

NATIONAL

Myanmar stresses importance of impartiality and objectivity of Special Rapporteur

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Local, foreign media visits Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre

PAGE-6



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Friday, 29 June 2018



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than (Left) shakes hands with Chairman of the Standing Committee of Yunnan Provincial People's Congress Mr. Chen Hao yesterday in Kunming. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Yunnan Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee Chairman

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than held talks in Kunming with Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province and Chairman of the Standing Committee of Yunnan Provincial People's Congress Mr. Chen Hao yesterday over bilateral friendship, cooperation in the economic, health, education and tourism sectors, as well as cooperation and participation in peace processes.

Following the meeting, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker at-

tended a dinner hosted by the Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province and Chairman of the Standing Committee of Yunnan Provincial People's Congress.

The Myanmar delegation led by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than left Beijing yesterday morning and arrived in Kunming at noon local time. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and delegation were welcomed by Yunnan Provincial People's Congress Vice

Chairman Mr. Li Pei, General Secretary Mr. Han Mei and Kunming-based Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing and other officials.

Before the meeting, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and delegation visited the Yunnan ethnic national village, where traditional houses, musical instruments, and utensils of ethnic nationals were displayed. Ethnic nationals performed songs and dances for the visiting delegation.—MNA ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Announcement 4/2018

1st Waning of First Waso 1380 ME
28 June 2018

Myanmar will give full cooperation in search for youths trapped in cave in Thailand

The Union Government has instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Shan State Government to provide all available assistance in the rescue efforts being made for 13 members of a youth soccer team trapped in Tham Luang Khun Nam cave since 23 June 2018 in Mae Sai Town in Thailand.

(Unofficial translation)

UPDJC committees conclude meetings

Participants discussed the rights of ethnic minorities and formation of a single unified military

By Kyaw Thu Htet,
Aye Aye Thant

Work committees of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) successfully concluded their meetings held at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, in preparation for the third session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.

The work committees discussed five sectors of importance: political, economic, social, security, farmlands and natural environments. The meetings were held from 26 to 28 June and discussed such topics as protecting the rights of ethnic minorities, democratic rights, human rights, gender equality,

SEE PAGE-10

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Sales continue to rise at 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium

PAGE-2



NATIONAL

UMFCCI, Anti-Corruption Commission to sign joint declaration

PAGE-4

BUSINESS

Fake news on contaminated milk damages dairy product reputations

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

New Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council formed

PAGE-7

NATIONAL

Commerce Ministry hopes to raise trust of consumers in ASEAN countries over cross-country products

PAGE-10

US Embassy celebrates Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Embassy of the United States in Myanmar celebrated the 242nd anniversary of the Independence Day of the United States of America at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and wife, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and wife, and deputy ministers U Khin Maung Tin and U Aung Hla Tun and Hluttaw representatives, officials from the respective ministries and foreign embassies in Myanmar and other invited guests attended the ceremony.

The ceremony began with



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin extends greetings at the reception to mark the 242nd anniversary Independence Day of US in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

the playing, the national anthems of the United States and Myanmar.

Later, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel

delivered the opening speeches.

The union ministers, deputy ministers, the US Ambassador to

Myanmar, officials and other invited guests then had dinner together. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Merchants appraise a jade stone at the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Sales continue to rise at 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium

THE 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium entered its ninth day yesterday in the compound of Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, and the daily sales percentages continued to rise, officials said.

“From the start to 28 June, between 80 per cent and 90 per cent were sold. Although the prices were cool in the Mandalay gems market, prices in Nay Pyi Taw were doing fine. This is because more internation-

al gem merchants visited the emporium. If the qualities of the gems are good, it will fetch better prices”, said U Than Zaw Oo from the Myanma Gems Enterprise.

The ten-day Myanmar Gems Emporium began on 20 June and will end today.

This year’s event included changes that have resulted in continued, day-to-day sales growth, officials said.

SEE PAGE-3

Rakhine State Chief Minister receives ICRC President

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and the members of the State Cabinet received International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President Mr. Peter Maurer and party at his office in Sittway yesterday.

At the meeting, matters related to ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross Society co-operating to conduct the Red Cross Movement programme to fulfil regional requirements after the violent incidents in the Maungdaw region, the status of ICRC president meeting local communities in Rakhine State to increase assistance, security forces assisting in ICRC works, the union government and the state government conducting the process of receiving returnees, the assessment and resettlement of returnees under the UEHRD programmes, and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission inspecting jails and detention centres and conducting the necessary works to fulfil the requirements were discussed.

During his Rakhine State trip, the ICRC president met communities requiring humanitarian assistance and provided the necessary assistances. In addition to this, he met government representatives and discussed matters related to providing humanitarian assistance.



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu welcomes ICRC President Mr. Peter Maurer in Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

“I’m sorry to hear about what the people went through. After the terrorist incidents that caused the displacement of the people, emergency supports are still required,” said Mr. Peter Maurer.

“All need to understand the terrible consequence of the terrorist act on the socio-economic situation of the people. In a village such as Nga Khu Ya where I went, only a quarter of the people remain. The markets were no longer supporting the economy anymore. The general security situation is still difficult. People are no longer going to the

farms and the markets. They no longer can stand the situation and are depending upon assistance and aid,” added the ICRC president.

During his trip to Rakhine State, the ICRC president visited the mobile Red Cross clinic in Buthidaung Township and the food distribution centre in Maungdaw Township. The ICRC president also met Rakhine ethnic nationals, Hindu, Muslim and community elders.

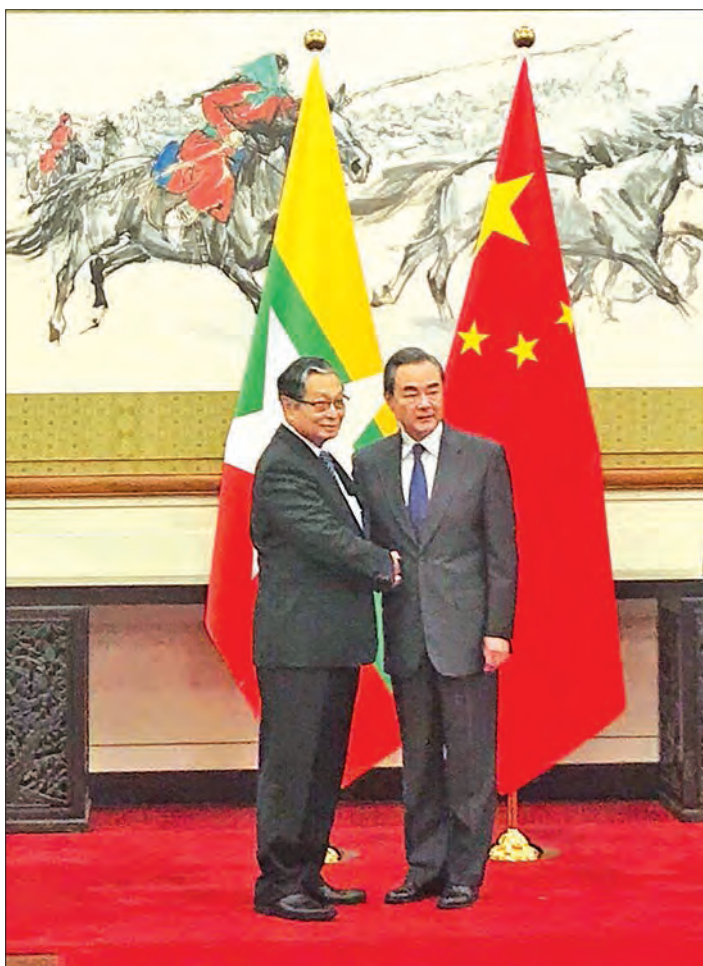
Mr. Peter Maurer and party then left Sittway for Yangon by air at 1.40 p.m.—Tin Tun (IPRD)/Aung Thuya (MNA) ■

Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor pays working visit to China

At the invitation of State Councilor and Foreign Minister of People's Mr Wang Yi, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe arrived Beijing on 28 June, 2018 for a working visit.

That evening, Myanmar delegation and the delegation of the People's Republic of China discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena.

The State Councilor and Foreign Minister of PRC hosted a dinner in honour of visiting Myanmar delegation.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi in Beijing yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Sales continue to rise at 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium

FROM PAGE-2

“There is a slight change in the way jade was sold this year in comparison to past years. In the past, good quality jade was all shown together, and as a result the sales volume was high during the sale of quality jade. This year, good quality jade was spread out, and it was available throughout the entire sales period. This seems to be a better method,” said U Than Zaw Oo.

As the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium was conducted during the monsoon period, there were some difficulties due to weather situation. But despite the weather challenges, large numbers of merchants were seen bidding freely and submitting their tenders.

