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Third Waning Day of the Second Month of Waso 1380 ME
30 July 2018

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Establishes the Independent Commission of Enquiry

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has today established the Independent Commission of Enquiry as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine. The Independent Commission will investigate the allegations of human rights violations and related issues, following the terrorist attacks by ARSA.

The Commission comprises the following personalities:

Ambassador Rosario Manalo: Chairperson

Former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines
Former Chair and Current Representative of the Philippines to CEDAW

U Mya Thein: Member

Former Chair of the Constitutional Tribunal
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ambassador Kenzo Oshima: Member

Former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
and Emergency Relief Coordinator
Former Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet: Member

Former Senior Official of UNICEF and Former Principal Officer
UN System Staff College

The Commission will be assisted by national and international legal and technical experts.

People urged to be alerted to rising water in rivers

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has advised the people living near the rivers and in low-lying areas in Hpa-an in Kayin State, Madauk in Bago Region and in Thabaung, Ayeyawady Region to be alerted to the floods and to keep informed of rising water in the rivers.

According to the observation at 1:30pm yesterday, the water level of Ngawun River at Thabaung has remained at its danger level and the water level is expected to remain above its danger level the next day.

According to observations made at 1:30pm yesterday, the water level of the Thanlwin River has exceeded its danger level by about six feet at Hpa-an and it is expected to fall about one foot over the next two days.

The water level of the Shwegyin River exceeded over two feet at Shwegyin above its danger level, according to observations made at 1:30pm yesterday, and it is expected to fall below its danger level over the next two days.—GNLM ■

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds third day meeting

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its third-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, a motion tabled, a bill tabled and a report read.

Community Hall

U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency posed the first asterisk-marked question on plans to construct community halls in major village tracts in the townships of Rakhine State. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied that geographically, Rakhine State is located in a

coastal area and is affected by storms every year. As per the instructions of the National Disaster Management Committee, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is co-operating with the Rakhine State government to construct multi-purpose buildings that can be used as safe havens for people, a school, a place for social activities, a health care centre, information centre, youth centre, etc. Such buildings are required in the major village tracts in the townships of Rakhine State.

Till date, 24 such buildings were constructed and 30 remain to be constructed.

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

Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds third day meeting

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Four are under construction by the Rakhine State government with funding from Bangladesh. From the national disaster management fund, 26 more will be constructed under a tender system this year. Works were being conducted according to procedures to construct a total of 87 shelters under a tender system in four natural disaster-prone states and region, 57 in Ayeyawady Region, 26 in Rakhine State, one in Shan State and three in Chin State. At the moment, preparations are being made to sign a contract with tender winning companies.

Once these 26 shelters are constructed in Rakhine State, there will be a total of 54 shelters in Rakhine State. These shelters were constructed in 54 disaster-prone villages in 11 townships and these cyclone shelters can be used as community halls, said the deputy minister.

Yangon Inner Ring Road

Replying to a question posed by U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada constituency on the status of the Yangon Inner Ring Road programme that would ease traffic congestion and be convenient for people in Yangon Region, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that an announcement was made in the state-owned newspapers to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by 29 June 2018. A total of



U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada constituency. PHOTO: MNA

53 foreign and local companies and groups had submitted EOIs.

Request for Quotation (RFQ) will be made in August 2018, Request for Proposal (RFP) in November and December 2018 and Bidder Winning Award and Contracting in January and February 2019.

Assessments will be made in stages as mentioned and a minimum of one to a maximum of four companies and groups will be selected and work on the Inner Ring Road will be implemented in early 2019. Construction will be completed within three years and government funds will not be used. The companies are to invest with their own arrangements. Return on investments will be from tolls for road usage. Announcements will be made in detail at each stage, said the deputy minister.

International standards for road construction, maintenance and repair

nance and repair

U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency then asked if there are plans to construct, maintain and repair roads to match international standards and quality. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that the Ministry of Construction understands and knows the international technique, standard and quality for road construction, maintenance and repair, but due to the funding situation of the country, it is using the old method of construction till date.

