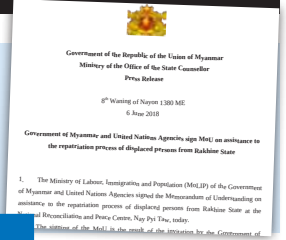


NATIONAL

Government of Myanmar, United Nations agencies sign MoU on assistance to the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 7 June 2018

VP U Myint Swe attends second Myanmar-EU Economic Forum

Myanmar invites EU investors to buy into prioritised sectors

MoU on assistance to repatriation process signed



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 2nd Myanmar-EU Economic Forum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A Memorandum of Understanding on assistance to the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State was signed by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the United Nations agencies at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe expressed his hope that with the tripartite MoU between the Myanmar government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the repatriation process would be successful.

The Union Minister also called on UNDP and UNHCR for cooperation with the Myanmar government in accepting and resettling the displaced persons and creating job opportunities for them.

He also recounted that Myanmar and the UN have previously enjoyed successful cooperation concerning the voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons.

In 1993, the Government of Myanmar and the UNHCR signed an MoU to provide

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Vice President U Myint Swe delivered the opening address at the 2nd Myanmar-EU Economic Forum held at the Hotel Kempinski in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the forum were Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Myo and U Aung Htoo, Deputy Governor U Soe Thein of Central Bank of Myanmar, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, EU Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt and EU representatives, representatives from the European Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham), economists, and invited guests.

The Vice President began his speech by expressing gratitude towards EuroCham on behalf of the Union Government for organising the Myanmar-EU Economic Forum. He said he believed the forum will promote trade relations between Myanmar and the EU's economies.

The Vice President said Myanmar's economic and development policies include people-centred inclusive policies and goals such as national reconciliation and peace, developing basic infrastructure, supplying electric power, creating jobs, conserving natural resources, capacity building, and creating

opportunities for youth.

He said they are working towards promoting basic infrastructure, investment, agriculture, the private sector, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and sustainable development goals. Myanmar's economic policies include an economic framework focused on conserving the country's natural resources and distributing them fairly among the states and regions. The government has also presented a 12-point economic policy which is supported by the investment policy.

According to Asian Development Outlook 2018, Myanmar's

GDP rose from 5.9 per cent in FY 2015-2016 to 6.8 per cent in FY 2016-2017. Experts say the reasons for the growth are increased investments, a rising economic sector, a stronger agricultural sector, increased exports, and better consumer spending. Foreign tourist visits have also increased by 18 per cent in 2017, with roughly 3.4 million visits. Increase in foreign direct investments has likewise raised purchasing power, which contributes to developing the economy. Myanmar's GDP is projected to increase 7 per cent in the coming years.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

12th-day meeting of 8th regular session of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw

DURING the Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday, Justice U Myint Aung of the Supreme Court and Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation answered questions raised by the MPs.

Advertising legal services against ethics

U Khin Zaw of Kawthoung constituency asked if the rule on not advertising legal services will be reviewed.

Justice U Myint Aung replied that paragraph (41) of the Legal Ethics Guidebook released by the Bar Council stated that advertising legal services with business cards and pre-signing blank documents is against a legal professional's ethics (1968 Myanmar Ruling Court letter 208). He explained that unlike other professions, if legal professionals practise advertising, then the legal sector will become a contest to get the most clients and win the most cases, with a focus on acquiring large incomes, as opposed to fairness and rule of law. He added that this would also be against Section 25 of the constitution that states, "The State shall assist to promote the interests of the intellectuals and intelligentsia."



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Stamp duty payment of farmlands

U Aung Theik of Seikpyu constituency asked if standards would be imposed for paying stamp duty for selling, leasing, exchanging and for contract registration of farmlands as it has not been addressed in the 2012 Farmland Rule and Regulation.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw Rule that the 2012 Farmland Law and Section 24 to 28 of the Farmland Rule states that if the right to work on farmland is transferred by selling, exchanging

or giving, the transferor and transferee shall sign the deed by paying stamp duty at the farmland management committee concerned, where the said a farmland is situated. He said it has been decided at a coordination meeting that stamp duty will be paid in accordance with the tax duty mother law, which leaves the decision on suitable tax duty payment to the farmland management committee concerned.

Using drones to map farmlands
U Tin Ko Oo of Bilin constituency

asked if there is a plan to use aerial drones to map areas for farmland ownership (form 7), construct trade routes, and map alluvial soil.

The deputy minister replied that using aerial drones would require high-resolution cameras, and computer hardware and software to process the data, as well as trained skilled operators for the process. Currently, digital kwin maps and modern machinery to map farmland and routes are being used; so there is no plan to use drones as of yet.

Motion to form Rakhine Independent Commission of Enquiry with local experts

Next, U Sai Kyaw Moe of Minepan constituency submitted a motion urging the union government to rethink the formation of the Independent Commission of Enquiry composed of experts from within Myanmar to investigate Rakhine State.

U Maung Myint of Minkin constituency seconded the motion, and the Hluttaw decided to put the motion up for further discussion.

Motion to support the Department of Cooperatives

Daw Wint War Tun of Shar Taw constituency submitted a

motion urging the union government to review strategies and provide support for the Department of Cooperatives, operating under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The deputy minister replied that there are concrete plans and strategies for the short-term and long-term development of the Department of Cooperatives, which are all in line with the 12 points of economic policy under the ministry. The ministry has borrowed US\$400 million from China's EXIM bank for micro-financing farmers, who are members of the Department of Cooperatives. He added that they will analyse the past mistakes and review and amend current plans where necessary.

The Hluttaw decided to put up the motion for discussion.

Next, U Kyaw Soe Lin, secretary of the Bill Committee, submitted the bill to amend the Anti-Corruption Law for the fourth time, sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments.

The Speaker asked for approval from the Hluttaw for each section of the bill. The next session of the Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 8 June.—Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

12th-day meeting of the 8th regular session of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw

MPs raised several questions, a bill was approved and a report was read in yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw session.

U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine constituency (8) asked when the Form 66/6 population and household report for residents in Yathedaung Township in Maung-taw District will be transferred from the Illegal Immigration Prevention Group to the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that currently there is no plan to transfer the data of the local residents' households and population, but residents who wish to move houses can do so with the local department for labour, immigration and population.

Dr. Maung Maung of Yangon constituency (6) asked whether there are plans to take action against unlicensed liquor stores in accordance with the Myanmar



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

Excise Law across the country.

The deputy minister replied that they have amended the punishment and fines for unlicensed selling of liquor to be reflective of the modern economy. He said they have increased taxation on liquor licenses and have formed

regional, state and township-level task forces to survey and uncover illegal liquor sales.

He said they have apprehended 10,816 men and 3,469 women in 14,229 cases of illegal liquor sales between 2016 and 2018. He added that they have

implemented their strategic plan to apprehend illegal importing of beer and alcohol on 1 June.

Next, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced a bill to amend the Communications and Broadcasting Law sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw for the assembly's approval. After getting the decision of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Speaker announced the bill as approved and called for interested MPs to sign up for further discussion. The next meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 8 June. —Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■



Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor
Press Release

8th Waning of Nayon 1380 ME
6 June 2018

Government of Myanmar and United Nations
Agencies sign MoU on assistance to the
repatriation process of displaced persons from
Rakhine State

1. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) of the Government of Myanmar and United Nations Agencies signed the Memorandum of Understanding on assistance to the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, Nay Pyi Taw, today.
2. The signing of the MOU is the result of the invitation by the Government of Myanmar to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to assist the Government in the implementation of the "Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State", an agreement which was signed between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017. Myanmar is committed to the speedy implementation of the agreement and has undertaken preparations since then.
3. The signing of the MOU is expected to enhance the work already undertaken by the Government of Myanmar since last year for the voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation of the displaced persons. It is hoped that with the UN's involvement, the repatriation process will hasten.
4. The MOU confirms UNDP and UNHCR's support to the Government's comprehensive and durable solutions to the issue of displacement and its as contained in the Government of Myanmar's statement dated 24 August 2017. In this regard, the UNHCR will assist the Government of Myanmar, *inter alia*, in the implementation of the voluntary repatriation and the reintegration of all those who return under this MOU; assist the government to conduct assessments at their potential pilot project sites; support pilot coexistence and other programmes benefiting all communities; work with UNDP to prepare the conditions for recovery and resilience-based development in potential areas.
5. Whereas, the UNDP, will assist the Government of Myanmar *inter alia*, to coordinate and support the necessary assessments related to community resilience-building; to undertake the planning process for resilience-base recovery and development that will benefit all communities; to promote social cohesion among the communities; to support access to livelihoods.
6. Myanmar and UN previously had a successful cooperation in the field of voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons. In 1993, the Government of the Union of Myanmar and UNHCR signed a MOU to provide a framework of assistance and cooperation in the context of the voluntary repatriation programme from Bangladesh and some 230,000 displaced persons were repatriated.
7. The ceremony began with the welcome remarks by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor; with the MoU signed by Permanent Secretary of MoLIP, UN Resident Coordinator a.i., and UNHCR representative, and followed by a reception hosted by the Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor.
8. The signing of the MOU was jointly witnessed by the Union Ministers from concerned ministries, ambassadors and diplomats from missions, representatives from United Nations, government officials from relevant ministries and guests. The MOU was initialed on 31st May 2018, and after completing necessary procedures, the MOU was signed today.