“Display is better in this emporium compared to the previous one. However, some rain water

entered the area displaying gem lots. There should be a better drainage system”, said local gem merchant U Thein Naing Win.

Even before the end of the emporium, officials have already declared this year's event a success. “There were more gem merchants visiting the emporium when compared to last year. Sales targets were reached. It can be deemed successful”, said Myanmar Gems & Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association Vice Chairman U Hla Soe Oo. “Reviews were conducted at the end of each day and these reviews will improve future emporiums. Efforts were being put in toward improving the work processes. We are striving toward improving the gem sales systematically. We will also ensure that the mining method of jades to be non-damaging to the environment”.—Min Min Zaw (MNA) ■

Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary stresses importance of impartiality and objectivity of Special Rapporteur in discharging her duties at the Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar during the 38th Session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva, 27 June 2018)

An Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was made on 27 June 2018 during the 38th session of the Human Rights Council which was being held at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 18 June to 6 July 2018.

During the dialogue, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar presented her oral update on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to the Human Rights Council.

In response to the Special Rapporteur's remarks, U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, made a rebuttal Statement as a concerned country. In his statement, the Permanent Secretary said that just two years ago, the present government came to the office with the overwhelming support of the people to push forward its long struggle for peace and stability, democracy and development. Myanmar Government would never tolerate any violation of human rights. Myanmar appreciates cooperation from all friends who understand the issues objectively, and render their support.

He also pointed out that the situation in Rakhine State is a complex challenge of enormous dimensions in-

volving issues including, but not limited to, sovereignty, territorial integrity, terrorism, rule of law, human rights and illegal migration. Unless the security challenges are promptly addressed, the risk of renewed inter-communal violence will remain. The security situation in northern Rakhine deteriorated sharply following the attacks on police outposts in Maungdaw Township by the terrorist group called ARSA. He expressed the deep concern of Myanmar over the suffering of all the people who have been caught up in the conflict. He underlined that those who had to flee their homes are many- not just Muslims and Rakhines, but also small minority groups, such as the Daing-net, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus. He regretted the fact that their plight had been totally and conveniently overlooked by the international community and that some had gone even further to glorify or advocate the terrorist group. He pointed out that the Special Rapporteur conveniently failed to mention the heinous terrorist attacks and the brutal massacre of 99 Hindus committed by ARSA in her statement and the fact showed clearly bias and imbalance of the Special Rapporteur's assessment. At the same time, he stressed that the Government of Myanmar would not

condone any human rights violations, and would take action against perpetrators in accordance with the law where allegations were supported by sufficient evidence. He also mentioned that the Government has recently made the announcement of its decision to establish an Independent Commission of Enquiry with international and national personalities as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine.

Then, he added that with the arrival of the monsoon season, there is an urgent need to provide humanitarian assistance to all and to expedite the repatriation process agreed by Myanmar and Bangladesh in November 2017, and that Myanmar is doing its utmost to repatriate the displaced persons expeditiously. He expressed that with the recent signing of the MoU between the Government of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR, things will now move expeditiously and the UN agencies will take part in various stages of return and resettlement as well as sustainable socio-economic development in Rakhine. He also reiterated Myanmar's position regarding the Special Rapporteur that although Myanmar had a good track record of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur over the past two decades

and remains committed to continue to work together with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, the people of Myanmar considered that it would no longer be productive to continue to extend cooperation with the current Special Rapporteur because of her lack of objectivity and non-compliance with the code of conduct. He recalled that Myanmar had requested the Council for the replacement of her, expressing his regret that Myanmar's request was fallen to deaf ears. He said that as the cooperation with the United Nations is a cornerstone of Myanmar's Foreign Policy, Myanmar would continue to extend cooperation with the relevant UN mechanisms. He further highlighted that Myanmar facilitated the first visit of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General from 12 to 21 June 2018, allowing her to visit all places of her request including a tour of Rakhine State, Myanmar also agreed to open Special Envoy's office in Nay Pyi Taw and invited her to take part in the forthcoming Union Peace Conference.

He then concluded by stressing that in its efforts to achieve national reconciliation and peace, democracy and development, Myanmar was happy to engage constructively with the United Nations as well as the international community.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with MPC Vice Chairman (1) U Ohn Kyaing at the Bayint Naung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives MPC Vice Chairman (1)

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a representative group led by Myanmar Press Council (MPC) Vice Chairman (1) U Ohn Kyaing at the Bayint Naung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Senior General said media was an important institution for a country,

and it is for this reason that a meeting with the fourth pillar of the state was being held. The media's description greatly affects the stability, development and unity of the country. The media should bring about unity and should also make criticisms where necessary. Only then, can it support the country's development, said the Senior General.

MPC Vice Chairman (1) U Ohn Kyaing said the Tatmadaw and the media are of the same mind and aim. Journalists of old had strived towards becoming the fourth pillar of the state. The media had conducted fourth pillar discussions in states and regions, and the media will do what is good for the country and the people, said the Vice Chairman.—MNA ■

UMFCCI, Anti-Corruption Commission to sign joint declaration

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will sign a joint declaration on Anti-Corruption activities with the Anti-Corruption Commission at the UMFCCI office in Yangon on 2 July at 10 am. The joint declaration will be signed with the aim to conduct the corruption awareness programme and capacity programme and, to follow the business code of conduct by local enterprises and UMFCCI member companies.

At the ceremony, Anti-Corruption Commission chairman U Aung Kyi will lead a discussion on the topic of "Corruption Prevention and Ethics Drafting" and UMFCCI Economic Advisor Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet will host a discussion on the topic of "Developing a Code of Conduct on Business Integrity".

The UMFCCI invites anyone who is interested in these topics to attend this ceremony on 2 July.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ecotourism to begin in Mogok, Mandalay

NATURE tourism will commence in central Myanmar as a way to revitalise economic development and expand employment possibilities for locals in Mogok.

In the past, Mogok was known as a place to look for valuable gems, but over time the much-desired gems became harder to find. In order to deal with the scarcity of gemstones and the loss of one of the main reasons to visit, Mogok turned

to other natural resources, specifically its lush environment, for the purpose of turning the city into an eco-tourism destination, which will stimulate local businesses and help build a stronger economic base.

"I want Mogok to become a pivotal area in the Myanmar Tourism Industry. We want to make Mogok alluring for both locals and foreigners because there are many interesting plac-

es to visit and activities to take part in. So I want to make Mogok accessible and enjoyable for everyone" said Dr. Thet Thet Khaing. Mogok is surrounded by a range of majestic mountains. Little land is used for agricultural purposes, so Mogok's future businesses will focus exclusively on ecotourism.

Gem mines, the Mogok Inn and a British war cemetery are just some of the attractions that

can lure local and foreign visitors to the region. Even though there were less visitors in past years, the rate of visitors to Mogok has increased since 2012. If the tourism industry in Mogok succeeds, the economy will flourish and employment prospects will expand for local residents. Therefore, local organisations and governmental officials have to cooperate in order to initiate ecotourism.—MDN ■

Another branch in Yangon for Innwa Bank opens

THE 51st branch of Innwa Bank, this one in Mayangon, was officially opened with a colourful ceremony in Yangon on 27 June.

Deputy Managing Director U Thar Zan and officials opened the ceremony by cutting a ceremonial ribbon, followed by the pressing of a button by Managing Director U Aung Ngwe Oo that officially unveiled the bank's signboard. The ceremony took place

in the bank branch's compound near Nine Mile.

The Innwa Bank Limited's Mayangon branch is situated on the ground floor of the Star Mart showroom in Mayangon Township.

The Mayangon branch will satisfy basic banking needs but will also offer sophisticated financial services to local residents, officials said.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Managing Director U Thar Zan opens the new branch of Innwa Bank in Mayangon Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Fake news on contaminated milk damages dairy product reputations



The Myanmar Dairy Association holds a news conference yesterday concerning fake news disseminated on Facebook that incorrectly said locally produced milk was contaminated. **PHOTO: MAY THET HNIN**

By May Thet Hnin

THE sale of milk saw a steady drop owing to fake news spreading on Facebook in recent months.

The dissemination of incorrect information began several years ago, when the Myanmar translation of press statements concerning adulterated milk by the Department of Chemistry at the University of Kashmir in 2013 was mentioned on Facebook in 2013, 2015 and 2018. Local people misunderstood it and became concerned, according to a press conference by the Myanmar Dairy Association, operating under the Myanmar Livestock Federation, held yesterday to refute the fake news.

The fake news purported that urea, detergent powder, soda, palm oil, benzoic acid, salicylic acid, ammonium sulphate and formalin are used to make adulterated milk, threatening public health.

“Even close friends of mine asked me about the fake news. Sure, there are a certain number of consumers who are worried about this. Milk sales are dropping remarkably. My business showed a decline of 15 per cent in sales,” said U Zaw Moe Than from the Arman dairy business.

