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President U Win Myint accepts the Letter of Credence presented by Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. **PHOTO: MNA**

President accepts credentials from British, Austrian ambassadors

H.E. Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am yesterday.

Following this event, H.E. Mrs. Eva Hager, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Repub-

lic of the Union of Myanmar, presented her Letter of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 11:00 am yesterday.

Present on the occasions were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Office of the President U Min Thu and Director-General of the Protocol Department U Thant Sin. —Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi browse documentary photos of the Myanmar Women's Committee displayed at the Myanmar Women's Day event. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor addresses Myanmar Women's Day event

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended and addressed the Myanmar Women's Day event held at the Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the event, the State Counsellor said, "Everyone knows that women's days are held throughout the world. I want you to think about why women's days are held, while you are at such an event. In a human society, there are women, men and children. There are Women's Day and Children's Day, but no Men's Day. Of course there is Na-

tional Day (Amyotha in Myanmar language, which also means men) which is to commemorate nationals (and not the men only). The answer to why there are Women's Day and Children's Day and no Men's Day is simple. Historically, naturally and according to events in human society, women and children are weak (vulnerable) groups.

It is not wrong to say that in human society, men used their physical strength to take the upper hand since the earliest time.

SEE PAGE-2

Peace conference organizing committee meets

THE coordinating meeting of the working committee on organizing the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong third session was held at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Secretary of the work committee on organizing the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong, delivered an opening address in which he said all the working committees had prepared

for the successful holding of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong third session from 11 to 16 July at the International Convention Centre. The Central Committee and the meetings of the working committee secretaries had been held previously. Preparation for this year's conference, with the benefit of past experience, is believed to be better than the previous conference, he said.

"More experience is better for coordination and cooperation," U Khin

Maung Tin said. He also urged the committees to raise their needs openly in the meeting.

Also at yesterday's meeting, U Zaw Htay, Director General of the Department of Union Peace Formation, Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office, explained the decisions of previous meetings and final preparations to be made.

The invitation working committee, reception working committee, lodging working committee, transportation work-

ing committee, conference hall organizing committee, catering working committee, ceremonial decoration committee, security working committee, information working committee, health working committee, finance working committee and coordination working committee then gave updates on their duties, followed by discussions among attendees.

U Khin Maung Tin ended the meeting after delivering a closing address.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor addresses Myanmar Women's Day event

FROM PAGE-1

Human beings place main emphasis on physical strength since the earliest Stone Age. Scientists have explained why men have more physical strength than women, so I wouldn't go into this. But the current age is not dependent on physical strength anymore. It is now the age of technology. In this technological age, anyone who pushes a button is capable of doing things. Women are equal with men in pushing a button. On the education sector of our country, it can be seen that women are not only on par with men but are even ahead of them.

This is not only in our country. In the world's education sector, women are not only on the same par with men, but in countries where opportunities are given, they are even ahead of the men. Look at the passing rate of the matriculation examination in our country; or the percentage of men and women in universities. All can see that women are ahead of men. But we need to think that this is not enough. The present age relies more on monetary strength than on physical strength. It is the age where money reigns. In an age where monetary strength reigns, I think moral strength is the most important to possess.

Moral strength dictates whether the monetary strength is used properly or abused. I want women not to be powerful in our country alone but to be powerful in the world's human society. This force needs to be of value and it is to be built upon moral strength. According to research, it is easier to incite hate than love. We can question whether this research was conducted on their own society or on the entire people of the world. But the point the researchers want to make is that it is easier to incite greed, anger, and ignorance in people. In our country, we don't need to say too much about greed, anger and ignorance being the main weakness of the human being. We just need to think whether we are indeed doing anything to change this.

In this technological age,

almost all children have hand phones or cell phones through which they can view or learn about almost anything. All of us have to be discussing and thinking seriously about how to teach children to have proper morality. We need to think a lot about this. In this age, children will even ask whether the parents and teachers have the right to decide which path is good for them. It is because this is an age where children can learn things on their own without being taught by their parents and teachers.

'The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world' is an old saying about us women. Here, the word 'rule' is not meant to be above or at the head or to govern. It means to guide and build up. Ruling or governing is not the essence of this saying. This mistaken meaning is the main source of the problem for our world. Why rule or govern? It is mainly to give a helping and guiding hand. In our language, we say Sayars and Sayamas (male and female teacher) teach and bring up our children. This is because of our custom and also to encourage more male teachers to join the education sector. In fact, in our education sector, there are almost a hundred percent of female teachers. Therefore, we need women to think more about bringing up the moral strength of the children. Some say, now is not the age where women alone can take care of the children. Men need to take part as well. This is right. Fathers need to take care of their children too. Earlier I said there are Women's Day and Children's Day but no Men's Day. But there is Father's Day in the same way as there is Mother's Day. So we are not ignoring the role of the fathers.

Looking at the present moment in a practical manner, in the education sector, women are playing the primary and main role in guiding and teaching the children. Therefore, we need to think of how to develop their moral strength. Are we teaching our children properly in our own home? Are we building up their



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the address at the Myanmar Women's Day event in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

moral strength properly? We need to think about this. We hear this mentioned repeatedly in our society, and all know about this. It is that we tell our children to be better than the neighbor's; or to be better than others in the class. When we say this repeatedly, we reduce the cooperative spirit among the children. When we praise someone else, it sounds like 'why you, my child, is not as good as them'. This makes the child feel that their value is high only when they are better than others. In fact, no one



When celebrating Women's Day, women need not emphasize on women's rights, and instead think of how to use these rights for the benefit of all.

could be better than another in everything. One can be strong in something and weak in some other thing. Similarly, the other person would have their own strength and weakness.

Women should aim towards having a Human Being Day in future, instead of a separate Women's Day or Men's Day. Only when women, men and children in a country are united in a society, can the society develop. We all know the weakness of our country. We are financially very weak. Looking at our history, we were also seen not to have sufficient moral strength, either. Thus, we need to put much effort. Be proud in making such efforts. We usually hear people

drowning in their own miseries. It is an opportunity to show your ability, when we face difficulties. Use it for the good of everyone. It is a great opportunity. We have to make the best use of this opportunity.

When celebrating Women's Day, women need not emphasize on women's rights, and instead think of how to use these rights for the benefit of all. If women have rights and opportunities, think of what they will do with these rights and opportunities to benefit others. Especially, during Women's Day, we talk mostly about women and we must never forget about women's traditional function of raising children. Raising children is not raising them to pass examinations with many distinctions only. They are to be raised with proper moral values. They should be able to face both triumphs and losses. If human beings are not affected by either winning or losing, our world will be at peace. People fear loss. They are sorry when they lose. They want to win. Winning stokes their ego. When they win, they look down at the loser. These are things that incite greed, anger and ignorance in us. Among my age group, we have grandfathers and grandmothers playing with their grandsons and grand-daughters. But some grandfathers and grandmothers told me that their grandsons and grand-daughters are only interested in their cell phones. This is regrettable. Interacting with one another is one of the main requirements for the development of our country.

These interactions with other human beings are what women need to teach their sons, daughters, grandsons and grand-daughters. Instill in them to do better. Increase relating with others. Have the will to do. Cooperate. Rather than sitting

alone with a computer or hand phone. They will gain a lot of knowledge and information from the computer. But they wouldn't be able to differentiate what is good or bad. They need to be taught and guided. This is why we are holding Women's Day once a year.

When this day comes by, think back what you have done as women. Women can be a mother or a friend. She can be a colleague in work. She can be a wife. She can be a grandmother or an aunt. Everyone has many roles to play. A person does not live alone.

It is important for women to look back and see what we've done. We need to do things for ourselves as well as for others. For ourselves means what you have done to make yourself a better person. It is the same for others. What have you done to make others better? It can be physical. It can be mental. These are what we need to think.

It is important that there is regular progress year by year. If there isn't much development last year, make sure there will be some next year. As long as we live, we will have opportunities. Opportunities to develop," said the State Counsellor.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor took a commemorative group photo with people attending the event.

After this, the State Counsellor viewed the 2018 Myanmar Women's Day exhibition showing women's development works, works of Myanmar Women's Affairs Committee, children and women development works of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, works of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association and items produced at vocational training centers for women. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Need to Distinguish between Politics and Being Disciplined

You are required to distinguish politics from being disciplined. Nothing will work without having discipline. If someone wants to violate a discipline, they must be well convinced of the kind of punishment they will deservedly receive as a consequence. Try your best by being disciplined to have an order changed. Abide by disciplines before having it changed. This is the difference between politics and being disciplined.

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's speech given at the All Workers' Union meeting and dinner in Natmauk, on 25 March 1947)



in
Picture

President U Win Myint accepts the Letter of Credence presented by Mrs. Eva Hager, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE - 1)**

Union Minister urges stores, vendors to avoid selling prohibited food, drugs, cosmetics

MORE health awareness activities will be carried out against the dangers of using prohibited or restricted food, drugs and cosmetics, said Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports.

"Officials from Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will list out the dos and don'ts with regard to preparing food items sold on the streets. YCDC will also raise public awareness over diseases that can occur through the consumption of unhygienic foods by putting up posters and stickers at market places, restaurants and public areas, and by distributing flyers to the public. The YCDC will conduct these activities in cooperation with regional authorities," said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister has

urged local manufacturers to avoid producing cosmetics or food products that contain suspicious chemical dyes. He also urged store owners and vendors to stop selling prohibited or restricted cosmetics and food items.