VP U Myint Swe attends second Myanmar-EU Economic Forum

FROM PAGE-1

The Vice President said the New Myanmar Investment Law and the Myanmar Company Act were passed to create a more attractive economic environment for investors. He said the new investment law creates a more transparent environment with reduced restrictions and increased safety and guarantees for investors. Likewise, the new Company Act will make company registration easier with electronic registration. The new Company Act will take effect on 1 August 2018. The Vice President said he believes they have created a path filled with practical economic development. and the economic framework will strengthen all businesses within the country. He invited all potential investors from the European Union and elsewhere to invest in prioritised sectors in Myanmar.

Investments from EU countries in Myanmar reached US\$6.6 billion as of April 2018 and make up 8.68 per cent of all foreign direct investments in My-



Vice President U Myint Swe greets EU Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt at the second Myanmar-EU Economic Forum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

anmar. There are 300 registered EU companies in Myanmar.

The Vice President concluded his speech by encouraging EU countries to increase businesses and investments in Myanmar and said he hopes the forum promotes bilateral trade relations between the EU and Myanmar.

The Vice President's speech

was followed by an address by Mr. Kristian Schmidt.

This was followed by the Vice President taking a documentary photo with the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, Mr. Schmidt, EU-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Mr. Donald Kanak, UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win, and EuroCham Myanmar Chairman Mr. David

Levrat.

Afterwards, Mr. Kanak, U Zaw Min Win, and Mr. Levrat delivered speeches followed by the official opening of the Myanmar-EU Economic Forum.

The forum will discuss 12 topics concerning trade, investment and economic relations between Myanmar and the EU. —Myanmar News Agency ■

UEC accepting applications for by-election observers

The Union Election Commission announced yesterday that election observers at home and abroad can apply to the UEC for the right to observe the 3 November by-elections for vacant parliamentary seats with effect from 6th June to 18th October.

The UEC released dates and vacant constituencies for the by-elections on 8th May and time schedules for targeted working processes on 25 May.

The UEC announced Order 1/2016 for local observers and Order 2/2016 for international observers on 31 October 2016.

According to the UEC, there were over 2,060 local observers and over 310 international observers for the 2017 by-elections.

More information is available at UEC official website: <http://uecmyanmar.org>.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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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.

More effective legislation needs to prevent sexual abuse, violence against young women

THE Yangon regional government will take additional legal action against those involved in sexual abuse and violence against young women. Currently, the government is taking legal action against the offenders according to the existing law, said Minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Yangon Region Government Col. Aung Soe Moe.

"Yangon is one of the most populated and economically developed regions in the countries. Therefore, more criminal cases are reported in the Yangon region than others. The Yangon region government has established monthly and yearly plans to take legal action in the criminal cases.

The government gives priority to the safety of young women and public in the Yangon Region. Moreover, the Yangon Region government enacted the law to prevent sexual abuse according to section 375 of the Penal Code. In 2016, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw amended section 375 of the Penal code making it '16 years of age' instead of '14 years of age', according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 6/2016 - Law Amending the Penal Code Section 29," said Col. Aung Soe Moe.

The Yangon Region government took legal action against those who sexually harassed women according to section 354 of the Penal Code. The government took legal action against

479 offenders in 2015, 464 in 2016 and 533 in 2017, he added.

According to section 354 of the Penal Code, the Yangon Region government will take legal action against those who assault or use criminal force against women, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or a fine, or with both.

Recently, the Hluttaw representatives imposed the death sentence for child rape in Pyithu Hluttaw to deter child sexual abuse, said Col. Aung Soe Moe.

In 2017, the Yangon region government took legal action against 78 offenders from among

the 270 rapes complaints, while the government took legal action against 194 child rapists from among the 192 child rape complaints.

Daw Khine Mar Htay of Hline Constituency Region Hluttaw representative asked a question on whether there was a plan to create a safe town for women during the Yangon region Hluttaw meeting, which was held on 6 June 2018.

Whoever teases women on the streets or abuses them by saying something or displays vulgar behaviour, will be charged under section 509 of the Penal Code with either one year in prison or a fine or both.—GNLM ■



School children from the Basic Education High School No.3 reading at the mobile library. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD (KYAUKPYU)**

Mobile library services provided for children in Kyaukpyu

THE Kyaukpyu District Information and Public Relations Department provided mobile library services to children of No.3 Basic Education High School on 6 June 2018.

The department provided the mobile library services to promote knowledge, spread the benefits of literature, and inculcate the habit of reading among children.

At the ceremony to launch the mobile library services,

Daw Khin Yu Yu Nwe, an officer from the Information and Public Relations Department, gave a speech on the objectives of the mobile library. The mobile library will provide its services every Wednesday and will go around the schools in Kyaukpyu District.

Students who attended the ceremony observed the narcotic drugs photo show and borrowed books for free.—District IPRD (Kyaukpyu) ■

Ks10 billion deducted from proposed expenditures to be used in nine regional development sectors

OVER Ks10 billion deducted by the Mandalay regional Hluttaw from the proposed expenditures will be used for nine regional development sectors. The Mandalay regional Hluttaw deducted over Ks10 billion from the October 2018 to September 2019 expenditures, after the Hluttaw representatives pointed out in their discussions unnecessary or excessive expenses.

Some nine Hluttaw representatives pointed out the excesses during their discussion at the second Mandalay Region Hluttaw's 10th regular session meetings held for six days from 22 May. After the discussion,

the Hluttaw voted down the proposed expenditures.

"Due to the discussion and comment by the Hluttaw representatives, there was a need to amend the expenditures proposed by the regional departments and organisations in the Mandalay Region financial statement. The region government held an emergency meeting on 29 May and revised the expenditure, which was then approved by the Hluttaw," said U Myat Thu, the Region Minister for Planning and Finance.

The expenditures deducted totalled Ks10.197,918 billion that includes Ks1 billion for

rural road upgrading, Ks1 billion for rural electricity, Ks500 million for rural water supply, Ks2 billion for the education and health sectors, Ks1 billion for natural disaster support, Ks500 million for the sports sector, Ks500 million for the rural rule of law, Ks2.346,918 billion for public servant housing construction and Ks1.35 billion for the Mandalay City Development Committee's urban drainage project.

"Many factors need to be considered when reviewing the budget proposed by the departments. There were heated exchanges among the

chief minister, the minister for planning and finance and other ministers in the cabinet when the budget was discussed. But this was done to manage the budget properly and prevent waste," said Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of the Mandalay Region.

For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Mandalay Region Hluttaw approved a total expenditure of Ks322.819,964 billion, of which Ks207.906,141 billion was provided by the region government and Ks114.913,823 billion was provided by the Union government.—Khine Set Wai ■

Myanmar Insurance, India's GIC Re sign MoU on reinsurance

By Nyein Nyein Ei

Myanmar Insurance and India's state-run General Insurance Corp (GIC Re) signed an MoU in Yangon yesterday on amending laws related to insurance and reinsurance in Myanmar.

Reinsurance is insurance that is purchased by an insurance company to protect it from insolvency after major claims events, such as major disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Sandar Oo, Managing Director of Myanmar Insurance, and Ms. Alice Vaidyan, Managing Director of GIC Re, at the head office of Myanmar Insurance in Yangon.

The MoU represents the co-operation between the two state-owned institutions in sharing the experiences of GIC Re to promote the capacity of the staff of Myanmar

and the legislative sector.

"It is a huge burden for Myanmar Insurance to pay a large obligation resulting from an insurance claim for businesses with huge investments, for example planes, ships, gas fields etc. So, we transfer portions of risk portfolios to other parties likes India's GIC Re," said Daw Sandar Oo.

Myanmar Insurance is planning to expand its insurance services, making the use of experiences from the GIC Re under the MoU.

On its way to establishing reinsurance, Myanmar Insurance will work together with local private insurances.

Myanmar Insurance offers 29 types of insurance, including the five major insurance policies — health, car, homeowners, life and disability. ■



The Ceremony of Signing MoU between Myanmar Insurance and GIC Re at the head office of Myanmar Insurance in Yangon. **PHOTO: YEHTUT**



Yangon Region Government has hoped to build a multi-purpose terminal in Kawhmu Township to handle increasing trade at its current ports. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Yangon Region submits plan to set up multipurpose terminal in Kawhmu Township

The Yangon Region Government has submitted plans to implement a multipurpose terminal in Kawhmu Township in the southern Yangon Region.

It aims to increase foreign currency earnings, create more job opportunities, facilitate export/import and cut transaction costs, explained U Zaw Aye Maung, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs at Yangon Region Parliament on 5 June. It was slated to be

developed on 1,053 acres of land with a 2.2 km waterfront in Kawhmu Township in the southern Yangon Region. It has a nine-metre-draft of river deeper than Thilawa Port.