“During the Ramadan period, milk supply was usually low. We even had to express our apologies to our customers. This year’s sales figures indicate a steady decline, which might be attributed to the poor economic climate and the spreading of fake news on Facebook,” said U Tin Win from Ngwesinpale dairy enterprise.

The rumours are completely unfounded, officials said. Such cases do not occur in Myanmar, and dairy entrepreneurs run their businesses with FDA approval. Even some milk products without FDA certificates found in the domestic market do not contain harmful ingredients or

mixtures, said businessmen and researchers.

Dairy businessmen use machines which test the quality of the milk. Likewise, milk entrepreneurs produce purified milk.

The public should not trust widespread rumours and be critical of the news source, officials said. If any disputable news is found, it should be reported with evidence to the teams that deal with consumer complaints, which will handle the issues based on evidence and scientific technology, said U Maung Maung, secretary of the Myanmar Consumers Union.

About 80 per cent of Myanmar’s milk comes from dairy farmers, and any damage to their trade would cause a negative impact on them.

The milk consumption rate in Myanmar is 10 to 12 litres per person. That rate is over six times less than that of Asian countries and much lower compared to global countries. ■

MEITI releases second, third reports

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (MEITI) published its second and third reports for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 financial year periods, at a press conference held at Shangri-La Hotel, Yangon, yesterday.

The MEITI reports summarise information about revenues received from the extractive industries such as oil and gas, gems and jade, other minerals and pearl sub-sectors.

The reports were implemented by MEITI’s Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), which is a coalition of governments, companies and civil society organisations working together.

Also, the reports pointed out the misuse of power, corruption and tax evasion. The country’s revenue fell due to the ongoing weakness in taxation, licence issues, contracts with the government, rules and procedures and supervision, said Daw Moe Moe Tun, CSO’s representative of MSG.

State-owned enterprises (SOE) are dominant in mining businesses, which are held by SOE subsidiaries and joint ventures. Bad management in the value chain and weakness

in transparency cause public debates over economic benefits. The terms of contracts were found to be incomplete and law enforcement is still weak. MEITI researchers suggested the need to reform the SOEs in the reports published, Daw Moe Moe Tun maintained.

MEITI published its first-ever report for the 2013-2014 period, covering oil and gas, gems and jade and other minerals, with a view to bringing about open and accountable management of natural resources and transparency in taxation to the public.

The MSG was set up on 23 March 2017, comprising seven government officials, seven private sector representatives and nine civil society representatives.

EITI is a standard by which information on oil, gas and mining industries is published. The EITI Standard requires countries and companies to disclose information on the key steps in the governance of oil, gas and mining revenues. It also informs how the mining sector is governed. Myanmar has been approved as the 45th candidate country by the EITI Board at its 27th meeting in Mexico in July 2014. ■

Myanmar’s foreign trade deficit records \$1 billion in past two-and-a-half months

MYANMAR’S external trade showed a deficit of over US\$1.12 billion between 1 April and 15 June 2018, during the six-month interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 financial year, according to statistics provided by the commerce ministry.

In the past two-and-a-half months, exports were worth \$3.12 billion, while imports were valued at \$4.25 billion, totalling over \$7.37 billion.

The current trade deficit fig-

ure declined slightly compared to the same period during the last 2017-2018 FY, which was registered at \$1.23 billion.

During the last FY, Myanmar’s external trade with foreign countries reached \$33.3 billion, with \$14.67 billion worth of exports and imports valued at \$18.64 billion. The government targetted a cut of \$3.97 billion trade deficit during the 2017-2018 FY, as there was a trade deficit of over \$5.2 billion in the previous

2016-2017 FY. Trade deficits were registered at \$91.9 million in the 2012-2013 FY, \$2.5 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.9 billion in the 2014-2015 FY and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, respectively, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organisation.

Concerted efforts are being made to reduce the trade deficit by screening out luxury import items, except essential goods. — Ko Khant ■

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ICT Modern Classroom opens in Agricultural Institute in Pyinmana

INFORMATION and Communication technologies (ICT) taught as part of agricultural science will improve the farming sector as well as national development, Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, said yesterday.

The Union Minister made the remark in his address at the opening ceremony of the ICT Modern Classroom held in State Agricultural Institute (SAI), Pyinmana yesterday morning.

The ministry, Inservice Training and SAI Division have opened SAIs in states and regions that provide both theory and practical training in agriculture that will produce mid-level agriculturists annually, officials said.

A total of 19,271 agriculture diplomas and 19,688 livestock breeding diplomas have so far been awarded and 6,290 students are undergoing training in the 2017-2018 academic year, it is learnt.

“On the part of the teach-



Representative from NICHE presents the detail of the ICT Modern Classroom in Agricultural Institute in Pyinmana yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ers, they are not to lose sight of technology developments and new methods and should train their students so that they become entrepreneurs who are

experts in agriculture”, said the Union Minister.

After the opening ceremony, the Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council members,

Inservice Training and SAI Division director and the representative of the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education

(NICHE) cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the ICT Modern Classroom which is being conducted with the support of NICHE in SAI, Pyinmana.

NICHE is a Netherlands-funded development cooperation programme. By sustainably strengthening higher education and technical and vocational education and training capacity in partner countries, it contributes to economic development and poverty reduction.

For the development of the agricultural sector, training of mid-level agriculturists are being conducted with partner organisations.

The Department of Agriculture, Inservice Training and SAI Divisions are conducting a four-year project with NICHE to improve vocational education and training for food security. The programme began on 21 November 2016 and will continue until 20 November 2020, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Local, foreign media visit Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre

A media group comprised of journalists from home and abroad travelled from Sittway to Indin Village in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

The journalists interviewed villagers about the terrorist attacks that occurred in the village and the situation of

the village before the attacks.

The journalists then met Maungdaw District Deputy Administrator U Ye Htoo and other officials at the General Administration Department and gathered news on the repatriation of returnees, the verification process, resettlement, regional safety and

development.

At noon, the journalists arrived in Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre and gathered news on the reception process and the centre's construction.

They then interviewed members of the Islamic community who returned from Bangladesh.—Thura Zaw ■



Journalists interview members of the Islamic community at Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with South Korean Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr. Win Myat Aye receives ROK, Bangladesh ambassadors separately

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa at the ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the ROK cooperating with ASEAN in disaster management works, the visit of the United Nations Secretary General's special representative to Myanmar, the MoU signed between the Myanmar government, UNHCR and UNDP, ROK investing in the agriculture and garment manufacturing sectors of the UEHRD project in some selected townships, as

well as ROK cooperating for Rakhine State's stability, peace and development.

Later, the union minister received Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury and matters related to UNHCR collecting biometric data of displaced persons from Myanmar in Bangladesh, difficulties faced in filling forms to return, unclear matters on arrangements made by Myanmar in resettling the returnees, sending and disseminating information from Myanmar side to Bangladesh on resettling and receiving returnees were discussed.—MNA ■

Coordination meeting for roads upgrading

A COORDINATION meeting for road upgrading activities was held at the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The upgrading of roads was being conducted through the build-operate-transfer (BOT) system with 25 companies to meet the quality standards of roads and develop the transport sector.

At the coordination meeting, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw delivered the opening speech. Then, the union minister explained that the road department, operat-

ing under the Ministry of Construction, started the project with ethnic business companies through the BOT system, in 1996. At present, 25 companies are upgrading roads totalling 3,025 miles through the BOT system. The road department also found that some of the companies which upgrade roads through the BOT system do not get profits, while others do. When companies are upgrading roads and bridges, they have to follow the laws and regulations adopted by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

Permanent Secretary U



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw delivers the opening speech at the coordination meeting for road upgrading activities in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Win Tint also discussed the rules and regulations which were to be followed by the BOT companies to meet the standards and improve the roads and bridges project. Officials

from the 25 BOT companies discussed the issues linked with upgrading the roads and bridges.

The meeting was attended by U Win Tint, the road, bridge

and rural road development departments directors-general and deputy directors-general, chief engineers, directors and officials from 25 BOT companies.—MNA ■

New Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council formed

A CEREMONY for selecting and appointing members of the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council (MNMN) was held at University of Nursing, Yangon (UoN-Yangon) yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, chairperson of the Committee for Implementing MNMC Prof. Dr. Daw Khin May Ohn delivered the opening speech, followed by committee secretary and master of ceremonies Prof. U Min Bo Nyein explaining the member selection and voting process.

Officials then cast votes to select MNMC members in view of the attendees.

To form a new Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council, the Ministry of Health and Sports formed the Committee for Implementing MNMC on 26 October 2017 with Prof. Dr. Khin May Ohn (former rector of UoN-Yangon) as chairperson, Prof. U Min Bo Nyein (former departmental head professor) as secretary, and Prof. Daw Kawt Naung (former UoN-Yangon Pro Rector), Daw Than Than Nwe (former principal), and Daw Htay Htay Hlaing

(Director, Nursing) as committee members.