In addition, the Ministry of Health and Sports is making arrangements to open call centres so the public can ask for information on the Food and Drug Administration Department's activities. The ministry will also update information on the department's website in real time, so the local public will have more access to information, said the Union Minister during a meeting with officials from the Food and Drug Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 July.—Nyein Nyein ■

UEC seeks suggestions from political parties on 2019-2022 Strategic Plan for 2020 general election

AFTER seeking comments and suggestions from civil service organisations (CSOs) on the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan for the 2020 General Elections on 2 July, the Union Election Commission (UEC) held another consultation session with political parties on the Strategic Plan yesterday morning at Park Royal Hotel in Yangon.

The consultation session was attended by UEC member U Myint Naing and officials from the commission office, officials from International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and officials from 81 political parties.

At the event, UEC member U Myint Naing said that the day's discussion was held for political parties to give suggestions on the Strategic Plan 2019-2022.

A similar discussion was held with CSOs on 2 July. In order to hold the 2015 general election successfully, Strategic Plan 2013-2018 was drawn up.

In the same way, Strategic Plan 2019-2022 was drawn up for the 2020 general elections. UEC has drafted the 11 chapters from Strategic Plan 2019-2022 with transparency, freedom and fairness, taking into consideration the strong

and weak points, advantages and challenges of the previous elections.

Elections are essential in a democratic system and UEC could not conduct a successful election on its own alone. Participation and cooperation of political parties, CSOs, anyone associated with the election and the public is required.

Political parties are urged to partake enthusiastically in raising the participation of all, educating the public, in the matter of political parties and candidates and to give comments and suggestions on the Strategic Plan, in order to



UEC member U Myint Naing delivers the speech at the consultation session with political parties on the Strategic Plan in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

make it a better one, said U Myint Naing.

Next, IFES Country Director Mr. Paul Guerin OBE explained the agenda for the

consultation, after which the political parties were divided into six groups to discuss the strategic plan. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Local, foreign direct investments to be permitted as soon as possible in Mandalay Region

THE Mandalay Region government will permit local and foreign direct investments (FDIs), as soon as possible, if the proposals meet the necessary terms and conditions, said Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region.

The Mandalay Region Investment Committee was formed in July 2017 after the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration handed over the power to approve FDIs, which do not exceed an initial investment of Ks6,000 million or US\$5 million, to the state and region government committees.

"The union government has granted authority to the region governments. The investment committee meeting will be held monthly. We will take a decision based on whether the information given in the investment proposal is correct. If we have questions, we will ask them. After that, we will issue the permitted certificate. We will skip some steps, if possible," Dr. Zaw Myint Maung added.

The region government gave the green light to five FDIs worth \$13.633 million and



A newly renovated port on the Ayeyawady River in Mandalay is ready to handle ships. **PHOTO: MNA**

nine local investments worth Ks23.129 billion from August 2017 to June 2018. Also, the union government approved 62 FDIs worth \$3.262 million and 154 local investments worth Ks4,872 billion from August 2017 to June 2018.

"The region government

approved the investment proposals after checking four objectives, including environmental conservation, creation of job opportunities for the local people, economic growth and MIC permission. The region government already has its own policy, said the chief

minister.

The Mandalay Region government will issue permits rapidly when the investment proposals are submitted with the MIC letter, paid tax receipt, fire services department recommendation and business licence. —Khine Sat Wai ■



Officials of the Electricity Supply Corporation check cables in a street in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

AMI meters installed, service cables untangled in Pabedan Township

AUTHORITIES from the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation head office, under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, have installed advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meters and untangled complex electrical service cables for safety, reducing the loss of electric power and full-capacity volt-

age at 30th Street, Pabedan Township, in Yangon.

Also, around 132 electricity experts from 10 townships installed 210 AMI meters and untangled 310 complex electrical service cables from 12 lamp posts at 27th and 28th streets (middle block) in Pabedan Township.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon's University of Dental Medicine holds workshop

The University of Dental Medicine-Yangon held the Awareness Raising Workshop on University Charter, Higher

Education Law and Autonomy yesterday morning and it was attended by 29 faculty members of the university. —GNLM

Myanmar Women's Day commemorated in Mandalay

WITH the sponsorship of the Mandalay Regional Women's Affairs Committee, the Myanmar Women's Day was held at Mandalay City Hall in Chanayethazan Township yesterday morning.

First, Mandalay Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung gave opening remarks and a member of the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs read a monograph about the history of the committee.

In addition, women in the committee and women from other regions of Mandalay were

awarded citations in recognition of work they achieved in the areas of commerce, education, health and other areas by the Mandalay Chief Minister and officials. It was followed by a performance of Thangyat (traditional folk verse performance) from the Women Activist Group's entertainment.

Afterwards, the region chief minister, officials and invited guests took a tour of the displays that were on exhibition that related to the work the women accomplished.—Khin Khin Win (Education)/MDN

China's demand drives up prices of aqua feed

By May Thet Hnin

THIS year, China's high demand for aqua feed, such as corn and broken rice, has led to higher prices, said Dr. Thet Hmu, chair of Myanmar Aqua Feed Association.

"China is currently purchasing all the broken rice, corn and bran supplied to them. The main problem is the price fluctuation due to illegal exports through border trade channels," he maintained.

Agro byproducts, such as corn, broken rice, bran and sesame oil cakes are crucial to the

fish and prawn farming sector. China also purchases unprocessed groundnuts and sesame. There is now lower groundnut and sesame oil consumption, resulting in some oil mills shutting down their operations. This, in turn, greatly reduces the byproducts produced by the mills.

The price of corn has increased up to Ks650 per viss (a viss equals to 3.6 lb), whereas last year, it fetched only Ks410 per viss. Similarly, the price of broken rice has also risen from Ks420 to Ks590. At present, there is no significant increase in the price of bran, but it is likely to

rise soon, said Dr. Thet Hmu.

A number of commodity flow problems, such as communication, transportation and logistics, is also attributed to the high price of aqua feed, he continued.

"Prices do not differ much every year in foreign countries, unlike here, where the feed price fluctuates every month. In addition to multi-commodity flow problems, merchants also manipulate prices. Chinese merchants buy corn directly from Shan State. If there are no commodity flow problems, this situation will never occur," said

Dr. Thet Hmu.

Price instability can harm the whole livestock sector, as the cost of feed accounts for 75 per cent of the input cost in fish and prawn farming. Also, there could be a possible impact on domestic consumption and foreign exports, Dr. Thet Hmu noted.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation has already submitted complaints regarding illegal paddy exports and sales of unpurified rice and bran to the trade ministry, said U Win Kyaing.

Currently, soybean oil cakes are exported to Brazil, Argentina, India, the United States and

Viet Nam.

The fish and prawn farming sector has only six aqua feed processing factories in Myanmar, although there are over 20 of them for pig and poultry farming. In order to enhance the livestock sector, traders engaged in the fisheries supply chain need government subsidies, capital investment, technical assistance and more access to the export market. Legislations concerning property rights should also be enacted, the businessmen said.

There are over 480,000 acres of fish and prawn farming lakes across the country. ■



Visitors look at the board showing the stock exchange rates in YSE. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Myanmar's earning from export of pulses drop by half

THE value of Myanmar pulses export in the past two-and-a-half months drop over by half, compared to that in the similar period of last fiscal year 2017-2018, according to the commerce ministry.

Between 1 April and 15 June of current six-month interim period (April-September) prior to next FY 2018-2019, over 266,000 tons of various pulses were exported to foreign countries, with an estimated value of US\$164.5 million. Pulses export earned around \$344.96 million from export volume of over 475,300 tons at the same point of last FY.

In early May, the Indian government released an official statement allowing an import quota each of 150,000 tons of mung beans and green grams, and 200,000 tons of pigeon peas.

The prices increased after

India lifted the ban on pulses importation. Myanmar accounts for 70 per cent of India's mung beans import. Hence, Myanmar does not need to compete with other importer countries to India.

Nevertheless, India buys only 30 per cent of the pigeon peas from Myanmar, leaving the pigeon peas market uncertain.

The commerce ministry has already requested growers to not choose pigeon peas in the coming bean season. China is the main buyer of green grams. Therefore, Myanmar does not need to be worried about the green gram market if the demand from India goes down.

Prior to India's suspension of pulses importation last year, 1.5 million tons of pulses were exported to India per year. —

GNLM ■

YSX stock trading value hits all-time low

THE value of traded stocks on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) last month registered an all-time low, according to monthly trading data released online by YSX. Shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd. — are being traded on the YSX.

The volume of trading shares, as well as their value, reached a new low against the previous months. A total of

131,120 shares of the five-listed companies on YSX were traded in June 2018, with an estimated trading value of Ks666 million.

In June 2017, 194,240 shares of FMI, MTSH, MCB and FPB were traded at a value of Ks1.54 billion. FMI and MTSH traded 192,592 shares worth Ks6.89 billion in June 2016.

The value of stocks traded on YSX was recorded at Ks70.7 billion in 2016, whereas the value in 2017 dropped by over two-thirds, with an estimated value of Ks22.1 billion, according to official figures of YSX.

