finance Gen-

eration and Treasury Working Committee of the National Disaster Management Committee, Dr Win Myat Aye, accepted the donation from IBK and returned certificates of honour to the donor. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister receives US Ambassador

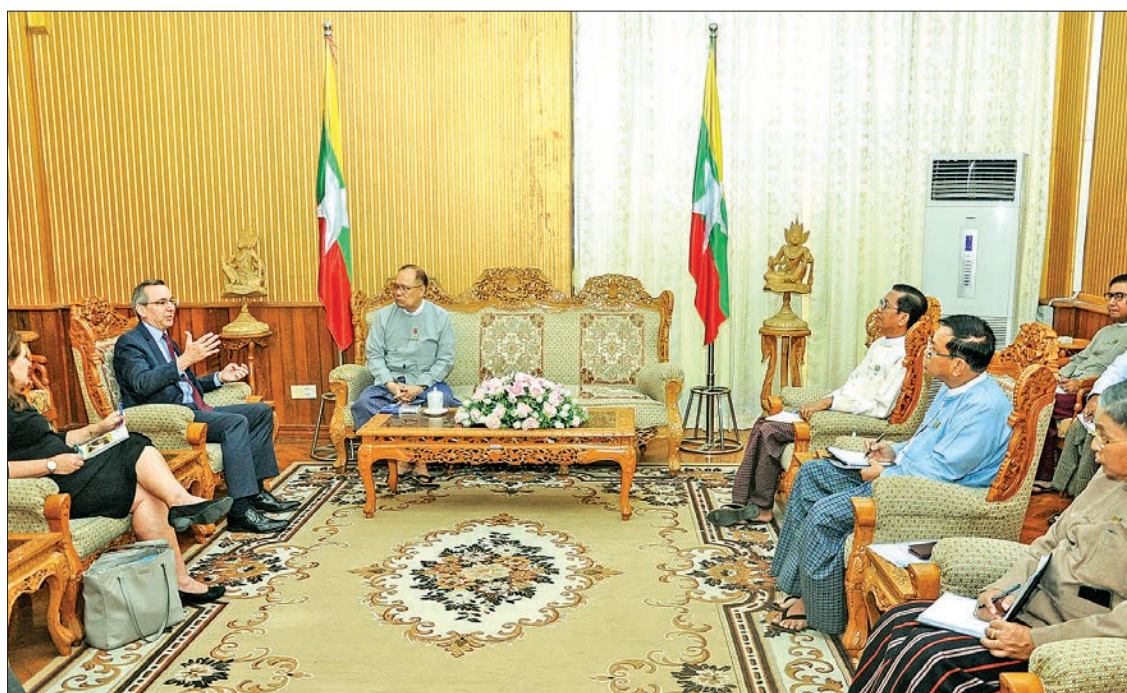
UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung received US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

discussed the progress of the feasibility study on the development of ports to meet future transportation needs, possible cooperation in the railway sector, the cyber bill being drafted

by Myanmar, matters related to the formation of the Myanmar communication commission, and the 5G spectrum. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung meets with US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Tatmadaw transport plane skids off runway in Yangon



The military transport aircraft skids off the runway at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

A MILITARY transport aircraft skidded off the runway at the Yangon International Airport yesterday morning while preparing for a training flight, resulting in the temporary closure of the runway.

The Y-8 aircraft with six crew members on board skidded about 2,300 feet from the departure end of the runway due to an engine failure, according to a press statement issued by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

No one was injured, and there was no damage to the plane, according to the news release.

The aircraft was taking off for training flight to Nyaungdon in the Ayeyawady Delta. —MNA

Health & Sports Minister discusses regional cooperation in 72nd WHO SEA Session

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attended the 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia from 2 to 4 September in New Delhi.

The Union Minister attended the Health Sector Preparedness and Emergency Response Ministerial Meeting on 3 September. The meeting exchanged emergency response experiences in times of natural disasters, organizing for regional countries to provide practical support to each other, amending guidelines and regulations to changing situations and having WHO distribute them to all affiliated countries simultaneously.

Next, the Union Minister signed and adopted the Delhi Declaration on Emergency Preparedness with the WHO Director-General, Southeast Asian Region Director, and health min-

isters from regional countries.

The Southeast Asian Regional Committee Meeting then commenced with Southeast Asian Director Dr Poonam Singh explaining the implementation of countries operating with WHO funds for 2018-2019, as well as the accomplishments and challenges faced by WHO.

Dr Myint Htwe discussed that regional healthcare issues are constantly changing and Myanmar is applying innovative approaches, firm technology and technical skills to address them.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met privately with Professor Dr Balam Bhargava, Director-General at the Indian Council of Medical Research and Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health Research. They discussed swiftly signing an MoU of cooperation



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends the 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in New Delhi. **PHOTO: MNA**

between the medical research councils of both countries on communicable and noncommunicable diseases, and organizing for high-level research profes-

sionals from India's council to come cooperate in Myanmar.

Following this, the Union Minister met with Southeast Asian Director Dr Poonam Sin-

gh and discussed cooperation with WHO on professional and research oriented matters.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Danish Minister for Employment



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with Mr Peter Hummelgaard Thomsen, Danish Minister for Employment, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U KYAW TIN, Union Minister for the Ministry of International Cooperation, received Mr Peter Hummelgaard Thomsen, Danish Minister for Employment yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on promotion of Danish investments in Myanmar, cooperation in

providing labour standards, Myanmar government's efforts for commencing repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State in line with bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh as well as for creating conducive environment for the returnees in cooperation with ASEAN and UN agencies.—MNA

Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) to produce 150,000 ampoules of anti-venom

MYANMAR Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) under its famous brand name BPI will produce 150,000 ampoules of freeze-dried anti-venom which can be kept at normal temperature in remote areas.

The factor said the number of deaths caused by bites of cobra, viper and other venomous animals was reduced as necessary treatments were in time.

“ Our pharmaceutical factory (Insein) BPI is planning on manufacturing 150,000 ampoules of antivenom. Yearly requirement of Ministry of Health and sports is estimated to be 120,000

to 130,000 ampoules. The rest are manufactured to keep standby for other organizations. Now, anti-venom is freeze-dried so that it is unnecessary to keep it refrigerated. So, in case of emergency, timely treatments can be given in villages where electricity is not available. Number of deaths caused by snakebite has dropped lately” said General Manager of Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) BPI, Dr Aung Zaw.