The implementation committee, in line with the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council Law, selected preliminary members for the MNMC from among 60 candidates from the Ministry of Health and Sports' departments of Public Health, Medical Services, and Human Resource for Health, Yangon and Mandalay's universities of nursing, state and region nursing and midwife training schools, state and region nursing and midwife representatives, representatives from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Tatmadaw Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science, Myanmar Nursing and Midwife Association, nursing and midwife representatives from private hospitals, retired nurses and midwives.

The results of the voting for the appointment of a chairperson, vice-chair, secretary, joint-secretary, and a list of the MNMC members will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Sports.—Myanmar News Agency ■



A member of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council casts her vote to elect members of the new council for MNMC. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar chair MASHP in Nay Pyi Taw



ASEAN (MASHP) representatives and attendees pose for the photo during the meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR chaired the 14th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Standards for Horticultural Produce and other Food Crops (MASHP) held at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, on the morning of 27 June.

The meeting was attended by Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation's Department of Agriculture Director General Dr. Ye Tint Tun, Department of Agriculture Research Director Gen-

eral U Naing Kyi Win, deputy directors general, directors, representatives from ASEAN countries and departmental officials.

Department of Agriculture Director-General Dr. Ye Tint Tun delivered an opening speech at the meeting.

Next, ASEAN (MASHP) representatives and ASEAN member countries discussed and explained the work processes and progress on draw-

ing up ASEAN standards for horticulture and other edible crops. ASEAN member countries also explained works implemented and data obtained.

At the 14th ASEAN (MASHP) meeting, ASEAN standards for horticulture products were drawn up in line with international standards. This will, in turn, support the development of agriculture products and trade.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Heavy rains wreak havoc on ancient pagoda

AN ancient pagoda in Yaele Village, Salay Town, in Magway Region collapsed after severe rains hit the area on 16 June. The pagoda is believed to be from the 13th century.

Over 100 members from social organizations, local civil society groups such as New Generation and Save The Bagan led by three Buddhist monks from NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region went to the damaged

pagoda to clean up the wreckage today, according to an organizer.

"The officials from the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library asked us to help clear off debris from the ancient pagoda in Yaele Village, Salay which was destroyed by heavy rains on 16 June. The town of Salay is not far from Bagan, a UNESCO world heritage nominated historical site" said U Sagara, the pre-

siding monk from a local social organization.

Over 100 people from local civil society organizations actively carried out a collective effort to clean up the debris. We feel sorry for the collapsed pagoda which was damaged by a natural disaster. At the same time, we are very delighted that we can carry out collective cleaning activities," the monk added.—MDN ■

Cooperation critical for speeding up e-Government implementation

ESTABLISHING an e-Government is one of the most important aims of the 12-point Economic Policy statement of the incumbent government.

The main aim is to benefit the country and the people. To be in line with the rest of the world, the usage of new systems of the new age cannot be avoided. If not, our country will be left behind other countries.

An e-Government is basically the use of electronic communications devices, computers and the Internet to provide public services to citizens. The main aim of implementing the e-Government is for the convenience of the people, as the system can lessen the time necessary to accomplish certain tasks, including law making processes and effective tax collection. An e-Government thereby ensures transparency and curbs corruption.

In addition to reducing corruption, an e-Government can also greatly reduce government red tape.

We should be aware that the advances in information technology bring both benefits and dangers. To avoid these dangers, we need to adopt rules, regulations and procedures with care while balancing good effects and bad effects all the time.

rules, regulations and procedures with care while balancing good effects and bad effects all the time.

It is important to put special emphasis on cyber security and information security in distributing e-Government services.

We also need to review existing rules, regulations and protocols in current operations, re-engineer the sector and amend laws and bylaws concerning information technology and the e-ID system so as to streamline the system.

Implementing Myanmar Unicode as the national standard in line with the International Standard Organization (ISO) is also a top priority.

The establishment of an e-Government has been worked on for over two years, but due to weaknesses in cooperation among governmental departments, the targets set have not yet been achieved.

In fact, implementation of e-Government work processes were started in 2000, but there were delays due to various requirements.

The successful development of an e-Government system in a democratic government will make the people know and trust the works of the government.

If the e-Government process is successful, sectors like education, health, social and economy will develop.

All are urged to openly discuss and coordinate based on the Master Plan drawn up in alignment with the economic policy set by the government. ■

When making a complaint, be aware of your consumer rights

By Naing Oo (DOCA)

IT was learnt that customer's buying habits are becoming more diverse and often change from day to day because their needs have grown more sophisticated over time.

Just compare a Myanmar family from a former time that seemed to be satisfied with owning only a radio. When portable radios were finally mass-produced, virtually everyone could own a radio. But radios were quickly replaced after black-and-white televisions were developed and became the new mass medium. It was generally the same as a person who owned a car. In the old days, he was considered a wealthy man. Nowadays it is easy for members of the middle-class to afford a car. More cars are being made today by a larger number of manufacturers all over the world, and we can see an increase in the number of cars manufactured by different countries on the roads.

What this means is that the middle-class people's lifestyle has to follow in the footsteps of the well-to-do people. The communications system has improved dramatically, and the number of mobile phone users are on the rise day by day, and mobile phones have become an essential instrument for communication. Mobile phones are now an indispensable part of our daily lives, making the world smaller and making us participating members of the global village. Residency in the global village would not be possible without the use of electronic devices.

Online payment system

An online payment system is an internet-based method of processing economic transactions. It allows a seller to accept payments over the web or over other Internet connections, such as direct database connections between retail stores and their suppliers -- a common method of maintaining just-in-time inventories. Online payment systems greatly expand the reach of a business and its ability to make sales.

Nowadays, technology has become an effective tool to en-



Photo: Phoe Khwar

hance the country's social, educational, health and business sectors, besides improving its productivity sectors. People can overcome difficulties rapidly if they can apply the online payment system using ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), which can speed up the business transactions at the same time.

The use of an online payment system has many benefits and advantages such as creating job prospects and economic opportunities, promoting the economic development of the state, facilitating the socio-economic status of the people, and helping with poverty alleviation for people across the country.

Consumer Protection Law (2014)

The government has set up the Consumer Protection Law 2014 to make it more comprehensive in protecting the public. Ac-

The use of an online payment system has many benefits and advantages such as creating job prospects and economic opportunities, promoting the economic development of the state, facilitating the socio-economic status of the people, and helping with poverty alleviation for people across the country.

According to the Consumer Protection Law 2014, the consumer may sue for injuries incurred under civil litigation, although convicted under section 23. The law is intended to protect the rights of consumers and to educate consumers of their rights so they do

not suffer from fraud when using goods or services. Consumer's rights also include the safe use of goods or services as well as the right to choose goods or services to obtain their promised value. Consumers can make a claim to hear and settle a dispute related

to goods or services and are able to get consumer protection and correct settlements, as specified in the law. The law contains the duties and rights of consumers and entrepreneurs. Chapter 12 of the Consumer Protection Law (2014) specifies the functions and duties of the Central Committee, rights and duties of consumers and entrepreneurs and prohibitions for entrepreneurs; settlement of consumer disputes; rights to take action by the Consumer Dispute Settlement Body; offences and penalties.

Consumer Affairs Department

The Consumers Affairs Department, under the Ministry of Commerce, has opened an online complaint section on its website so people can relay grievances and dissatisfaction about products and services faster. With the aim of protecting the consumers' rights, the department has re-

ceived several online complaints, action for which was quickly communicated.

To receive follow-up action on their concerns, the consumer needs to fill out information online. For complaints submitted online, copies of contracts or purchase orders or bills are to be attached to the complaint, according to the department's website. The aim of an online complaint system is for consumers to be able to complain easily about their dissatisfaction about goods and services.

Strengthening Consumer Protection

In the past, complaints were mostly about products, but now there are more complaints about services. Especially about telecom services, television and radio services and assurance services of products sold. By conducting consumer protection works, the public will obtain more consumer protection opportunities on one side, while production and sale of goods and provision of services will be done correctly enabling the economic development of the country. The Ministry of Commerce has tried to implement the consumer protection works more widely across the country.