The cost of laying a mile of road in the country is one seventh of the neighbouring countries. Even though roads were not being constructed up to international standards and quality, the ministry is conducting a soil test of the land on which the road is to be laid and designing appropriate Penetration Macadam, DBST (Double Bituminous



U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency. PHOTO: MNA

Surface Treatment) or concrete road work. Quality Control (QC) inspections were conducted systematically to ensure that roads are constructed according to the design. The department is taking strong action against the site (construction) engineers if the construction does not follow the design.

The Ministry of Construction will strive towards the development of the road and bridge sector in all states and regions. It will coordinate with Hluttaw representatives to control and manage the works and will accept the guidance of Hluttaw representatives to provide the best work and upgradation, said the deputy minister.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin then continued and replied to questions posed by U Pe Than of Myebon constituency, U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk constituency and U Win Min of Hlinethaya

constituency.

Motion to control and manage BOT contracts under Private-Public Partnership

Next, U Kyaw Swe Win of Kawhmu constituency tabled a motion urging the government to control and manage BOT (Build, Operate, Transfer) agreements conducted all over the country for constructing roads under a PPP (Private-Public Partnership) system.

The Hluttaw Speaker announced the acceptance of the Hluttaw to discuss the motion after the Hluttaw's decision was obtained.

Later, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion should enroll their names.

Report on Consumer Protection Bill read

The Ministry of Commerce then tabled the Consumer Protection Bill and bill committee member U Zaw Win read and explained a report on the bill.

Later, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report should enroll their names.

The fourth-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session will be held on 2 August, it is learnt.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds third day meeting

The second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its third-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were answered and a bill discussed.

Asterisk-marked questions

U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 asked if there is a plan to include Santhitpyin, Thinbawkway, and Thongwa @ Kwingyi (Rakhine) villages in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State in the village list under the Ministry of Home Affairs and to designate the lands of these villages as village land. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung

Thu answered that Santhitpyin and Thongwa @ Kwingyi (Rakhine) villages are already included in the village list under the Ministry of Home Affairs, while Thinbawkway village is included in the Myothit Ward area, so there is no need to include it in the villages under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The land of Thinbawkway Village was designated as grazing land and processing is underway to remove it from the grazing land designation. Kwingyi (Rakhine) Village land is fallow land and will be processed, so the land can be used in other ways.

U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1 asked if there is a plan to construct

offices, housing and detention cells required at Mingun area police station and Ywathitgyi area police station in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that funds to construct a single storey office building with a detention cell attached, with six rooms per storey, and four-storey staff housing for both police stations were requested in the 2018-2019 budget.

Similarly, questions by U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6, U Kyaw Than of Rakhine State constituency 10 and U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency 4 were answered by Deputy Minister



U Kyaw Naing of the Yangon Region constituency 12. PHOTO: MNA

Maj-Gen Aung Thu.

Discussing a bill

Next, International Ther-

avada Buddhist Missionary University Bill was discussed by U Kyaw Naing of the Yangon Region constituency 12, U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 8, Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 and U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5.

The Hluttaw representatives' discussion on the bill includes qualifications of the Rector and Pro Rector, entitlement for monks and non-public officials and word usages, among others.

The fourth-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session will be held on 2 August, it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, committee chairmen, secretaries hold coordination meeting

COORDINATION meeting (3/2018) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, committee chairmen and secretaries was held yesterday afternoon at Zabuthiri meeting hall in Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw.

In his opening speech at the meeting Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said that difficulties and challenges faced by the committees need to be discussed together, as only then can there be linkages between committees and the work of each committee will be more successful. In this meeting, matters relating to work conducted during the period when the Hluttaw was adjourned and ongoing work need to be reported. The roles of the Hluttaw



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivers a speech at the coordination meeting at Zabuthiri meeting hall in Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



explained about committee-wise work on bills, complaints, reports, findings, summaries, suggestions and discussions.

After the explanation, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat gave comments detailed instructions to ensure proper coordination on the work being done by the various committees. The meeting then came to a close with a concluding remark by the Speaker.