This new port will facilitate the export of Myanmar products such as rice, pulses and the import of fuel oil, as it would also have storage terminal for bulk liquid, he maintained.

The feasibility study has been made with Royal Haskon-

ing Company and Surbana Jurong Company.

The Yangon Port is the main gateway for international trade, handling 95 per cent of the export/import through sea. The Yangon ports can accommodate 46 ships at a time, with 26 ships at the Yangon Port and 20 ships at Thilawa Port that perform direct trade with Singapore, Malaysia, India, China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Bangladesh and Thailand.—GNLM ■

Japan's GS Yuasa to fully enter Myanmar battery market

Major Japanese automotive and industrial battery maker GS Yuasa International Ltd. is set to fully enter the Myanmar market through its own local unit to meet growing storage battery demand for vehicles and off-grid households.

The company said it is planning to start selling products imported from Thailand via Siam GS Battery Myanmar Ltd., the local arm newly established in a joint venture, and provide battery charging and logistics services in the country from next year.

The joint venture was established in January with a regis-

tered capital of US\$7.14 million in the Thilawa special economic zone in Yangon.

Siam GS Battery Co., the Kyoto-based firm's Thai joint venture, holds a 99.9 per cent stake in the Myanmar unit and GS Yuasa the remainder.

The Thai arm is owned 60 per cent by the Japanese company.

"Motorisation is expected to make headway mainly in urban areas in Myanmar, and the number of inquiries for automotive lead-acid batteries is growing," a company official told NNA.

"Potential demand for home-use products is also high



as many rural regions are not electrified."

GS Yuasa has sold battery products through local agents

in Myanmar since 1993 and its sales volume has steadily grown over the years.

Among the three neighbour-

ing countries of Thailand such as Cambodia and Laos, Myanmar is the biggest and fastest-growing market for the Thai joint venture, said a spokesman at the Japanese headquarters, but he did not disclose sales figures.

The Myanmar joint venture aims to achieve \$20 million in annual sales in three years, according to the spokesman.

In GS Yuasa's three-year business management plan through March 2019, it is planning to boost output capacity of automotive lead-acid batteries in Southeast Asia, with an eye to starting local production in Myanmar.—Kyodo News ■

Constitutional Tribunal, IDEA hold workshop on federal systems

TO broaden constitutional knowledge, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), in cooperation with the Myanmar Constitutional Tribunal, held a workshop titled "Empirical study on Sub-State Constitutions in Federal Systems" at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairperson of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt delivered an opening speech, followed by an introduction by resident representative of International IDEA's Myanmar office Mr. Mark McDowell.

Later, Dr. Kimana Zulue-ta-Fulscher, senior programme officer of International IDEA, and Dr. Asanga Welikala, a lecturer in public law at the School

of Law, University of Edinburgh, also participated in the programme.

The workshop meeting was attended by members of the Constitutional Tribunal, director-general, deputy director-general and officials from research team of Constitutional Tribunal and IDEA.—Myanmar News Agency ■



The participants pose for the documentary photo at the Empirical study on Sub-State Constitutions in Federal Systems workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine Chief Minister separately receives President of AMDA, Chief Representative from JICA Myanmar Office



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu welcomes AMDA President Mr. Shigeru Suganami yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu received a delegation led by President of Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) Mr. Shigeru Suganami at the office of the chief minister at 9 a.m. yesterday.

During the meeting, they

discussed the issue of aid in Rakhine State, its sustainable development and organic agriculture technology.

The Rakhine State chief minister also received a delegation led by Chief Representative from JICA Myanmar Office Mr.

Masayuki Karasawa at the same place at 10 a.m. yesterday. During the meeting, JICA's efforts for the developmental processes in Rakhine State, implementation of schemes and the ongoing processes were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission receives Chinese Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi received a delegation led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang at the Anti-Corruption Commission office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the current schemes of the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission, drawing up of a programme on education through entertainment that is aimed at the Basic Education level, producing a television programme about anti-corruption to



Anti-Corruption Chairman U Aung Kyi meets with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

entertain the public, the success of anti-corruption initiatives in China, and cooperation between

China and Myanmar in the anti-corruption programmes.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Chinese Ambassador

PYIDAUNG SU Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang at the Hluttaw Building

in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed legal affairs, as well as cooperation and relations between the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 80/ 2018

8th Waning of Nayon, 1380 ME
(6th June 2018)

Defence Services Personnel State Hluttaw representative substituted

According to request made in accordance with Article 33 of the Region and State Hluttaw Law to substitute one Defence Services Personnel Representative who is a State Hluttaw representative, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following Defence Services Personnel State Hluttaw representative under the Notification 15/2017 of the commission dated 29-6-2017 with whose shown on the right column.

Shan State Hluttaw
BC 23911
Col Naing Win Aung

BC 26759
Col Hla Oo

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

RTAD to crack down on fake driving licenses

By May Thet Hnin

THE Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) announced yesterday that they would allow those holding fake driving licenses and certificates to turn them in before arrests will be made.

An official from the RTAD said that the police force has already arrested 10 people who produced fake driving licenses and certificates.

U Lyan Kyint Man, Director of the Road Transport Administration Department said, "We want to make a request that people are urged to hand in their forged driving licenses and certificates to our departments as soon as possible. If not, traffic police will take action against them when they are found using forged documents.

People are also advised to check their licenses at our of-

fice whether their licenses are genuine or not. To get a driver's license, every driver needs to know traffic rules and etiquette. As for our department, we will carry out our duties rapidly according to the law."

Drivers are able to obtain fake licenses online or pay counterfeiters up to Ks250,000 to obtain forgeries. Counterfeiters have even advertised on Facebook pages using Myanmar, Chinese and English languages to draw attention to their services.

Myanmar Police have attempted to track the counterfeiters through their Facebook accounts, and made inquiries regarding their links.

The RTAD so far has issued 530,000 car licenses; 330,000 motorcycle licenses, and 770,000 driving licenses as of the end of April 2018, according to RTAD data. ■



Fake drivers license. PHOTO: PE ZAW

Free eye surgery given to locals in Kachin State

FREE eye care services were offered to local people at Sitagu Eye Hospital in Myitkyina, Kachin State starting from 3 June. This was 10th times of its kind in Kachin State.

Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung together with chief judge of the Kachin State high court U Tu Jar and party visited the eye patients. Under the aegis of the Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nanissara, a six-member Korean eye specialist team led by Mr. Kim Myaung Shin from Seoul Namsan Lions Club provided free eye treatment and

glasses to patients regardless of race and religion.

The free healthcare services were carried out in cooperation with medical staff, social organizations and members of the Red Cross Society. The chief minister also donated Ks. 1 million to the Sitagu Eye Hospital.

The team conducted medical check-ups for 386 eye patients and performed eye surgery for 83 patients from 27 May to 5 June. They also provided the patients with meals, according to Sitagu Board of Administration.—Myanmar Digital News ■



UNDP Representative Mr. Knut Ostby and UNHCR Resident Representative Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis signing the agreement at the MoU signing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MoU on assistance to repatriation process signed

FROM PAGE-1

a frame of assistance and cooperation in the voluntary repatriation programme from Bangladesh. Some 230,000 displaced persons were repatriated.

After yesterday's opening remarks, the MoU was signed by Mr. Knut Ostby, Resident

Representative of the UNDP in Myanmar, and Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis, Resident Representative of the UNHCR, in the presence of Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe and U Kyaw Tin.

Afterwards, Union ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Kyaw Tin and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo had documen-

tary photos taken.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, permanent secretaries of ministries, directors-general, diplomats and officials from the UN agencies.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Key suspect arrested in massive illegal drug haul in Malaysia

POLICE recently arrested a key suspect behind a record-breaking illegal drug haul in Malaysia which was intercepted by authorities last month.

A combined team comprised of an anti-drug squad and the Myanmar police force arrested Maung Maung, alias Yassin, 44, at 10:15 pm on 5th June following a tip-off that the suspect had left Pyin Oo Lwin for Mandalay by car from the Top Light Travel Service.

Three Malaysians and three Myanmar citizens were captured in Malaysia in the initial raid along with 1,187 kilograms of methamphetamine and 750 grams of white heroin.

The drugs were found stashed under food products in a container from Nice Guy Clearance Service Agency.

Investigations on 2 June led to the capture of a suspect and extraction of vital information pointing to Yassin, who had been in hiding since 30 May. Police seized a Toyota Lexus owned by Yassin on 3 June. The car was parked under the Tamwe overpass. The next day, police



Suspect Maung Maung, alias Yassin. PHOTO: SEIKKAN TOWNSHIP IPRD

discovered Yassin and his accomplices had opened bank accounts in two private banks with a combined balance of Ks2.8 billion.

Police have frozen the

assets and investigations are continuing. Authorities said the investigation will quickly lead to the apprehension of additional suspects.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Take a stand against gender-based violence in our communities

Violence against women and girls is one of the world’s most pervasive human rights violations. It knows no social, economic or national boundaries. There is no country in the world today where women and girls live free from violence – it is here on our streets, in our workplaces and in our homes. Globally, an estimated one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime.

