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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor separately receives Special Envoy of UNSG, European Commission delegation

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar

yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw to hear the envoy's feedback at the conclusion of her first visit.

During the meeting, the Special Envoy shared her experiences and general views

after discussions with government ministries and civil society organisations as well as affected communities in Rakhine State. The Special Envoy expressed her recognition of the Myanmar Government's

efforts on Rakhine State, including preparations for repatriation and resettlement process, and the complex and sensitive situation of Rakhine State.

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Preparation meetings for Union Peace Conference continue

The Government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw met for a third day at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in preparation for holding the third session of the Union Peace Conference — 21st-Century Panglong.

It was attended by Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) secretaries U Khin Zaw Oo, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Zaw Htay, U Aung Soe and UPDJC members, representatives from the Government, Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw groups, and representatives of ethnic nationals and other groups.

Sector-wise discussions were held at designated places of the centre, and UPDJC secretaries U Khin Zaw Oo, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Zaw Htay, UPDJC member Brig-Gen Sein Tun Hla, UPDJC secretary U Aung Soe led the political, economic, social, security, land and the environmental sector discussions respectively with representatives of the Government, Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw groups, representatives of ethnic nationals and other representatives.

They discussed the political, economic, social, security, land and natural environment sectors.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session officially concludes

MPs discuss establishing a textile industrial zone, compensation for flood-stricken farmers, agricultural workshops

The 18th-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied to starred questions and the MPs discussed a motion.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Plans for textile and garment industrial zone

U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency asked whether there were plans to establish a garment industry zone and a textile industry zone.

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho replied that the Ministry of Commerce has drawn the National Export Strategy plan to promote Myanmar's exports across 11 sectors and its status in the global market. Among the 11 sectors, the garment and textile sector

is headed by No. (3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, operating under the Ministry of Industry. This includes transitioning from a cut-make-pack (CMP) system to an FOB (free-on-board/freight-on-board) system, implementing bonded warehouses, and constructing a garment and textile special industrial zone.

Regarding the Yangon and Mandalay regions, officials are discussing the site for constructing a special industrial zone. For now, they are partnering with private companies to build industrial

complexes and cluster factories on land owned by the Ministry of Industry. A budget proposal has been submitted for establishing a garment exclusive organisation on the 127-acre plot of unused land at No. (1) Textile Factory (Shwetaung), owned by the No. (3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In the Sagaing Region, a textile industrial factory has been established at No. (3) Textile Factory, and its subsidiary factory is equipped with a hundred sewing machines that are producing ex-

port garments. Myanmar Textile Co. Ltd. will collaborate with Panda Textile Co. Ltd. and China Textile City Co. Ltd. to construct a textile complex at the site of No. (2) Textile Factory.

The union minister said there are plans to construct a primary smart bonded warehouse on land owned by No. (3) Heavy Industries Enterprise in Thilawa Special Economic Zone that links with other warehouses throughout the country.

Claims of misdirected compensation regarding flood victims in Htigyaing, Sagaing

U Maung Maung of Htee Chint constituency asked if there are plans to return compensation for the April 2016 Ayeyarwady River flood victims in Htigyaing Township in the Mandalay Region, which was reportedly sent to the wrong list of people.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that the floods that occurred during April and May 2016 affected 520 farmers from 15 villages in Htigyaing Township in the Sagaing Region. The union government compensated some

Ks18.6 million for summer crops and Ks49 million for winter crops on 22 September 2016. A group of farmers, including U Thant Zaw Aung, reported that they did not receive compensation from the authorities. The group compiled their own list of losses with the signature of Doe Pin village-tract administrator and then submitted it to a social networking organisation in Htee Chint Village but did not send it to any official village or town administrators or farmland management committees. Investigations revealed that U Thant Zaw Aung and 30 of the farmers who made the claim had already harvested most of their crops before the flooding occurred, and they managed to harvest the rest of their crops after the floods subsided, incurring only minimal losses. The deputy minister said officials directly responsible for managing compensation have been penalised, but there are no plans to give compensation to the farmers, who made the claims, as it is impossible to reassess the flooding effects.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw concludes its Eighth Regular Session

THE 18th-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday.

Officials replied to starred questions, a report was read, MPs discussed a report on motions and questions asked, and the assembly's approval was garnered.

Villagers in Magway face eroding river banks

Dr. Kyaw Ngwe of Magway constituency (10) asked if national support can be given to Myedaw, Nayin, Sinte, and Nweni village tracts located beside the Ayeyarwady River in Yesagyo Township in Magway Region. He said the villagers are facing erosion from the river and are constructing their own make-shift dykes and embankments. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo replied that they have submitted a budget of Ks350 million for the Magway Region Government's 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. He said the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Sys-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

tems will manage the situation if the budget is approved.

Appointing sports instructors in government schools

U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency (8) asked if there are plans to appoint recent sports science graduates from six major cities, including Yangon and Mandalay, in vacant sports instructor positions in government schools across Myanmar.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that sports instructors cannot be appointed in primary schools as

it is not defined in the constitution, but sports science graduates who also hold a degree in another field of study can apply for middle school sports instructor positions. He said they are working to appoint 250 B.Sc (Sports) graduates in the current Fiscal Year.

Similarly, the Deputy Ministers for Defence and Education replied to questions put forward by U Sai Wan Hlaing Khem of Shan State constituency (3), Daw Htu May of Rakhine constituency (11), Naw Chris Tun, alias Dr. Arkar Moe, of Kayin constituency (7), and Daw Than Than Aye of

Magway constituency (7). Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Brig-Gen Tint Lwin read the committee's report on the Condominium Bylaws, sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. MPs then discussed a report by the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee on motions and questions submitted during the Second Amyotha Hluttaw Eighth Regular Session.

Tatmadaw MP Major Kyaw Soe Oo said he approved the committee's actions in discovering and verifying the necessities of the public. U Khin Myo Win of Taninthayi constituency (12), U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency (2), and U Hla San of Magway constituency (1) further discussed the report.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker reviews Eighth Regular Session

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then gave a review of the undertakings of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session.

He said MPs asked 86 starred

questions and 124 non-starred questions and were answered by ministers and officials from state and region governments.

The Amyotha Hluttaw discussed motions concerning government implementation of Good Agriculture Practices (G.A.P) throughout the country, the Myanmar Accountancy Council Bill, Science Technology and Innovation Bill, the Second Bill to amend the Civil Services Personnel Law, Myanmar Red Cross Bill, the fourth Bill to amend the Anti-Corruption Law, the Bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law (2017), Myanmar Historians Bill, Forestry Law, Television and Radio Broadcasting Bill, Television and Video Bill, Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits Bill, Myanmar Dental Council Bill, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bill, Traditional Medical Council Bill, the Settlement of Labour Dispute Bill, the 2017 Land Confiscation Bill, and the Condominium Bill.

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State Counsellor separately receives Special Envoy of UNSG, European Commission delegation

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She also underlined the necessity to create conducive environment for returnees due to deep rooted division of the two communities, importance of freedom of movement and security, and urgency to implement the MoU signed with UNDP and UNHCR.

The State Counsellor explained that the confidence building between the communities requires patience and time, and the United Nations needs to support in those efforts. She stated that the mistrust between the two communities exists for decades. The incidents in 2012 deteriorated and the terrorist attacks by ARSA in 2016 and 2017 further worsen the situation. She pointed out that the people dare not to commute in Rakhine State due to the lack of security, not because of the lack of freedom



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with a delegation led by Mr. Pierre Amilhat from European Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

of movement, and the Government, therefore, has been focusing on rule of law and development in Rakhine State. The

State Counsellor also pointed out that the hate narratives from outside the country has driven the two communities

further apart and stressed the need to focus on how to resolve the issue with forward looking approach.

State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the Delegation led by Mr. Pierre Amilhat, Director for Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission at 15:45 hrs. on 20 June 2018 at the the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed the matters 9018 .on enhancing cooperation between Myanmar and EU in the areas of education, women empowerment and vocational training. They also exchanged views on possible areas of cooperation in the sectors of horticulture, agriculture and water management.

The meeting was also attended by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA ■

71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee holds First Coordination Meeting

VICE President U Myint Swe, Patron of the 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee, addressed the first coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The first meeting came after the 71th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee, working committee and security committee were formed in accordance with Notification 43/2018 dated 8 June 2018 issued by the Office of the President.

"With a view to awakening patriotism in youths and so as not to forget the gratitude of the fallen martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Independence, Martyrs' Day ceremonies are held annually and the coming ceremony turns 71 years", said Vice President U Myint Swe in his address.

Vice President U Myint Swe is the patron of the central committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko is the chairman of the 18-member committee.



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the first coordination meeting for holding 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The 26-member working committee is led by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, while the 16-member security committee is chaired by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu. The committees are assigned to perform with 12 tasks.

To implement the tasks successfully, eight sub-committees have been formed.