Present at the meeting together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen, secretaries and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—MNA ■

committees are important as it is the backbone of the Hluttaw. In order to increase the work

capacity of the Hluttaw, Hluttaw committees need to work together in unity to move the country,

said the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. Next, chairmen and secretaries of the Hluttaw committees

Central committee to preserve and develop Myanmar intangible cultural heritages meets

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko attended and addressed the second coordination meeting of the central committee to preserve and develop Myanmar Intangible Cultural Heritages held at Lawkanat Hall in the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the central committee chairman said the country had thousands of tangible cultural heritages as well as many Intangible Cultural Heritages (ICHs). If our nation-

al ICHs are not recognized, it will be adopted or transformed and taken away by neighboring countries. The work of exposing and preserving ICHs requires coordination and sharing of information and meeting twice a year.

Groups formed need to coordinate to systematically collect all ICHs in the respective state and region and necessary technical support will be provided by the ministry. Keeping and collecting a complete record of ICHs within our boundary will



Thura U Aung Ko delivers a speech at the meeting to preserve and develop Myanmar Intangible Cultural Heritages in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

ease and hasten the implementation of the work processes to preserve and develop Myanmar

ICHs, said the Union Minister. Next, ICH Central Committee secretary Department of Ar-

chaeology and National Museum Director General explained about the status of implementing decisions made at the first meeting, future work processes, status of collecting ICHs state and region wise, status of drawing up national ICH law, future work processes and Operational Directive of UNESCO.

Afterwards, state and region ministers in attendance discussed about state/region wise ICH preservation and development work, future work and requirements.—Myanmar News Agency ■

BOT: A good system to be practised

AT the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting held on 30 July, U Kyaw Swe Win of Kawhmu constituency said the BOT (Build, Operate, Transfer) system increases public sector development and frees the government from using state funds in constructing economically strategic roads and is thus a good economic system.

He tabled a motion urging the government to control and manage BOT agreements all over the country for constructing roads under a PPP (Private-Public Partnership) system.

In his explanation for tabling the motion, U Kyaw Swe Win said that since 1996, economically strategic roads were construct-

ed under a BOT system with private companies and more than 90 per cent of the main artery roads that are strategically important were constructed and operated by private companies. By using the BOT System, the public could use completed and adequate roads all over the country without waiting for government budget allocation. Those investing in the roads will also see timely benefits on their investment and the government will see an increase in revenue, as well as improve the flow of goods and other benefits.

But the socio-economic development of the people and development of the country's

economy can only be achieved if the companies that undertake the BOT agreement implement the work completely and totally, according to the agreement.

Upon studying the BOT systems implemented, only a few companies follow the agreement totally and wholly, while most do not fulfill it and put their own benefits and profits at the forefront. Most of the roads were not improved resulting in the road users paying a toll for using old roads.

Companies constructing roads under the BOT system need to build a new road and make an investment first. Only after the road is constructed, repaired or improved as per the

agreement and the government accepts it, should the company "operate" the road and collect toll. But most just make minor repairs and collect the total amount of toll.

According to the agreement, a road that sees more than 500 vehicles a day is to be 24 ft. wide and a road with traffic of more than 2,000 vehicles per day is to be 48 ft. wide and a new road is to be built. The Yangon-Pathein road sees daily traffic of more than 6,000 vehicles but the relevant company that signed the BOT agreement is using the same old road while collecting a full toll.

The result is a narrow road

incapable of handling the increasing traffic, causing delays and accidents.

However, criticising and blaming each other for weaknesses, omissions, and inadequacies in taking action against such companies will not make the roads better, added U Kyaw Swe Win.

The motion was tabled so that lessons could be learnt from the past for the benefit of the country and the people, and what is needed can be done to control and manage the situation, and action can be taken to resolve the situation, said U Kyaw Swe Win in his explanation on submitting the motion.—Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency) ■

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MPPE suspends import of octane to stabilize fuel oil market

WITH the increase of foreign exchange rate, the price of imported fuel oil has increased in the local market. Therefore, Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) has suspended import of Octane 92 from foreign countries at the end of July.