The trading of stocks on YSX is lackluster in 2018, despite awareness campaigns and promotional events for potential listed companies.

Poor economic climate, low income and the lack of publicity about the stock market are factors contributing to the steep drop in the trading of stocks, said YSX observers.

Despite the online trading of stocks and an increase in the matching time from two to four per day, trading of stocks on YSX appears to be on the downward trend.—GNLM ■

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Russian Ambassador Dr. Nikolay Listopadov in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 July 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Russian Ambassador to Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Nikolay Listopadov at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and friendly discussed matters related to increasing of bilateral friendship between the Hluttaws of Russia and Myanmar, all sectors co-operation and establishment

of Russia-Myanmar Hluttaw friendship association.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency■

Commerce Deputy Minister attends Canada Day celebrations

THE Canadian Embassy in Myanmar held Canada Day celebrations at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening, and it was attended by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and wife Daw Thin Thin Nu.

The national anthem of Myanmar and Canada were played first followed by opening remarks from Canadian Amb-

sador Ms. Karen MacArthur and the deputy minister. They then proceeded to cut the celebratory cake and a documentary photo was taken with everyone in attendance. Attending the event were ambassadors from other embassies in Yangon, embassy officials, UN representatives, and other invited guests. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo and Canadian Ambassador Ms. Karen MacArthur cut the celebratory cake at Canada Day Celebration in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

JMC-U holds 17th meeting at NRPC in Yangon

By Zaw Gyi

THE Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) held its 17th meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the meeting, JMC-U Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae spoke of future work in implementing JMC works, coordinating in regards to one's own organization, the requirement to openly discuss and suggest on the strengths and weaknesses in implementing JMC-U works, JMC being a committee that oversees the exact implementation of agreements on NCA, and military matters between the government and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs). As there were omissions and violations of the agreements, disagreements and complaints had to be resolved. Long-term and short-term works in the peace process need to be seen in different perspectives and coordinated. From there, implementation works are to be continued. For the peace process efforts to progress and succeed, it is important to work on future works during the interim period, instead of pondering on the past. Only then can eternal peace be achieved. When working with other EAOs, mutual trust can be built if the other side



Peace makers participating in the 17th regular meeting of JMC-U in Yangon. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

is informed and coordinated on the exact aim of the work and more similarities would be obtained. Through this, more agreements can be reached. Trust can be more easily formed if there is personal familiarity. Through meeting regularly, personal relations are established which help in resolving conflicts. Therefore, not only committee members at various levels of JMC, but local commanders should also meet regularly. During the interim period, JMC needs to participate in regional development work. Our arrangements shouldn't be a burden to the locals, while locals should be encouraged to participate and cooperate so that they too can experience the outcome of peace. As various ethnic nationals are living together throughout the country, the

works of JMC are for the safety of their lives and properties, as well as to raise their livelihood. JMC committee members need to strive towards making the local people understand this. The aim of the JMC is to give support to successful political discussions. It is important to reduce conflicts among EAOs. A union based on democracy and federalism could not be established by taking up arms, and ethnic nationals should truly want armed conflicts to stop and have a sustained peace. NCA is the only strategy for peace, and it is important to abide by the pledges in the NCA. The Tatmadaw wants a permanent peace during the term of the present government. Tatmadaw leaders also have the same wish. When implementing the JMC works, JMC committee members at all

levels must observe the three main national causes, establish a democracy federal system based on the results of the discussion and exactly follow the JMC work processes, said the JMC-U Chairman.

Next, JMC-U Vice Chairman (1) Saw Isacc Po said JMC is formed with three groups that have differing history, views, thought and conducts so it is inevitable that there will be differences. The only way to overcome the differences is through negotiation and discussion. It is important to create an agreeable setup from matters where both are nearest to agreeing. Building trust is most important. Due to the past long of armed conflicts, there shouldn't be any doubt that during this short peace process suspicion and worries remains. In some regions, trust remains at the lowest level. As such, when implementing JMC, anything that could affect trust should be avoided. If required, participation of civilians in JMC should be increased. As locals are the ones who will be affected if conflict occurs, more Local Civilians Monitoring (LCM) groups should be formed. If more locals participate in JMC, locals will have more trust in JMC. Afterwards, U Sai Myo Thant, civilian representative and JMC-U Vice Chairman-2, said civilians

are not the originators of NCA, but will ensure that NCA is implemented according to agreed terms and process, monitor and investigate violations and resolve conflicts in cooperation with the government, Tatmadaw and EAOs. When discussions about armed engagements are made, it is not to put blame or fault on others but to find ways to avoid them from occurring again. Ways and means should be explored for the people to understand and participate in the JMC works, said U Sai Myo Thant.

The meeting will be held until 5 July. Yesterday's meeting was attended by Tatmadaw representatives Lt-Gen Aye Win, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Brig-Gen (retired) Kyaw Zan Myint, JMC-U Vice Chairman (1) Saw Isaac Po and heads of EAOs, JMC-U Vice Chairman (2) U Sai Myo Thant and civilian group representatives, JMC-S and JMC-L committee members and members of the technical assistance office.

During yesterday's meeting, as per decision of the JMC-U leaders, Tatmadaw, EAOs and civilian representatives were seated not according in their own groups but mixed with each other to develop more personal relations and contact. ■

The tow-an-iceberg plan being floated to ease Cape Town drought

CAPE TOWN (South Africa) — It is a plan as crazy as the situation is desperate — towing an iceberg from Antarctica to Cape Town to supply fresh water to a city in the grip of drought.

Earlier this year, Cape Town came within weeks of shutting off all its taps and forcing residents to queue for water rations at public standpipes.

The cut-off was narrowly averted as people scrambled to reduce their water usage and Autumn rains saved the day. But the threat is expected to return to the coastal South African city again next year and beyond.

“The idea sounds crazy,” admits maverick salvage expert Nick Sloane, the brains behind the tow-an-iceberg scheme. “But if you look at the fine details, it is not so crazy.”

Sloane suggests wrapping the iceberg in a textile insulation skirt to stop it melting and using a supertanker and two tugboats to drag it 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) towards Cape Town using prevailing ocean currents.

The iceberg, carefully selected by drones and radiography scans, would be about one kilometre in length, 500 metres across and up to 250 metres deep, with a flat, tabletop surface.

Melted water could be gathered each day using collection channels and a milling machine to create ice slurry — producing 150 million litres of usable water

every day for a year.

‘Purest freshwater on earth’

Sloane’s idea might be dismissed as mere fantasy.

But the 56-year-old Zambian-South African has a reputation for taking on the impossible after he re-floated the giant Costa Concordia cruise ship that capsized in 2012 off the Tuscan island of Giglio, killing 32 people — one of the world’s largest and most complex maritime salvage operations.

“Icebergs are made of the purest freshwater on earth,” the founder of Sloane Marine Ltd said earnestly.

“Thousands break off every year. Mother Nature has been teasing mankind with this for a long time, saying ‘this is here.’”

He estimates it would cost \$100 million (86 million euros) to haul an iceberg on a journey that could take up to three months, and another \$50-60 million to harvest the water for one year as it melts.

“In Russia, they have pushed (icebergs) away from oil installations — but small ones, they are about half-a-million tons. (Here) we are talking about 100 million tons,” said Sloane.

Weighing up options

To tackle the drought, Cape Town has enacted measures ranging from building seawater desalination plants to issuing strict instructions to only flush



Drought-hit Cape Town earlier this year came within weeks of shutting off all its taps and forcing residents to queue for water rations at public standpipes. **PHOTO: AFP**

toilets when necessary.

But whether Cape Town authorities will be persuaded to embrace the iceberg project is unclear.

“At this stage it appears to us that in fact the groundwater or desalination options are cheaper or at least equal cost price,” said Cape Town’s deputy mayor, Ian Neilson.

There are also questions on how the water from the iceberg will be channelled into the city’s distribution system.

Another problem is that there is no guarantee that by the time the iceberg is hauled to Cape Town, it will still be able to produce the promised volumes of water.

Sloane’s plan is to tow the giant iceberg some 150 km further north to South Africa’s St. Hele-

na Bay, where the cold Benguela Current keeps water at around zero degrees Celsius.

‘The project is crazy’

Once there, the iceberg could be anchored in an old submarine channel, suggests Sloane.

As the iceberg melts, water will be collected each day, pumped into tankers and driven to Cape Town.

“It won’t sort out Cape Town’s crisis, (but) it will be about 20 to 30 per cent of their annual needs,” said Sloane.

“The project is crazy — no question,” said Olav Orheim, a Norwegian glaciologist with four decades of experience who is working on a similar project for Saudi Arabia.

Never has such a large iceberg been towed — indeed, the

towing of ice to supply drinking water would be a first — and it is unknown if it would withstand ocean currents or simply fracture in transit.

But, said Orheim, it was no longer unrealistic “because we know so much more now than when we started this kind of research 40 years ago”.

“It is a high risk project, but also (one) which may have a very high reward at the end,” said Orheim.

For Wolfgang Foerg, the chief executive of Swiss company Water Vision which has teamed up with Sloane, the project has huge potential in the face of ever more frequent drought.