With a dense population, the Yangon region has seen more than its share of these sorts of crimes compared to other countries, and the numbers are on the rise.

It is found that the Yangon Region Police Force sent 477 cases in 2015, 464 cases in 2016, and 533 cases in 2017 under Section 354 of the Anti-Violence against women law.

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force on any woman intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will outrage her modesty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of up to two years, or with a fine, or both.

But actions taken by police or authorities are not enough to give full protection to women. We need cooperation from community-based social organizations, non-governmental organizations, lawmakers and government departments. We also need to promote public awareness about sexual assault against women.

The involvement of men is vital in preventing and reducing violence against women. It would be encouraging to see many men participating in such public awareness campaigns.

In a survey, women said they need more effective laws to take action against these thugs who commit crimes against women, as the country is experiencing an increasing number of these types of incidents, especially in suburban townships in Yangon as well as rural areas. The majority of such women are hesitant to complain about the experiences they faced.

Violence against women and girls is a silent emergency in Myanmar. It ranges from groping on buses to human trafficking. It includes harassment, cyber exploitation, psychological and economic violence, date rape, marital rape, gang rape - the complete list could fill this entire column.

The time is now to end sexual harassment and abuse. Preventing this behaviour is our collective moral imperative, and it must be eradicated wherever it is found. We must all work together to change our cultures and create safe spaces for reporting.

We also have a personal responsibility. Let us all take a stand against gender-based violence in our communities, in Myanmar and in all countries.

How will climate change impact Myanmar?



Photo: Aye Min Soe

By Khin Maung Myint

I had persistently been writing about the causes of the climatic change and its impact and consequences on our planet: the environments, ecosystems, humans and other living things in general. However, I have never mentioned their impacts on Myanmar in particular, until lately. In my previous article “The climate change is becoming more pronounced” (25 May GNLM), on the suggestion of the Acting Chief Editor of the Global New Light of Myanmar daily, I briefly touched on that subject. That idea intrigued me to further write in more detail along that trend.

In doing so, I'll have to rely on the observations made by the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA). This organization was launched in 2013 with the support of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) and is being implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

From the observations made in the past, the on-going and future climate changes will have many consequences in Myanmar, mainly on the economic, productive, social and environmental sectors. For instance, the increased temperature is having a large impact on sectors such as agriculture; for example in the Dry Zone. Many people have been forced to migrate and find new sources of income as a result of changing rainfall patterns and pest infestations. The MCCA Programme studied the perception of these hazards in five states and regions, based on data from 23 townships. More precisely, if their projections for climate change are correct, the following impacts are either already happening or foreseeable:

Impact on Agricultural Output - Our country's economy and society is still largely dependent on agriculture, which relies heavily on the rain. Thus if there is too much rain or less rain, it would have much impact on agriculture. Too much rain fall will cause floods and less or no rain will cause droughts, both of which will impact on the production of agricul-

tural produces. The highly productive deltaic and low-lying coastal rice cultivation areas will be exposed to increased salinity, coastal erosion and inundation. I would like to point out that the salinity and inundation are the most destructive to the agriculture, as they can cause decreased productions. Decreased income from the agricultural sector can have many adverse effects on the income of individual farmer and also the economy of the country.

An increase in extreme high temperatures is already creating problems in the Dry Zone, for example the severe drought in 2009, which affected major cereal crops. In 2010, severe drought diminished village water sources across the country and destroyed agricultural yields of peas, beans, pulses, sugar cane, tomato and rice - the main cash crops. Also the Zawgyi River floods in October 2006 caused extensive crop damage. In 2007, extensive record-breaking flooding resulted in the inundation of 809,284 hectares of cropland and more than 50 per cent of crops were damaged. Again the July to October 2011 heavy rain and flooding in the Ayeyawady and Bago Regions, Mon and Rakhine States, resulted in losses of approximately 1.7 million tons of rice. The excessive sedimentation in the Rakhine State in 2010 damaged rice seedlings and reduced harvests.

Impact on Fisheries - Climate change has affected the coastal and marine environment, causing deterioration of the mangroves, coral reefs and sea-grass beds, which are vital breeding and feeding grounds for marine lives. Cyclones cause loss of fishing vessels, shrimping rafts and impact offshore, inshore and inland fisheries, causing high economic losses.

Impact on Livestock - Climate induced disasters severely impact livestock: cyclones cause losses in livestock populations, while extreme high temperatures lead to pests and disease outbreaks such as foot and mouth disease.

Impact on Forests - Climate change is likely to affect both the distribution and composition of forests in Myanmar. Changes in temperature and precipitation levels, as well as extreme droughts and floods have caused forest to die, conversion of forests to grasslands, steppes, deserts and increased the spread of invasive species, insects and pests. The predicted increase in droughts and extreme temperatures will increase evapotranspiration from the canopy of trees, causing increased moisture stress. This will in turn increase the vulnerability of forests to fires. Wildfires may become more frequent. The Dry Zone is experiencing intense heat and desertification, leading to loss of plant species.

Impact on Water Resources - Shorter period of Monsoon, due to late onset and early withdrawal, will result in large quantities of rain falling over short periods, leading to flooding, contamination of water resources, erosion and limited replenishment of waterways. Salinization is also a threat in coastal areas. The progressive melting of glaciers may have an impact on the Himalayan region of Myanmar which provides large quantities of water to many parts of Myanmar.

Impact on Biodiversity - There is a shift in the range and migration patterns of species. There have been notable changes in the flowering and fruiting seasons of plant species. Climate change is likely to impact freshwater biodiversity. Increasing sea temperatures and changes to seawater chemical composition affected marine biodiversity, particularly coral reef ecosystems.

Impact on Tourism - Degradation of vegetation cover and poor land management around the renowned Inlay Lake has caused severe soil erosion and sedimentation resulting in the lake becoming shallower, impacting tourism, recreational activities and biodiversity.

Impact on Energy, Industry and Transport - The expected climate changes will increase the vulnerability of power generation as Myanmar has the second highest hydro-power potential in Asia after India, and river systems will be significantly impacted by erratic rainfall and droughts. There is also a risk of erosion for dams that may result in life-threatening hazards if they collapse. Industrial production is heavily dependent on raw materials, energy consumption, water use. As these will be affected by changes in climate, the industrial sector may also suffer. The industries and factories are also exposed to severe natural events. There could also be disruption of transports due to storms, flash floods and mudslides - destroying roads, railway lines and bridges. Droughts could also cause the waterways to get shallow rendering them unnavigable.

Impact on Human Settlements and Cities - The concentration of assets and people in cities increases their vulnerability to severe climate related events. Flash floods, inundation, destruction of houses and basic infrastructure by tropical storms and cyclones. In coastal areas, small and large towns and villages are already suffering from coastal erosion, increased risk of floods, storm-surges, salinization of water resources for drinking and peri-urban agriculture. Townships like Labutta, or Bogalay are examples of this vulnerability. Major cities like Yangon can expect floods.

Impact on Public Health - Increasing temperatures and erratic precipitation patterns will create favourable conditions for the spread of infectious diseases. Additional effects of increasing temperatures on human health include, heat stress, heat exhaustion and dehydration. During summer 2010, 1,482 heat-related disorders were reported and 260 heat-related deaths occurred across Myanmar. Higher temperatures will increase transmission rates e.g. mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue will increase. Shan and Rakhine States are most vulnerable to malaria outbreaks. An increase in non-potable fresh water sources will result in communities without safe drinking water, increasing dehydration risks and further exacerbating diarrheal diseases.

The climate change is caused not by nature alone, but also induced by humans. So we should endeavour to avoid making it worse by our actions. Here, I would like to cite the extent of loss of lives and properties and the adverse effects on the agricultural sector and the incomes of the populace and the economy of our country caused by the Cyclone Nargis, as an example.

I am quite familiar with the Cyclone Nargis devastated places. About four and a half decades ago, I had crisscrossed from east to west and vice versa with a ship in the lower deltaic area, I knew how dense the mangrove forests in those areas were in those days. However, a few years ago, while I was making a research to write an article on the importance of the mangrove forests, I downloaded a Google satellite map of the delta area, especially the Bogalay, Labutta and Hainggyi areas. I was surprised to see how depleted those once dense mangrove forests had become.

From that map, I noticed many swaths of barren spaces in a large area, where it was once covered with dense mangrove forests. On closer observation, those barren spaces are found to be dotted with salt pans and abandoned rice fields extending right up to the sea shores, where there used to be mangroves. Seeing the extent of the depletion of the mangrove forests, it was no wonder the damage of properties, loss of lives, effects on the agriculture and the economy, caused by the Cyclone Nargis were so great. If our coastline were covered with dense mangroves as in the old days, I am sure the losses would be much less.

The climatologists and most governments in the world, led by the United Nations, are striving to bring the deteriorating climate under control. To put it frankly, I don't think they are definitely sure themselves, when their goals will be achieved or whether they will ever be achieved at all. In such circumstances, we should fend for ourselves to withstand the ravages of the climate change. Now that we know what the threats of the impact of the climate change are, proper planning and preparations should be put in place to mitigate the devastations of the climate change, if they should befall us.