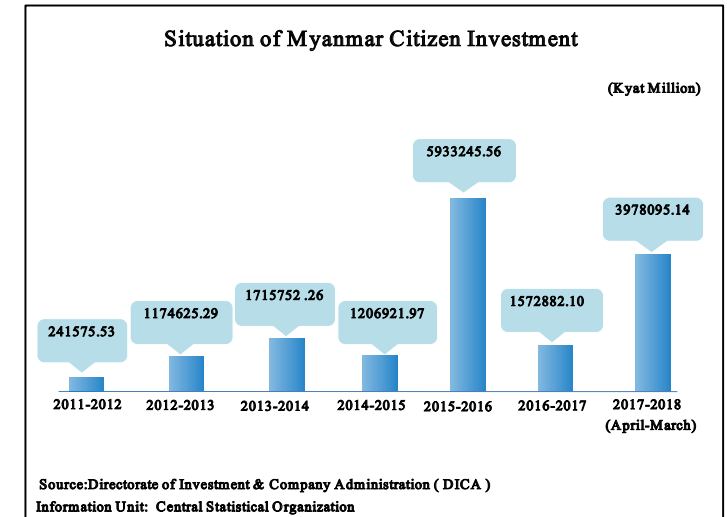
The Ministry of Commerce is working to conduct consumer protection works as a focal ministry. In conducting consumer protection works, consumer dispute resolution groups were formed according to the law in states/regions and district levels, while consumer information complaint centres were opened where consumer complaints are accepted and resolved.

Therefore it is of great importance to protect consumer rights in the commodity and service sectors within the framework of rules and regulations prescribed by the government. Cooperation among the government departments, Hluttaws, private entrepreneurs, associations and non-governmental consumer protection organisations is crucial to solve the consumer rights issue to make it successful. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

U Moe Kyaw Aung presents credentials to the King of Bhutan

U Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Bhutan, presents credentials to His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Kingdom of Bhutan on 22 June 2018, in Thimphu. -- Myanmar News Agency



EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.1 on the Richter Scale, with its epicentre inside Myanmar (some 25 miles west-north-west of Shwedaung, latitude 18.74°N, longitude 94.87°E, depth 64 kilometres, and some 80 miles north-northeast of Gwa seismological observatory) was recorded at 5 hours, 6 minutes and 8 seconds (M.S.T) on 28 June 2018, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. —MNA

Monsoon moderate over Andaman Sea, Bay of Bengal

THE monsoon will be weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal in the next two days, according to the Myanmar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

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

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters. The wave height will be some 4-7 feet off and along the Myanmar coast. —GNLM

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

UPDJC committees conclude meetings

FROM PAGE-1

basic principles of economic and regional development in a federal system, implementing a market economy, ethnic literacy, preserving ethnic literature, language, customs, culture and traditions, an inclusive education system, universal healthcare system, and forming a single unified military under a federal democratic country.

Political sector discussion results

Concerning the political sector discussion, the Kachin State Democracy Party (KSDP) Chairman Dr. Tu Jar said they discussed ethnic affairs, ethnic rights, ethnic minorities, as well as constitutional matters.

"We read each paper submitted by ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) and political parties. We had similar views on some things and different views as well," said Dr. Tu Jar. "We've put everything on record. If everyone had the same vision, then we needn't put it on record. We will submit the papers at the UPDJC meeting tomorrow, the UPDJC will decide on tasks, and we will discuss them during the working committee meetings held from 4 to 6 July." He added that there has been much agreement on ethnic minority rights.

Similarly, U Aung Kyi Nyunt said only two out of ten topics from political parties were dis-



Participants discussing the political sector at the last day of UPDJC's committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

cussed, which encompassed ethnic minority rights, democratic rights, human rights, and gender equality.

Security sector discussion results

U Myo Win said discussions on matters of security included the results from four unofficial talks held between the government and EAOs, which he said will support official talks.

"We discussed with EAOs about a single unified military in the near federal democratic future," said U Myo Win. "We reached two decisions that prospect for forming a single unified military, and other security matters will be further discussed

between the government and EAOs. We put two of the subjects from the unofficial talks on record as constructive intentions."

He added that it is a universally accepted truth that a country only has a single military. Workshops and discussions with experts will be carried out so that both sides of the table achieve unanimity, he said.

Economic sector discussion results

U Hla Maung Shwe said they discussed all six subjects carried over from the 10th UPDJC meeting. He said they have also discussed 13 of the 24 topics included in a paper submitted by five EAOs. "We've also dis-

cussed over half of the 71 topics from the Mon National Level Political Dialogue and 8 topics from political parties," said U Hla Maung Shwe.

"The ethnic representatives will take the results back to their superiors and we will continue discussions at the 4 to 6 July meetings. The results from that will be submitted at the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong. The previous conference set 11 economic policy points, and I hope we will get at least the same number of policy points in the coming conference." He added that the date for the next conference has been proposed to take place from 11 to 15 July. The actual dates will

be confirmed today. Invitations to EAOs for the UPC conference will be also be discussed today.

Participating in yesterday's meeting were members of the Secretariat of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee Lt-Gen (Ret) U Khin Zaw Oo, U Aung Soe, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, U Zaw Htay, U Hla Maung Shwe, Pado Saw Tar Do Hmu, U Myo Win, U Sai Ngin, Saw Mra Yazar Lin, Khun Myint Tun, U Myint Soe, U Naing Ngan Lin, Sai Kyaw Nyunt, Min Kyaw Zeyar Oo and Tar Hla Pe, members of the joint committee, representatives of the government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw, representatives of ethnic organisations and peacemakers. ■

Commerce Ministry hopes to raise trust of consumers in ASEAN countries on cross-country products



Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, right, addresses the Central Committee of Consumer Protection coordination meeting yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, in his capacity as chairman of the Central Committee of Consumer Protection, attended and addressed the Central Committee of Consumer Protection coordination meeting 2/2018 held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

In the ASEAN community, the union minister said, there is a need to raise the trust of the consumers on cross country trade products. Content description must be displayed in Myanmar language, according to the law. On the consumer side, using the Myanmar language on the products will serve the people well. On the side of business owners, quality products can be produced

supporting private sector development, said the union minister.

Next, Central Committee of Consumer Protection members and officials discussed the points to be included in Myanmar language, together with another language, on the product label.

The meeting was attended by Central Committee vice chairmen of the respective ministries, deputy ministers, heads of departments, officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council and city development committees, members of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and private sectors organisations, consumer protection experts and special guests. —Myanmar News Agency ■

EU faces 'destiny' at crunch migration summit

BRUSSELS (BELGIUM) — EU leaders face deep divisions on migration at a summit in Brussels on Thursday that the embattled German Chancellor Angela Merkel said could decide the fate of the bloc itself.

The meeting comes amid warnings that authoritarian and "anti-European" movements will profit from any failure by the 28 leaders to deal with a flare-up of tensions over migrants that has put Merkel's political future in the balance. The rise of Italy's new populist government and bitter rows over its refusal to take in migrants arriving on rescue boats have revived divisions, despite the fact that arrivals have dipped sharply since the 2015 migration crisis.

Italy comes to the EU gathering emboldened by the announcement that Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte will on 30 July visit US President Donald Trump, who has hailed Rome's tough stance.

"Europe has many challenges but migration could end up determining Europe's destiny," Merkel told German lawmakers hours ahead of the summit.

The bloc can decide to "overcome the challenge in a



The Lifeline ship docked in Malta Wednesday after nearly a week in Mediterranean limbo amid deep divisions in Europe over migration policy. **PHOTO: AFP**

way that people in Africa or elsewhere believe that we are guided by our values," she said.

Or, in a manner where "no one will believe in our value system that has made us so strong."

Merkel, for years Europe's most powerful leader, now risks seeing her fragile coalition collapse if she cannot reach migrant deals with other countries including Italy's new government of far-right and anti-establishment

parties.

After allowing more than one million asylum seekers into Germany since 2015, Merkel faces an end-of-the-month deadline from her own interior minister to seal pacts that would let Germany turn back asylum seekers already registered in other EU states.

The leaders hope at the summit to approve work on migrant "disembarkation platforms" in countries outside Europe, most

likely in Africa, although EU officials have been vague on what form they would take.

In a bone to Merkel, the leaders will also agree to "closely cooperate" on stopping secondary movements of migrants, according to draft summit conclusions, although the language may be weaker than she would have hoped. A "mini-summit" of 16 leaders in Brussels on Sunday failed to make much headway.

'High stakes'

But there is no chance of agreement on a plan for mandatory "burden sharing" by moving refugees from frontline Mediterranean states like Italy and Greece to other countries.

The plan is strongly opposed by eastern European countries, particularly the authoritarian governments of Hungary and Poland.

The EU is rapidly moving rightwards on migration, a stance that is likely to increase when Austria under youthful conservative Prime Minister Sebastian Kurz assumes the bloc's presidency on 1 July. EU President Donald Tusk warned on the eve of the summit that time is running out for leaders to reassure their citizens that they can control migration before populists win the "high-stakes" debate.