In 2017- 2018 fiscal year, the factory manufactured 120,000 ampoules and Ministry of Health and Sports bought most of them. This fiscal year 150,000 ampoules was produced and 130,000 was

sold to Ministry of Health and Sports.

Anti-venom has, now, been produced enough for the nation, and to extend market, 500 ampoules were exported to Laos and Cambodia as trial in 2017-2018 fiscal year. This fiscal year WHO bought 2000 ampoules of anti-venom and 2000 ampoules of anti-cobra venom.

All anti-venom ampoules are freeze-dried. The standby ampoules are saved for Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence Services, social security dispensaries and NGOs.—Myint Maung Soe ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



The building of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory in Insein Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT**

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The threats behind lack of success

THE repatriation of people who fled Rakhine State has not borne fruit yet due to various impediments and the biggest ones are the threats from terrorists preventing people from returning willingly. And with this, the agenda of foreign nations has shifted back to blaming this lack of progress on Myanmar and pressuring our government.

Some news sources state that no one in the temporary camps approached the buses and trucks parked nearby to take them back home. Just before the promised date for repatriation by both nations on 22 August, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees issued a statement that none of the displaced people were enthusiastic on returning. No matter how prepared we are, it will be tough to realize the programmes agreed upon by Myanmar and Bangladesh.

It is clear Myanmar has never refused the repatriation of displaced people or verification of citizenship. It follows reason that we would carefully screen all those who had actually lived in Rakhine and fled the country before repatriating anyone. Furthermore, Myanmar officials have time and again explained that legally verified persons would be granted citizenship. No government will conduct itself above the existing laws of its nation. Thus, the international pressure forced on Myanmar is a hinderance, disturbance and detrimental influence on a developing country struggling to implement democratic values and reforms.

citizenship. No government will conduct itself above the existing laws of its nation. Thus, the international pressure forced on Myanmar is a hinderance, disturbance and detrimental influence on a developing country struggling to implement democratic values and reforms.

Both Myanmar and Bangladesh's neighbour, India issued the list of National Register of Citizens list to scrutinize illegal immigrants in Assam and discovered about 2 million incomers of that nature.

News sources state they have been living there for generations after decades of religious and social conflicts and mass killings. They also say these people fled into Assam when East Pakistan separated in 1971 to establish Bangladesh but the Indian government refused to grant them citizenship. This is something to consider in relation to Myanmar.

There are obstacles present in repatriating displaced people from Rakhine and those obstacles originate from within the temporary camps of the other country. Regardless, we express our hope that the 444 Hindus wishing to return Myanmar can



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Climate change: is it real ?

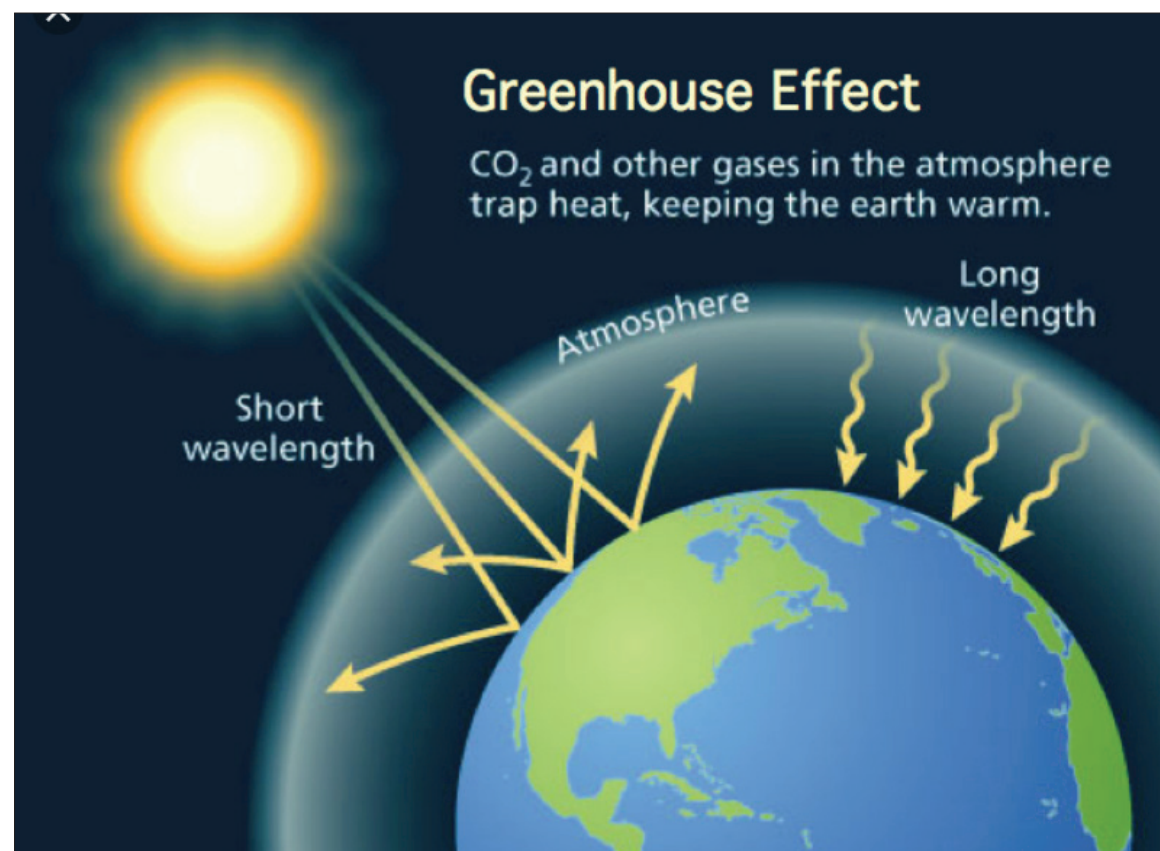
By Khin Maung Myint

Of course it is! The climate change is really happening and causing havoc all over the Earth. However, most are oblivious to that. It is very regrettable that some people are even denying it is taking place. The numbers of those deniers are quite small, but the problem is: they include people who can wield power, legislators and authoritative policy-makers from some powerful nations. Though the United Nations is endeavoring to control the advance of the climate change, such oppositions are hindering their progress.

What is climate change

Our planet Earth is gradually getting warmer without any relent. Since the Industrial Revolution period (1760 to sometime between 1820 - 1840), the temperatures had been gradually rising. Here, we should be aware that a temperature rise of 2°Celsius above the average temperature of the pre-industrial age could have much devastating impacts on the climatic conditions.