Reference:-
Impact of Climate Change and the Case of Myanmar - Myanmar Climate Change Alliance. (myanmarccalliance.org)

Putin expects sanctions against Russia will be gradually removed

MOSCOW — Sanctions are harmful to the global economy, and more countries are coming to understand that, so sanctions will be removed with time as relations between Moscow and Washington improve, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with the China Media Group ahead of his visit to China.

“Sanctions and restrictions neither surprise nor scare us, they will never make us abandon our independent, sovereign development path,” he said. “I believe that Russia either must be a sovereign state or there will be no Russia at all and the Russian people will undoubtedly choose the first option,” Putin noted.

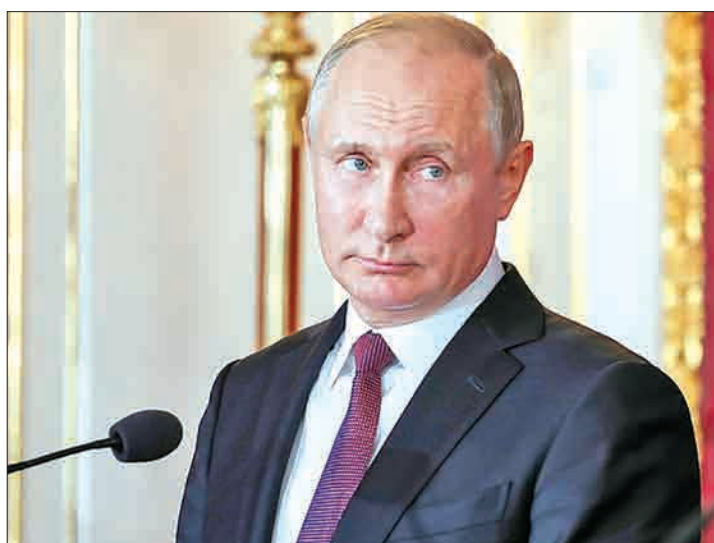
“There is no other way for us but we understand that our partners seek to use these sanctions and restrictions to hinder

our development,” he went on to say and added that “I have no doubt that... it will lead to nothing.”

Putin was confident that that kind of policy “is harmful, first and foremost, to those who initiate it.”

“I believe that common sense will eventually prevail and all the illegal restrictions, which are harmful for the development of the global economy, will be removed with time, while we will be able to improve relations with all our partners, including the United States and other countries that impose sanctions dancing to the US tune,” Putin noted. The Russian president pointed out that “those... who danced to the United States’ tune are beginning to suffer from the US moves [to introduce restrictions] against those very countries.”

“All these things will gradu-



Russian President Vladimir Putin PHOTO: TASS

ally — and I am not saying this only for the sake of rejoicing and being ironic — but all this shows that these tools cannot be universal and sooner or later it will become evident that they are harmful to everyone, including

those who come up with such initiatives,” Putin noted.

“I expect that one way or another, our relations will eventually return to normal,” the Russian president concluded.—Tass ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Japan may send nat'l security official to US-N Korea summit

TOKYO — Japan is considering sending senior officials, including from the National Security Secretariat, to Singapore to report on the US-North Korea summit next week, government sources said on Wednesday.

The lineup may also include officials from the Cabinet Secretariat's division dealing with the North Korean abduction issue, the sources said. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, the top government spokesman, said earlier in the day that the lineup has yet to be determined.—Kyodo News ■

Nearly 200 missing after Guatemala volcano eruption: official

GUATEMALA CITY — Nearly 200 people remained missing as of Tuesday due to the eruption of Fuego volcano in Guatemala, according to the Guatemalan authorities.

According to the latest data from Guatemala's National Institute of Forensic Sciences, the death toll from the eruption rose to 75. Fuego volcano exploded around noon on Sunday and lava began flowing down in the afternoon. According to a report from National Coordination for Disaster Reduction of Guatemala, the eruption is “the strongest one recorded in recent years.”—Xinhua ■

Plane with 10 aboard goes missing in Kenya

NAIROBI (Kenya) — Rescue teams on Wednesday were looking for a small plane with 10 people on board that went missing north of the Kenyan capital Nairobi, the aircraft owners and the national disaster agency said. The plane, operated by East African Safari Air Express, took off from the western town of Kitale in the late afternoon Tuesday. It disappeared off the radar screens at Nairobi international airport, its final destination, around 80 minutes later, the owners, Sax, said in a statement.—AFP

Trump fires aide who joked about ‘dying’ war hero John McCain

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has sacked an aide who said cancer-stricken Senator John McCain's opposition to a presidential nominee did not matter because “he's dying anyway,” the White House announced on Tuesday.

The White House was roiled by bipartisan fury over the remark attributed to Kelly Sadler in May.

“Kelly Sadler is no longer employed within the Executive Office of the President,” read a brief statement by deputy White House spokesman Raj Shah.

McCain, 81, had indicated he opposed the nomination of now CIA Director nominee Gina Haspel over her role in enhanced interrogation techniques under president George W. Bush.

The Arizona senator, who was held prisoner and tortured during the Vietnam War, is battling brain cancer.

ATTACKS

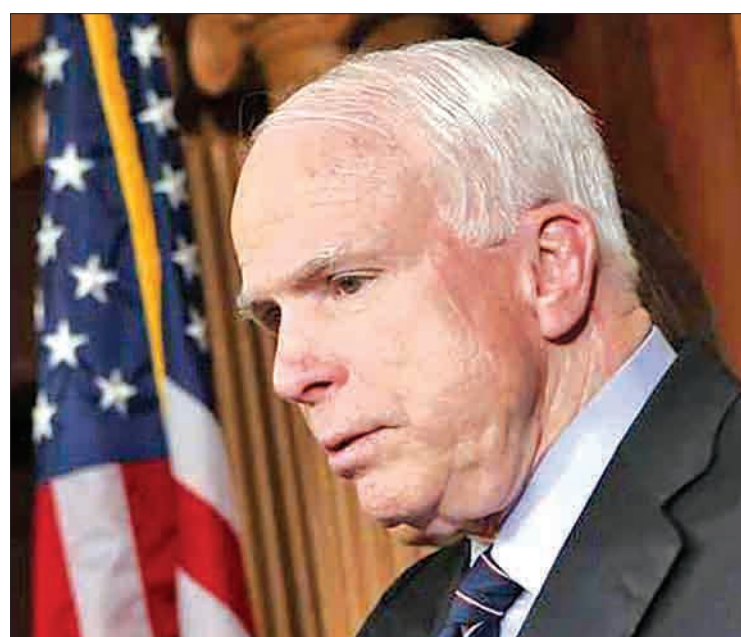
CNN had quoted a White House official as saying Sadler,

speaking at a staff meeting, meant the comment as a joke but that it flopped.

Another extraordinary attack against McCain that stunned Washington came around the same time from a fellow veteran, retired US Air Force lieutenant general Thomas McInerney, who said torture

works because it made McCain spill sensitive information to his captors during his years as a prisoner of war in Viet Nam.

The attacks, remarkable for their bluntness, triggered swift reaction from across the political spectrum, with lawmakers demanding an apology from Trump that never came.



Republican Senator John McCain. PHOTO: AFP

DEFENCE

Meghan McCain, a conservative commentator on ABC's popular morning talk show “The View,” delivered an eloquent defence of her father, who is battling brain cancer at home in Arizona.

“I don't understand what kind of environment you're working in when that would be acceptable and then you can come to work the next day and still have a job,” she said at the time.

Her father is “all about character and bipartisanship and something greater than yourself,” Meghan McCain said, before adding a stinging message to the critics: “Nobody's going to remember you.” Members of Congress also rallied behind their ailing, war-hero colleague.

Trump, for his part, once mocked McCain's war service, saying during the presidential campaign that “I like people that weren't captured.”—AFP ■

EU says tit-for-tat tariffs against US ready in July

BRUSSEL — The EU on Wednesday said a raft of retaliatory tariffs, including on whiskey and motorcycles, against painful metals duties imposed by the US would be ready as early as July.

The European Commission, which handles trade matters for the 28-country bloc, “expects to conclude the relevant procedure in coordination with member states before the end of June,” said European Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic at a news briefing.

This would allow “that the new duties start applying in July,” he added.

“It is a measured and proportionate response to the unilateral and illegal decision taken by the US to impose tariffs on the European steel and aluminium exports which we regret,” said the former Slovak prime minister.

From blue jeans to motorbikes and whiskey, the EU’s hit-list of products targeted for tariffs with the US reads like a catalogue of emblematic American exports.

The European Union origi-



The European Commission, which handles trade matters for the 28-country EU, “expects to conclude the relevant procedure in coordination with member states before the end of June,” said European Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic. **PHOTO: AFP**

nally drew up the list in March but pledged not to activate it unless US President Donald Trump followed through on his threat to impose 25 per cent tariffs on steel imports and 10 per cent on aluminium.