As for Sloane, he is ready for the green light. “If they tell us to go now, we can have it here by Easter (2019),” he said.—AFP ■

Iraq’s treasured amber rice crop devastated by drought

DIWANIYAH, (Iraq) — Standing on his farm in southern Iraq, Amjad al-Kazaali gazed sorrowfully over fields where rice has been sown for centuries — but which now lie bare for lack of water.

For the first time, this season Kazaali has not planted the treasured amber rice local to Diwaniyah province.

Facing an unusually harsh drought, the agriculture ministry last month suspended the cultivation of rice, corn and other cereals, which need large quantities of water.

The decision has slashed the income of amber rice farmers, who usually earn between 300,000 and 500,000 dinars (\$240 to \$400) a year per dunum (quarter-hectare,

0.6 acres).

With a black-and-white chequered keffiyeh scarf wrapped around his head, 46-year-old Kazaali was distraught at the absence of green shoots on his 50 hectares.

“Our eyes can’t get used to the yellowish colour of the earth, it’s too hard to look at my fields without my amber (rice),” he said, on his farm in the village of Abu Teben, in the west of Diwaniyah province.

The long-grained variety takes its name from its aroma, which is similar to that of amber resin.

More than 70 per cent of the amber crop is grown in Diwaniyah and neighbouring Najaf province,

and in total, the variety makes up over a third of the 100,000 tons of rice grown in Iraq every year.

Fondly dubbed “royal rice” by Iraqis, many Shiite pilgrims travelling between the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf stop to stock up on the popular grain.

Exports are banned, although some of the rice is smuggled through the Iraqi city of Basra to the Gulf.

Scent of the Euphrates

Of the thousands of rice producers in Diwaniyah province, just 267 are dedicated to the centuries-long tradition of growing the amber variety.

“As my parents and my grandparents have done for

hundreds of years, since the Ottoman Empire, I’ve been used to touching the grains of amber with my feet during planting and taking them in my hands during the harvest,” said Kazaali.

“It’s the water of the Euphrates River which gives it the fresh scent that we can smell for kilometres.”

But Iraq has seen its water resources dwindle in recent years — a problem soon to be compounded by the inauguration of Turkey’s controversial Ilisu dam on the Tigris River.

Planting was due to take place between May 15 and July 1, with the harvest set for late October.

Iraq’s agriculture ministry

had planned for 350,000 hectares of crops this season, including staples such as rice and corn, spokesman Hamid al-Naef said.

But after the ministry for water resources warned it would not be possible to irrigate these key crops, the forecast was slashed to 150,000 hectares, mainly set aside for less water-intensive vegetables and palms.

“The ministry has therefore asked farmers not to cultivate rice, yellow or white corn, cotton, sesame, sunflower,” Naef said.

In Diwaniyah, the agriculture ministry’s provincial director, Safaa al-Janabi, said the changes represent a total loss of 50 billion dinars (\$42 million, 36 million euros). —AFP ■

Fighting corruption is everyone's responsibility

CORRUPTION has a disastrous impact on development, when funds that should be devoted to projects and other vital public services are instead diverted into the hands of criminals or dishonest officials. Corruption exacerbates violence and insecurity. It can lead to dissatisfaction with public institutions, disillusion with government in general, and can result in anger and unrest.

Myanmar promulgated the Anti-Corruption Law in 2013 to eradicate corruption and the Anti-Corruption Commission was formed under this law.

Corruption is defined as dishonest or illegal behaviour, especially by people in authority. The incumbent Anti-Corruption Commission, which was newly reformed last year, has stepped up its efforts to fight corruption.

Public procurement, the process by which public authorities purchase goods or services from companies or businesses, takes up a huge share of public expenditures. This is why it is considered the most corruption-prone area, as departmental heads can develop close relations with business owners.

It must be noted that not only those who take bribes, but also the ones who give bribes, need to be arrested and punished.

Preventing loss of public funds triggered by violations of rules and regulations is one of the main duties of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

However, the commission alone is unable to implement such an important task without honesty and responsibility from government officials who are in charge of public procurement.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has taken measures to form Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) in government departments, setting three targets to prevent corruption: forming of CPUs, drawing up codes of conduct and implementing corruption risk assessment.

To prevent corruption, organizations and entrepreneurs have to independently draw up their own codes of conduct that suit their companies and organizations. Another step to be taken by the commission is that it will conduct corruption risk assessments to scrutinise both government departments and private organisations. Corruption is connected with poverty. Corruption also needs to be controlled from the economic sector as it can affect the business and administrative sectors.

The economy will decline when corruption is high and poverty increases, as the income disparity is high.

As for the administrative sector, the capacity of administrative power will decline when corruption is high and poverty increases with income inequality. Fighting corruption has never been an easy task. It is not for the faint-hearted. The most perilous thing about corruption is that it affects other domains of national life — from security to economic growth and infrastructure development. Indeed, corruption is a cancer that eats into the national fibre.

The major seat of corruption is in the minds of the people, and this could be curbed through creating corruption-free citizens right from childhood up to the adult stage of human development. Talks, educative programmes, and rallies against corruption may pay off in the long run. In the meantime, swift action is necessary.

By Lwin Thitsar (Law)

RULE of Law plays a pivotal role in Myanmar's reform process. With the launching of the online legal information system by the Union Attorney General's office on May 24, the Union Government has brought to the public free access to legal information. Myanmar Law Information System is designated to find, save and gather legal information within the domain of the website at ease.

The Myanmar Law Information System (MLIS) is a website providing Myanmar law information services.

The website has information on union ministries, union organizations, constitutional laws, union laws, region or state laws, self-administered division/zone laws, subordinate legislation union laws, subordinate legislation state or regional laws, subordinate legislation self-administered division/zone laws, international treaties and precedents. The website for the Myanmar Law Information System is www.mlis.gov.mm and it is available in both English and Myanmar languages. The website will soon upload information on announcements, executive orders, rules and regulations, and cooperate with other ministries to include laws and bylaws, and other legal news relating to them.

The system was formed in collaboration with the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Finding Myanmar legal information

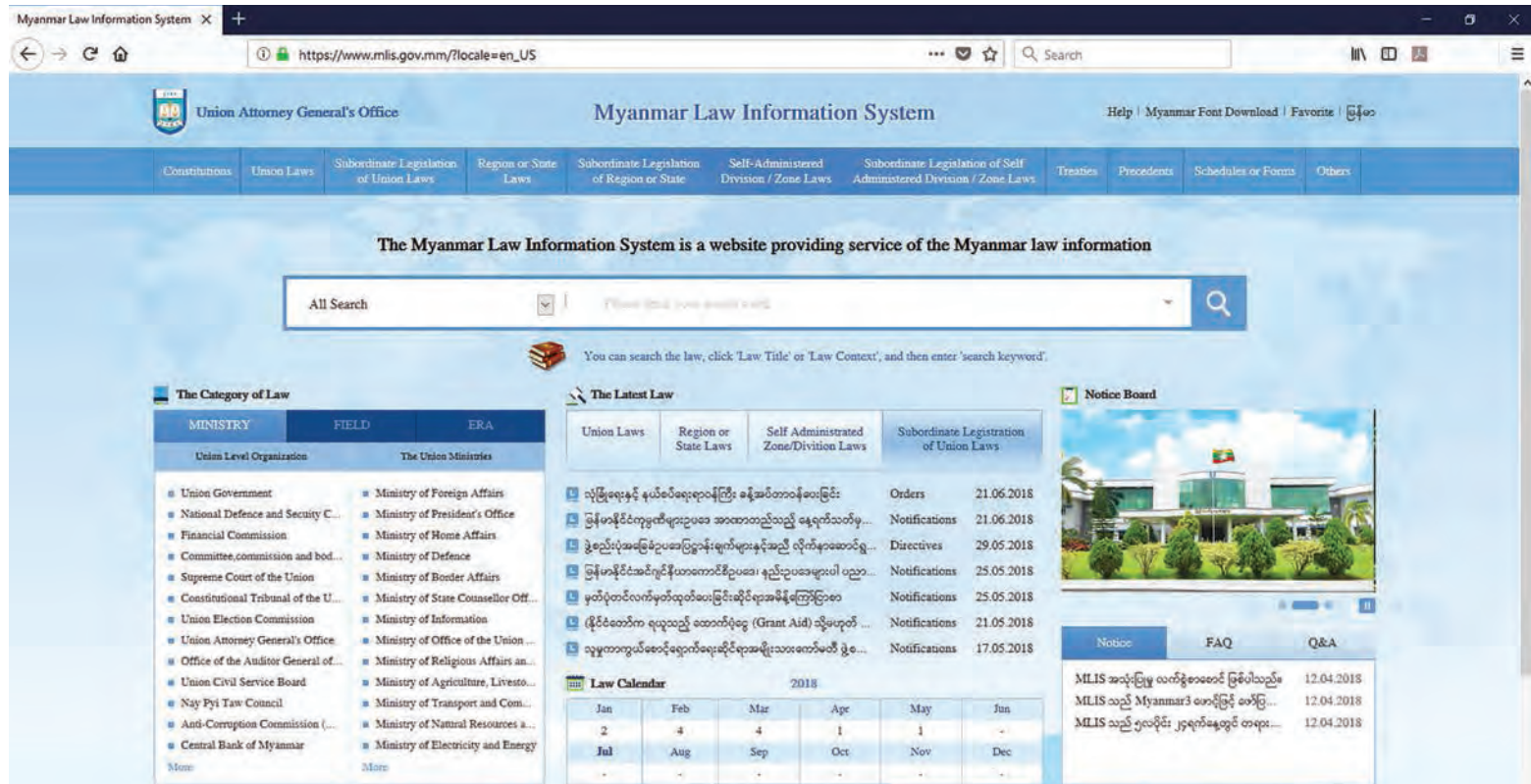
The Myanmar Law Information System website provides a total of 11 kinds of information. One can find Constitutions, Union Laws, Subordinate Legislation of Union Laws, Region or State Laws, Subordinate Legislation of Self-Administered Division/Zone Laws, Treaties, Precedents, Schedules or Forms and others on its Menu Bar.