In order to stabilize and lessen of the fuel oil price in the local market, MPPE is putting petrol, produced in Myanmar, on sale at the state-owned fuel filling stations.

MPPE sells the petrol, produced at Petrochemical Complex (Thanbayarkan), and Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise under Ministry of Electricity and Energy, at Ks 3,800 per gallon at the state-owned fuel stations in other regions, including Mandalay.

Most of the high model motorbikes and vehicles only use Octane 92 and 95. Only 90 and 110 cc powered engine motorbike use those



An employee at a fuel station fills up a car's oil tank. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

local produced petrol because they are low in octane number.

According to private filling stations in Mandalay,

the price of a liter of diesel reached around Ks 690 in the retail market, while one liter of high quality diesel was sold

at Ks975, Octane 92 Ks950, Octane 95 Ks995 and petrol Ks 900 on 30 July. — Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Visa-free travel for Japan, ROK tourists, visa on arrival for PRC tourists from 1 October

THE Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Deputy Director General Daw Khin Than Win said starting from 1 October, tourists from Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) can enjoy visa-free travel to Myanmar, while tourists from the People's Republic of China (PRC) will be granted a visa on arrival.

"The arrangement is to grant visa on arrival to tourists from China and visa-free travel to tourists from Japan and South Korea. At the moment, international tourist arrivals have declined, especially those from the west, and this relaxation in visas for Asian countries was done in the hope of getting more tourists from this side," she said.

She said this at a meeting to discuss the visa issue and ways to increase the member of tourists, held in Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon, on 28 July.

"Chinese citizens, including those from Macau and

Hong Kong, will be granted visa on arrival starting from 1 October. A stay of 30 days will be allowed. The visitor must hold an ordinary passport. On entry, visitors will have to show US\$1,000 and a return ticket with them," said Daw Khin Than Win.

She added, "Another thing is visa-free travel for Japan and South Korea. They will be granted visa-free travel for a trial period from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019.

They can enter through Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw international airports, as well as international seaports, border, entry/exit gates on the Myanmar-Thailand border, such as Myawady, Kawthoung, Hteekee and Tachilek. They can exit from international airports, seaports and border entry/exit gates."

For visa on arrival for Chinese citizens (including those from Hong Kong and Macau special administrative re-

gions), they will have to hold ordinary passports and a visa on arrival fee of US\$50. Only tourist visas will be permitted and on arrival at the international airports, they will have to show \$1,000 and a return ticket. No extension of stay will be permitted, it is learnt. They can exit from any international airport.

Similarly, for Japanese and South Korean tourists, the visa-free service is for tourist visas only and for ordinary passport holders.

Package Tour and Foreign Free Independent Travellers will be granted visa-free service and on entry at international airports, seaport, and land exit/entry gates, they will have to show \$1,000. A return ticket is also required and no extension of stay is permitted and the exit can be from any international airports, seaport, and land exit/entry gates.

Discussions were held

with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population on these visa matters, while CB Bank is making arrangements for the \$1,000 Show Money and collection of \$50 visa fee.

U Zeya Aung of CB Bank said, "We are taking responsibility for receiving payments by cards. We've progressed quite far. Using international cards will make it easy to receive/make payments and it wouldn't be necessary to bring in much cash. International tourists normally hold a Visa or Master Card. For them, it would be easy. There wouldn't be a problem of counterfeit notes or of not carrying the sufficient amount."

These arrangements are being made to support the development of the Myanmar travel sector, increase the number of international tourists and for the ease of entry/exit of international tourists.

— Zaw Gyi ■



Rice containers for export being uploaded on to a steamer. PHOTO: MNA

Exports worth over US\$4.8 billion in nearly four months of trading

MYANMAR'S exports to foreign countries exceeded US\$4.8 billion between 1 April and 20 July this year, according to the commerce ministry.

The figure is up by \$976.6 million compared with \$3.83 billion in the similar period of last year. Of the seven export groups, agriculture, forestry and other export sectors showed a decline in exports, while exports of live-stock, fishery, minerals and finished industrial goods increased.