It would be necessary to know why the temperatures are rising. The advent of the industrial revolution came with the invention of the coal-fired engines. As coals are fossilized fuels that are very rich in carbon they produce Carbon Dioxide (CO2) gases, and other gases that constitute,



Climate change is an emergency around the world. GRAPHIC IMAGE: BT

grow plants in the cold climates. As more and more CO2 enter the atmosphere, the higher the temperature rises are. The Paris Agreements reached at the UN sponsored climate conference in 2015 at Paris (COP21) required that every signatory to that agreement should contribute towards the control of the temperature rise below 2°Celsius and maintain it at 1.5°Celsius or lower; above the average temperatures of the pre-industrialization age.

and other gases that constitute the greenhouse gases that cause the global warming.

These wildfires are contributing to the worsening of the climate change. Due to those intensive wildfires, the existing carbon sinks that absorb the CO2 and reproduce the useful Oxygen that are fed back into the atmosphere are decreasing at alarming rates. If CO2 absorption decreases, the greenhouse effects will become more pronounced, leading to high global warming that will raise the temperatures further, and high temperatures would cause more wildfires, which in turn produce more CO2. Thus a vicious cycle will be put into motion and will gain momentum.

While the skeptics of the climate change are stubbornly denying it, a sixteen year old Swedish girl sailed solo for two weeks across the Atlantic and reached New York a few days ago to attend the UN Climate Action Summit. She is a climate activist and refused to fly there, but instead sailed a zero-emission boat by herself to make a stand for the world that is facing the devastating climatic and ecological crises.

Impacts of the climate change

The climate change has great effects on the environments, the ecosystems and of course on the weather system too. Today, desertification due to droughts

had depleted many arable lands, pastures, grazing grounds for breeding animals for consumptions; this could lead to shortage of foods. The icebergs all over the world are breaking away and melting profusely; causing sea level rises that could bring about the shrinkage of land masses; depriving humans of habitable space, arable lands, breeding grounds and pastures to raise animals that in turn could lead to famine. These situations could eventually lead to conflicts and even to wars. Some scholars are of the opinion that the downfall of Maya Empire and civilization in South America was brought about by the climate change.

The corals, which are the most awesome living organisms in the ecosystems are being bleached and dying due to high sea water temperatures. Bats and flying foxes, thought to be adaptable to hot climates are dropping dead, en-masse, due to intense temperatures in Australia. Lately, some 200 reindeers were found dead in Norway and experts came to the conclusion, after thorough investigations, that they died of hunger due to scarcity of food the previous winter. Domestic animals like sheep, goats, cattle and horses are dying of hunger due to severe droughts that deprived the animals of their feeds in many African, Asian and Latin American nations.

Many species of wildlife – animals, birds, fishes and insects – had already become extinct and many more are on the verge of extinction. In the Amazon rainforests, being home to more than 10% of the world's wildlife species, including very rare and unique ones, more species are headed for extinction with the wildfires still raging on there.

Effects on the weather system are quite evident from the increase in frequencies and intensities of the storms everywhere. Unprecedented rainfalls, snowstorms, and snowing in the deserts where there never was snowfall in the past are all to be

their fast sinking capital from Jakarta to higher grounds in East Kalimantan province of Borneo Island. Many tiny Pacific islands had already disappeared and their inhabitants displaced. People living on or near the ocean and sea coasts had been driven further inland because of the receding coastlines caused by sea level rises. Thus half a degree temperature rise shouldn't be ignored.

Conclusion

By now, with all the disastrous incidents taking place, the climate change deniers should come to their senses and join hands with

The numerous wildfires that are burning in the Arctic, Africa, Amazon and elsewhere had already produced enormous amount of CO₂, which would impact on the climate change greatly.

blamed on the climate change. Increase in wildfires is widespread due to extreme heatwave. Almost all these disastrous incidents can be attributed to the climate change.

Half a degree Celsius rise matters

Most are not aware that half a degree Celsius rise could have catastrophic consequences. Here, half a degree rise is not calculated based on yesterday's or last month's average or last year's average temperatures, but based on the 1.5°Celsius above the average temperature of the pre-industrial age, a parameter set by the Paris Agreements. Scientists have concrete proofs that half a degree rise in temperature, or 2°Celsius above the average pre-industrial period level can cause ice bergs breaking up in the Arctic and the Antarctic regions.

Today the ice covered areas in Greenland and the ice caps on the alps and mountains around the world had receded significantly. The melting ice will lead to the sea level rises and more cities around the world will face the risk of sinking. Right now Indonesia is planning to relocate



U Aung Lynn concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Colombia

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Lynn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United States of America, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Colombia.— MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 5th September, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 06th September, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Eastern Shan State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Southern Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 –13) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. **OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of increase of rain in Kayin and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th September, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th September, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 06th September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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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.

Alley gardens to open in Pabedan in December

THREE alley gardens will be opened between 32nd street and Sule Pagoda road, between 31st street and 32nd street, and 31st street and Bo Soon Pat street in Pabedan Township in December, according to Doh Eain.

Designed to allow people to lead a healthier life, the three alley gardens will be opened in December in the lower block of Pabedan township by Doh Eain, in cooperation with the local residents, the ward and township administrators, the municipal committee, and Hluttaw representatives.

Currently, a survey is being conducted and the designs for the alley gardens are being discussed with the alley gardens maintenance committee and local residents.

Taking note of the scarcity of public recreation places in Yangon Region, Doh Eain is creating alley gardens for people.

The project was initiated in July, 2016 on 27 street (lower



An artist paints a wall mural in the alley between 31st and 32nd streets in Pabedan Township, Yangon.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

block) of Pabedan township, with the aim of creating recreational spaces out of garbage dumping sites and to bring people together.

Alley garden projects are

being implemented with 80 per cent funds contributed by donors and 20 per cent by the public. The projects are being undertaken in cooperation with companies and embassies. Eight

alley garden projects have been implemented so far to promote healthy lifestyles and make Yangon beautiful.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Bridge on Seikkantha Street gets over K60 mln upgrade

By Nyein Nyein

A BRIDGE on Seikkantha street, Kyauktada Township, is being upgraded at a cost of over K60 million, said U Lin Khaing, the secretary of the road and bridge subcommittee, Engineering Department, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The upgrade is being conducted on a 800-feet-long bridge on Seikkantha street between Strand road and Merchant road. The project is be-

ing implemented with funds from the YCDC budget.