Among them, if someone needs to search a law, click 'Law Title' or 'Law Context', and then enter 'Search Keyword'.

Under the Main Menu Bar, there are three categories: Existing Law, Translated Law and History of Law. A user can click on the contents of the law among these categories. For instance, if the user clicks on the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008, they can find Myanmar Constitution 2008.

Under the Menu Bar of the

Public's Easy Access to Law Information



above-mentioned Page, if the user wants to find History of Law, they can read the Constitution of the Union of Burma 1947, the Constitution of the Union of Burma 1974, and the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008, in Myanmar and English Versions.

Finding the category of law

There are three categories: Ministry, Field and Era under the MLIS's Home Page.

If a user wants to search the Ministry, they can find the laws of Union Level Organizations and the Union Ministries.

There are 12 categories which combine the laws, such as Economic Sector, Judicial Sector, Management Sector, etc.

When searching the Era category, the user can find the Burma Code Volume 1 to 13, laws enacted before Myanmar's independence until now, as well as rules, regulations, bylaws, orders, instructions, procedures and subordinate legislation.

A user can choose and find any laws they wish to find, according to ministry-wise, sector-wise, and era-wise categories respectively.

If a user clicks on the laws

One advantage of the website is the ease of editing amendments to the existing laws and displaying the original law at the user's fingertips. As a result, the public can now easily get law information on their computers or mobile phones. This system will promote legal knowledge and help law enforcement.

managed by the Ministry, they can read the prescribed laws where there are three boxes on the left side of the upper box: history of the law, prescribed laws and laws.

As the user clicks on each of the boxes, they can find the main law, the amendment law and prescribed laws. On the left of the prescribed laws, the user can choose the law, according to the chapters and articles of the law, and if available, they can read even the law in English.

Moreover, a user can select and click the box under the Sub

If a user does not know the name of the law and article, they can click on the search box the name of the law they want to read on the Menu Bar. Then, they can find the law and its content by clicking on the two boxes on the upper left the aforesaid combined laws.

Searching international treaties

A user can find any of the international treaties by clicking on the headlines, names or contents of the treaties in the search box.

Searching precedents

A user can find precedents by clicking on names or contents of the precedents in the search box, or they can click on the Precedents on the menu bar. Likewise, a user can choose and find a civil revision case or civil law after selecting in an alphabetical order, court, types of precedents or rulings in detail.

Searching schedules or forms

A user can find and download the schedules or forms by typing in the search box from the Home Page. There are notices, FAQs and Q&A which appear in the menu bar.

As a result, the public can now easily gain access to law information on their computers or mobile phones. This system will promote legal knowledge and help law enforcement.

One advantage of the website is the ease of editing amendments to the existing laws and displaying the original law at the user's fingertips. As a result, the public can now easily get law information on their computers or mobile phones. This system will promote legal knowledge and help law enforcement.

In short, the Myanmar law Information System is a very useful library for lawyers and law students alike. Moreover, the website can provide information on legal affairs, knowledge empowerment, democracy and rule of law, and e-government.

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. Christian LECHERVY as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Christian LECHERVY was born on 1 October 1963. He studied at School of Louvre. He obtained a Master's Degree in Applied Economics, a diploma of Advanced Studies in Soviet and Eastern European Studies, a diploma of Advanced Studies in Applied Economics and a PhD in International Relations. From 1991 to 2002, he had served in various capacities at Paris XII University and Ministry of Defence of the French Republic.

He joined the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in 2002. Since then until 2012, he served in various capacities at different departments of Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Turkmenistan. From 2012 to 2014, he also served as Adviser for Strategic and Asia Pacific Affairs at the Office of the President. Since July 2014, he has been serving as Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the Pacific Community.

He was awarded the Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour. He can speak English, Russian, Thai, Vietnamese, Myanmar and Italian languages.—Myanmar News Agency

Rainfall to increase in Taninthayi Region, Kayin, Mon states

There is a likelihood of rain increase in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states in the next two days as monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighboring areas for today is some rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty 100 per cent and for Yangon and neighboring areas is one or two rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent, whereas for Mandalay and neighboring areas is isolated rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7-10) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts. — GNLM ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 3rd July, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 4th JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Southern Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady Region, (Northern and Eastern) Shan and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7-10) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states.

Overview of German Chancellor's migrant deal

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel has struck a deal with rebels in her conservative camp to further close the country's doors to asylum seekers.

Here is an overview of what the agreement includes and the questions it throws up for other political players in Germany and Europe.

What has Merkel agreed?

Merkel's asylum pact with her hardline Bavarian CSU allies would set up a "new border regime" on the frontier with Austria.

Asylum seekers already registered in other EU nations would be held in "transit centres" while awaiting deportation.

The concept is similar to the "extra-territorial" zones of airports, where new arrivals have technically not yet reached national territory.

Before detainees can be deported, agreements must be hammered out with other governments.

Should those countries refuse, the conservatives want to persuade Austria to accept returned asylum seekers.

How many people are affected?

Numbers seeking asylum in Germany have fallen sharply from 2015-16 peaks, to 78,026 between January and May this year.

Of those arriving so far this year, some 18,349 — almost one in four — had an asylum claim already open in another country, according to media reports last



German Chancellor Angela Merkel looks on during a session on the federal budget at the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) in Berlin on 3 July, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

month.

Despite the reduced flows, the CSU was determined to push through a policy it had called for unsuccessfully since 2015, hoping to sway voters ahead of a vital regional election in October.

Will Social Democrats agree?

"Transit centre" camps were rejected by Merkel's centre-left coalition partners from the SPD in 2015. But SPD leader Andrea Nahles said on Tuesday the new plan affecting smaller numbers was "not the same case" as at the height of the refugee crisis, when tens of thousands of people arrived each day.

Social Democrats are torn between their humanitarian instincts and the knowledge that many voters support tougher

controls.

Exploding the coalition over migration so soon into its term would likely harm them at the polls in new elections.

But Nahles also warned there are "cheques that risk bouncing" in the deal's dependence on international agreements.

Will other countries accept returnees?

Being able to deport asylum seekers will depend on bilateral agreements to send them back to the EU nation where they first registered.

Such transfers were at the heart of a deal Merkel eked out at an all-night European leaders' summit last week.

Among the 16 countries named as having agreed by Merkel, several central European

nations — including Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia — denied they were open to accepting returnees.

Meanwhile key migrant arrival country Italy, with its newly-elected populist government, did not appear on the list at all.

With Austria a key partner for implementing the conservative compromise, CSU Interior Minister Horst Seehofer must now persuade Chancellor Sebastian Kurz to take back asylum seekers.

"It seems to me that (Kurz) is interested in reasonable solutions," Seehofer said on Tuesday after a phone call.

Vienna said it had not been consulted on the German plans and called for "clarification" from Berlin.—AFP ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Glencore shares slump 12% on US corruption probe

LONDON— Shares in Swiss miner Glencore tumbled more than 12 per cent in London trading on Tuesday after the group revealed a US probe into alleged corruption.

Glencore shares were down at 307.30 pence around 0850 GMT on London's rising stock market, after the company said it was being probed —AFP ■

Trump says N Korea talks 'going well,' lashes critics

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday talks with North Korea were making progress, adding he was personally responsible for averting conflict with the nuclear-armed country.

"Many good conversations with North Korea-it is going well!" he tweeted. "In the meantime, no Rocket Launches or Nuclear Testing in 8 months. 'All of Asia is thrilled. Only the Opposition Party, which includes the Fake News, is complaining. If not for me, we would now be at War with North Korea!'" —AFP ■

Twelve killed in ferry capsized in C Indonesia

JAKARTA — At least 12 people died after a ferry carrying over 139 passengers went down in waters off Bulukumba district of Indonesia's South Sulawesi province on Tuesday, officials said.

Search and rescue operations are still underway, and some of the passengers were rescued. Ferry KMP Lestari Maju, heading to Selayar island, sank at 2:30 pm local time (0730 GMT) in the waters of Selayar, spokesman of national disaster management agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told Xinhua in a text message.

Search and rescue is underway, but bad weather hampered rescuers from approaching the scene, head of port operation in Bulukumba district Zainuddin told Xinhua in a text message. —Xinhua ■

UK healthcare worker arrested for 'murdering' eight babies

LONDON — British police on Tuesday arrested a female healthcare worker suspected of murdering eight babies and attempting to murder six more after an investigation into deaths at a neo-natal hospital unit.