Export values were registered at \$854.7 million for agro products, \$93 million for live-stock, \$182 million for fishery products, \$501 million for minerals, \$57 million for forestry products, \$2.6 billion for manufactured goods and \$503 million for other goods.

In the export sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, along with natural gas exports. The main export goods in the agriculture sector are rice

and broken rice, pulses, corn and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar and other agro products are also exported to foreign countries.

Natural gas and agricultural products individually made up 25 per cent of the exports, while cut-make-pack garments accounted for 16 per cent, minerals eight per cent, fisheries five per cent, and forestry, animal and other products 21 per cent.

— Ko Khant ■

MIC grants permits, endorsements for nine foreign enterprises

By May Thet Hnin

A TOTAL of nine permits and endorsements of foreign enterprises with a capital of US\$117 million were recently approved at the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (10/2018) held on 26 July.

The foreign enterprises were granted permits and endorsements by the Myanmar Investment Commission and the Yangon Region Investment Committee, creating 4,237 local employment opportunities. The existing foreign investments also led to the recruitment of 2,761 new employees. They will be engaged in manufacturing, livestock and fishery, real estate development, industrial zones and other sectors.

A total of 53 foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements, bringing in a capital of \$442.7 million as of

July in the current six-month interim period (April to September) prior to the next fiscal year 2018-2019. Overall, foreign direct investments of over \$1 billion flowed into the country so far, including increased investments and investments of over \$171 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Meanwhile, 15 domestic enterprises with estimated investments of \$32.16 million (Ks82 billion) were also approved last week by MIC and the respective investment committees of Shan and Kayah states and Yangon, Sagaing and Magway regions. They will be operating in manufacturing, hotels, livestock and fishery, agriculture and other sectors, creating over 1,349 job opportunities for local residents.

A total of 65 domestic enterprises made investments of \$167 million (Ks783 billion) over

the four months. Total domestic investment flow exceeded \$168.4 million (Ks813 billion), with increased investments.

MIC will facilitate investments and make progress faster than ever before, starting this month. It will also hold investment promotion fairs in states and regions, raising awareness over investment laws. MIC will also link with international commercial attachés and the International Chambers of Commerce in Myanmar, promoting the investment opportunities of each region.

At present, 60 per cent of foreign investments are in the Yangon Region. Mandalay attracts 30 per cent of investments. Other regions and states attain only a small portion of investments, according to the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration. ■

Bago flood affects fish farming lakes, losses unknown yet

By May Thet Hnin

CONTINUOUS heavy rainfall in recent days resulted in the flooding of Bago Region, adversely affecting some fish farming lakes, said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of Myanmar Fishery Federation.

"I am checking with the Bago Region Fishery Federation about the condition of the lakes. The lakes located on Bago Road Phayargyi Pagoda and Bago University are also flooded. The total loss is still unknown," he added.

The flood level is dropping and the flood-affected lakes have recovered a bit, he maintained.

"Businessmen took lessons from previous flooding incidents and improved the banks of fish ponds. However, the water level is unpredictable as the record keeps increasing year after year. The loss caused by disasters is a great challenge for the businessmen," said U Win Kyaing.

Fish ponds are rarely seen in other flood-stricken states—Kayin and Mon—and so, there is no damage there. The ponds are primarily found in Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon regions. Heavy rainfall is forecasted for August and September, raising concerns over the fish ponds in these regions, he continued.

In 2015, around 35,000 acres of fish ponds in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions and 58,000 acres of prawn farming lakes in Rakhine State were flooded, caus-

ing losses worth Ks50 billion. The flooding in 2016 was not as worse as that of 2015. Last year, the country did not face any flood disaster.

"People are catching fish, even as fish ponds are flooded. A viss of fish sells for around Ks2,500 on the streets. When fish is sold out, vendors catch fish again using fishing nets. There is a large number of fish buyers," said a customer.

The Fishery Department has already released a notice to owners of fish ponds about the possible flooding. Myanmar Fishery Federation had already encouraged businessmen to upgrade the banks of fishing ponds and to harvest and sell fish before the possible flooding period.

At present, Mon and Kayin states and Bago Region are affected by flood and some houses are at risk. Displacement of flood victims and rescue activities are being carried out.