"More and more people are starting to believe that only strong-handed authority, anti-European and anti-liberal in spirit, with a tendency towards overt authoritarianism, is capable of stopping the wave of illegal migration," said summit host Tusk in a letter to leaders. "The stakes are very high and time is short," he warned.—AFP ■

Air strikes on southern Syria kill 22 civilians: monitor

BEIRUT — A barrage of Russian air strikes on rebel-held areas of southern Syria killed 22 civilians on Thursday, a monitoring group said, most of them in a single battered town. "At least 35 Russian air strikes hit the town of Al-Mseifra," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"One of them hit a basement where people were taking shelter, killing 17 civilians, including five children," the Britain-based monitor said.

The Observatory says it determines who carried out particular strikes based on the type of aircraft and munitions used, the locations and the flight patterns.

The hospital in Al-Mseifra had been put out of service by Russian strikes on Tuesday night, the Observatory said.

Another five civilians were killed in other rebel-controlled areas of Daraa, the main province in southern Syria.



Smoke rises above a rebel-held area of southern Syria during a government air strike on Daraa province on 27 June 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

"This is the highest toll since the escalation began on 19 June," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman.

Government forces have been ramping up their bombardment of rebel-held areas of the south since 19 June, and allied Russian warplanes carried out their first raids on the region in

a year on 23 June.

In July last year, Russia, the United States and Jordan had agreed on a de-escalation zone for rebel-controlled parts of the south. After that, Russian warplanes — active in Syria since 2015 — had refrained from bombing rebel positions in the region.—AFP ■

Authorities issue warning of water crisis in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) of Pakistan said that the country's south Sindh and east Punjab province will face 51 per cent of water shortage in the coming days as there is only 220,000 cusec acres of water available in reserves, far less than the demand of water in the country.

Raising alarm over the prevalent acute shortage of water in the reserves, IRSA informed that the current water storage in the reserves stood at 0.220 million acres feet (MAF), local reports said on Thursday.

The authority said that the water inflow in the rivers of the country was measured at 1,12,900 cusecs, while river outflow remained at 1,19,300 cusecs, adding that a total of 1,23,600 cusecs of water was being provided to the provinces.

It was noticed that in June last year, water inflow was 3,75,100 cusecs while this year

it dropped to 1,12,900 cusecs. In addition, the storage last year was 3.6 MAF and this year it was only 0.22 MAF, thus revealing a big gap in storage capacity and inflow.

The IRSA spokesman said that the current situation of water shortage can get better only if the country receives an exceptionally good spell of rain in the forthcoming monsoon season, or an early glacial melting fill the dams to full capacity.

The spokesman said that if it did not happen, the situation could get worse and the forthcoming winter and next year summer crop may get badly affected.

Earlier, the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources issued a warning that the country may run dry by 2025. It said that the country touched the "water stress line" in 1990 and crossed the "water scarcity line" in 2005.—Xinhua ■

Putin-Trump summit set for 16 July in Helsinki

MOSCOW — A long-awaited first summit between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will take place in Helsinki on 16 July, the Kremlin and the White House said on Thursday.

The talks come as Russia's relations with the West languish at levels not seen since the Cold War and will be likely to provoke criticism for Trump at home, where investigators are probing possible collusion between his presidential campaign team and Moscow.

Russia's annexation of Crimea and its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine as well as Moscow's backing of Bashar al-Assad's regime in the Syrian conflict will also loom large.

Next month's dialogue in Finland will see the two leaders discuss "the current state and prospects for development of Russian-US relations," said the Kremlin.

A statement from the White House said the men would also broach various national security issues. Trump earlier said he expected the discussions to be wide-ranging.



US-Russian relations have hit lows not seen since the Cold War. PHOTO: AFP

'Good things'

"I think we'll be talking about Syria. I think we'll be talking about Ukraine. I think we'll be talking about many other subjects.

And we'll see what happens. You never know about meetings what happens, right?" the US president said. "I think a lot of good things can come with meetings with people," he added.

The announcement came after Trump's hawkish national security advisor John Bolton met Putin in Moscow on Wednesday, where he was given a warm welcome before the two discussed details of the future summit.

"Your visit to Moscow gives us hope that we can at least take the first step to reviving full-blown ties between our states," Putin told Bolton at the Kremlin after the two

smiled and shook hands for the cameras.

Bolton said there were areas for cooperation between the two countries, but added that the lifting of US sanctions imposed after the annexation of Crimea in 2014 would not be on the table at the summit.

Both sides have played down expectations of what the talks can hope to produce in concrete terms, saying the fact that Trump and Putin are meeting at all is an achievement in itself. Finnish President Sauli Niinisto said he welcomed the planned dialogue.

"The agenda of the meeting of Presidents Trump and Putin will be decided during the next two weeks, but they will certainly discuss the overall international situation and hopefully also arms control and disarmament issues," he said in a statement.

"Even small steps in reducing tensions would be in everybody's interest."

Ignoring staff's advice

Since coming to power last year, Trump has sought to improve relations with Putin amid tensions between Moscow and

the West.

Trump said this month Russia should be re-admitted to the G7 group of industrialised democracies from which it was suspended after annexing Crimea.

That comment came at a summit which ended in sharp disagreement between Trump and his G7 allies.

The last, brief meeting between Putin and Trump took place in November 2017 in Viet Nam during an APEC summit.

Putin and Trump discussed holding a summit during a phone call in March, when the US leader reportedly ignored advice from his staff and congratulated the Russian president for his victory in elections that were criticised by observers.

Moscow said Trump had invited Putin for a summit at the White House but the focus has since shifted to a possible meeting on neutral ground.

The US president is due to attend the 11 July and 12 NATO summit in Brussels before heading to Britain to meet with Prime Minister Theresa May and Queen Elizabeth II on 13 July. —AFP ■

Five dead as plane plunges into Mumbai building site

MUMBAI — A small plane crashed into a construction site in a densely populated part of India's financial capital Mumbai on Thursday, killing five people including one on the ground, officials said. Images broadcast on Indian news channels showed flames and black smoke billowing from the area, which sits right next to several high-rise residential towers.

There were four people on the 12-seater aircraft when it crashed, disaster management officials said, with witnesses reporting hearing a "loud explosion" as it smashed into a half-built structure.

"There was a huge explosion and the adjacent tree caught fire and the fire spilled on the streets," a man was quoted as saying on the NDTV news channel.

"Initially we assumed an electric box in the under construction building must have caught fire but when we checked out the spot, we found



The site of Thursday's fatal plane crash in Mumbai. PHOTO: AFP

the charred body of a man who apparently was on bike when the plane crashed," he added. A woman, who was also not named, reported hearing three loud explosions and described seeing a "major fire".

Video footage posted online showed bright orange flames licking the side of a building next to a construction site.

Other images shot after the fire was put out showed firemen sifting through the twisted wreckage of the twin-prop plane as crowds looked on.

The white tailfin seemed to be the only recognisable part of the aircraft that was not consumed in the inferno.

India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the

plane was a turbo-prop King Air C-90 and had been on a test flight from the nearby Juhu airstrip.

"There were two pilots and two aircraft maintenance engineers on board. All onboard (the) aircraft along with one person on ground are dead," the DGCA statement read.

It was not raining at the time of the accident and weather did not appear to be a factor in the crash. DGCA said it was sending a team to investigate the cause, adding that the aircraft was owned by a private operator who had purchased it from the Uttar Pradesh state government.

P Rahangdale, Mumbai's chief fire officer, said several fire engines had rushed to the spot.

"Our teams have extinguished the fire and are conducting rescue operations," he told AFP. India's National Disaster Response Force said it was also sending a team to make sure no there were no injured trapped under any rubble that may have been caused by the crash. —AFP ■

Five killed, over 40 injured in road accident in E. Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least five people were killed and over 40 others injured in a fatal road crash in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province on Thursday, local Urdu TV channels reported.

According to the local media reports, the incident happened after a passenger bus overturned due to over-speeding on the Indus highway near Jampur, a city in the country's Punjab province.

The ill-fated passenger bus was heading towards the country's southern port city of Karachi from northwest Peshawar city when the accident occurred. Police registered a case against the bus driver who fled from the site after the accident. —Xinhua ■

Foreign divers, soldiers join rescue for Thai children trapped in cave

MAE SAI — A team of US military personnel and British divers joined rescue efforts at a flooded cave in northern Thailand where 12 children and their football coach have been trapped for five days as heavy overnight rains hampered the search.

Flood waters seeped into a second chamber of the Tham Luang cave and forced some of the rescue divers to turn back, according to officials.

The children, aged between 11 and 16, went into the cave Saturday and were trapped when heavy rains clogged the main entrance.

Around 1,000 Navy SEAL divers, police, sol-

diers, border guards and officials have been mobilised for the around-the-clock rescue in a remote and mountainous part of Chiang Rai province near the Laos and Myanmar borders.