The investigation into The Countess of Chester Hospital in the northwestern English city

of Chester began last year and is focusing on the deaths of 17 babies between March 2015 and July 2016. Police are also probing 15 non-fatal collapses of babies at the unit over the same period.

"As a result of our ongoing enquiries we have today arrested a healthcare professional in connection with the investiga-

tion," Cheshire police said in a statement, calling the arrest "a significant step forward in our enquiries".

"She was arrested earlier this morning on suspicion of murder in relation to eight of the babies and attempted murder in relation to six of the babies and is currently in custody," it said.

Police said the investigation, dubbed "Operation Hummingbird", was still "very much active and ongoing at this stage".

"Parents of all the babies are continuing to be kept fully updated and are being supported throughout the process by specially trained officers," the statement said.—AFP ■

Rescue of Thai boys trapped in cave ‘could take months’

MAE SAI, Thailand — Rescuers braced for a long and difficult evacuation for 13 members of a Thai youth football team found alive in a cave nine days after they went missing, as food and medicine was shuttled to them through muddy waters on Tuesday.

The 12 young boys and their football coach were discovered rake thin and hungry on a mound of mud surrounded by water late Monday, ending the agonising search that captivated a nation.

But the focus quickly shifted to the tricky task of how to evacuate them safely from the still-flooded caverns.

Much-needed food and medical supplies — including high-calorie gels and paracetamol — reached them on Tuesday as rescuers prepared for a prolonged extraction operation.

Myanmar and many other countries have dispatched aid for the rescue effort.

The Thai military said advanced preparations were underway to help them out of the waterlogged Tham Luang cave network in Thailand's mountainous north.

“(We will) prepare to send additional food to be sustained for at least four months and train all 13 to dive while continuing to drain the water,” Navy Captain Anand Surawan said.

He refused to speculate how long they might be



This handout video grab taken from footage released by The Royal Thai Navy late Monday shows missing children inside the Tham Luang cave of Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in the Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai province in Thailand. **PHOTO: AFP**

trapped, but experts said it could take weeks or even months.

The timeline is key given the region's incessant monsoon rains.

In a Facebook post on Tuesday afternoon the Thai Navy SEAL team said they were using a cave chamber as an “operations centre” to meticulously plan the evacuation alongside foreign expert divers who have been instrumental to the rescue bid.

As the first footage of the kids spread across social media, jubilation erupted across a country which has been glued to each twist of the massive rescue operation.

“We called this ‘mission impossible’ because it rained every day... but with our determination and equipment we fought nature,” Chiang Rai governor Narongsak Osottanakorn said on Tuesday. The boys were discovered at about

10:00pm (1500 GMT) Monday by British divers some 400 metres (1,300 feet) from where they were believed to be stranded several kilometres inside the cave.

Video posted on the Thai Navy SEAL Facebook page, shows one of the boys asking the rescuers to “go outside”.

In response the British diver says: “No, no not today... many, many people are coming... we are the first.”

‘Unimaginable’ rescue

The harrowing task of getting the boys out is complicated by the fact that they are in a weak state and are not experienced divers.

The rugged and flooded kilometres-long course toward the entrance take a healthy SEAL diver six hours. If diving proves impossible, there is an outside chance a hole can be drilled into the cave to evacuate them or they will

have to wait for waters to recede and walk out.

Relatives led the outpouring of joy at the dramatic discovery of the boys perched on the muddy bank.

“I’m so relieved, though I still don’t have the chance to see him... I want to tell him I’m still here waiting,” Kieng Khamleu, said of her son Pornchai Khamleung inside the cave. Another parent said he could hardly believe the good news.

“It’s unimaginable. I’ve been waiting for 10 days, I never imagined this day would come,” the father of one of the boys said. Diving teams prepared telephone lines to lay in the cave to set up phone calls to the boys, the governor said.

The “Wild Boar” team became trapped on 23 June after heavy rains blocked the cave’s main entrance.

Rescuers found their



A family member shows a picture believed to have been taken in 2017 of four of the 12 missing boys after hearing the news that the group was found near the Tham Luang cave at the Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in the Mae Sai district on Monday. Twelve boys and their football coach trapped in a flooded Thai cave for nine days were “found safe” in a miraculous rescue after days of painstaking searching by divers. **PHOTO: AFP**



Workers fix the road leading to Tham Luang cave in Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park following news all members of children's football team and their coach were alive in the cave in Mae Sai district on Monday. Food and medical help reached 13 members of a Thai youth football team found rake thin but alive, huddled on a ledge deep inside a flooded cave nine days after they went missing. Attention is now focused on how to get them out. **PHOTO: AFP**

bicycles, football boots and backpacks near the cave's opening, and spotted handprints and footprints further in — leading them to the spot they were eventually found.

Tham Luang cave is one of Thailand's longest,

winding 10 kilometres (six miles) and is also one of the toughest to navigate — especially in the wet months. A sign outside the entrance warns visitors not to enter during the rainy season from July to November: — **AFP ■**

British divers who found Thai children no stranger to rescues

LONDON — Two British volunteer divers who helped find a youth football team trapped in a cave complex in Thailand have a history of difficult rescues around the world.

Richard Stanton and John Volanthen, who have day jobs as a fireman and internet engineer respectively, negotiated a long and winding path through flooded caverns to find the 12 young boys and their coach nine days after they went missing. “The Brit-

ish divers Rick and John were at the spearhead” of the forward search party, said Bill Whitehouse of the British Cave Rescue Council, an informal grouping of rescue teams around Britain. “They managed to dive the last section and get through into the chamber where the missing party were on a ledge above the water.” Whitehouse, who has spoken briefly to the team that also included a third Briton, Robert Harper,

as well as other international and Thai experts, described the difficulties of the search.

“They were diving upstream in the system, so they were having to swim against the current or pull themselves along the walls,” he told the BBC.

“I gather the actual diving section was about 1.5km, about half of which was completely flooded,” he said, adding that the total dive was about three

hours.

‘A job to do’

Volanthen, an internet engineer in Bristol in the southwest of the country, and Stanton, a fireman from Coventry in central England, are no strangers to difficult dives. Stanton, in his mid-50s, told his local newspaper in 2012 that his biggest achievement was helping rescue six British soldiers trapped in caves in Mexico.—**AFP ■**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BOX EXPRESS VOY. NO. (1847/1848)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BOX EXPRESS VOY. NO. (1847/1848) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Putin, Trump may have one-on-one talk at start of Helsinki summit

MOSCOW— Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump may have a one-on-one talk at the beginning of their summit in Helsinki on 16 July, if there is preliminary agreement, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

Replying to a question about how much a one-on-one meeting suits Russia, the Kremlin spokesman said: "It is totally suitable. President Putin feels relaxed in any format, which is comfortable for his interlocutors. Indeed, we do not rule out that both Presidents Putin and Trump may

have a tete-a-tete meeting at the beginning, if an initial agreement is confirmed and there is preliminary understanding."

CNN reported on Monday citing a source familiar with the plans that Trump planned a one-on-one talk with Putin at the beginning. According to the TV channel, the US president wants to personally talk with Putin before allowing other aides and delegation members to join the meeting.

Trump used the same one-on-one format during his summit with

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore last month, CNN reports. Trump met for about an hour with just the North Korean leader, joined only by their translators before opening the room for fuller delegations.

As the Kremlin press office reported earlier, the Putin-Trump encounter will take place in Helsinki on July 16. According to Kremlin Spokesman Peskov, the two leaders will discuss a number of uneasy issues, including the comprehensive discussion of the situation in Syria.—Tass ■



Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. **PHOTO: TASS**

Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.Ltd

Ngwe Pin Le Integrated Logistic Zone and IWT Jetty Link Port Project

Invitation for Tender Briefing

Ngwe Pin Le Integrated Logistic Zone and IWT Jetty Link Port Project at Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon which is currently at tendering stage. We are going to arrange tendering briefing. All interested personnel and tender proponents are invited as following event.

Event details

Venue : Yangon Regional Government Office Meeting Hall No. 2

Date : Thursday, 5th July 2018

Time : 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Yangon Metropolitan Development
Public Co. Ltd.**

Malaysia’s ex-PM Najib Razak arrested amid corruption probe

KUALA LUMPUR — Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak was arrested on Tuesday by graft-busters investigating him for alleged money laundering in connection with the controversial state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad.

The 1MDB special task force, in a statement, said Najib was arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission at

2:35 pm at his private residence in Kuala Lumpur.

He was taken to MACC headquarters and is scheduled to be charged in court Wednesday at 8:30 am, reportedly after spending the night in lock-up.

Najib was in power from 2009 until the historic 9 May election that saw his National Front coalition routed by former Prime Minister Mahathir



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Mohamad’s rag-tag four party Alliance of Hope. Mahathir, who was

sworn in as prime minister for a second time after the election, told Kyodo News in recent interview the authorities have a “strong case” to prosecute Najib.

While in power Najib had thwarted all domestic investigations into the 1MDB scandal where the United States claimed \$4.5 billion have been misappropriated from the fund by people close to Najib to purchase expensive real

estate in New York and London, fund Hollywood movies and buy jewelry.