On the coming 71st Martyrs' Day, a ceremony to offer soon (a day meal) to Members

of the Sangha dedicated to the fallen martyrs will be held both in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, and respective committees are urged to coordinate with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Yangon Region Government, said the Vice President.

He also urged participants to carry out rehearsals for flag hoisting and saluting ceremonies at the Secretariat Building in Yangon and to make arrangements for the opening the Secre-

tariat Building's meeting room where General Aung San and other leaders were assassinated 71 years ago on 19 July.

The Bogyoke Aung San Museum will be opened to the public on 19 July.

The Vice President also urged the security committee to coordinate with others to carry out its 12 tasks successfully.

He also urged the Ministry of Information to make arrangements for covering articles and interviews on Martyrs' Day, to

conduct essay contests, to broadcast and publish General Aung San's speeches, Martyrs' Day commemorative songs and to show documentary films in the state-run broadcast and print media.

Following his address, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein reported on the formation of committees and the progress of work for organizing the Martyrs' Day and future tasks.

Joint Secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee U Than, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Aung Myin Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, directors-general of the departments concerned, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Soe Moe and officials concerned reported on measures taken sector-wise.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Vice President U Myint Swe.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends Gems Emporium

VICE President U Henry Van Thio attended the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The emporium was organized by the Myanmar Gem Emporium Central Committee.

The event was also attended by Chairman of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee U Kyaw

Thiha, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, members of the Nay Pyi Taw council, members of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Association, foreign and local gem traders, local and foreign media and officials. The officials of the central committee made a presentation to Vice President U Henry Van Thio on the emporium with a video presentation.

The Vice President then observed the jade and gem lots and the Myanmar pearl lots displayed at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

The Myanmar Gems Emporium has been held since 1964 and



Vice President U Henry Van Thio looks at jade stones displayed at the 55th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

the 55th Gem Emporium continues till 29 June.

During the emporium, raw jade, finished jade, gemstones, finished gems, jewellery, sculptures, solids, gem paintings, and pearl lots will be sold under an

open tender system. A total of 360 pearl lots will be sold on 20 and 21 June and 336 gem lots will be sold on 23 June, whereas 6,795 jade lots will be sold from 24 to 29 June through the open tender system.

The list of tender winners for Myanmar pearl lots Nos.1 to 120 was released yesterday and the tender winners list for pearl lots Nos.121 to 240 and lots Nos. 241 to 360 will be released today. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar receives Best Booth Operation Award

MYANMAR received the Best Booth Operation Award at the 33rd Korea World Travel Fair, which was held from 14 to 17 June at the COEX Convention and Exhibition Centre in Seoul, South Korea.

Led by South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO), 33rd Korea World Travel Fair was organised by KOTFA Co. Ltd., in cooperation with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)

and the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA).

A total of 70 countries' tour agencies and over 500 companies participated and displayed their regional tours and culture at the event. The aim of the fair is to promote Korea's inbound, outbound and intrabound tourism, and to network and search for local and global tourism markets.

Led by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Myanmar Tourism Marketing (MTM), Lotte Hotel and Wyndham Grand Yangon

Royal Lake Hotel participated and represented the Myanmar booth at the event and got the Best Booth Award.

A total of 54 organisations from 34 countries took part in the event and the Best Booth Operation Award was presented for the best display and presentation on their country to the visitors.

The Myanmar booth displayed the background designs of Myanmar's tour destinations, scenery, culture, beaches and traditional foods and vegetables.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Participants discuss the economic sector in preparation for the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong (Third Session). **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Preparation meetings for Union Peace Conference continue

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"Economy is important for our future federal Union. We have achieved progress in discussing basic economic principles to be submitted to the coming Union Peace Conference," said U Tin Htut Oo, a representative of the government group.

All participants in the economic sector discussed focusing on how to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in the best interests of all ethnic

people in regions and states, he added.

"All have the same opinion that private businesses are to have responsible and transparent investment," said U Tin Htut Oo.

In yesterday's meetings, they also discussed previous compilations and agreements, a paper of the New Mon State Party, a CSO Forum paper and suggestions for policies. The sector-wise meetings will continue today.—Myo Myint ■



Myanmar representative receives the Best Booth Operation Award at the KOTFA 2018 - 33rd Korea World Travel Fair in Seoul, South Korea. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF HOTELS AND TOURISM**

Imports outperform exports in bilateral trade with Singapore

MYANMAR'S imports from Singapore performed better than exports in April during the interim period prior to the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with exports being worth US\$76.6 million and the import value being \$281.4 million.

Bilateral trade between Singapore and Myanmar in April was worth \$358 million. Among regional countries, Singapore is placed second in bilateral trade after Thailand.

Fruits, vegetables, rice, corn, green grams and other pulses, ginger and flowers are exported to Singapore, while capital goods, raw industrial materials—such as petroleum products and chemicals, and consumer products are imported into Myanmar.

The bilateral trade value was \$3.83 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$2.96 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$3.69 billion in

the 2015-16 FY, \$4.89 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$3.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$2.82 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and some \$3 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

In addition to this, Singapore is the main investor with a capital worth \$2.1 billion brought into the country in the last FY. Three foreign enterprises from Singapore were approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission, according to statistics.

There were 26 hotels and apartments with investments from Singapore, according to the statistics of the hotels and tourism ministry.

Singapore was used as a capital inflow channel for Western countries during their period of economic sanctions on Myanmar. This resulted in Singapore becoming the top investing country in Myanmar.—Mon Mon ■

UMFCCI, KOAECA sign MoU to strengthen economic cooperation

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Korea-Asia Economic Cooperation Association (KOAECA) signed a memorandum of understanding on 19 June to strengthen economic cooperation between Myanmar and South Korea, exchange ideas among businessmen and share economic opportunities among both countries.

The MoU states that the UMFCCI and KOAECA will help arrange business trips for entrepreneurs, send economists to each country, hold economic cooperation events and facilitate bilateral trade and investment.

Many Korean investors are eyeing the Myanmar market. If Myanmar's strengths such as cheap labour force and

vacant land areas, and Korea's advanced technology and management are coordinated, the results will be successful, said Dr. Lee Nam Kee, chairman of KOAECA.

UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win said, "We would like to invite accountable and responsible investments from Korea. We hope to produce skilled local labourers through investments."

The MoU came into effect from 19 June 2018 and will last for three years. It was signed by Dr. Lee Nam Kee and U Zaw Min Win.

South Korea is listed as the sixth largest foreign investor in Myanmar. Investments worth over US\$3.8 billion were brought into Myanmar by Korea, as of May 2018, according to statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company



A man refilling the car with fuel at a filling station in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar imports 121,272 tons of fuel oil via sea routes last week of May

MYANMAR imported 121,272.44 tons of fuel oil, including 51,846.25 tons of oil worth US\$31,233,674 and 69,426.19 tons of diesel worth \$44,294,855, via the sea route between 27 May and 2 June.

This week, the imported fuel oil has increased by over 18,640 tons, while the imported diesel has also increased by over 30,820 tons compared to the previous week. Last week,

Myanmar imported over 33,200 tons of fuel oil and over 38,600 tons of diesel.

Myanmar also imported fuel oil weighing 150 tons and worth \$1,524,750 via the Lwejel border trade gate, and diesel weighing 48.715 tons and worth US\$4.778 million via the Muse 105 mile trade zone for re-export.

Recently, the local fuel oil and diesel market has been

cool in the Yangon market, with prices remaining stable.

According to private filling stations in Yangon, the price of a litre of diesel reached Ks920 in the retail market, while one litre of high quality diesel was sold for Ks930, 92 Octane for Ks880 and 95 Octane for Ks930.

The local fuel oil and diesel market is cool in the Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi markets.—GNLM ■

Individual cardholders import goods worth over Ks6.7 bn over two months

IMPORTS using individual trading cards (ITCs) from 1 April to 8 June, during the six-month interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 fiscal year, were valued at Ks6.77 billion, according to the statistics of the commerce ministry.

Meanwhile, individual cardholders traded goods worth over Ks8.6 billion over the two months. The exports were worth Ks1.83 billion. Traders holding ITCs export goods through the Tamu, Tachilek, Reed, Mawtaung and Kengtung border gates. The

trade values of individual cardholders were registered at Ks1 billion at Tamu, Ks12 million at Muse, Ks5.8 billion at Myawady, Ks24 million at Tachilek, Ks226 million at Kanpikete, Ks217.5 million at Kawthoung, Ks166 million at Reed, Ks1 billion at Mawtaung and Ks21 million at Kengtung gates.

The trade department has issued some 1,450 ITCs so far. The value of trade using the ITCs was over Ks737million from 21 November 2012 to 31 March 2013, over Ks6.6 billion

in the 2013-2014 FY, over Ks9.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, over Ks6.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, over Ks18.9 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and Ks45.9 billion in the 2017-2018 FY.

The trade department has issued trade cards to boost border trade. A businessman can trade Ks3 million worth of goods per day using the ITC, with the trade department granting trade values of up to Ks15 million per day, which is equal to a five-day trade value.—Ko Htet ■

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able to publish "Letter to the Editor"
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you submit a text longer than 500 words
please be aware that your letter will be
edited.