The Trump tariffs came into effect on 1 June and the EU now joins Mexico and Canada and other close allies that have announced their own wave of counter-duties against Wash-

ington.

The EU commission must now take their proposal to be signed off by the bloc’s member states amid divisions over what path to take against Trump’s unpredictable policies.

France and the Netherlands back a tough line against the US, while export powerhouse Germany has urged caution towards Trump’s “America First” policies.—AFP ■

Turkey students go on trial over ‘terror propaganda’

ISTANBUL (Turkey) — Twenty-two students from a prestigious Istanbul university went on trial on Wednesday on charges of spreading “terror propaganda” for staging an action on the campus opposing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s military campaign in Syria.

Fourteen of the students have been held in jail since their initial detention in March when police stormed students’ dormitories at Bogazici University, in a case that has outraged activists.

Dozens gathered outside the main Istanbul courthouse as the trial got underway, unfurling banners such as “freedom for Bogazici” and “a right to education cannot be blocked”.

The accused face jail terms of up to five years if convicted on charges of propaganda for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), Doguscan Aydin Aygun, lawyer for the students, told AFP.

Turkey earlier this year successfully carried out a major incursion into the Afrin region of northern Syria with allied Syrian rebels, ousting the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) militia which Turkey brands a terror group and branch of the PKK.

A day after Afrin was taken, a group of students opened a stand on the campus handing out sweets they dubbed “Afrin delight” in memory of the

Turkish soldiers killed in the operation.

But another group however unfurled a banner reading “there’s nothing sweet about occupation and massacre,” in a show of protest.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan then slammed the anti-war students as “terrorists”.

Turkish prosecutors accuse the students of seeking to discredit the army and the state by portraying them as an “occupier” and as an “illegitimate force that uses violence.” Giving testimony in court, the students rejected the charges and denied shouting slogans in favour of the PKK.

“I didn’t praise violence or make terror propaganda,” accused student Sukran Yaren Tuncer told the judge.

“I shouted slogans like ‘shoulder to shoulder against fascism’ and ‘no war, peace now’. They are universal slogans and chanted in every demo.”

Authorities detained hundreds of people during the Afrin operation on terror propaganda charges for criticising the operation, raising new concerns about freedom of speech in Turkey.

Founded in the 19th century as Robert College, Bogazici University is considered a bastion of secular and Western-orientated education in Turkey.—AFP ■

Palestinian shot dead after throwing rock at Israeli soldier

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian who threw a rock at Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday was shot dead by a soldier, the Israeli army said in a statement.

It said the troops were on a search and arrest operation in the village of Nabi Saleh, northwest of Ramallah, when

they were attacked by at least 10 stone-throwing Palestinians who hit one soldier on the head.

The soldier hit by the rock then fired at the Palestinian who threw it, who was given medical treatment but later died, the statement added. Last month a soldier from the Duvdevan special forces unit was fatally

struck on the head by a granite slab thrown from an upstairs window during an arrest raid in the Amari Refugee Camp in Ramallah. Israeli forces regularly carry out night raids in Palestinian-administered parts of the West Bank to arrest suspects they accuse of militant activities against Israel.—AFP ■

Blast kills two at Afghan voter registration centre

KUNDUZ — A bomb blast at a voter registration centre in northern Afghanistan killed at least two people and wounded two others, officials said on Wednesday, the latest attack on a process already marred by violence.

The bomb was placed in a school used as a voter registration centre in Pul-e-Khomri, the capital of northern Baghlan province, provincial spokesman Mahmood Haqmal told AFP.

“One police and one employee of the election commission were killed and two police have

been wounded,” he said.

Baghlan police spokesman Zabiullah Shuja confirmed the incident, saying that police had launched an investigation.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack but the Taliban and the Islamic State group in Afghanistan have vowed to disrupt the parliamentary and district council elections scheduled for 20 October.

Wednesday’s attack is the latest assault on a voter registration centre aimed at deterring people from signing up for the

long-delayed polls. On 22 April a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a centre in Kabul, killing 60 people and wounding more than 100. The registration process was launched on 14 April, and as of Tuesday over five million people had registered to vote, according to the latest data released by the Independent Election Commission (IEC).

The IEC, which is overseeing preparations for the vote, hopes to register up to 14 million adults at more than 7,000 polling centres.—AFP ■



The Taliban and the Islamic State group in Afghanistan have vowed to disrupt the parliamentary and district council elections scheduled for 20 October. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trump-Kim summit venue in Singapore decided over security reasons

SINGAPORE — US President Donald Trump's administration, due to security reasons, has chosen a five-star secluded hotel on Singapore's Sentosa Island for next week's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a source familiar with the decision said on Wednesday.

US security authorities have regarded the Capella Singapore hotel, sequestered by forest and sea, as an ideal location allowing complete control of access to and from it, the source said.

"Singapore never proposed (the venue), the Americans chose it," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The White House announced on Tuesday the summit to discuss North Korea's denuclearization will be held at the hotel, which sits atop a small round hill on 30 acres of manicured grounds, with rainforest on one side and the South China Sea on the other.

The hotel, designed by British architect Norman Foster, is shaped like a figure 8 and is fronted by two beautifully preserved and restored old white colonial military buildings to welcome guests.



Photo taken on 31 May, 2018, shows the Capella Singapore, a luxury hotel on the Singaporean resort island of Sentosa. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

The hotel is owned by Pontiac Land Group, controlled by the Singaporean Kwee family.

The source said as North Koreans do not trust major international hotel brands, ownership of the hotel was a key factor.

It has 112 guestrooms, with rates starting at about S\$700 (US\$525) a night.

The most expensive of them are the Colonial Manors villas, which are

spacious villas coming with three bedrooms, a stately dining room, a study, lounge room and a mini lap-pool, and cost S\$15,000 per night to stay in.

Kim and Trump are likely to stay in different five-star hotels in town, with sources telling Kyodo News that the US president will be using the Shangri-La Hotel.

Singapore as the host is expected to pay

for North Korea's accommodation fees and other expenses associated with the summit on Tuesday, as the country is heavily sanctioned over its nuclear arms program and lacks foreign currency.

Sentosa Island is home to several resort hotels, the Universal Studios theme park, a casino and a convention centre.

The island's current name is derived from a

Malay word that means peace and tranquility.

However, its past name Pulau Blakang Mati was less auspicious, which means "island of death from behind." The island also has a history of being one-time haunt for pirates and a place where some civilians were massacred by Japanese troops during World War II.

The Singapore government has designated the island and Tanglin in mainland Singapore where many five-star hotels including the Shangri-La are located, as "Enhanced Security Special Event Areas," with beefed-up security for five days from Sunday.

It has also demarcated special zones within the areas to have more security checks on individuals and vehicles, and areas around the Capella Singapore hotel on the resort island are being subject to additional measures.

Before the White House announcement, the venue of the summit had been a closely guarded secret.

Some local and international media outlets had reported that the summit might be held at the Shangri-La, located in a posh residential area

in central Singapore as it had been favored by several US presidents in the past.

The Shangri-La also has experience in hosting a major regional security forum every year, and was the venue of a landmark meeting in 2015 between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Taiwanese counterpart Ma Ying-jeou.

The Capella Singapore came into the spotlight as a possible venue for the Kim-Trump summit when an advance team each from the United States and North Korea held their meetings there last week to make logistical arrangements for the historical event.

The location of the preparatory talks were also kept a secret and journalists only got wind of it because of tight security there.

More than 2,000 journalists are expected to descend on Singapore for news coverage of the summit.

A huge international media centre is being set up at the Formula 1 Pit building in the center of the city-state, where they are likely to be able to watch part of the event live.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY.NO. (021N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY.NO. (021N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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Abe heads for talks with Trump in US, G-7 summit in Canada

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe left Tokyo on Wednesday on a six-day trip to the United States for talks with US President Donald Trump and to Canada for a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

Abe will meet with Trump ahead of the US president's historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on 12 June in Singapore which is expected to focus on denuclearization.

"I would like to take a lead in discussions on North Korea (at the G-7 summit) along with President Trump," Abe told reporters at his office before heading to Tokyo's Haneda airport, adding he hopes the G-7 "will send the message that it is supporting the president in the run-up to the historic US-North

Korean summit."

On the economic front, "I will insist that the G-7, which has developed free and fair economic order, has to play its role for stability of the world economy," Abe said.

During his seventh meeting with Trump, at the White House on Thursday, Abe will seek to coordinate their policies towards North Korea and confirm close cooperation between the two allies, Japanese officials said.

Abe aims to remind Trump to bring up the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by the North in the 1970s and 1980s, which he views as one of the most important political issues for his administration, during the US leader's summit with Kim, according to the officials.

After once having canceled the plan to meet

Kim, Trump on Friday reinstated their summit. The decision came after a meeting in the White House with the North Korean leader's close aide Kim Yong Chol.

While economic sanctions will stay in place, Trump has said he does not want to use the term "maximum pressure" on the North. Abe aims to confirm Trump's true intention over the shift in rhetoric.