“We are upgrading the bridge on Seikkantha street (lower block). The bridge has been designed by the Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT). Based on the design, the bridge is being upgraded through co-operation between our road and bridge subcommittee and their experts. As per the new design, the bridge will get a slightly wider platform, a one-way car road, and a bicycle way. The project is being im-

plemented now,” said U Lin Khaing.

“The upgrade is expected to be complete in September. Such a project is being implemented for the first time as a pilot,” he added.

Seikkantha street is 50 feet wide and it is one of the main roads connecting the business and residential areas. Moreover, some of the main buildings are situated along the street.

The upgrade of the bridge on Seikkantha street is being

undertaken as per the design submitted by the Yangon Heritage Trust, to meet international standards.

The design of the bridge keeps the convenience of the people in mind, and it will help control traffic, ensure convenience of car parking and safety, mitigate flooding, and create shady spaces. Moreover, it will make it more convenient for the YCDC to control traffic and undertake upgrades and renovations in the future.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Stray dog clearing project under way in downtown Yangon

By Nyein Nyein

THE authorities are implementing a project to take stray dogs off the streets in four townships of downtown Yangon, said U Min Aung, the head of the Veterinary and Slaughter House Department of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The four townships are Lanmadaw, Latha, Kyauktada, and Pabedan. Measures for removing stray dogs from the streets are being undertaken once a week, he added.

“We are steadily removing stray dogs in those townships. I believe the project will be successful in those townships,” said U Min Aung.

The dogs are being sent to dog shelters owned by the YCDC in Hlinethaya Township and the Thabawa meditation center in Thanlyin township. Therefore, there are fewer to almost nil stray dogs on the streets in Kyauktada and Pabedan townships, said U Min Aung.

There are six options for dealing with the increasing

stray dog population in Yangon Region — sheltering, killing, vaccinating, spaying, neutering, and non-governmental rescue actions and programs, said Daw Nan Su Shwe Sin, a YCDC member.

The YCDC will tackle the stray dog problem using the option decided upon by each township, she said.

“Whatever options are used, I wish the authorities deal with the stray dog problem in a systematic way. There are many stray dogs roaming freely in South Dagon Township, and

this is a serious concern for the public,” said a resident of 55 Ward in South Dagon Myothit Township.

More than 10,000 pet dogs are registered in Yangon Region, while the region’s stray dog population is estimated at about 150,000, according to the YCDC.

Dealing with the problem of stray dogs in Yangon city is estimated to cost around K1 billion, said U Soe Lwin, the Deputy Mayor.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Local gold price climbs as demand rises, dollar gains

THE price of gold in the domestic market has touched a high of K1.288 million per tical (0.578 ounces or, 0.016 kilograms), due to a surge in demand and a firm dollar, according to the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

“The gold price has been on an upward trend in recent days. Rumours of financial instability in the banking industry have sparked panic and people are turning to the gold market for investment. Those holding gold stocks are not selling them off. Domestic gold is expected to continue rising depending on the global gold price,” said a market observer.

The domestic gold price is positively linked to global gold prices. Gold is likely to continue making strong gains in the global market on the back of an escalating trade war between China and the US. The Kyat exchange rate against the dollar has also weakened to K1,535, according



Gold jewellery displayed at a shop in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

to the local forex market.

On 4 September, the price of pure gold crossed K1,282,000 per tical in the domestic market, and it reached a fresh peak of over K1,288,000 yesterday afternoon. Gold price is currently pegged at US\$1,544 per ounce in the global market.

To stabilize the gold price and control the price level, fair trade is required, according to the YGEA. The association has already warned its members of legal action if any fraudulent case is detected during the price hike. Furthermore, traders have been asked to make payments at once,

according to the YGEA.

At present, no price manipulation has been reported in the domestic market. The price will be stable after the rumour dies, said a gold and jewelry shop owner.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price

has hit fresh highs this year. According to gold traders, in the month of January, the domestic gold price reached its lowest level of K1,043,4000 on 1 January, and the highest level of K1,061,000 on 31 January. It touched a low of K1,058,400 on 2 February and a high of K1,087,300 on 20 February. In March, the lowest price recorded was K1,048,600 (30 March) and the highest was K1,069,000 (21 March). In April, gold prices registered a low of K1,037,200 on 24 April and a high of K1,054,700 on 11 April. The lowest price for gold in May was K1,035,200 (2 May) and the highest was K1,059,200 (14 May). In the month of June, gold prices touched the lowest level of K1,055,000 on 1 June and the highest level of K1,125,500 on 25 June. The prices moved in the range of K1,099,000 (1 July) and 1,149,400 (31 July) in July. Last month, the prices ranged between K1,141,5000 and K1,263,000.

—GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FDI into Myanmar reaches \$4.1 bln; \$1.7 mln needed to meet MIC target

By Nyein Nyein

IN the eleven months from October to early September in the current fiscal year, foreign direct investment of US\$4.1 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 investment of \$223.68 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the current FY. However, there is only about one month left for the financial year to close, and investment of about \$1.7 billion is still required

to reach the FDI target, according to the DICA.

According to a press statement issued by the DICA, 252 foreign enterprises have obtained MIC permits and endorsements from regional and state investment committees between 1 October and 5 September in the current fiscal, bringing in a capital of \$2.55 billion. Singapore-listed enterprises have been the largest investors during the October-September period, followed by China and Hong Kong.

Transport and communications has absorbed over \$1.5 billion in FDI, topping in the investment sector line-up, followed by the manufacturing sector.

In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, foreign investments have flowed into agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, power, transport and communications, hotels and tourism, real estate, industrial estate, and other services sectors.

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.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Loans offered for affordable units in Hlaingthayar, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)

BUYERS will be offered low interest housing loans for purchase of low-cost and affordable apartments in Hlaingthayar and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) townships, according to the Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development Department.

The department plans to sell units, measuring 484-522 square feet, in eight four-story buildings at the Shwe Lin Pan Housing Phase 1, units measuring 468 square feet in six four-story buildings at the Shwe Lin Pan Housing Phase 3, units measuring 484-522 square feet in five-story buildings, flats measuring 324 square feet in 12 five-story building, and apartments measuring 468 square feet in six five-story buildings at the Kyan Sit Min housing in Hlaingthayar Township.