Nearly \$681 million originating from 1MDB were traced to Najib’s personal bank accounts, although most of that amount was returned. He oversaw the finance minister portfolio. Police investigating Najib for money laundering in connection with 1MBD raided

six premises linked to him in mid-May and seized up to 1.1 billion ringgit (\$270 million) worth of cash and valuables, including jewelry and designer handbags.

Besides the police, Najib is also under probe by the anti-graft agency over the \$681 million that allegedly came from a former unit of 1MDB as well as over some \$10.6 million found in his bank accounts.—Kyodo News ■

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
Extension of Tender Closing Date
Myanma Railways Extends the Tender Closing Date as follows:

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Initial Closing Date & Time	Extension Closing Date & Time
1	16/MR/INDIA (E) 2017-2018	Track Recording Car EM80 and Small Track Maintenance Machineries	10.7.2018 (14:30) Hr	12.9.2018 (14:30) Hr

Managing Director, Myanma Railways
Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/ Contract for the Communication Material G 120 Grievance Suggestion Boxes. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following item:

Reference Number: G 120 Grievance Suggestion Boxes

Lot N°	Item N°	Description	Quantity (Box)
1	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Potao Township	138
2	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Shwegu Township	121
3	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Hlaingbwe Township	574
4	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Kawkareik Township	300
5	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Tonzan Township	111
6	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Kyunhla Township	167
7	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Kani Township	268
8	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Thegone Township	382
9	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Shwegyin Township	125
10	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Ponnagyun Township	243
11	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Gwa Township	189
12	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Mongkhet Township	140
13	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Maukmai Township	117
14	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Mabein Township	79
15	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Danubyu Township	535
16	1	Grievance Suggestion Boxes for Ingapu Township	724
Supply to		Sixteen (16) Township Offices spread over the country base on each lot.	

Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. The invitation to quote will be distribute on the needs of DRD. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest **at the dead line of Monday 16 July 2018 at 2pm Myanmar time**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067418637/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send as well as introduce your company name and contact number to communicate with you. For more information on the NCDDP please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

Invitation for Bids

Date: 3rd July 2018
Loan Agreement No: MY-P5
IFB No: ICB-06

- The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project (MY-P5). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite.
- Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
- The Yangon City Development Committee now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the procurement of the Supply and Delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite (“the Goods”).
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) , Yangon City Development Committee at 12 1/2 Storey Office Building, No.390, Merchant Road, Yangon, Myanmar.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.
- The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for the Procurement of Goods.
- Bids must be delivered to the above address at or before 14:00 on 30th August 2018 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of 17,000,000 JPY or 170,000 USD.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend at 14:00 PM on 30th August 2018 at the office of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee, 12 1/2 Storey Office Building, No.390, Merchant Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Mr. Aung San Win

Head of Department

Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation)

Yangon City Development Committee

12 1/2 Storey Office Building, No.390, Merchant Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Tel : +959254017233

Email : ycdcws@gmail.com

: thetlwin400@gmail.com



In an interview broadcast Monday, nine-time Grammy winner Sheryl Crow said that her 2019 album will feature Stevie Nicks, Keith Richards, Don Henley and the late Johnny Cash. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sheryl Crow plans final album with A-list guests

NEW YORK — Sheryl Crow says she is finished with recording albums and will put out one final full-length record next year with an all-star list of collaborators.

In an interview broadcast on Monday, the nine-time Grammy winner said that her 2019 album will feature Stevie Nicks, Keith Richards, Don Henley and the late Johnny Cash.

The country rocker, who is best known for her 1994 smash hit “All I Wanna Do,” said that she will still put out individual songs. “I do think that albums... are a little bit of a dying art form, that people are more interested in singles,” she told the syndi-

cated radio host Kyle Meredith.

“It feels great not to spend the time in the studio to make a fully realized, conceptual album but just to put out really pertinent songs that feel immediate,” she said.

Artists in the age of streaming have increasingly debated the relevance of albums, whose duration was originally dictated by the limitations of vinyl LPs.

While many musicians still see albums as focused artistic statements, others — especially in hip-hop and electronica — prefer to put out music at their own pace.

Crow, who has long teamed up with star musicians, recently released a single with the indie

rocker St Vincent.

After high-profile relationships to men including Eric Clapton and Lance Armstrong, the 56-year-old Crow has spoken of how her life has been transformed by adopting two children on her own.

Crow said she considered it was a “luxurious time to be an artist” as she handles her outrage following the election of President Donald Trump.

“Just this climate of the truth not mattering has really been unnerving to me, especially when you’re raising kids and you’re trying to explain that no matter how painful it is, the truth is the most important thing,” she said.—AFP ■

Madonna’s ‘special deal’ has Lisbon in a jam

LISBON — Lisbon’s city council on Monday revealed details of a deal granting Madonna rights to park a fleet of cars in the packed Portuguese capital after being accused of special treatment for the US pop diva.

The weekly Expresso broke the story of a contract between the Material Girl singer and the city to rent a lot that can accommodate up to 15 vehicles next to the “palace” she occupies on the banks of the Tagus river.

The news provoked indignation across the political spectrum in a capital that suffers a lack of parking and bad traffic jams.

The Left Bloc, a coalition partner in the Socialist-led government, called for the parking problem to be dealt with “responsibly” given the difficulties residents face. The main centrist opposition party PSD said it wanted to know “the reason why the mayor granted such an exception”.

The other centrist party CDS

attacked Lisbon’s mayor Fernando Medina and accused him of “using heritage assets for his advantage”.

“The city of Lisbon does not belong to Fernando Medina,” CDS said. City hall decided Monday to reveal the contents of the contract with Madonna, saying it was drawn up “to avoid traffic snarl-ups along a narrow but very busy road”. Signed in January, the deal gives Madonna access to the land for 720 euros a month. It rules out access to the neighbouring “palace” building which is under negotiation to become the new East Timor embassy.

Madonna’s contract will cease if East Timor takes the building for its embassy.

The pop star set up in Lisbon last summer following in the footsteps of Hollywood actors Monica Bellucci, Michael Fassbender and John Malkovich drawn to Portugal’s capital which regularly ranks among Europe’s coolest.

—AFP ■



Special parking arrangements for US pop diva Madonna in the Portuguese capital Lisbon have sparked a political row including a warning to the mayor that the city does not belong to him. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Competition between Ranveer and I pushes us to do better’

MUMBAI — Actor Ranbir Kapoor says he views competition as a healthy and beneficial exercise, amid the buzz that the upcoming award season will be a face-off between his and Ranveer Singh’s performances.

The year began with Ranveer garnering critical acclaim for his portrayal of Sultan Alauddin Khilji in Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s “Padmaavat”, that released on 25 January.

Ranbir, who has been through a dull box office phase in the last couple of years, bounced back last Friday as

his latest “Sanju”, a biopic on actor Sanjay Dutt, has registered a strong opening at the ticket window.

The Rajkumar Hirani-directed film has fetched immense praise for Ranbir slipping into the role of Dutt effortlessly.

Asked about the comparisons between him and Ranveer, Ranbir told PTI, “I’ve seen Ranveer in ‘Padmaavat’ and I was really bowled over by his performance. I thought he was phenomenal. I’ve now been pitted against Ranveer

as ‘competition’. It’s amazing to have that. It only pushes us to do better work.”

“He (Ranveer) inspires and excites me. There are times his films do better business than mine and hopefully there will be a time when my films will be doing better business. It will be an interesting pattern,” he adds.

Ranbir made his debut 11 years ago with Bhansali’s “Saawariya”, which bombed at the box office. However, the 35-year-old actor later cemented his identity as one

of the best performers in the current generations with films such as “Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year”, “Wake Up! Sid”, “Raajneeti”, “Barfi!” and “Rockstar”.

Ranveer, on the other hand, had a breakthrough with his debut “Band Baaja Baarat” before finding his perfect mix of box office success and critical acclaim in Bhansali’s “Ram Leela”, “Bajirao Mastani” and “Padmaavat”.

Ranbir says both Ranveer and him have received offers to co-star in films but they do

not want to do a project which does injustice to either of their acting chops.

“We are two actors who have their own sensibilities. We can’t come together just as a project. It has to be liked by both of us, individually. I am really looking forward to working with him and also Varun and Tiger.

“When you do a two-hero film, you share the burden. It’s also easier because you have a partner-in-crime and you can have a lot of fun on sets too,” he says.—PTI ■

UNESCO senior official hails progress of China's conservation of heritage sites

MANAMA — "I visited China for the first time in 1993, when I climbed the Mount Huangshan and was impressed by the diverse natural beauty," said Mechthild Rossler, director of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Center, in an interview with Xinhua on Saturday.

She lauded China's contribution to the diversity of world heritage sites in the interview on the sidelines of the 42nd World Heritage Committee meeting in Manama, the capital of Bahrain.

China enjoys a rich natural and cultural heritage, many of which were inscribed to the World Heritage List, said the director, recognizing the role of China in increasing the diversity of world heritage.

China is also renowned for the close interaction and integration between people and the nature, said Rossler, referring to the mixed world heritage site of Mount Taishan, where its natural and historic cultural values are well interconnected.

Located in the eastern province of Shandong, Mount Taishan is famous for many rare and unique natural scenic sites, as well as its cultural significance, as it has been a place of worship and royal cer-

emonies in ancient times.