According to data of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology at 6:30am on 30 July, the water level in Thabaung, Toungoo, Madauk, Shwegyin, Bilin, Bago and Hpa-an towns is above the danger level and the water level in Hinthada, Zalun, Ngathingchaung, Pathein and Maubin towns has nearly crossed the danger level. Additionally, according to the department's findings at 7am on 30 July, it forecasted that continuous heavy rainfall would occur in Taninthayi Region and Rakhine and Mon states in the next two days. ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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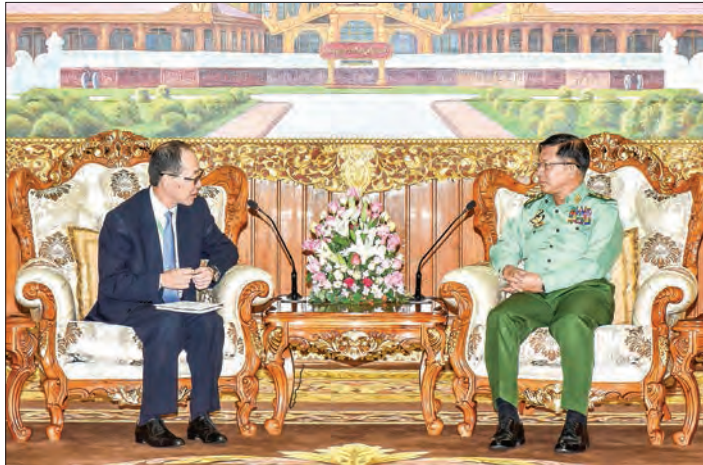
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Senior General receives Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar

THE Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, received Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Ichiro Maruyama yesterday at the Bayint Naung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting they discussed increasing the friendship between the armed forces of the two countries, assistance provided by Japan toward Myanmar's development, Japan's participation and assistance in work conducted by the Myanmar government and Tatmadaw on resolving problems in Rakhine State



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Buthidaung and Maungtau community about the true situation in the country. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Discussion on BIMSTEC regional agricultural interconnectivity development

UNION MINISTER Dr. Aung Thu attended the opening ceremony of the workshop for public-private-partnership in developing agricultural interconnectivity in the BIMSTEC region, held at Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The union minister delivered a speech saying that it is important to work for the development of agricultural interconnectivity since all member nations of BIMSTEC primarily focuses on agriculture. He said farmers working individually in small areas are instrumental in ensuring sufficient food and nutritional supply, abolishing poverty, and promoting inclusive and sustainable agricultural development operations.

Next, U Han Thein Kyaw, a director from the BIMSTEC Secretariat, delivered the wel-



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the workshop for agricultural interconnectivity development in the BIMSTEC region. **PHOTO: MNA**

coming speech.

BIMSTEC member nations include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Myanmar has been appointed as the lead nation in the agricultural sector and has to work for the inter-connected development of all member nations in that field.

Attendants at the workshop discussed public-private-partnership in developing the agriculture sector in member nations, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of rice and other crops, exchange of technologies, and other related topics.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Torrential rain, flood cause havoc in regions, states

TORRENTIAL rain on Sunday has forced residents in several areas to leave their homes and the flood caused by the rain over the railways has forced the Mandalay-Yangon train services to be suspended.

Besides, the torrential rain caused landslides in Tanai, in Mohnyin Township and Kya-in-Seikkyi in Kyain State, wreaked havoc to roads there.

The water level in the Thanlwin River has risen

following the three-hour torrential rain in Hpa-an and the inflow water from the river forced 246 families in Khaye Kannar Village in Hpa-an Township to leave their homes.

The inflow water from the Sittoung River has inundated the low-lying Watlartaw Village and 110 families from the village left their homes.

Meanwhile, 1,495 families from Maubin Village in Shwegyin Township were relocated to nearby monasteries on Sun-

day as the inflow water from the Sittoung River threatened their homes with floods.

The inflow water from the river has caused floods in several villagers on Sunday.