Apartments measuring 484-522 square feet in eight four-story buildings at the Yuzana Housing Phase 1 and 2, units measuring 468 square

feet in six four-story buildings at the Yuzana Housing Phase 1 and 2, units measuring 484-522 square feet in eight four-story buildings and flats measuring 468 square feet in six four-story buildings at Kanaung Housing in Dagon Seikkan Township, and homes measuring 1,100-960 square feet in two four-story buildings and apartments measuring 800 square feet in four four-story buildings in the commercial area in Shwe Lin Pan Housing, Hlaingthayar township, will also be put on sale.

Prospective buyers will have to deposit over K3 million with the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID Bank) in order to purchase the apartments.

Interested buyers can register their names for the housing units starting today. Registrations will close on 20 September.—Maung Aye

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MIC clears \$259 mln of FDI

THE Myanmar Investment Commission, at a recent meeting, approved and endorsed investments of US\$259 million from 17 foreign enterprises and eight domestic investment projects, with estimated capitals of K44.59 billion and \$1.38 million.

Five businesses were approved by the MIC and the proposals of 12 enterprises were endorsed by the Yangon, Bago,

and Mandalay Investment Committees. The investments will primarily flow into the manufacturing sector, besides real estate, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and other services sectors. The projects are expected to create over 4,900 jobs for local residents.

Meanwhile, the proposals of two domestic enterprises were approved by the MIC and six were endorsed by the Sagaing

and Taninthayi investment committees. The domestic projects will be executed in the manufacturing, real estate, hotels, and other services sectors, and create over 460 jobs.

The Myanmar Investment Law allows regional and state Investment Committees to endorse local and foreign proposals. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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CBM Governor holds talks with two Korean delegations separately

GOVERNOR of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received President and CEO of KB Kookmin Bank Mr Hur Yin and Chairman and CEO of the Industrial Bank of Korea Mr Kim Do Jin from the Republic of Korea separately at the CBM Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meetings, they discussed cooperation in eco-

nomie and banking sectors between Myanmar and ROK. —MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung poses for a photo with the Korean bankers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Mr Tae Young Kim (Left) and U Khin Maung Aye (Right) sign MoU on knowledge sharing. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar Banks Association, Korea Federation of Banks sign MoU on financial knowledge sharing

WITH signing the MoU on financial knowledge sharing program between the Myanmar Banks Association-MBA and the Korea Federation of Banks-KFB on 4 September, Myanmar and South Korean banking sectors have taken a first step for development of financial services between the two countries.

The 2019 MBA-KFB Financial Knowledge Sharing Program was signed by U Khin

Maung Aye, chairman of MBA, and Mr Tae Young Kim, President of KFB, at the MBA office in Yangon.

Also present at the signing ceremony were U Than Zaw, Vice-Chairman-2 of MBA and Vice-Chairman-1 of the Ayeyawady Bank Ltd, central executive committee members of MBA, Mr Ok Dong Jin, Chairman of the Shinham Bank, Mr Sung Kyu Ji, Chairman of

the KEB Hana Bank, Mr Tae Seung Sohn, Chairman of the Worri Bank, Mr Seung-Joong Kang, Vice Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of Korea and representatives of private banks in Myanmar.

Before signing the MoU, U Khin Maung Aye and Mr Tae Young Kim extended greetings and detailed about the MoU.—GNLM ■ (Translated by GNLM)

Toyota unveils Corolla Altis hybrid sedan in Thailand

BANGKOK—Toyota Motor Corp has introduced the first hybrid model of its best-selling Corolla Altis sedan in Thailand to retain its position as the top automaker in the Southeast Asian nation and respond to environmental concern.

In unveiling the 12th-generation Corolla model, Toyota's Thai arm, Toyota Motor Thailand Co, said retail prices of the hybrid model start at less than 1 million baht (\$32,700).

TMT Executive Vice President Vudhigorn Suriyachantanont told NNA on Tuesday that his firm aims to sell 2,300 units in Thailand and export 900 units per month. The Japanese automaker has sold 78,000 hybrid vehicles in the Thai market in the last 10 years. Toyota has sold more than 47 million Corollas in about 150 countries and regions, including 800,000 units in Thailand, since its launch in 1966.

—Kyodo News ■



Michinobu Sugata (r), president of Toyota Motor Thailand Co., and TMT Executive Vice President Vudhigorn Suriyachantanont (c) announce the launch of the first hybrid model of the bestselling sedan Corolla Altis in Bangkok on 3 September, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

China, US agree to hold ministerial-level trade talks in October

BEIJING — China has agreed with the United States to hold ministerial-level trade talks in early October in Washington, the Commerce Ministry said Thursday, as their tit-for-tat tariff dispute shows little sign of waning soon.

The governments of the world's two largest economies are also scheduled to hold working-level trade talks in September, the Chinese ministry said, adding that the two sides "have agreed to create good conditions for negotiations."

At their ministerial-level talks in Shanghai in late July, Beijing and Washington reached an agreement that they would hold the next round of trade talks in September in the United States.—Kyodo News ■



File photo shows Chinese 100-yuan banknotes and US dollar banknotes. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Selfies from the disaster zone: how TV show changed Chernobyl tourism



The hit TV series “Chernobyl” has attracted a new generation of selfie-taking tourists to the nuclear disaster zone. PHOTO: AFP

CHERNOBYL — The hit TV series “Chernobyl” has attracted a new generation of tourists to the nuclear disaster zone but guides say that many are more interested in taking selfies than learning about the accident.

“They do not need information anymore, they just want to take a selfie,” said Yevgen Goncharenko, an official plant guide, at the site of the worst nuclear accident in history.

Tourists now are often on the lookout for locations featured in the acclaimed HBO drama and can be surprised to discover that certain sites were fictional, he told AFP. The hard-hitting mini-series recreates the April 1986 disaster, when one of the reactors at the Soviet Union’s Chernobyl plant, in what is now Ukraine, exploded during testing.

The blast spewed radiation over a vast swathe of Europe and a 30km exclusion zone remains in place around the plant, although a small part of it is open to a growing number of tourists.

The abandoned site had already become a “dark tourism” destination in recent years, even before the eponymous TV show that has picked up 19 Emmy nominations. But some Ukrainian travel agencies have adapted their tours to take in locations from the “Chernobyl” series and offer further special trips, such as kayaking in rivers around the exclusion zone. Oleksandr Syrota, head of the Chernobyl information centre, said that certain tourist companies were offering up the disaster zone as “fast food” — a quick and easy travel experience.—AFP ■

‘Defecting’ North Korean waitresses abducted to South: Lawyers

SEOUL — A group of North Korean waitresses who “defected” to Seoul in 2016 were actually abducted by the South, a fact-finding team of international lawyers has concluded after a visit to Pyongyang.