Migrant workers in Thailand need to register by 30 June

The Thai government has urged foreign workers to undergo nationality verification and registration at the one-stop service (OSS) centres not later than 30 June, so that they can legally work in Thailand.

After 30 June, illegal migrants and their employers will face heavy fines under the amended Decree Concerning the Management of Foreign Workers' Employment 2017, according to The Nation.

The announcement urges migrant workers not possessing a Certificate of Identity (CI) or passport, to get their work permit or Temporary Residence Permit (TR 38) legalised.

The CI processing is being conducted with mobile vehicles near Talay Thai seafood market in Samut Sakhon (Mahachai). To facilitate the workers, OSS centres are being opened where workers can apply for visas and work permits. Those who applied for CIs online can deposit 310 baht at the nearest 7-Eleven stores and other shops of the Counter Service Co. Ltd. and obtain their CIs at the nearest CI centres during the given period.

Those who do not have the required documents in hand,



Migrant workers sort out fish on a fishing boat in Thailand. PHOTO: AFP

as well as illegal migrants, will be allowed to go back to their motherland before 30 June, and if they want to keep working in Thailand, they can legally work only under an MoU system, according to the current conditions.

Thai authorities have requested Myanmar workers to dial the following contact number of the Myanmar Embassy's Labour Attache Office in Thailand for further information on CI: 0823531259.

The CI centres were

opened from 3 March 2017 for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, who are holding valid temporary passports, TR 38, and those who are listed with the Thai Labour Ministry.

The Thai government extended the set period from 31 December 2017 to 31 March 2018 to carry out nationality verification and registration. They made a final extension of the CI processing period up to 30 June 2018.

Thailand Portal The Nation stated that migrants

working without a permit or in unauthorised professions face fines ranging between 5,000 and 50,000 baht, deportation and a two-year ban from applying for a work permit. Their employers would be subjected to fines ranging from 10,000-100,000 baht per worker. Employers repeatedly violating the law could be jailed for up to one year and/or fined 50,000-200,000 baht per worker and could also be prohibited from employing any migrants for three years.—GNLM ■

Over 6 mln adults get access to formal financial services in five years

Over 6 million adults have accessed formal financial services within five years, according to a nationwide Making Access Possible (MAP) research, which was launched in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 June.

The MAP research operation was jointly implemented by the DaNa Facility, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Myanmar and Financial Regulatory Department, operating under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, while the Department for International Development (DFID) supported with funds for MAP.

The financial diagnostic provides the use of financial services nationwide, which is based on a comprehensive survey of 5,500 rural and urban households.

Adults with access to at least one formal financial product increased from 30 per cent

in 2013 to 48 per cent in 2018, which is an almost two thirds increase in financial inclusion. Largely driven by increased microfinance institutions (MFIs) and cooperative expansion, significantly more adults are using formal services for borrowing, payments and savings.

In the opening remarks, U Maung Maung Win, deputy minister for Planning and Finance, highlighted that the growth in formal financial inclusion was good. However, the public and private sectors need to have more knowledge about financial services.

"MAP's 2018 findings confirm the multi-faceted developments in Myanmar's financial sector and offer promise for continued financial inclusion expansion, as the financial industry gains traction with digital financial services," said Mr. Paul Luchtenburg, country coordina-

tor of UNCDF Myanmar.

From 2013, the broad formal finance access shifts are highlighted by an increase in bank depositors and payment transactions. Low, but meaningful, the adult uptake was 2 per cent for mobile money with rising potential to expand financial services to rural, remote and disparate households.

Access to informal services fell by 30 per cent from 10 million to 7 million adults in 2013 and 2018.

A significant increase in rural uptake of formal services outside banking was mainly driven by credit and savings with MFIs and cooperatives showing a double increase in this category of formal financial products.

Formal financial services are mainly employed for livelihood investments, education and living expenses. Informal financial services are primar-

ily applied for living expenses, coping strategies for unforeseen events (health issues) education, and livelihood investments. Moneylenders maintain a leading position among informal financial service providers.

Financial services (both formal and informal) are most commonly applied for consumption smoothing (living expenses), medical expenses, education and business investments.

Although there is evidence of lower poverty symptoms beginning from 2013, nearly half the adults experienced difficulties in keeping up with financial commitments. A large part of adults do not plan their expenditure. This is linked to a 66 per cent of the population that receives low (under US\$75 per month) and irregular income, thereby contributing to budgeting and cash flow challenges to service expenses.—GNLM ■

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung receives European Commission delegation

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung received a delegation led by the International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission's Director for Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific Mr. Pierre Amilhat and Head of the Unit of Southeast Asia and the Pacific Mr. Jean Louis Ville at the ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to cooperation between the Ministry of Border Affairs and UN organisations, international governmental organisations and International non-governmental organisations, cooperation between the Myanmar government and the European Union, as well as teaching the ethnic people in the border areas, in accordance



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talks with Mr. Jean Louis Ville from European Commission in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

with the policy of the Ministry of Education.

Further, they exchanged views and discussed matters related to the government's implementation of international peace affairs, reception of Myanmar citizens from displaced camps in the Thai-Myanmar

border, setting up accommodation for returnees in Rakhine State, assistance of the European Union for Myanmar's educational development and the forthcoming cooperation between the Ministry of Border Affairs and the European Union. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Universal Periodic Review — Myanmar Workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Universal Periodic Review (UPR) - Myanmar Workshop was held in cooperation with Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the Lutheran World Federation (Myanmar) at Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The workshop was attended by the Hluttaw representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, high-ranking officials from the departments and organisations, civic societies, chairman, members and staff of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, and the programme coordinator and staff of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) (Myanmar).

At the workshop, Chairman of the Myanmar National Hu-

man Rights Commission U Win Mra said, "As for the procedure of the UPR, Myanmar will have to undergo a third assessment of human rights situation in October or November 2020. That's why this workshop is being held with the aim of making preparations and discussing the implementation process of the proposals, which was made in the second UPR workshop. I would like to request all the representatives to take part in the discussion actively."

Programme Coordinator of LWF (Myanmar) Ms. Mariele Coren remarked on the proposals of the UPR and measurement of the LWF in Myanmar. According to the workshop agenda, member of the Myan-

mar Human Rights Commission U Nyunt Swe discussed the UPR, and UN's proposal on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. Deputy Programme Manager from LWF (Myanmar) U San Thein Maung discussed the implementation process of the UPR and its related works, and the Executive Director of Equality Myanmar U Aung Myo Min discussed the UPR process and the role of civic societies. Later, participants were divided into smaller groups to privately remark how and what organisations should implement the UPR's proposals.

The Universal Periodic Review — Myanmar Workshop will be held until 21 June. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Hluttaw representatives and attendees pose for the photo at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) - Myanmar Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar labour minister, Danish Ambassador sign letter of intent

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen at the ministry's hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to signing the renewal of the letter of intent between the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Myanmar, and the Ministry of Employment, Denmark, on capacity building for workplace safety and promoting health system inspection.

The Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Myanmar, and the Ministry of Employment, Denmark, had signed the letter of intent in 2015 for a three-year term,

which will be over in June 2018. It was signed yesterday for an additional four-year MoU to fulfil the needs of inspection capacity building on workplace safety and health systems, which will be included as new sectors after the Workplace Safety and Health Law is enacted.

Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen and Director-General U Nyunt Win of Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, signed the letter of intent.

The workplace safety and health inspection capacity for Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department will be theoretically and practically taught by experts from the Danish Working Environment Authority. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Thein Swe witnesses signing of the letter of intent by Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen and Director-General U Nyunt Win in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rainfall to increase in Kayin, Mon states in next two days

THERE is a likelihood of increased rainfall in Kayin and Mon states in the next two days, as the monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and neighbouring areas for today is isolated rain and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent, whereas for Yangon and neighbouring areas, it is

some rain and thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, and off and along the Mon-Tanintha Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 m.p.h.

The sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar's waters. The wave height will be some 9-11 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Tanintha Coasts and some 5-8 feet off and along Rakhine Coasts. —GNLM ■

Release of water via spillways does not mean dams have been damaged

THERE are more than 230 dams across the country, which are managed by the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department. Of these, the water level in 32 dams exceeded their full tank levels and overflowed on 14 June due to heavy rain falls brought by low-pressure weather depressions.

The overflow water in these dams goes through spillways into the rivers. In the rainy season, all dams nationwide are monitored by staff around the clock.

Officials of the dams release water to prevent damage to these irrigation facilities due to increasing levels of water caused by torrential rains.

Officials are monitoring water levels at dams in Kayin State, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Rakhine State, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions.

Keep a close watch on weather updates and warnings during the rainy season. People are urged not to believe any rumours when floods hit their areas. It is wrong understanding of the people that dams release water due to the damages at dams.

Flood control dams impound floodwaters and then either release them under control to the river or store or divert the water for other uses.