Amid a recent mood for dialogue between the United States and North Korea, Abe is expected to warn Trump, with whom he has established a rapport, not to ease the hardline stance against the North.

Later Thursday, Abe will travel into Canada to attend a two-day G-7 gathering in Charlevoix, Quebec, beginning Friday,

which will bring together the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and the United States.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who will chair the meeting, hopes to discuss topics such as gender equality, women's empowerment, clean energy and climate change.

But this year's G-7 summit is likely to be overshadowed by an intensifying trade dispute between the United States and the six other nations over Washington's 25 per cent steel and 10 per cent aluminum tariffs imposed on major trading partners as part of Trump's "America First" policy.

In a gathering last week, G-7 finance ministers lashed out at Washington's fresh tariffs, with French Finance Minister



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Bruno Le Maire saying the meeting has devolved into a "G-6 plus one."

The seven nations are also divided over Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, in which Britain, France and Germany are signatories.

On the security front, North Korea is likely to be high on the agenda in the run-up to the upcoming

Trump-Kim summit.

On Saturday, the final day, the G-7 leaders will hold an outreach session involving leaders of such countries as Argentina, Bangladesh, Kenya, Norway and Vietnam as well as the heads of international organizations including the United Nations and the World Bank.—Kyodo News ■

Singapore says foreign minister to visit Pyongyang

SINGAPORE, Singapore — Singapore's foreign minister will make a two-day trip to Pyongyang starting from Thursday, as preparations for a summit in the city-state between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un accelerate.

Vivian Balakrishnan will pay the official visit to the North Korean capital at the invitation of the North's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, Singapore's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The minister, who will be accompanied by foreign ministry officials, will also meet the North's ceremonial president Kim Yong Nam, the statement said.

It did not give details about the reason for the trip.

But preparations for the historic 12 June meeting between the US



Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.
PHOTO: AFP

president and North Korea's leader have been gathering pace, with the White House Tuesday revealing that it will take place on the resort island of Sentosa.

The leaders will meet in the luxurious Capella Hotel, which can be more easily secured than other parts of the city-state as it is distant from population centres.

Sentosa is home to palm-fringed beaches, casinos, tourist sites and some of the best golf courses in Asia.

The summit is taking place following a rapid détente between Pyongyang and Seoul and Washington.

Tensions had soared last year after the North conducted missile and nuclear tests.—AFP ■

Tender Announcement

Issuer	: Myanmar Distillery Co., Ltd.
Tender No.	: MDC/P&T/004-2018
Title	: (1) 1 New 20,000 bph Glass Bottle Liquor Production Line (Rising, Filling, Capping & Labelling) (2) 1 New 150 bpm Empty Bottle Inspection Machine (3) Fire Truck Water & Foam Tanker - 4,000 Liter with ladder
Tender Application Type:	Seal Envelope
Close Date	: 13-7-2018
Contact for	: U Zaw Ni Thauang, Ph : +95 9 505 7046,
Job Scope Detail	plant3@ibtcgroup.com
Address for	: Daw San San Oo, HOD, Audit Department, No.33, 6½ Mile,
Tender Application	Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP). The IDA No of the financing agreement is No-5727MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the Contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

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Sanjay Dutt should have played last portions in his biopic, says Salman

MUMBAI — Salman Khan has seen the trailer of “Sanju”, a biopic on friend Sanjay Dutt’s life, but believes the actor should have been a part of his story, particularly in the last portions.

Ranbir Kapoor has played Dutt’s role in the film, that chronicles his life from his young years to his life after jail.

“For ‘Sanju’, I was thinking why is somebody else playing this bit? The last 8-10 years, you cannot do justice to that. Sanju should have played the last bit,” Salman said in a group interview here.

“I have seen the trailer. Raju Hirani is a very sensible filmmaker so he has made a film,”

he added.

Asked if he is fine with a biopic on his life, Salman said, “No.”

When prodded further about an autobiography, Salman said, “No. I anyway say things openly... But I don’t want to do it.”

Salman, 52, is looking forward to his Eid release “Race 3” on 15 June.—PTI ■



Salman Khan. PHOTO: PTI



Photo taken on April 2011 shows iconic fashion designer Kate Spade. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Iconic designer Kate Spade found dead at N Y home with suicide note

NEW YORK — Iconic fashion designer Kate Spade, who has a popular clothes and accessories brand named after her, was found dead on Tuesday at her home in New York’s Upper East Side, local police said.

The 55-year-old hanged herself with a scarf in the bedroom of her home and left a suicide note, telling her teenage daughter

it was not her fault, according to local media reports.

The Kansas City Sun reported Spade’s sister as saying Spade had suffered from mental illness over the last three or four years, while The Baltimore Sun quoted a source as saying she was upset over “problems at home.”

Born in Kansas City in Mis-

souri in 1962, Spade served as the accessories editor at US women’s magazine Mademoiselle before founding the brand Kate Spade in 1993.

She built the label into a global brand with handbags, which have become accessible status symbols for many, and a variety of other products.

The Kate Spade brand was

acquired by Coach last year amid sluggish sales at department stores.

The brand website posted a message mourning the death of its founder, saying, “Our thoughts are with her family at this incredibly heartbreaking time. We honour all the beauty she brought into this world.—

Kyodo News ■

Orlando Bloom, Freida Pinto to star in ‘Needle in a Timestack’

LOS ANGELES — Actors Orlando Bloom, Freida Pinto, Leslie Odom Jr and Cynthia Erivo have joined the cast of time-travel drama “Needle in a Timestack.”

Bron Studios has come on board to produce the project, reported Deadline.

John Ridley will direct and is adapting from a short story by Robert Silverberg.

The movie follows a couple struggling to save their marriage in a world where time travel is possible, and the past and present are ever fluctuating.—PTI ■

Cory Hardrict to star in ‘The Outpost’

LOS ANGELES — “American Sniper” actor Cory Hardrict is set to star alongside Scott Eastwood and Orlando Bloom in “The Outpost”.

Rod Lurie is directing the World War II film, which also features Caleb Landry Jones, reported Variety.

The film is based on Jake

Tapper’s book and will chronicle the true story of the 53 US soldiers who battled a force of some 400 enemy insurgents in northeastern Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

The film is scheduled to begin production in August.—PTI ■

Carrie Fisher regretted revealing affair with Harrison Ford, claims brother

LOS ANGELES — “Star Wars” alum Carrie Fisher regretted opening up about her affair with co-star Harrison Ford, her brother Todd Fisher claims in a new book.

The veteran actor, who died at the age of 60, had confessed about her “intense” secret affair with Ford on the sets the sci-fi film in her book “The Princess Diarist”, which released five weeks before her death in 2016.

Fisher revealed about the whirlwind three-month romance, which took place when she was 19 and Ford was a 33-year-old married father of two.

But in her brother Todd’s new memoir “My Girls: A Lifetime with Carrie and Debbie”, he claims their mother Hollywood veteran Debbie Reynolds had warned her against making a disclosure about the affair.

“Neither (Fisher and Ford) of them had any illusions that they had a future together. They were simply acting on a strong mutual attraction while making a



Carrie Fisher. PHOTO: PTI

movie together; as if that’s not one of the oldest stories in Hollywood. “What Harrison and everyone else may not know is that Carrie went to mom right after the book became such a big deal and said, ‘You were right, I shouldn’t have told that story.’ For what it’s worth, Harrison, she really did regret telling the story of that affair,” Todd Fisher writes in the

new book.

Fisher died on 27 December, 2016 and Reynolds, aged 84, passed away a day after her daughter’s demise. Todd Fisher says their mother could not bear the thought of his sister being alone that she “willed herself” to die a day after. “I want to be with Carrie,” he recalls Reynolds as saying.—PTI ■



In the mid-1990s the village, which once had as many as 3,000 residents, was largely abandoned in favour of a neighbouring town on the island. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mother Nature runs wild on China's emerald isle

SHENGSHAN — China's rampant development has sent nature into full retreat, but in one village the countryside has crept back to reclaim lost ground.

Houtouwan was once a thriving fishing community of sturdy brick homes clinging to the steep hills of the island of Shengshan.

But it's now abandoned, with entire houses completely overgrown as if shrink-wrapped in a lush layer of green.

The only thing disturbing the bush's re-conquest of the village are the crowds of tourists drawn to the remote site 140 kilometres (87 miles) from Shanghai by its fairy-tale setting and East China Sea vistas.

Houtouwan was established in 1950 and prospered over the

decades on the sea's riches.

But its tiny harbour eventually proved too small for the larger vessels needed to sustain fishing, and the ships were diverted to nearby ports instead.

The big seas that lash the coast at certain times of the year often made it too dangerous to land small craft, meaning the only connection to other communities on Shengshan was a strenuous trek up a steep, winding path.

"Giving birth, children going to school, when old people got sick — all we had was that small path. It took too much effort," said a woman who gave only her surname Wang.

The former resident, now in her 40s, only returns these days to earn extra money as a safety

officer, keeping an eye on the tourists. "It was a lot of fun when we were young, going down to the beach to collect seafood," she said.