The case has long been controversial, with Pyongyang saying the 12 women were kidnapped from a North Korean state-run restaurant in China while Seoul insists they defected of their own free will. During their six-day stay in the North Korean capital, which ends Thursday, the lawyers said they spoke to seven former waitresses who claimed they managed to escape while their colleagues were tricked into coming to Seoul.



File photo of a North Korean waitress at a restaurant in Dandong – not one of the women who defected. PHOTO: AFP

The seven North Korean women said they were able to escape — and eventually return to the North — only because their

team leader overheard a conversation between the restaurant’s manager and a representative of the South Korean intelligence service, who had come to take them to the airport.

While they escaped, the 12 other waitresses had already left without knowing they were being taken to South Korea, the joint fact-finding committee of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers said in a statement. The 12 women were “taken away by deception ... against their will, separated from their families and country”, it said after taking evidence from their seven colleagues. “This constitutes the criminal offence of abduction.”—AFP ■

Could the Loch Ness monster be a giant eel?

DUNEDIN — Is the Loch Ness monster a shark? A giant catfish? A sturgeon? No, it’s a giant eel! Or at least it could be, according to a study published on Thursday.

“There is a very significant amount of eel DNA,” Professor Neil Gemmell, a geneticist at the University of Otago in New Zealand said after a year-long study of the lake.

Tale of a giant creature lurking beneath the murky waves of Loch Ness in Scotland have been around for more than 1,500 years — fuelled by occasional sightings of “Nessie”.

But Gemmell said his study had found no evidence of a mon-

ster-like Jurassic-era reptile in what is Britain’s largest body of fresh water.

“We can’t find any evidence of a creature that’s remotely related to that in our environmental-DNA sequence data,” the scientist said, adding that no shark, catfish or sturgeon DNA had been found either.

But he said eel DNA had been found “at pretty much every location samples — there are a lot of them.

“Our data doesn’t reveal their size, but the sheer quantity of the material says that we can’t discount the possibility that there may be giant eels in Loch Ness,” he said, calling the theory “plausible”.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (025W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (025W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 06-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MADRID TRADER VOY. NO. (934S/936N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MADRID TRADER VOY. NO. (934S/936N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 06-09-2019 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 KUO TAI VOY. NO. (135 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (135 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 06-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Territorial row in focus as Abe meets Putin

VLADIVOSTOK — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday with the aim of jump-starting stalled negotiations over a long-standing territorial dispute between their countries.

The meeting in Vladivostok, in Russia's Far East, is the 27th between the leaders, with Abe looking to leverage the relationship he has built with Putin to break the deadlock.

The disagreement over the sovereignty of four Russian-held islands lying off Hokkaido in northern Japan remains a major hurdle to Tokyo and Moscow signing a formal peace treaty 74 years after the end of World War II. Abe and Putin agreed last year to accelerate peace treaty talks based on a 1956 joint declaration,

but rounds of ministerial and working level negotiations have failed to bridge the gap between the countries regarding the dispute.

The joint declaration is crucial for Abe because it mentions Moscow handing over the two smaller islands — Shikotan and the Habomai islet group — to Tokyo.

The Soviet Union took control of the islands — collectively called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia — after Japan's surrender in the war, in 1945.

But Moscow has recently hardened its stance on the issue. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev last month visited the largest of the islands, Etorofu, drawing protests from Tokyo — Kyodo News ■



The meeting in Vladivostok, in Russia's Far East, is the 27th between the leaders, with Abe looking to leverage the relationship he has built with Putin to break the deadlock. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lankan PM concludes official visit to Maldives

MALE — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday concluded an official visit to the Maldives after taking part in the Indian Ocean conference and signing key agreements between the two countries.

Local media reports said that during his visit, Wickremesinghe held extensive discussions with Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and the two countries signed agreements to formalize the two countries' increased cooperation in the fields of higher education, social cooperation and youth development. The two countries also renewed an agreement on visa arrangement which will make it easier for business entrepreneurs from both countries to travel for business purposes, and facilitate multiple entry visas for the parents and legal guardians of Maldivians studying in Sri Lanka. —Xinhua ■

Hong Kong's Lam says move to withdraw bill was hers, not China's

HONG KONG — Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Thursday that the unexpected decision to withdraw a controversial extradition bill that set off months of protests was made by her government and not Beijing.

A day after announcing the withdrawal, the chief executive was questioned about the delay in making the decision and whether the central government played a role in it. "The decision is one of the Hong Kong SAR government," Lam told reporters, referring to the special administrative region of China. "The bill was initiated, introduced and taken forward by the Hong Kong SAR government. Throughout the whole process, the central people's government took the position that they understood why we have to do it, they respected my view and they supported me all the way," she said.

Lam said formally withdrawing the bill was meant to provide a basis for dialogue with the people, indicating she hopes it will be received as an olive branch. — Kyodo News ■

One dead, over 30 injured as train hits truck, derails in Yokohama

YOKOHAMA — A man died and more than 30 people were injured after an express train collided with a truck and derailed Thursday in Yokohama, police and rescuers from the city near Tokyo said.

The accident occurred at around 11:40 am at a crossing on the Keikyu Line between Kanagawa-Shimmachi and Nakakido stations. The first three carriages of the eight-car passenger train derailed and the truck caught fire, they said.

The man killed in the accident is suspected to be the 67-year-old truck driver who the police said was likely trapped underneath the train.

Among those hurt, a female passenger in her 20s sustained serious injuries, police said.

Train operator Keikyu Corp. said the train, running from Aoto in Tokyo to Misakiguchi in Kanagawa Prefecture, could have been traveling at 120 kilometers per hour when it hit the train.

The truck is suspected to have been stranded on the crossing before the impact, according to the police. A transport firm in Katori, Chiba Prefecture, said it

believes the truck is from its fleet and the driver was carrying fruit from Yokohama to Narita, east of Tokyo. "I thought I would die," said a 23-year-old man who man-

aged to escape through a window of the train's first carriage. He said he heard another man yell, "Watch out" before the impact. — Kyodo News ■



The Keikyu express train derailed and tilted. **PHOTO: AFP**

Man killed in India's latest mob attack on suspected child kidnappers

NEW DELHI — A mob in eastern India beat a man to death after accusing him of kidnapping children, police said on Thursday, the latest in a recent spate of such attacks in the country.