But now the rainy season is approaching, and we should be expecting heavy rainfall, lightning strikes, flash floods, and landslides, which are not new to our country.

Let us make sure that these inconveniences do not become disasters. Preparedness remains the best weapon against the worsening climate conditions.

Those living in flood-prone areas must be quick to vacate their homes when the need arises and should by now be well acquainted with the flood drill. It's the season.

Keep a close watch on weather updates and warnings during the rainy season. People are urged not to believe any rumours when floods hit their areas. It is wrong understanding of the people that dams release water due to the damages at dams.

While the officials are monitoring the situation, locals have been evacuated to safe havens to minimise any risk to life and property.

Engineers continually inspect the condition of the dams and they also stockpile emergency materials in order to be able to carry out preparedness in timely manner, if necessary. Machinery and labourers are arranged to be ready to quickly respond to any damage to dams.

When a dam drains out water from its spillway, an alert is made on radio, television and via social media through smartphones.

The release of water does not mean the damage of dam. The dams were constructed after carrying out a feasibility survey, ground survey, and geological and hydrological and meteorological studies. Hence, the dams across the country can resist floods and natural disasters.

Dams across the world, including Myanmar, actually help control devastating floods. They also help prevent the loss of life and property caused by flooding.



Smuggling of illegal drugs into Myanmar will wreak havoc

By U Zaw Zaw (High Court Advocate)

IN the backdrop of possible havoc on drugs and psychotropic agents, Myanmar is moving ahead with strong anti-narcotic drives as national duty collaborating and cooperating with local and international organizations.

Among the priority of tasks in the list of the President, the prevention of drug danger is included. National duty means the mission to be taken up by citizens of the country.

Psychotropic drugs include (a) Heroin; (b) Morphine; (c) Drugs that included (a) and (b); (d) Raw Opium or Refined Opium (or) Both; (e) Marijuana or Marijuana Extract or both; (f) Coca Leaf (g) Cocaine; (h) Drugs or psychotropic drugs notified through notification by the Ministry of Health and Sports. All sorts of psychotropic tablets are considered to be drugs being prepared with the chemicals from (a) to (h).

Breaking news of each day

It is disheartening to read drug bursts each and every day in the newspapers. The culprits happened to be the locals as well as the foreigners arrested with drugs, cash, small arms and ammunitions. Alarming, most of the drugs

busted were psychotropic substances.

Colorful indeed with red to green, most of the drugs were molded with (WY) initial. It is like a small pea weighing zero point one gram coming to a total of three gram for thirty tablets. As the drugs were originated from different sources, the size and weight is different to one another. The street value of a tablet stands out around MMK 5000 for the junkie. Due to the color, size, and price compounded with sneaky nature, the drugs easily sail into the hands of the addicts as well as to the naive and innocent public.

The chemicals and precursors are not found in the urban areas, but the dopes sneaked into the country through the border areas and the border gates of the neighboring countries.

Currently, the government assistance and aids such as that of fertilizers, pesticides, and agricultural implements are growing fast in the Myanmar border areas where the poppy cultivation was in business in the past. Moreover, the business in animal farming is also systematically supported by the government, and therefore, the drugs related precursors, chemicals and paraphernalia are strictly controlled in the bor-

der areas inside Myanmar.

Humanitarian consideration should be advocated

The greedy drug kingpins and drug lords should, with their own free wills, surrender the deadly pills into the hands of the authorities for the sake of saving vulnerable addicts. If they have no guts to face the legal officers, then they should destroy and wipe out the illegal dopes on humanitarian grounds to save lives.

A small amount of cash is handed down to the drug pushers and peddlers as earnings from dopes who then delivered to the addicts and druggies. Eventually, the small time crooks landed in the cells, and their remaining family members shattered like a crack mirror.

The acts of selling pills by petty culprits who follow easy money out of drugs are tantamount to destroying the innocent lives of junkies, who unfortunately could not stop using illicit drugs. Let us look into a setting and possible scenario such as that if there is no producer, then there will be no distributor; and then if there is no

It may be possible that if the drug users themselves come forward for their own sake and unveil the names of the drug peddlers, then the drug cases could be reduced. This is interrelated and entwined.

distributor, then there will be no drug user.

Drug peddlers

While serving as a lawyer, the author of the article has seen many young men and some middle aged people committed in drug cases. The sentences as punishment officially pronounced by the court to the wrongdoers are the same either to small time street drug dealers or the big drug linchpins with huge cache of narcotics, resulting with multiple, extended and repeated drug trade of the bigger criminals. If and when the law enforcing officials have been arresting larger drug dealers, then it might reduce the number of petty narcotic pushers.

It may be possible that if the drug users themselves come forward for their own sake and unveil the names of the drug peddlers, then the drug cases could be reduced. This is interrelated and entwined.

In keeping the cycle of drug trade alive, it is possible that a series of coercion and intimidation starting from the heavy narcotics producer towards drug whole distributor; from distributor towards small time street peddler; and then from peddler towards first time user might be going on in a hush-hush shadowy environment. In such scenario, the solution is that the helpless and vulnerable victim, at any level, must immediately report and seek help for the responsible narcotics agents.

Now the time is changing, as the government is providing rehabilitation with health care to addicts instead of punishing the unfortunates. The junkies mostly used amphetamine and methamphetamine according to the writer's experiences. There are motley assortments of drugs with different chemicals and compounds in the notorious drug circle.

Existing drug related law

THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES LAW (1993)

19. Whoever is guilty of any of the following acts shall, on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of an unlimited period:-

(a) Possessing, transporting, transmitting and transferring a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance for the purpose of sale;

(b) Offering for sale, agreeing thereto or communicating to market a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance;

(c) Concealing and causing to dissolve money, property and benefits derived from the commission of any offence contained in this Law, so that action may not be taken;

(d) Transferring and converting money, property and benefits involved in an offence, so that it may appear to have been acquired from a legitimate source.

20. Whoever is guilty of any of the following acts shall, on conviction be punished an unlimited period or with death:

(a) Production, distribution and sale of a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance;

(b) Importing and exporting a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance; communicating to affect such import and export.

Moreover, the following punishment is liable to the offenders.

22. If any of the acts provided in sections 16 to 21 have been committed under any of the following circumstances the offender shall be liable to the maximum punishment provided for such offence:

(a) Being a member of a local or foreign organization or group which commits crimes involving narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances or communicating with and participating in such organizations or groups;

(b) Handling and using arms or explosives in the commission of the offence;

(c) Making use of children who have not completed the age of 16 years in the commission of the offence;

(d) Committing or causing to commit an offence by making use of the influence or power of a public servant.

Conclusion

The writer of this article would like to conclude by urging all relevant people that this anti-narcotic drive is the matter of individual conscience in eradicating dopes in the country with a view to uplift the image of the nation.

Translated by UMT of Ahlon

Yoga is a valuable tool to increase physical activity and decrease noncommunicable disease

By Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

ROUTINE physical activity is central to life-long health and wellbeing. Among other benefits, adequate physical activity improves muscular and cardiorespiratory fitness, enhances bone and functional health, and helps prevent depression and promote mental health.

Crucially, it also reduces the risk of life-threatening noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, stroke, heart attack and diabetes – conditions that already cause an estimated 8.5 million deaths across the WHO South-East Asia Region annually.

As highlighted in WHO's recently released Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030, the routine practice of yoga – a 5000-year-old tradition – is a valuable tool for people of all ages to make physical activity an integral part of life and reach the level needed to promote good health. For children aged 5-17 that means at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous-intensity activity daily. Adults require at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity weekly.

As Member States across the Region strive to reduce NCD-related premature mortality by a quarter by 2025, and one-third by 2030, yoga's full potential should be harnessed. Importantly, and as outlined in a resolution unanimously endorsed at WHO South-East Asia's Regional Committee in 2016, doing so should be part of a wider push to promote physical activity as a key preventive health measure.

To that end, each of the Region's Member States must go from theory to practice and fully implement the multisectoral NCD action plans they have devised. That each Member State has now developed these plans – and has included specific points on promoting physical activity – is a tremendous achievement, but one that requires concerted efforts to ensure maximum impact.

Of specific focus in promoting physical activity should be engaging more vigorously across sectors, especially with planning authorities in urban areas. By creating open-air gyms, bicycle paths and running tracks, for example, urban environments can facilitate and promote physical activity, including yoga. That is particularly important given the sedentary lifestyle urban living too often encourages.

Schools also have a vital role to play. Promoting physical activity among students – for instance, by keeping facilities open outside of school hours, or ensuring time for structured free play – can help create healthy habits that last a life-time. The importance of an active lifestyle is a lesson every pupil should learn and be encouraged to fully embrace.

Notably, the impact of efforts to promote physical activity should be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis. Doing so will allow national authorities to gauge the impact of their interventions and implement the right mix of policies. Achieving the target of a 15% increase in physical activity by 2030 demands all Member States stay on track or correct course where necessary.