A team of American military personnel from the US Pacific Command, including pararescue and survival specialists, arrived at the site overnight to help rescue operations, according to embassy spokeswoman Jillian Bonnardeaux.

“Operators are trained in personnel recovery tactics and techniques and procedures,” she told AFP.

“Essentially what they’re looking at is assess-

ing with the Thai authorities the potential courses of action and complementing the efforts underway.”

Three British cave diving experts made a second attempt at entering the cave through chimneys Thursday after they tried to go in through the main entrance on the day before but were turned around by rushing flood waters.

Sniffer dogs

At nearly 10 kilometers (six miles), Tham Luang cave is one of the longest in Thailand and has the reputation of being one of the toughest, even among experienced divers.

It frequently floods during Thailand’s mon-



Thai soldiers relay electric cable deep into the Tham Luang cave which is infamous for its complicated network of tunnels and pools. **PHOTO: AFP**

soon season between July and November, rendering some of its narrow passages difficult to pass through.

There are several air pockets within the complex and the kids are believed to be in a large chamber in the middle of the cave.

But fast-running and murky flood waters have prevented rescue divers from reaching them and

heavy rains continue to seep into the cave through narrow openings on the sides and through the main entrance.

“The water is like cafe latte, you can’t see anything, and there’s a very strong flow which doesn’t make it easy,” Ben Reymenants, owner of Blue Label Diving in Thailand, told AFP from Chiang Rai

where he was assisting with the search.

High-pressure water pumps shipped in from Bangkok were set up but water levels continued to rise Thursday.

Officials said they planned to drill a hole into the cave on Friday and dispatched drones to find an ideal site for the hole.—
AFP ■

48 injured in collision between two buses in western India

NEW DELHI — As many as 48 people have been injured in a head-on collision between two buses in the western Indian state of Maharashtra Thursday, police said.

The accident occurred at Karle Khinde on the busy Alibaug-Wadkhall Road near Alibaug town in the state’s Raigad district, barely 100 km from capital Mumbai.

“The two buses, one a state-run bus and the other a private one coming from the opposite direction, crashed into each other in heavy rains,” a police official said.

Some 48 people sustained injuries in the

accident and have been admitted to a government hospital, the official said, adding that the victims were occupants of both the buses.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the private bus driver could not spot the other vehicle due to heavy rains, the official said.

“A probe has been ordered into the incident,” he added.

India has the highest number of road fatalities in the world.

Road accidents occur mostly due to poor driving or badly maintained roads and vehicles.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KAVOAETOS VOY.NO. (1805)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KAVOAETOS VOY.NO. (1805) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY.NO. (KHS 0085 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY.NO. (KHS 0085 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ABLE VOY.NO. (0247-483)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ABLE VOY.NO. (0247-483) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (592N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (592N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185



Actor Ranbir Kapoor will play troubled Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt in the upcoming biopic 'Sanju'. PHOTO: AFP

Biopic spotlights troubled life of Bollywood's 'Deadly Dutt'

MUMBAI—An Indian biopic out this week charts the troubled life of Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt, including his battles with drug addiction and jail time for keeping illegal weapons.

The Hindi-language actor, nicknamed "Deadly Dutt", served over four years in prison for possessing guns supplied by gangsters behind a series of bombings in Mumbai in 1993, India's deadliest to date.

"Sanju", which hits screens

on Friday, covers the period from just before Dutt's Bollywood debut with "Rocky" — nothing to do with the 1976 Sylvester Stallone classic of the same name — in 1981 to his release from jail in 2016.

Director Rajkumar Hirani and co-writer Abhijat Joshi interviewed Dutt, played by Ranbir Kapoor, extensively to try to understand the motivation behind some of his actions.

"I was interested in explor-

ing why he did it," Hirani told AFP, insisting that the film is not a hagiographical account of the 58-year-old's life.

"The story is told as seen from our point of view. Let people decide who he was," he added.

Dutt shot to fame in the mid-1980s in a string of action movies in which he performed his own stunts, earning him the nickname "Deadly Dutt".

But the star was also struggling with substance abuse, in-

cluding heroin and cocaine, that is said to have been sparked by the pain of losing his mother, Indian screen icon Nargis Dutt, to cancer.

Dutt took some time out before returning with a string of hits in the late 80s, including "Jeete Hain Shaan Se" and "Kanoon Apna Apna".

His success at the box office continued into the early 1990s with "Saajan" and "Khal Nayak".—AFP ■

Scarlett Johansson trashes 'demeaning' report that claims she auditioned to date Cruise

LOS ANGELES — Actor Scarlett Johansson has trashed a report claiming that she auditioned to date superstar Tom Cruise.

A former Scientologist had claimed that the "Avengers: Infinity War" star was one amongst the listed women to audition to date Cruise following his split from Nicole Kidman years ago.

"The very idea of any person auditioning to be in a relationship is so demeaning," Johansson said in a statement to The Hollywood Reporter.

"I refuse for anyone to spread the idea that I lack the integrity to choose my own relationships. Only a man aka Brendan Tighe would come up with a crazy story like that," she added. Tighe, a former Scientologist, recently appeared on NBC's "Megyn Kelly Today" and revealed that during his time as a part of Cruise's Scientology security unit, he saw reports of women who auditioned to date the actor.

Tighe explained that the reports were accidentally sent to his printer and he only remembered Johansson because he recognised her name.

"Another actress, Erika Christensen, had to disconnect from Scarlett Johansson because it didn't go well. That was in that report," Tighe had said.

The Church of Scientology has also denied Tighe's claims as well.—PTI ■

Banksy's Paris street art 'blitz' a tribute to rebels of 1968

PARIS — Street artist Banksy has confirmed that he "blitzed" Paris with up to a dozen murals as a tribute to the May 1968 uprising and even taking aim at the French government's hard line on migrants.

Stencilled images in the style of the mysterious British graffiti star began appearing on walls across the French capital last week.

All were unsigned, leaving a lingering doubt that they might have been by a imitator.

But late Monday the Bristol-based artist posted his latest

two Paris murals on Instagram — neither of which had yet been found by his fans -- and on Tuesday confirmed that another near the Sorbonne university was also his.

"Fifty years since the uprising in Paris 1968. The birthplace of modern stencil art," he quipped under a self-portrait as a masked rat carrying a utility knife that he uses to cut out his stencils.

Cheekily he sprayed it on the back of a road sign outside the Pompidou centre modern art gallery, which houses Europe's

biggest collection of contemporary art.

Banksy took on the rat as his avatar — a symbol of the vilified and downtrodden — in homage to the Paris street artist Blek le Rat, who started out in 1968 when a general strike by students and workers brought France to a halt.

The movement produced an explosion of street art and ingenious graffiti slogans, some of which have become legendary.

Banksy sprayed another rat wearing a Minnie Mouse bow under the caption "May 1968" near

the Sorbonne, one of the centres of the uprising, which was read as a wry take on the decline of French revolutionary spirit.

Mural defaced

The Disneyland Paris theme park is now one of the French capital's biggest employers.

The artist, known for his sharp political and social commentary, made headlines Sunday with another Paris mural of a refugee child covering up a swastika sprayed over the patch of pavement on which she was sleeping.

Placing it right next to a former refugee centre closed down in March by the French government was seen as an attack on President Emmanuel Macron's crackdown on migrants.

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, who set up the centre, was quick to hail the mural.

"Sometimes an image is worth a thousand words. Humanity and pragmatism rather than populism," she tweeted in a dig at Macron, who had argued the shelter was making Paris a magnet for migrants.—AFP ■

Lenovo launches new products in Myanmar

LENOVO launched two new products: Lenovo Yoga 520 (14) and Lenovo ideapad 330 on 27th June, 2018 at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon.

Lenovo is one the leading brands in IT infrastructure, constantly focusing on continually improving the quality products for customer needs.

This can be seen through which a string of new products launched.

Those two new models, Lenovo Yoga 520(14) and Lenovo ideapad 330, will definitely cover up customer daily requirements combined with updated technologies and specifications.

New model Lenovo Yoga 520 comes with Mineral Grey. Stylish 2-in-1



Lenovo's new products were launched yesterday. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

entertainment powerhouse.

The Yoga 520 is with screen size 14 inches 2-in-1 laptop with powerful Up 8th Gen Intel Core™ i5 processors and

long-lasting battery life which is Up to 10 hours.

Another new model Lenovo Ideapad 330 comes with Platinum Grey, Midnight Blue, and Onyx Black.

Laptop screen size is 14 inches and 15.6 inches display with FHD resolution that delivers powerful visuals on the go and combined with Dolby Audio.—GNLM ■

Samsung introduces Myanmar with new A8 Star

SAMSUNG has launched the Galaxy A8 Star, its all-new smartphone that comes with 6.3" FHD sAMOLED display and powerful dual camera in Myanmar today. The Galaxy A8 Star features a sleek design and symmetrical side styling that grips well in the hand. With its unique design, Samsung lovers in Myanmar will be able to use the new smartphone on the move with life's daily adventures in style.