About 150 people have been attacked since August 1 based on false kidnapping reports, some of them shared on WhatsApp. At least nine people died in the attacks and 135 others were in-

jured, according to figures collated by local media.

Police said the latest victim was a 45-year-old man in eastern Jharkhand state who died after being beaten with sticks and shoes late on Tuesday.

"The rumour was going around in the village about child lifters roaming in the area. We have arrested five persons in the case," senior local police officer

Prabhat Kumar told AFP.

The attack came a day after six other people were beaten up in the same state.

In late August, a pregnant deaf and mute woman was attacked in India's capital, New Delhi, by a mob who wrongly believed she was involved in kidnapping.

Lynchings are nothing new in India, but the spread of smart-

phones to even the most remote corners has enabled rumours to be shared quickly with large numbers of people through social media and messaging platforms.

The spate of attacks related to false rumours about child abduction began last year, prompting WhatsApp to roll out new safeguards — including limiting the number of users a message can be forwarded to. —AFP ■

Colombia ready to defend against Venezuela “threats”: Minister

BOGOTA — Colombia is “ready” to defend itself against threats from Venezuela, after that country’s president accused Bogota of seeking to provoke military conflict, a minister said Wednesday.

Faced with “threats” from Caracas, “Colombian authorities will not give in to provocation, but are ready to protect the sovereignty and peace of Colombians,” Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo said in an audio statement sent to media

outlets.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Tuesday accused the Colombian government of using dissident FARC leaders’ rejection of a peace accord to try to “provoke a military conflict” with Venezuela, the latest blow to highly tense relations between the neighboring South American nations. The dispute between the two presidents comes after FARC leaders last week formally rejected a 2016 peace deal and

announced a return to arms, prompting a pledge from right-wing Colombian President Ivan Duque to hunt down the dissidents while accusing Maduro of providing them with “shelter and support.”

Caracas has rejected the accusations. “Not only has the Colombian government engaged Colombia in a worsening war, but it is using unfounded accusations to threaten Venezuela and provoke a military conflict with our

country,” Maduro said during a military ceremony in Caracas.

He added he was placing military units deployed along the 2,250km border with Colombia on high alert, due to Colombia’s “threat of aggression against Venezuela.” Maduro also said that military exercises would take place along the border from 10 to 28 September, to “bring the armed system and the entire operational deployment into full readiness.”—AFP ■



Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo. **PHOTO: AFP**

South Africa shuts embassy in Nigeria after xenophobic attacks: Official

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa said Thursday it has closed its diplomatic missions in the Nigerian cities of Abuja and Lagos following violence carried out against South African businesses in reprisal for attacks on foreign-owned stores in Johannesburg.

“After receiving reports and threats from some of the Nigerians we decided to temporarily close while we are assessing the situation,” foreign ministry spokesman Lunga Ngqengelele said, adding the missions were shut on Wednesday.

“So we will be monitoring the situation and when see it necessary to open, we will re-open,” he said.

He said the decision to suspend operations at the two missions was made after “a group of people... came and tried to force themselves in” at the Lagos consulate.

“It was on the basis that we felt we need to protect the em-

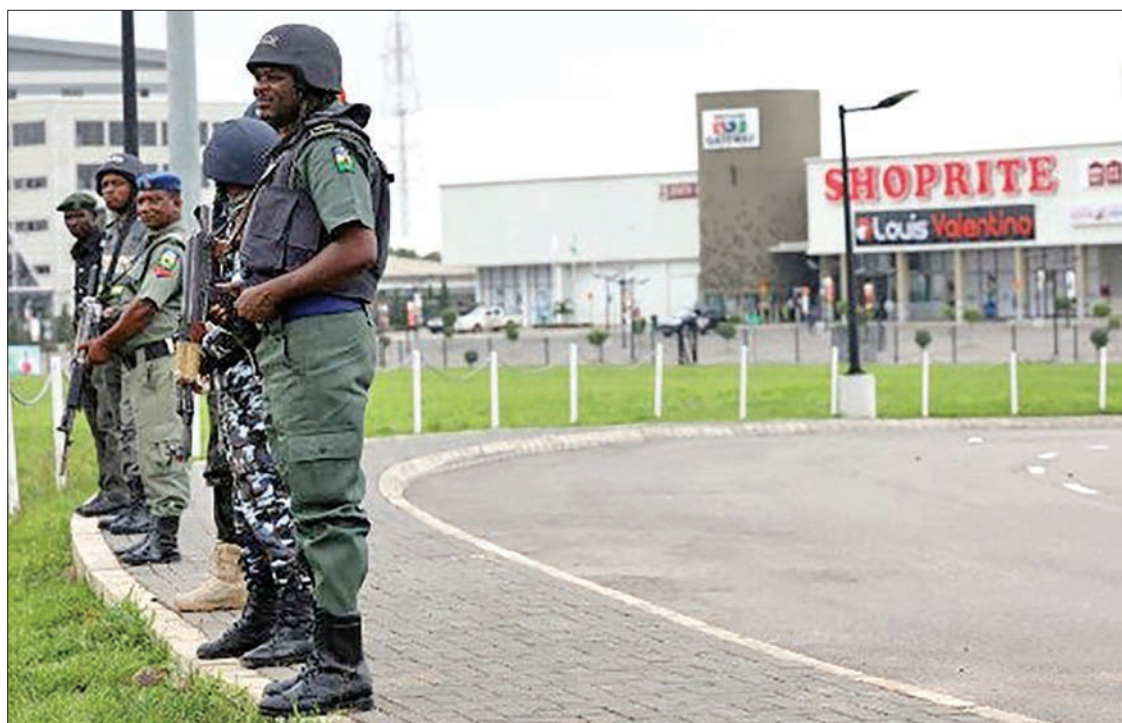
ployees and shut it down”.

Both countries stepped up security on Wednesday after deadly attacks on foreign-owned stores in Johannesburg triggered

reprisals against South African businesses in Nigerian cities.

Diplomatic tensions have risen between the continent’s superpowers, with Nigeria declaring

it would boycott the World Economic Forum on Africa in Cape Town, which was to be attended by its vice president, Yemi Osinbajo.—AFP ■



Nigeria's Policemen stand guard by the South African-owned supermarket Shoprite in Abuja, on 4 September, 2019 during a demonstration. **PHOTO: AFP**

Two jailed for over a decade in German campsite child abuse case

DETMOLD — A German court on Thursday sentenced two men to more than a decade in jail after they pleaded guilty to sexually abusing dozens of children at a campsite over two decades.