On the International Day of Yoga, the importance of routine physical activity that is integrated into our daily lives must be grasped. For people of all ages and all means, yoga is a valuable tool to increase physical activity and decrease noncommunicable disease, creating healthier individuals, communities and countries across the South-East Asia Region. ■

Committees meet to discuss maintenance of Hluttaw buildings



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivers the speech at the meeting on maintenance of Hluttaw buildings in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE central committee and working committees for maintenance of Hluttaw buildings, held a coordination meeting regarding maintenance of electrical, multimedia and communications systems and fire safety. The meeting was held inside the Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat spoke on the occasion. Union ministers and deputy ministers then explained the preparations being undertaken by the respective working committees. This was followed by concluding remarks by the Speakers.

Also present at the meeting were Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung alias U Tun Tun Hein, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo, departmental heads and officials of Hluttaw Offices.—MNA ■

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives head of UNESCO office in Myanmar



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint receives Ms. Min Jeong Kim, head of UNESCO in Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received a delegation led by Head of UNESCO office in Myanmar Ms. Min Jeong Kim at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the final review on the assessment of the Myanmar Media Development, coordination with the Ministry of Education

to conduct courses on Media Information Literacy for teachers at schools, promoting the role of women in peace processes, and assistance from UNESCO in the Rules of the Television and Broadcast Law and Communication Centres conducted by the Ministry of Information.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and other officials.—MNA ■

India traffic ban on Chin State bridge causes border trade chaos

COMMODITY flows that have been crippled by a temporary traffic ban on the Myanmar-India border bridge in Rihkhawdar, Chin State, have not recovered as the closure enters one month in duration.

India temporarily suspended motor vehicle traffic on the border crossing bridge between Myanmar and India as of 21 May, and the closure has caused financial difficulties for businesses.

As a result of the suspension, Myanmar traders stopped exporting betel nuts to India. In a desperate effort to keep trade moving, traders on both sides are now using carts drawn by men

to export and import goods over the bridge. "The amount of fertilizer we import from India has decreased from tens of thousands to 5,000 bags due to difficulties for transportation," said U Darth Khaing, a local trader.

Meanwhile, the Immigration and National Registration Department of Myanmar announced that they will change the currency for a border pass from Indian Rupees to Myanmar Kyats starting 20 June. Previously, the authorities collected 10 Rupees per person, 25 Rupees for a motorcycle, and 100 Rupees for a vehicle. The exchange rate for Myanmar Kyats to Indian Rupees

was around 20.026 yesterday.

It was reported that the temporary traffic limitation occurred because a VIP was expected to visit the Indian side soon. According to local authorities, some of the goods exported to India are considered illegal in India, though Myanmar legally trades them.

As the two sides have reached an agreement to mutually close the bridge temporarily, Indian authorities have allowed people to cross the bridge and carry their goods with carts. The move is meant only to limit the traffic, they said. When the bridge will reopen is uncertain.—Township IPRD ■

Israel's 70th Independence Day ceremony held in Yangon

ISRAEL'S 70th Independence Day ceremony was held at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon yesterday. Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and his wife Daw San San Yu attended the ceremony.

The ceremony opened with the Myanmar and Israel national anthems. Later, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Ambassador of Israel to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Zohar Zonshine delivered speeches.

Next, the Union Minis-

ter and the Ambassador took commemorative photographs, together with other officials. A dinner party was held for the officials attending the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone and wife; ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Myanmar; and representatives from the United Nations and guests.

—MNA ■



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi and wife Daw San San Yu welcomed by the Ambassador of Israel Mr. Daniel Zonshine. **PHOTO: MNA**

Schools reopen in flood-hit areas in Rakhine

A total of 395 schools were temporarily closed in Rakhine State because of intense rainfall and wind. However, from 18 June, all schools have been reopened, according to the Rakhine State Education Office.

A total of 29 high schools, 184 middle schools and 182 primary schools were temporarily

shut down due to the floods in the region and officials are estimating the losses incurred and preparing to replace the destroyed educational aids in the schools.

There was no complete destruction reported, but due to the floods, some schools lost desks, blackboards, and so on. We have cleaned the classrooms. Schools

were closed for three days and they are ready to be reopened, said an official from the Rakhine State Education Office.

Teachers from the Ministry of Education are also raising public awareness about precautions to be taken as a result of the flood and its consequences.—Aung Thura, Han Lin Naing ■

Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session officially concludes

FROM PAGE-2

The deputy minister then answered questions by U Steven of Kengtung constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency, U Sai Maung Pwint of Tang Yan constituency, and Dr. Daw Pyone of Indaw constituency.

The speaker then announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw had sent back with amendments the Forestry Bill and called for MPs who wanted to submit amendments to register their names.

Motion for agricultural workshops and seminars

U Tun Tun of Pwint-byu constituency tabled a motion urging the union government to manage agricultural workshops, training sessions, and seminars across the country.

U Win Win of Minbu constituency supported the motion saying that it would be immensely beneficial for the country, as 70 per cent of Myanmar's population works in agriculture and livestock breeding, which makes up 30 per cent of Myanmar's GDP. The motion was further discussed by eight MPs.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied to the motion saying that the Ministry

of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation facilitates seasonal crop educational classes, broadcasts a farmer channel, manages a call centre for farmers to ask important information, and updates their ministry's website and Facebook page for relevant agricultural information. He said he supported the motion, and it is well timed as the ministry is also working to hold agricultural training workshops, discussions and seminars.

Speaker U T Khun Myat called for the MPs to voice their opinion and then announced that the Hluttaw approved the motion.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivers concluding speech

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivered a concluding speech. He said that during the Hluttaw's eighth regular session, officials replied to 109 starred questions and 245 non-starred questions, 13 motions were submitted, including one important motion and one consolation motion, four motions for approval, three motions kept on record, one unapproved motion, one motion marked unsuitable for discussion, and four motions remained for discussion.

He said 37 bills were

discussed and of them, 14 bills were approved and 23 bills were pending discussion.

The speaker said the Pyithu Hluttaw put on record 18 formal congratulatory messages from international organisations to the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker, five trips abroad by the Pyithu Hluttaw MPs, and the oaths taken by 11 newly reinstated Tatmadaw MPs.

The speaker also said that the chairpersons' positions were assigned to the Hluttaw Rights Committee, Bill Committee, and the Hluttaw Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (which was given a

one-year extension), and secretary positions were assigned to the Investment and Industrial Development Committee, and the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee.

The speaker then said MPs should build trust with the public during the period before the next Hluttaw and collaborate with respective authorities in their hometowns for communal and national development.

The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker then announced that the eighth regular session of the Pyithu Hluttaw has officially concluded.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with HIV civil society representatives. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw deputy speaker receives civil society delegation

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received a delegation of HIV civil societies representatives, led by Phoenix Association, yesterday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Phoenix Association discussed matters related to HIV prevention and treatment, and the aid to be provided by the Hluttaw

to patients facing social problems, treatment-related difficulties and the legislative process for HIV infection control. Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee member Daw Phyu Phyu Thin and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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"Powdered milk beverage containing protein; Powdered milk beverage containing protein with chocolate flavor; Powdered milk beverage containing protein with caramel flavor; Powdered milk beverage containing protein with vanilla flavor" included in **International Class 29**;

"Powdered high-protein beverage; Powdered high-protein beverage with chocolate flavor; Powdered high-protein beverage with caramel flavor; Powdered high-protein beverage with vanilla flavor" included in **International Class 30**; and

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kmma@kcyangon.com
Dated 21st June 2018

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR

The foreign manufacturer Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing distributor form former Golden Key Co., Ltd. to International Co., Ltd.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Mikifos 40.8% EC	Chlorpyrifos 40.8% EC	Full	F 2016 - 1303

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing distributor.

Address - Golden Key Co., Ltd.
No. 258/262, 11th Floor, Strand Road
Pabedan Township, Yangon Region
Ph. 01-371 629

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EU issues statement on signing of Tripartite MoU, formation of Independent Commission of Enquiry

THE European Union Delegation issued a statement yesterday on its support for signing of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding and formation of Independent Commission of Enquiry by the Government of Myanmar.

The statement said the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding

on 6 June 2018 between the Government of Myanmar, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an important and necessary step to create conditions for the safe, voluntary and dignified returns of displaced people from Bangladesh. The European Union and its Member States now expect that the Government of Myanmar will provide the UN and other local and international partners unfettered access to Rakhine State without delay, said the statement.

Displaced people in Bangladesh need complete transparency to make informed decisions about their voluntary return, said the statement.

The EU also reaffirms its support for the full implementation of the recommendations as outlined in the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The European Union and its

Member States welcome the decision by President U Win Myint to set up an Independent Commission of Enquiry to investigate human rights violations in Rakhine State as a promising step, which should contribute to ensuring accountability for all human rights abuses committed in Rakhine state. The EU

looks forward to further details on the mandate and composition of the proposed Commission to conduct full, objective and transparent investigations, said the statement.