But by the mid-1990s the village, which once had as many as 3,000 residents, was largely abandoned in favour of a neighbouring town on the island.

"Once people had more money, they all moved out one after another up into the town. That how it was," Wang said.

In recent years, selfie-snapping day-trippers could roam freely through Houtouwan.

But since last year local authorities have charged 50 yuan (\$7.80) for entry, while confining tourists to a single circular walking loop through a village frozen in time.—AFP ■

Recycling plastic — Japan style

TOKYO — At a recycling plant outside Tokyo, workers in face masks pick through an unending torrent of plastic rubbish, fuelled by a national obsession with pristine packaging — and famously strict rules that ensure much of it is reclaimed and reused.

Some 10 tonnes of recyclable plastics are brought in every day to be processed at the Ichikawa Kankyo Engineering centre, where workers hover over conveyor belts removing any stray items or contaminants.

The plastic is then compressed and squeezed into huge "bales", moved around by forklift trucks into large hangars.

Critics charge that Japanese consumers and retailers use too much plastic, as a mania for elaborate packaging results in almost everything being wrapped — even single pieces of fruit.

There is no national legislation banning single-use plastics, and penalties or disincentives for using plastic bags are rare.

But Japan also has complicated and strictly enforced rules on separating waste to help maximise the reuse and recycling of

garbage. Local governments across Tokyo and the rest of Japan each have their own rules on how residents must separate their waste, producing flowcharts that explain which items fit into which category. Plastics are separated from cans, paper and other recyclables, with collections for different categories on different days of the week.

Most at a minimum have categories for burnable, unburnable, recyclable and plastics, with many also requiring people to separate out cardboard and different types of plastic.

That ensures more than one fifth of plastic waste is recycled in Japan and the majority of the rest is burned either as fuel, or to generate power or heat, according to the Plastic Waste Management Institute. Around 10 per cent is incinerated without producing any energy and less than 10 per cent ends up in landfill. About eight million tonnes of plastic waste are dumped into the world's oceans every year, the equivalent of one garbage truck of plastic being tipped into the sea every minute of every day.—AFP ■



A forklift moves compressed bales of plastic at a recycling plant outside Tokyo. **PHOTO: AFP**

Van Gogh painting sells for over seven million euros

PARIS — A painting by a young Vincent Van Gogh was sold at an auction in Paris on Monday for more than seven million euros (\$8.2 million), the Artcurial auction house said.

"Raccommodeuses de filets dans les dunes" (Women mending nets in the fields) dates from 1882 and was bought by an American collector in a hot bidding battle that boosted the selling price far above the estimated value of between three to five million euros.

"It's a world record for a Van Gogh landscape, in the



The painting "Raccommodeuses de filets dans les dunes" (Women Mending Nets in the Dunes) by Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh was presented at Artcurial auction house in Paris in March. **PHOTO: AFP**

Dutch period, sold at auction," Artcurial said.

"There are no more than two or three auctions of Van Gogh works in the world each year," the auction house added. In France, Monday's event was the first auction of a painting by the Dutch artist in more than two decades.

Van Gogh painted the work early in his career when he was 29 years old.

"We already find all the characteristics of a Vincent painting, especially his treatment of landscape... a remarkable work, a milestone in the

artist's career," said Bruno Jaubert, associate director of modern art at Artcurial.

It was the only landscape Van Gogh did at the time, painted in the countryside near The Hague, Jaubert said.

The former owner was a European collector who had lent the work to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam for eight years until 2015.

The last sale at a Paris auction of a Van Gogh painting was in the mid-1990s of his "Le Jardin à Auvers" (The Garden at Auvers) which went for \$10 million.—AFP ■

Sagaing beats Yadanabon, steps up to quarterfinals

SAGAING United advanced to the quarterfinals of the General Aung San Shield 2018 (Second Stage) yesterday by beating well-known Yadanabon FC at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon by a score of 2-1.

Yadanabon FC lined up with goalkeeper Chan Nye-in Kyaw, Thein Than Win, Ye Yint Aung, Captain Ye Ko Oo, Si Thu Aung, Thet Naing, Myo KoTun, Hlaing Bo Bo, Myat Kaung Khant, Win Naing Soe and Nay Myo Aung.

Sagaing United lined up with keeper A Zin Hmue, Thiha Thu, Wai Phyo Thu, Thet Naung Htwe, Aung

Hlaing Win, Thant Zin Win, Friday, Thiha Zaw, Captain Mandjombe, Kyaw NaingTun and Bamba.

Both teams played with energy from the start. Sagaing United had prepared well for yesterday's match, exhibiting flawless defence and good tackling.

The first half ended in a scoreless tie, forcing both teams to step up their play in hopes of scoring the match's first goal.

At the 53-minute mark, Sagaing scored the opening goal with a kick by Pyae SoneAung, who was also shown two yellow cards in the second half, forcing the team

to play with just 10 players till the end of the 90-minute mark.

Although Sagaing lacked a player, they responded well with good defence, but at 70 minutes Yadanabon equalised with Thein Than Win's goal.

Just before the final whistle, Sagaing's brilliant young player Thiha Zaw scored the winning goal with a quick action that shocked Yadanabon keeper was unable to block.

In the quarterfinals of the General Aung San Shield 2018, Sagaing United will play against Hanthawady United.

— Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

AFC "A" coaching certificate course to be held in Yangon

AN AFC "A" Coaching Certificate Course will be launched for football coaches at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon from 4 to 30 September, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The AFC 'A' Coaching Certificate course is for coaches who already hold both the "C" and "B" Coaching Certificates. In addition, they must have at least one year's coaching experience and possess moderate English and presentation skills. Attaining the "A" Coaching Certificate is the first requirement for those who wish to become professional football coaches.

The selection of participants will be based solely on the recommendations of the instructors.

The duration of the course is

27 days, with a minimum of 148 hours, said an official.

The course is designed to educate coaches in tactical and advanced technical requirements of teams and team management.

Instruction in the physiological and psychological needs of the players are part of the module, and are important to enhance the coaches' understanding of the game at this level.

Students are examined on the practical and theoretical aspects of the game, and are required to submit and present a dissertation, he added.

Those interested need to submit an application form to the MFF no later than 20 June, according to the MFF.

— Lynn Thit(Tgi)■

Manchester United agree deal to sign Brazil midfielder Fred

LONDON — Manchester United announced on Tuesday they have agreed a deal to sign Brazilian international midfielder Fred from Shakhtar Donetsk as Jose Mourinho seeks the magic formula to topple Premier League Champions Manchester City.

The 25-year-old will cost the English giants a reported fee of more than £50 million (\$67 million) and give Mourinho a powerful-looking midfield, with the Brazilian set to slot in alongside Paul Pogba and Nemanja Matić.

United announced the deal in a brief statement on their official website, which read: "Manchester United is delighted to announce it has reached agreement with Shakhtar Donetsk for the transfer of Frederico Rodrigues de Paula Santos (Fred).

"A further announcement will be made in due course."

Fred becomes the first major summer signing by United boss Mourinho, who is also reportedly closing in on a deal for Porto defender Diogo Dalot.

United finished second in the Premier League behind City but were a whopping 19 points behind their fierce rivals.

Despite their highest league finish since Alex Ferguson retired, Mourinho was



Brazil's midfielder Fred is joining Manchester United. PHOTO: AFP

heavily criticised for adopting cautious tactics in several big games as United were often made to look ponderous in comparison to stylish City's commitment to attack.

And beating City to the signature of Fred, who was a target for the English champions in January, could prove to be a significant first step.

Fred caught the eye in Shakhtar's run to the last-16 of the Champions League, where

the Ukrainians only lost out on away goals to Roma.

A stunning free-kick in the first leg of that tie was a glimpse of what Fred's talented left foot can produce. However, he is far more of a creator than goalscorer as his record of just 15 goals in five years at Shakhtar suggests.

Midfield boost

United are in need of midfield reinforcements with Mi-

chael Carrick retiring and Marouane Fellaini out of contract.

Mourinho's task will now be to harness Fred's passing ability, while also finally getting the best out of Pogba in his third season since an £89 million move from Juventus.

Fred will hope to make the same impact on the Premier League as Brazilian international team-mates Willian and Fernandinho, who also arrived in England via spells with

Shakhtar.

United fans are unlikely to get much of a glimpse of Fred at the World Cup in Russia, though, as he is yet to start an international under current coach Tite.

Handed his debut by Dunga in 2014, Fred's international career was disrupted after testing positive for the diuretic hydrochlorothiazide during the 2015 Copa America.

He was banned from international football for a year by South America's governing body CONMEBOL, but only missed four months for Shakhtar as FIFA did not extend the ban to cover all confederations until February 2016.

Fred did not return to the national team until a 3-0 friendly win over Russia in March and Tite was keen for his transfer to be completed before the World Cup starts on 14 June.

"Players are always thinking of their careers. What you say is please resolve it as soon as possible so we can get them focused back on the task in hand with the national team," he said after Saturday's 2-0 win over Croatia at Anfield, in which Fred featured as a substitute. "If I was a club manager, I would be looking to sign him."—AFP ■