The Detmold regional court jailed 56-year-old accused Andreas V. for 13 years, while 34-year-old Mario S. must serve 12 years.

After their sentences, both men will be held in preventive custody, a step reserved only for the most dangerous criminals.

The pair are believed to have been the main perpetrators in a series of abuse cases that went undiscovered for years at the campsite in Luegde, around 60 km from Hanover in northern Germany.

Along with a third suspect, Heiko V., they were accused of 450 instances of child sexual abuse.

Prosecutors said more than 40 children fell victim to the men at the “Eichwald” campsite between 1998 and 2018.

Most of the children were between three and 14 years old at the time.

Some 33 witnesses, including 16 victims and 12 relatives, testified before the court in the trial over the past ten weeks, many of them behind closed doors. Outrage over the serial abuse, uncovered in late January, grew nationwide as details of failings by police and local authorities came to light.—AFP ■



The Detmold regional court jailed 56-year-old accused Andreas V. for 13 years, while 34-year-old Mario S. must serve 12 years. **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD BRIEFS

Hapless alleged drug smugglers run aground on Aussie reef

SYDNEY — An alleged plot to smuggle Aus\$1 billion (RM2.8 billion) of drugs into Australia on a yacht unravelled when a Frenchman and a Briton ran the boat aground on a remote reef off the country’s west coast, police said Thursday.

The two men — 51-year-old Antoine Dicenta and 34-year-old Graham Palmer — became stranded in the Albroh Islands off Western Australia on Monday after their 15-metre yacht “Zero” ran into a reef. Police said the pair unloaded about one tonne of drugs — believed to include ecstasy and cocaine — from their yacht onto a smaller boat and ferried it to a nearby island where they took refuge.— AFP ■

Son of Egypt's Morsi dies of heart attack at 25: Lawyer

CAIRO — The youngest son of deceased ex-president Mohamed Morsi himself died Wednesday night of a heart attack in Cairo, a family lawyer said. Abdallah Morsi, 25, suffered the fatal cardiac arrest while at the wheel of his car, Abdel Moneim Abdel Maqsood told AFP. “A friend who was with him was able to stop the car and take him to hospital”, said the lawyer, adding that Abdallah Morsi’s funeral was set to take place on Thursday. Mohamed Morsi — who as Egypt’s first freely elected president headed an administration loyal to the now banned Muslim Brotherhood until he was deposed by the military in 2013 — died in court on 17 June.— AFP ■



Veteran Myanmar defender Zaw Min Tun (Red) prepares for a kick during the World Cup Qualifiers match against Mongolia yesterday in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. **PHOTO: MFF**

2020 World Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar suffers shock 0-1 loss against Mongolia

THE Myanmar national football team suffered a surprise 0-1 loss against Mongolia yesterday at the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup and the AFC Asian Cup in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Myanmar lined up with keeper and captain Kyaw Zin Htet, Kyaw Zin Lwin, Soe Moe Kyaw, Zaw Min Tun, Nanda Kyaw, Hlaing Bo Bo, Lwin Moe Aung, Si Thu Aung, Maung Maung Lwin, Aung Thu, and Kyaw Ko Ko.

The winning goal for Mongolia was secured by Dulguun at 17 minutes. Lack of coordination in Myanmar's defense line made the goal easy for Mongolia. Dulguun landed the goal with an assist from teammate Narmandakh Artag at 17 minutes, and the goal boosted the team's confidence.

After the goal, Myanmar opened their attack and changed their tactics to score

an equalizer. But, a header by Kyaw Ko Ko missed the goal bar by inches.

Mongolian goalkeeper Batsaikhan Ariunbold and the team's defense line managed to foil all Myanmar chances till the end of the first half.

During the second half, Myanmar received a red card after Maung Maung Lwin got a second yellow card at 65 minutes for tackling Mongolia's Serodyanjiv Gankhuyang.

Despite the red card, Myanmar kept up their efforts to score, but when Zaw Min Tun's close range header just missed the target, Mongolia's fans broke out cheering, and the match finished with Mongolia winning by a single goal.

Myanmar will next play a home match in the World Cup Qualifiers against Japan on 10 September—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

U-15 Invitational Women's Cup: Myanmar ties Hong Kong 0-0

THE match between the national football teams of Myanmar and Hong Kong for the U-15 Invitational Women's Cup ended in a 0-0 draw yesterday in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Both teams played energetically from the kick-off, and the scoreless result was evidence of the teams' strong defense line.

While both teams made an all-out effort, the indecision of the strikers was evident in yesterday's match, and no goals resulted.

Team Myanmar dominated the first half, getting more goal chances than Hong Kong.

Myanmar missed a goal chance at 9 minutes when a corner kick from Myanmar strikers was saved by the Hong Kong keeper, who managed to hold on to the ball with much difficulty.

Hong Kong team relied on their massive defense, which Myanmar could not breach.

The first half ended with 0-0. Myanmar dominated over Hong Kong during the second

half.

Team Myanmar missed goal chances in the early minutes of the second half due to lack of coordination between strikers and midfielders.

Team Hong Kong returned their attack, resorting to speedy play, but Myanmar midfielders and defenders successfully foiled all of Hong Kong's goal chances.

As the clock ticked to the end, both teams raced to score a goal, but the match ended in a goalless draw.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar's Zin Moe Pyae (No 9) vies the ball with Hong Kong's player during their yesterday's international invitational match in Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam. **PHOTO: MWL**

Myanmar selects players for futsal tourney in China

PLAYERS have been selected for the Myanmar national futsal team ahead of the China Football Association (CFA) International Futsal Tournament, slated for 7-10 September in Chengdu, China.

Officials said 14 players have been selected on the team — Ko Ko Lwin, Kyaw Soe Moe, Naing Ye Kyaw, Pyae Phyto Maung (2), Khin Zaw Lin, Sai Pyone Aung, and Pyae Phyto Maung (3) from the Myanmar Imperial University (MIU) F.C.; Myo Myint Soe, Nyein Min



The Myanmar National Futsal Team pose for a group photo at the previous AFC U-20 Futsal Championship 2019. **PHOTO: MFF**

Soe, Aung Zin Oo, and Wai Zin Oo from VUC F.C.; and, Kaung Chit Thu from GV Athletic F.C.

The Myanmar futsal team will be led by head coach U Htay Myint.

Team Myanmar will play against host China, Mexico, and host Malaysia in the tourney.

Myanmar will play against China on 7 September, Mexico on 8 September, and Malaysia on 10 September.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)