The European Union delegation in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Myanmar issued the statement.—MNA ■

Amyotha Hluttaw concludes its...

FROM PAGE-2

The Amyotha Hluttaw Committees held a total of 100 meetings. The Bill Committee convened 25 times, the Public Statistics committee convened once, Hluttaw Rights Committee convened once, the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee convened nine times, the International Relations and Hluttaw Relations Committee convened four times, the Non-Gov-

ernmental Organizations Committee convened three times, the Health, Sports and Culture Affairs Committee convened four times, Ethnic Affairs Committee convened twice, Farmer Affairs Committee convened six times, Women and Children Rights Committee convened four times, Educational Development Committee convened four times, Committee for Domestic Workers and Workers Abroad convened six times, Citi-

zen's Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee convened six times, Public Appeals Committee convened 11 times, Agriculture, Livestock and Waterworks Development Committee Convened four times, and the Construction, Industry, Electricity and Energy Committee convened four times.

The Department of Research, Public Affairs and International Relations issued three essays, the Info Note – Vol (2) and

Info Note – Vol (3) for the Amyotha Hluttaw period between 14 and 21 May and 22 May to 6 June respectively.

The Speaker announced that MPs asked 63 questions with 48 answered and 15 remaining for further discussions. He concluded by wishing the MPs a safe return to their homes and announced the official conclusion of the eighth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

Survey on farmland for building houses

SURVEYS have been conducted in Alegyone village, Gyobingyauk Township, Thayarwady District, in Bago Region, by the Township Farmland Management Committee yesterday morning.

According to the rural lease project, a chartered survey was conducted by a group led by a chairman of the township farmland management committee and

township administrator to grant permits for building houses on 11.450 acres of farmland.

The township administrator, a township chartered surveyor, officials from the township Forestry Department and officials from the township general administration department also participated in the survey.—Zeyar Tun (Gyobingyauk) ■

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacturer Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name-

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Mega Polo	Mega Nicole	Cypermethrin 2.5% + Imidacloprid 5%EC	Full	F 2018 - 1482
2	Mega Panda	Mega Mountain	Imidacloprid 2.5% + Pyridaben 15%EC	Full	F 2018 - 1484

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

Address - Mega Grow International Co., Ltd.
No.216/222, 9 - Floor, B8-C8, Bo Myat Tun Housing,
Bahabadoola Road, Pazudaung Township, Yangon Region,
Ph.01-292 772

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SEAMASTER VOY.NO. (1803/1804)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SEAMASTER VOY.NO. (1803/1804) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Ancient pagodas discovered in Nyaung U

TWO more ancient pagodas, believed to be from the 13th century, were discovered between Myaung and Laekan villages in Nyaung U Township, Mandalay Region, when the villagers cleared out grown vegetation from the area.

The number of ancient pagodas found in the site has now reached 13. The local monks and villagers, led by the presiding monk of Taikthit Monastery Chairman of the Township Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Pannathiri, are seeking ways to renovate the ancient pagodas without the assistance of the local government, but with the permission of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library (DANML) (Bagan branch).

Financial contributions from donors to ren-



Locals renovate ancient pagodas in Nyaung U Township, Mandalay Region.

PHOTO: YE WIN NAING/MDN

ovate the ancient pagodas are still required, said Ashin Sagara, patron of a local philanthropic organization from Bagan. "At present, seven donors throughout the country have already contributed money to renovate the seven pagodas af-

ter they read our donation request in the newspapers. Carpenters have been assigned specific renovation tasks by the DANML," the monk added.

Anybody can make cash donations, or donate much needed ma-

terials such as bricks, sand, stones, cement and quicklime, in order to help make the renovation process move along at a good pace. Those wishing to make donations can call phone number 09 204 2505.—Ye Win Naing/MDN ■

North Korea's Kim hails 'unity' with China in new visit

BEIJING — Kim Jong Un wrapped up Wednesday his third visit to China this year, declaring North Korea's unstinting "friendship" with Beijing in a show of loyalty to his main ally following a landmark summit with US President Donald Trump. The two-day visit was designed to reassure Beijing that Pyongyang will not neglect its interests as Trump and the young autocrat move into uncharted diplomatic terrain.

The performance is part of a delicate balancing act for Kim, who analysts say is seeking to play US and Chinese interests off each other while maintaining good relations with Beijing, his economic patron

and diplomatic protector.

China and the US both hope to see the Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons, but Beijing is concerned Washington and Pyongyang might move closer at its expense, a possibility that China sees as threatening to its economic and security interests in the region.

While China was not present at the 12 June summit in Singapore, it lent Kim a plane to travel to the city-state, a clear sign that it remains an influential force in the diplomatic shuffle.

The Cold War-era allies, which fought side-by-side against US-led UN forces and South Korea in



The first ladies of North Korea and China joined their husbands Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping at the gathering in Beijing. **PHOTO: AFP**

the 1950-1953 Korean War, have sought to repair ties strained by Pyongyang's nuclear tests and Beijing's support of subsequent UN sanctions.

Kim chose Beijing for

his first official foreign trip in March and met Xi again in May in the northeastern port city of Dalian.

Kim's agenda for Wednesday was not made public, but an AFP jour-

nalist saw a motorcade believed to be Kim's arriving at the airport, where his plane taxied onto the runway in preparation for take off.

During his meeting with Xi on Tuesday, Kim thanked China for "positive and sincere support and good help for the successful" summit with Trump, according to North Korea's official KCNA news agency.

The North Korean leader, who was greeted by a military honour guard and cheering children at the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday, said he valued the "recently strengthened strategic cooperation" between the two countries.

"He expressed the

determination and will to further develop the closer relations of friendship, unity and cooperation between the two parties and the two peoples of the DPRK and China," KCNA said.

Kim also invoked the "prospect for the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" following his meeting with Trump.

For his part, Xi told Kim that China "speaks highly" of his summit with Trump and he urged Washington and Pyongyang to implement their agreement struck in Singapore.

The Chinese leader vowed that Beijing would continue to play a "constructive role" in the nuclear diplomacy.—AFP ■

Cambodian opposition figure faces royal insult charge

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's former opposition leader faces royal insult charges punishable by a jail term, according to a court summons, the first prominent figure to be accused under the new law. The adoption of the law in February triggered alarm from rights groups who warned it would become another tool for Prime Minister Hun Sen to stifle dissent.

The strongman premier is seeking to prolong his 33-year grip on power in a general election next month and has used the courts to cripple his opponents. Since the lese majeste law was approved three people have been charged for Facebook comments deemed insulting to King Norodom Sihamoni, a symbolic head of state who has steered clear of politics since taking the throne in 2004. Now Sam Rainsy, the former leader of the banned Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), is under investigation after calling into question the authenticity of a public letter from Sihamoni urging people to vote. A prosecutor on Wednesday issued a warrant summoning Rainsy to appear in court next month

to answer questions over a "case related to insulting the king of Cambodia on a Facebook page", according to a copy of the document seen by AFP. On 6 June Rainsy wrote a post on his widely followed page calling Sihamoni's letter a "forgery" and "worthless" and speculating that it could even have been produced under duress. The palace denied the accusation. Rainsy faces up to five years in prison if found guilty. But he is not expected to appear in court as he lives in self-exile in France to avoid the mounting charges and convictions against him, which he says are politically motivated. His opposition party was dissolved under a court order last year as part of a sweeping crackdown. In recent weeks former opposition lawmakers — mostly those who fled the country in the wake of the crackdown — have urged voters to boycott July's poll in protest. Western democracies have withdrawn support for the July vote and the US sanctioned the head of Hun Sen's bodyguard unit last week for his alleged role in human rights abuses.—AFP ■

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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P

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C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Township, Yangon.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dated 21st June 2018

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"rental of pile-drivers; rental of rams [machines]; rental of pile-extractors; rental of earth augers; rental of construction machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of pile-drivers; repair or maintenance of rams [machines]; repair or maintenance of pile-extractors; repair or maintenance of earth augers; repair or maintenance of construction machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of cranes; repair or maintenance of conveyors; repair or maintenance of loading-unloading machines and apparatus; repair or maintenance of rock drills; repair or maintenance of mine borers; repair or maintenance of mining machines and apparatus; construction consultancy; rental of rock drills; rental of mine borers; rental of mining machines and apparatus; general building construction works; construction and maintenance services relating to civil engineering; dredging; scaffolding, earthworks or concrete construction; road paving; repair or maintenance of mechanical parking systems; repair or maintenance of mechanical bicycle parking systems; repair or maintenance of mechanical motorcycle parking systems" included in **International Class 37**.

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dated 21st June 2018

kmma@kcyangon.com

Trade Mark : 09-251022355

Michael Jackson's life to be turned into musical

NEWYORK — The life of Michael Jackson will be coming to Broadway in a musical incorporating the King of Pop's tunes penned by a leading US playwright.

Producers of the musical announced the project on Tuesday without revealing a title and said they aimed for a premiere in 2020.