Speaking of China's effort in preserving the heritage wonders, the director said China has achieved "a lot of progress."

"There has been huge efforts made by Chinese government to preserve the heritage sites," she said. "Not only cultural ones, but also natural ones, like the panda reserves, which are really iconic places in the world."

The giant panda reserves, located in China's southwestern province of Sichuan, are home to more than 30 per cent of the world's endangered species of pandas.

Beijing and the local government have invested hundreds of millions of US dollars in a series of projects aimed at restoring the panda sanctuaries, after the 8.0-magnitude Wenchuan earthquake in May 2008 which caused extensive damage to the natural reserves in Sichuan and neighboring provinces.

Despite the achievements made, the UNESCO heritage chief pointed out that challenges remain ahead for the conservation of heritage sites in China, including the growing population and urbanization.

A number of natural factors are also threatening the her-

itage sites around the world, Rossler pointed out.

"There are poaching and logging that are destroying the natural sites around the world. There is also climate change that is affecting almost all properties ... and the temperature rising in the ocean is killing marine life," she further elaborated.

"Also we can see a lot of intentional destruction, especially in the Middle East, in Libya, Syria, Iraq and Yemen," said the UNESCO official, referring to the mass destruction of heritage sites caused by continuing war and violence in the region.

At last, Rossler argued that the international community should "do much more" to protect the world heritage sites.

"These are the most unique places on earth. If we do not manage to protect them, we risk losing them all," warned the director.

The 42nd World Heritage Committee meeting is ongoing in Manama from 24 June till 4 July. A total of 28 nominations will be discussed during the conference to decide on their entries to the World Heritage List.

The heritage list currently included over 1,000 sites, 52 of which are in China.—Xinhua ■



Princess Ayako, the youngest daughter of Emperor Akihito's late cousin Prince Takamado, and Kei Moriya attend a press conference at the Imperial Household Agency in Tokyo on 2 July, 2018, following an official announcement of their engagement earlier in the day. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Princess Ayako, Moriya express delight at their engagement

TOKYO — Princess Ayako, the youngest daughter of Emperor Akihito's late cousin Prince Takamado, and Kei Moriya expressed delight at their upcoming engagement as they made their first public appearance together on Monday.

"I am very happy," Princess Ayako, 27, said at a televised news conference in Tokyo following an official announcement of their engagement earlier in the day. She said she was attracted to Moriya for being a "kind, intelligent and decisive" man.

Moriya, a 32-year-old employee at major shipping firm Nippon Yusen KK, said that Princess Ayako is a "bright and positive person" who is friendly to anyone she interacts with.

The couple is expected to formally get engaged in a traditional court ceremony on 12 August before their wedding on 29 October at Tokyo's Meiji Shrine.

The two first met last December as Princess Hisako, the wife of Prince Takamado, introduced Moriya to her daughter, hoping to interest Princess Ayako in international welfare activities by meeting Moriya, who is a board member of a non-profit organization supporting children in developing countries.

Princess Hisako has known Moriya's father for 40 years since both were university students in Britain. Moriya's deceased mother was a senior director of the organization, Kokkoyo naki Kodomotachi (Children without Borders), and Princess Hisako attended many of its events.

Princess Ayako graduated from Josai International University in Chiba Prefecture and earned a master's degree there in 2016. She is currently working as a research fellow at the university's Faculty of Social Work Studies.—Kyodo News ■

Cambodia earns Guinness Record for longest woven scarf

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia won a place in the Guinness book of World Records on Sunday for a 1,100-metre (3,600-foot) long version of the country's popular krama scarf.

Supported by a youth movement with links to the nation's ruling party, more than 23,000 people took part in the six-month weaving marathon outside Phnom Penh's Royal Palace.

Thousands of young people then rolled out the krama along a street in the capital Sunday for a visiting Guinness official to measure the garment.

"With 1,149.8 metres, you have set a new Guinness World



Thousands of young people roll out the krama along a street in the capital on Sunday for a visiting Guinness official to measure the garment. **PHOTO: AFP**

Record!" Swapnil Dangarikar, a Guinness adjudicator, told a large cheering crowd.

Long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen earlier gave his own blessing to the campaign by weaving a few strands of thread into the scarf.

Youngest son Hun Many, a fast-rising potential successor to his father, represented the 65-year-old premier at Sunday's event. "This Guinness World Record is for all Cambodians," he said at the event.

In recent years Hun Sen has tried hard to court the nation's youth, launching a Facebook page and displaying a lighter,

more approachable side in public. The Guinness event comes just weeks before a highly controversial election that Hun Sen, who has ruled for 33 years, is poised to win after backing the dissolution of the opposition party last year. Analysts say the prime minister is also trying to build a political dynasty by priming his three sons in leadership positions.

His eldest son Hun Manet was on Saturday promoted to two senior and powerful military posts while his second son Hun Mani is the head of a powerful military intelligence unit.—AFP ■

Real Madrid deny bid for Neymar

SAMARA — Real Madrid have denied that they have made an offer to Paris Saint Germain to sign Brazilian striker Neymar.

Spanish state broadcaster, RTVE said on Tuesday that Real Madrid made an offer of over 300 million euros to the French club for the player. However, soon afterwards the Madrid official website published a denial, saying the “information is absolutely untrue.”

The club insisted it did not approach PSG, adding that it was “surprised that the Spanish public television network would choose to broadcast entirely false information without anyone from the outlet having first contacted any of the parties concerned to corroborate the supposed information.”

RTVE broadcast the story only a short time after Neymar was decisive in Brazil’s 2-0 win over Mexico in the Samara Arena on Monday evening which booked their place in the quarterfinals of the World Cup. Neymar scored the opening goal and made the second when Mexico keeper Guillermo Ochoa parried his shot into the path of Roberto Firmino. However, he was also involved in controversy after overreacting to a possible slight contact on his ankle from Mexico substitute Miguel Layun, stopping the game for four minutes as he received treatment. —Xinhua ■



Belgium’s midfielder Marouane Fellaini (31L) heads the ball and scores his team’s second goal during the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Belgium and Japan at the Rostov Arena in Rostov-On-Don on 2 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Belgium boss eager to face Brazil as underdogs at World Cup

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said his side should accept they will be the underdogs in their World Cup quarter-final against star-studded Brazil on Friday.

Belgium booked a last eight berth to face the Selecao with a last-gasp 3-2 win over Japan

in Rostov-on-Don on Monday when Nacer Chadli scored the 94th-minute winner as the Red Devils came from 2-0 down.

Martinez’s side will face Brazil in Kazan and he says Belgium must embrace their role as underdogs who have nothing to lose.

“When you play against Bra-

zil, you need to accept they are the best team in the competition, you need to accept your role,” said Martinez after beating the Japanese in the last 16.

“They have players who can decide the game on their own like (Philippe) Coutinho and Neymar.

“When we went 2-0 down

(against Japan) there was the psychological feeling of ‘ok, we have nothing to lose’, which freed us up. “That’s like how it will be against Brazil, except we can feel like that from the first second.

“This is the sort of game you dream about as a little boy and we can enjoy it from the first second.” —AFP ■

Loew set to stay as Germany coach despite World Cup debacle

BERLIN — Germany coach Joachim Loew will remain in his job despite the World Cup debacle which saw the holders crash out after the group stages, according to reports on Tuesday.

Both Germany’s best-selling daily Bild and Sport Bild magazine say the 58-year-old will stay on to rebuild the national team, which finished bottom of their group in Russia.

The Germans bowed out after shock defeats to Mexico and South Korea. It was the first time since 1938 that a Germany side failed to get past the first round at a World Cup finals — a huge dent to Loew’s reputa-

tion after 12 successful years in charge.

The German Football Association (DFB) has yet to confirm the reports, but Loew has a contract until the 2022 World Cup.

Loew returned from Russia considering his future, but the DFB said they would not sack him. He has promised a clear-out of the squad and several of the World Cup winners who under-performed so badly in Russia may have played their last game for their country.

“It needs far-reaching measures, it needs clear change,” Loew said last week when Germany arrived home

in disgrace. Senior players Sami Khedira, Toni Kroos and Thomas Mueller have given Loew their backing, yet could all face the axe after poor displays. There are, however, reports of player disgruntlement in other quarters with Loew. Frankfurt-based newspaper FAZ quoted unnamed Germany players who said the squad was deeply divided between senior and younger players in Russia. There was also resentment to the special status given to captain Manuel Neuer.

The goalkeeper played all three group games, ahead of Barcelona star Marc-Andre Ter

Stegen, even though Neuer had just returned from eight months sidelined by a foot fracture.

That was “a problem for some players” as Loew had said he would only use those who were playing well regularly.

Other complaints included Loew giving priority to established players, the choice of Germany’s isolated World Cup base in south-west Moscow and the poor handling of the pre-World

Cup scandal involving Mesut Ozil and Ilkay Gundogan. Their loyalty to Germany was brought into question on the eve of the World Cup after meeting Turkey president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who Gundogan presented with a jersey signed “to my president”. Both players were booed by German fans during pre-World Cup friendlies, which overshadowed preparations for the finals. —AFP ■

World Cup 2018 Results

Belgium	3 - 2	Japan
Sweden	1 - 0	Switzerland