"The Galaxy A8 Star with 6.3" Full HD+ sAMOLED infinity display will minimize distraction, so users can comfortably keep watching over

what's on screen. The superb 24M front with f2.0 and 16MP+24MP rear camera with f1.7 lens will help our users capture stunning high-resolution images even in low light conditions," said Ko Zarni Win Htet, Head of IT and Mobile Group at Samsung Myanmar. "This phone is for those people who would like to take stunning photos and watch movies or play games with immersive viewing experience," he added. Dubbed as a feature powerhouse, the Galaxy A8 Star packs the best of screen, and camera into one smartphone. These top-of-the-line fea-



A large cutout of the new Samsung Galaxy A8 Star. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

tures enable consumers to get an immersive viewing, the best multimedia experience and sharp pictures from their Galaxy A8 Star smartphone.

To mark the launch of the Galaxy A8 Star,

Samsung Myanmar has collaborated with Telenor Myanmar, which has already built ultramodern network offering fastest 4G speed 24/7 for all mobile users and customers to that end.—GNLM ■

Louvre Abu Dhabi sets Da Vinci unveiling for September

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — The Louvre Abu Dhabi said Wednesday it will unveil its most prized acquisition on 18 September — a very rare painting attributed to Leonardo da Vinci that was bought for a record \$450 million last year.

The "Salvator Mundi", a portrait of Jesus Christ painted in 1500, was the only one of the fewer than 20 paintings

believed to be the work of the famed Renaissance Old Master still in private hands when it went under the hammer at Christie's in November.

It was only six years ago that it was declared authentic after long being dismissed as a copy by one of Da Vinci's students.

"Lost and hidden for so long in private hands, Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece is now our

gift to the world," the chairman of Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, Mohamed Khalifa al-Mubarak, said in a statement announcing the public unveiling.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi has kept tight-lipped over the identity of the painting's buyer, saying only that the emirate's Department of Culture and Tourism had "acquired" it.

Last December, the New York Times identified the buyer as an obscure member of the Saudi royal family, Prince Badr bin Abdullah.

The Wall Street Journal later reported Bin Abdullah was acting on behalf of Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. He has never confirmed or denied the report.—AFP ■

Asleep in Jesus U Aung Hla Age (84) (Retired Shan State Migrant)

U Aung Hla, the eldest son of (U Bu Ko) and (Daw Khin Sein), husband of Daw Naw Merina Hla and brothers, sisters and in-laws: (U Saw Than Bu) + Daw Nang Win Kyi, U Aung Myint + (Daw Yin Yin Hla Ko), U Ohn Ngwe + (Daw Nang Nu Nu Ko), Daw Baby Pu, (U Sai Kham Khay + Daw Nang Lily Pu), Daw Nang Wah May Pu (Michigan USA), (Darlin Pu), Daw Nang Wah Shin Pu, Daw Nang Aye Aye Ko, (U Nay Htun Ko), age (84), passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at Tun Hospital in Taunggyi. Bereaved family

Dulwich College Yangon announces major investment into sports facilities

AS part of a capital investment of more than US\$30 million in phase one developments at Pun Hlaing and Star City campuses, a total of US\$8 million is solely invested into sports facilities.

Dulwich College Yangon, a modern British independent school, has announced the details of a US\$8 million investment into the sport facilities at its StarCity campus. The facilities will be unveiled in August 2018, and these will complement phase one of the sports facilities introduced at the Pun Hlaing campus in 2017.

Partnered with Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd., Dulwich College Yangon is making a capital investment of more than US\$30 million to develop the first phase of their two world-class campuses.

Mr Daryl Orchard, Founding Headmaster of Dulwich College Yangon said: "At Dulwich, we believe that to develop learning at the very highest levels requires the very best facilities. In today's competitive world, excellent exam results alone are not enough to gain entry into the world's top universities. Extracurricular achievements are equally as important as academic achievements. Therefore, we broaden the students' breadth of experience to include key life skills such as sport, music, the performing arts, public speaking and community service."

The 20-acre StarCity campus will be introduced

ing state-of-the-art sports facilities in August 2018 including a sports field with 400-metre running track, an indoor gymnasium complex, a dance studio and an aquatic centre with a 10-lane, 50-metre Olympic-size swimming pool and a 20-metre training pool.

Dulwich College Yangon is one College spread over two campuses, and students at either campus benefit from cross-campus learning and shared facilities. The 12-acre Pun Hlaing campus is home to sports facilities comprising of two large multi-use covered games areas, a full-sized sports field and a smaller playing field, which were introduced last year as part of phase one.

Mr Daryl Orchard said: "We are developing the campuses as we continue to grow, expanding on and improving the current facilities. Throughout our network of schools, when we establish campuses we think in terms of decades not years and are constantly looking for ways in which we can improve."

More sports and extracurricular facilities are planned in the next phases of developments for both Pun Hlaing and StarCity, including indoor and outdoor sports facilities for the Pun Hlaing campus, and an extension of the indoor gymnasium complex for the StarCity campus. A Performing Arts Building is also part of the plans at Star City. ■

Championship belt stays in Myanmar: Aung La N Sang

AT a news conference on Wednesday for the much-anticipated middleweight mixed martial arts match tonight between Japanese fighter Ken Hasegawa and the two-division world champion from Myanmar Aung La N Sang, the defending champion predicted the championship belt would remain in Myanmar.

Aung La N Sang, One Championship's middleweight and light-heavyweight title holder, will take on Hasegawa in front of a home crowd tonight at 6:30 at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon. At the news conference for the match titled Spirit of a Warrior at Pullman Yangon Centrepont Hotel in Yangon both fighters told the media they had much respect for each other but also had confidence in their abilities. "It is an honour to lend my talents to ONE Championship, and I will relish this opportunity

to showcase my skills to the world and to make Japan proud", said Hasegawa. "Taking on Aung La N Sang for the middleweight title, it's not going to be easy. He is a tremendous competitor and an even greater champion. But I am confident of victory and that my hand will be raised as the new champion." When it was his turn to speak to the media, Aung La N Sang made the confident prediction that he would successfully defend his title.

"Every time I perform in front of my people in Myanmar, my heart is full and my soul fulfilled" Aung La N Sang said. "As the reigning ONE Middleweight & Light Heavyweight World Champion, I welcome all challengers. Those who want to come get it, come get it. But this belt is staying in Myanmar, and I will do everything in my power to protect our honour."—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■



Aung La N Sang the "Burmese Python", left, will defend his middleweight title against Japan's Ken Hasegawa, right, tonight at Thuwunna indoor stadium. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Wallaby star Folau loses appeal against one-match ban

SYDNEY — Star Wallabies full-back Israel Folau lost his appeal against a one-match ban on Thursday in the aftermath of a contentious final Test with Ireland last weekend.

Folau faced a World Rugby judiciary hearing Wednesday after being yellow carded and then cited for a second incident under the high ball in Australia's 20-16 loss to the Irish in Sydney on Saturday.

An appeals tribunal subsequently upheld Folau's ban and he will miss the NSW Waratahs' Super Rugby clash with the Rebels in Melbourne on Friday.

Before the ban was handed down, Waratahs coach Daryl Gibson said he feared rugby was in danger of legislating the aerial contest into oblivion if the suspension was allowed to stand.

The ban came as a result of Folau's involvement in an aerial contest for possession with Peter O'Mahony from a restart in the ninth minute of the final Irish Test.

Folau won the ball, but it was ruled at the judicial hearing that he made dangerous contact with the Irish skipper, who was forced from the field after crashing heavily to the ground.—AFP ■



Israel Folau (top C jumping for the ball with Ireland's Jack McGrath) is one of world rugby's best jumpers. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ambitious Fenerbahce swoop for Wilshere

ISTANBUL — Fenerbahce are set to sign former England midfielder Jack Wilshere after his decision to leave Arsenal, a Turkish report said on Thursday.

Wilshere, who played for Arsenal since boyhood, is leaving the London side on a free transfer after being told by manager Unai Emery he would not be a first choice next season.

He would be the first major signing by the Istanbul football

club after tycoon Ali Koc ended Aziz Yildirim's two-decade stint as chairman earlier this month, in a seismic change for the club.

The DHA news agency said that Wilshere was in Istanbul, had inspected Fenerbahce's stadium and was looking for a house.

"An agreement was found and the deal is expected to be announced in the coming days," it said.—AFP ■



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018

World Cup 2018 Results

Serbia	0 - 2	Brazil
Switzerland	2 - 2	Costa Rica
Japan	0 - 1	Poland
Senegal	0 - 1	Colombia