The musical, which is being co-produced by the late King of Pop's estate, will be written by Lynn Nottage, a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Nottage, a professor in the theater department of Columbia

University, most recently won acclaim for "Sweat," a play about a blue-collar town in Pennsylvania that sees an eruption of ethnic tensions with immigrants as industrial jobs vanish.

The play, for which Nottage traveled to Pennsylvania to do first-hand research, premiered in 2015 and was later seen as a prescient look at the people who voted in President Donald Trump.

The Jackson musical will incorporate his music and feature choreography by Christopher Wheeldon, a prominent force in

ballet.

Wheeldon has written original works for the Royal Ballet in London based on Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale."

In New York, Wheeldon has written both a ballet and a musical based on "An American in Paris," Gene Kelly's 1951 movie inspired by the music of George Gershwin.

It remains to be seen how the upcoming musical will portray Jackson, who has largely been

seen as a tragic figure since his 2009 death, although the involvement of his estate raises expectations that the work will focus on the positive.

Jackson found stardom in his childhood as part of The Jackson 5 before achieving unprecedented success as a solo artist, with his 1982 "Thriller" remaining the top-selling album of all time.

Jackson died while under propofol, a powerful anesthetic administered by his personal doctor to help him sleep. The singer had been acquitted four years



US pop singer Michael Jackson, seen here in a picture taken in 2005, is the subject of a Broadway musical that producers hope to premiere in 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

earlier of allegations of child molestation, which he strenuously denied.—AFP ■

Will Ferrell to star in Eurovision comedy for Netflix: reports

LONDON — "Anchorman" star Will Ferrell is set to direct and appear in a Netflix movie based on the Eurovision Song Contest, a glitzy annual musical extravaganza known for its over-the-top costumes, media reports said on Tuesday.

The 50-year-old A-lister will also co-write "Eurovision" with Andrew Steele, former head writer of "Saturday Night Live," on which Ferrell starred for years.

Ferrell was reportedly inspired by a visit to this year's Eurovision and is thought to have been a fan since being introduced to the contest by his wife of 18 years, Swedish actress Viveca Paulin. The movie is being interpreted as an attempt by Netflix to appeal to its customers abroad. "The deal gives Netflix a comedy that will mean as much or more to an offshore streaming subscriber base more familiar with the song competition," said Mike Fleming Jr, film editor for entertainment website Deadline.

"And Ferrell becomes the latest feature comedy star to set a star vehicle at Netflix, at a time when star-driven comedies are struggling mightily on the big screen."

Other big name comics signed up for projects with the streaming service include Mike Myers, Adam Sandler, Chris Rock and Rob Schneider — all "Saturday Night Live" alums.

Eurovision, which began in Switzerland in 1956, remains

a relatively obscure event in the United States, despite past high-profile winners including Celine Dion and ABBA.

No release date has yet been set for "Eurovision," which would be Ferrell's second Netflix project after romantic comedy "Ibiza," which he co-produced though he did not appear in it. AFP reached out to Ferrell and Netflix but neither was immediately available to comment.—AFP ■



Actor Will Ferrell — shown here in 2012 at a press conference for the release of "The Campaign" — is reportedly working on a film for Netflix about the Eurovision Song Contest. **PHOTO: AFP**

Martin Scorsese to receive Lifetime Achievement Award at Rome Film Fest

ROME — Veteran director Martin Scorsese will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Rome Film Fest.

The announcement was made by director Antonio Monda and Laura Delli Colli, the head of the Fondazione Cinema per Roma, the festival organizers said in a statement.

Italian director Paolo Taviani will present the award to Scorsese, who is best known

for modern American classics such as "Taxi Driver", "Raging Bull", "Goodfellas", "The Aviator" and "The Departed". "I am extremely honored to bestow the Lifetime Achievement Award to a Cinema Master," Monda said.

"I am thrilled and moved to celebrate Martin Scorsese, not only as a great director but also for his extraordinary and priceless contribution to the rediscovery of great classic movies and,

most of all, of Italian Cinema," he added. Scorsese has long had ties to Italy as his grandparents on both sides had emigrated to the United States from Palermo, Sicily. His 2002 film "Gangs of New York", featuring Leonardo DiCaprio and Daniel Day-Lewis, was shot in Rome's famed Cinecittà studios.

The 13th edition of the famed film festival will run from 18-28 October.—PTI ■



Labour prime minister Gordon Brown made Alan Sugar, 71, a lord in 2009, but he left the party in 2015, citing its "negative business policies". **PHOTO: AFP**

UK TV star Lord Sugar accused of racism over World Cup tweet

LONDON — British businessman turned BBC TV star Alan Sugar came under fire on Wednesday after tweeting a picture of the Senegal national football team with the caption "I recognise some of these guys from the beach in Marbella".

The Apprentice presenter took down the post after being accused of racism, writing: "Seems it has been interpreted in the wrong way as offensive by a few people... frankly I can't see that but I think it's funny."

Alongside the picture of the Senegal team, Sugar also posted images of sunglasses and handbags for sale on a beach.

Actress Kelechi Okafor tweeted that Sugar was "constructing this joke on the premise that all black people look alike, are poor and cannot achieve social mobility."

"This is why I say that racism is too deeply ingrained

within the British psyche for certain people to even realise how damaging and hurtful their 'jokes' are."

BBC journalist Babita Sharma added: "A shocking, vile tweet that you take a screen grab of because you know it will soon be deleted."

Sugar responded: "If it so vile why have you retweeted it. You make me sick."

Sugar made his fortune as founder of electronics company Amstrad, and is estimated to be worth £1.15 billion (\$1.5 billion, 1.3 billion euros).

He was chairman of Premier League club Tottenham between 1991 and 2001, and has presented the British version of The Apprentice since 2005.

Labour prime minister Gordon Brown made Sugar, 71, a lord in 2009, but he left the party in 2015, citing its "negative business policies".—AFP ■

Artist Christo launches 7,500 floating barrels in London

LONDON — The artist Christo on Monday unveiled 7,506 coloured barrels floating on a lake in central London, a puzzling installation designed to stimulate debate as much as the senses.

“The London Mastaba” on the Serpentine in Hyde Park, a trapezium-shaped work weighing 600 tonnes, was launched with an air of mystery by the Bulgarian-born US artist.

Twenty metres high, 30 metres wide and 40 metres long, some may see the metal barrels and wonder if there is an environmental message, thinking of barrels of oil in the heart of one of London’s green lungs.

Visible from several hundred metres away, others will see a prism, giant pixels, or a simple geometric creation.

However, the work is open to all interpretations and comes with no message attached, said its 83-year-old creator.

“There are no messages: there is something in it to discover yourself. I cannot direct you.

You should develop your senses,” he said.

Christo is known for his contemporary artworks including “The Pont Neuf Wrapped” (1985), which involved wrapping the oldest bridge in Paris in polyamide fabric, and “Wrapped Reichstag” (1995), a similar project on the parliament in Berlin.

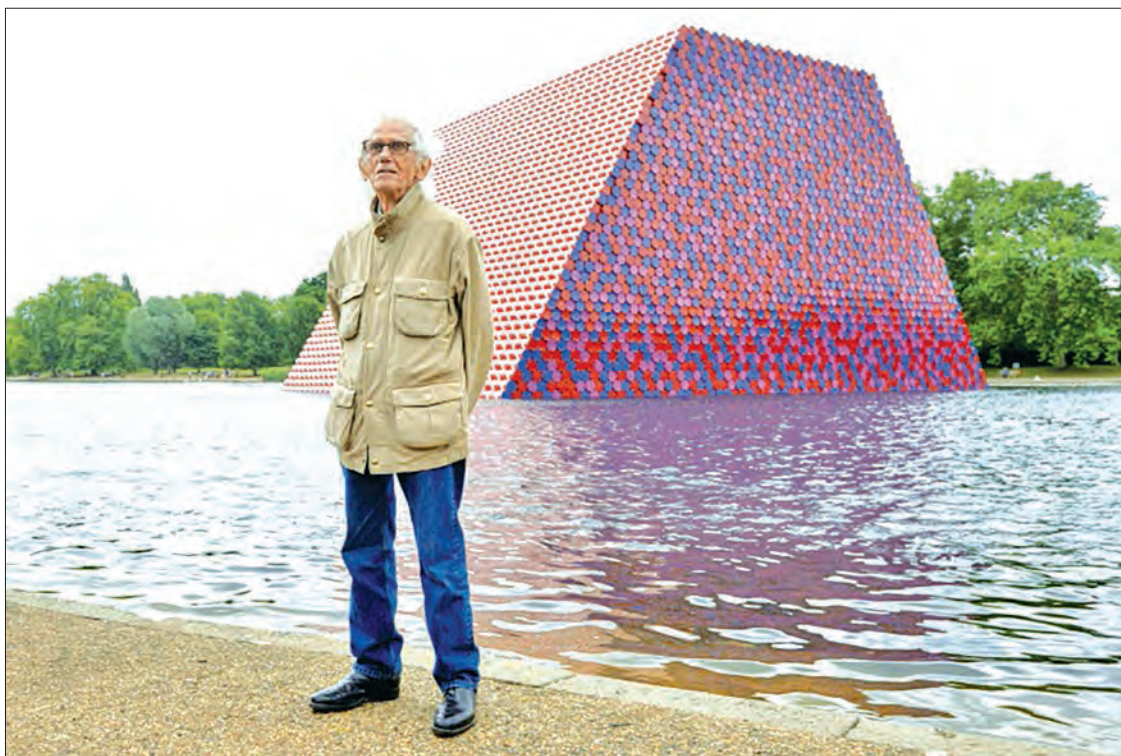
“It’s created an enormous invitation, like a stairway to the sky,” said the artist, on the banks of the lake popular with swans, ducks and tourists on pedalos.

Christo’s first major open-air art installation in Britain is in the shape of a mastaba, a type of ancient Egyptian tomb.

The floating platform is held in place with anchors.

Red with a white candy stripe on the sides, and blue, mauve and red on the ends, the barrels are a striking contrast with the lakeside surroundings.

“The colours will transform with the changes in the light and its reflection on the Serpentine lake will be like an abstract paint-



Bulgarian artist Christo Vladimirov Javacheff, better known as ‘Christo’, poses for a photograph as he unveils his artwork, ‘The Mastaba’ on the Serpentine lake in Hyde Park in central London. **PHOTO: AFP**

ing,” said Christo.

‘What in the world does it mean?’

The artist has long appreciated the low cost and aesthetic appeal of working with barrels.

In 1962, having fled communist Bulgaria, he blocked off a Paris street with a wall of them, in response to the Berlin Wall.

More recently, he created a wall of 13,000 barrels in Oberhausen in Germany.

Construction on “The London Mastaba”, financed by the artist himself, started on 3 April. It will stay in place until 23 September, when it will be taken down and recycled.

The artwork is already drawing astonished reactions in Hyde Park.

“It’s very modern, but this place is nature and historical. I don’t like it here,” said Turkish tourist Yasmin Koc Ozcengel, 46.

Another onlooker, Anna Andronova, said: “It’s good because if it was less brave in its shape and volume it would be less stunning.”

Sheila Steffenson, 58, an American living in London, said: “I’m sitting here pondering what in the world does it mean... if it means anything.

“I’m just not really sure how I feel about it. Maybe it’s a message about pollution. Who knows?” —AFP ■

Japan’s Princess Takamado makes surprise Russia visit for World Cup

MOSCOW — Princess Takamado of Japan on Tuesday watched her country play Colombia in the World Cup in the small Russian city of Saransk, becoming the first member of Japan’s royal family to visit the country since 1916, Russian state media reported.

State television showed images of the Japanese royal, a keen football supporter who has travelled to every World Cup to support Japan since 1998, in the host city of Saransk for the game on Tuesday afternoon.

The Japanese Embassy in Moscow told AFP Princess Takamado would also travel to Yekaterinburg where Japan will play Senegal on Sunday and where she will take part in a seminar on traditional “Kyudo” archery.

Ties between Japan and Russia have been strained for decades over four islands occupied by the Soviet Union in the closing days of World War II



Princess Takamado of Japan, pictured here in Dublin, is a keen football supporter who has travelled to every World Cup to support Japan since 1998. **PHOTO: AFP**

but that are claimed by Tokyo.

They are known in Japan as the Northern Territories and in Russia as the Southern Kurils.

Princess Takamado is the 64-year-old widow of the cousin of Japan’s Emperor Akihito, who shocked the country in 2016

when he signalled his desire to end his public duties, citing his age and health problems.

Akihito, now 84, will be the first emperor to retire in more than two centuries in a royal family that traces its lineage back more than 2,600 years. He will step down in 2019.—AFP ■

Cinema brings people of different colour, cultures together

NEW DELHI — Films have the power to unite people belonging to different skin colour, cultures and countries, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajavardhan Singh Rathore here.

Rathore, who inaugurated the European Union Film Festival last evening here, said cinema highlights the unity of human emotions.

“Having joined the Army at the age of 16 and served for 23 years, I would always see people with suspicion on the other side of the border but once I started travelling the world, I realised that the colour of our skin may be different, our cultures may be different, the clothes we wear may be different but we are one people in this one planet and I think when we see these films, this aspect is reiterated,” he said in the inaugural speech.

“They may be short stories from Europe, India or other Asian countries but the message that these stories deliver can be connected to any person from any country. I think that is

what makes us one people. The emotions, pains and joys are the same and therefore, even if it is a film in any other language, one can still understand and appreciate it.”

The minister said despite technological advancement, film festivals have their own charm.

“I think the charm is as much to see a story on the screen as it is to meet people there. I think this is the essence of the film festival. I’ve spent a lot of years travelling in Europe and many countries in Europe are like my second home,” he said.

Organized by the Delegation of the European Union and embassies of EU Member States in partnership with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and various city film clubs, the 23rd edition of the festival will showcase 24 latest European movies from 23 European countries.—PTI ■

Shan advances to Shield semifinal with Dway Ko's hat trick

SHAN United advanced to the semifinal of the General Aung San Shield 2018 tournament thanks to Dway Ko Ko Chit's hat trick in their quarterfinal win over Rakhine United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The final score was 3-0, with Dway Ko providing all the scoring. Notably, Dway Ko did not celebrate excessively after any of his goals, an apparent sign of respect for Rakhine United, his former team.

Shan United used its main players in yesterday's match, including captain and keeper Thiha Sithu, Hlaing Myo Aung, William, Win Min Htut, Htike Htike Aung, Lee Hankuk, Tin Win Aung, Yan Naing Oo, David Htan, Christopher and hat trick maker Dway Ko Ko Chit.

Shan dominated the match from the start with accurate attacks plus effective midfield defence, while Rakhine United mostly relied on their defensive

play. Rakhine United finally mounted an attack 20 minutes into the match with striker Mathew Sunday Idoko putting forth maximum efforts, but all his attacks were thwarted by the efficient clearances of Shan's defenders. Shan United garnered its opening goal at 27 minutes with Dway Ko Ko Chit's score. The first half ended with a score of 1-0.

In the second half, the intensity on the field increased, with both teams improving their play.

At 61 minutes, Shan gained its second goal with Dway Ko Ko Chit's score.

Shan United got more chances as Rakhine United's defence line waned, and Dway Ko Ko Chit scored the third goal for Shan at 84 minutes.

With the win, Shan United will take on Hanthawady United in the semifinal. Hanthawady beat Sagaing United by a score of 2-1 in the other quarterfinal match.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■



Shan United (red) Rakhine United (yellow) vie for the ball in yesterday's Quarterfinal of General Aung San Shield 2018 at Thuwunna Stadium. **PHOTO: MNL**

Key players will be absent in Aya-Magwe match

STANDOUT footballers including Magwe's Kyaw Zin Lwin and Naing Naing Kyaw, and Ayawady's midfielder Casio will be absent in the match featuring Ayawady United vs Magwe FC at Patheingyi Stadium this coming Saturday due to the fines and penalties levied against them in previous matches, according to the Myanmar National League (MNL). Defender Kyaw Zin Lwin of Magwe FC is one of the key

players who is known for his brilliant defending skills and his ability to limit the number of goals his team gives up. Kyaw Zin Lwin has played in nearly all of Magwe's matches this season. Kyaw Zin Lwin received fouls from referees in previous matches. Similarly, Magwe FC midfielder Naing Naing Kyaw, a talented player who supports attackers as well as defenders, will also miss the upcoming match. Naing

Naing Kyaw also was cited for fouls by referees. Ayeyawady's midfielder Casio, who has scored four goals for his team this year, will miss the upcoming match due to a red card he received at a previous match with Southern Myanmar FC. Magwe FC is currently in 4th place, having earned 25 total point so far this year, while Ayeyawady FC stands in 9th place, having earned 19 points in total.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Ronaldo delivers again as Portugal down Morocco

MOSCOW — Cristiano Ronaldo followed up his opening game heroics at the World Cup with the only goal in a 1-0 win for Portugal against Morocco as the European champions edged closer to the last 16. The Real Madrid star struck in the fourth minute in Moscow to surpass Hungarian

legend Ferenc Puskas as Europe's all-time leading scorer with 85 international goals.

Victory sent Portugal top of Group B on four points ahead of Spain's game against Iran in Kazan, as a second straight defeat for Morocco condemned the African nation to an early

exit in their first World Cup appearance since 1998. Morocco coach Herve Renard opted for a back four, with Manuel Da Costa and Nabil Dirar coming into the side, to provide added protection against the "absolutely exceptional" Ronaldo after his hat-trick against Spain.—AFP ■



**FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018**

18:30 MST (21.6.2018)		
Denmark		 Australia
21:30 MST (21.6.2018)		
France		 Peru
00:30 MST (22.6.2018)		
Argentina		 Croatia

World Cup 2018 Results

Portugal	1 - 0	Morocco
Uruguay	1 - 0	Saudi Arabia