A river in Aunglan Township has eroded year by year and a pagoda built on its bank at Zeyawady Ward collapsed into the river yesterday. A landslide happened on Maungtau-Agnumaw Road following a torrential rain in Maungtau Township.—GNLM ■

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No.7/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Home Affairs Ministry's arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking between 21 and 28 July.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President from 21 to 28 July.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 1 August issue of the *Global New Light of Myanmar*. —GNLM ■

Italian professor gives lecture at UDM in Yangon

PROFESSOR D. Paolo G. Mosselli from the University of Bologna in Italy gave a lecture on "Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery" at the University of Dental Medicine in Yangon yesterday.

The talk is part of the Continuing Professional Development programme of the University of Dental Medicine in Yangon.

Faculty members, postgraduate students and dentists attended the talk.—Myanma Alinn

36 dams, reservoirs see overflowing water

A total of 36 dams and reservoirs nationwide are overflowing, according to the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department.

Overflowing water from Khawah Dam in Padaung Township, Pyaw District, and Tamandu Reservoir in Myebon Township,

MyaukU District, was stopped yesterday, but Mazin Reservoir in Bago began overflowing yesterday. Severe floods hit Bago Region, Kayin State, Mon State and Taninthayi Region recently.

The floods have caused chaos over transportation in the areas. —MNA ■

Traffic resumes between Bilin and Thaton as water recedes

TRAFFIC resumed in the recently flooded section between Bilin and Thaton yesterday as the water receded.

After suspension of traffic due to the flood on

26 July, trucks left Thaton at 2:30pm for Bilin, while trucks from Bilin were allowed to leave for Thaton at 1:30pm yesterday.—Htoo Naung (Bilin) ■



Trucks crossing the flooded road between Bilin and Thaton. **PHOTO: HTOO NAUNG (BILIN)**

Hluttaw committees discuss National Planning, Union Budget bills for next fiscal year

HLUTTAW officials held a coordination meeting over the National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill for the 2018-2019 fiscal year at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Hall-D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his introductory remarks, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said the new fiscal year will begin this year and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has to plan for approving the Union Budget Bill so that state and regional Hluttaws will have enough time for their own coordination meetings for budget approvals. The Joint Vetting Committee needs to submit its reports on time so that the Public Accounts Joint Committee and the Joint Bill Committee can make submissions to the Hluttaw in time for discussions. The Speaker highlighted the importance of fully discussing all matters fully relating to the budget in the Hluttaw, which is why the Joint Vetting Com-



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivers a speech at the meeting over the National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill for the 2018-2019 fiscal year in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

mittee has been expanded from 17 groups to 20 groups. He said careful budget reviews from the Hluttaw prevent any wastage from the Union budget and ensure that it is used for the benefit of all. This year, the focus should

be shifted from using the least amount of budget to using it for the actual benefit of everyone, said the Speaker. He added that compensating the use of finances by implementing cheap strategic plans, which are not up to stand-

ard, will not benefit the nation in the long run. Using the least amount of money is not the goal, but rather using the available finances for the benefit of the nation, as instructed by the State Counsellor, said the Speaker. The

Speaker concluded by requesting the Hluttaw representatives to fully and carefully scrutinize their assigned ministry or organisation and to submit their reports in the allotted time.

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung said his Public Accounts Joint Committee will adhere to the committee's requests and suggestions during the scrutinizing process and in coordinating meetings. He added that Joint Vetting Committees need to submit their reports during the allotted time period.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, vice-chairpersons and secretaries from the Public Accounts Joint Committee, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and secretaries from all 20 Joint Vetting Committees, and officials from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

National Natural Disaster Management Committee gives advice, conducts regional rescue operations

The National Natural Disaster Management Committee has advised residents of Hpa-an Township and people living in lowlands near the river in Madauk to move to areas safe from floods, and for people living in lowlands and near the river in Thabaung Township to exercise caution.

The Kayin State government and donors have donated 25 sacks of rice, 500 chicken eggs,

80 viss of cooking oil (approx. 130.63 kg), 30 packets of instant noodles, 150 bundles of clothing, water purifying tablets, and emergency medical supplies to flood-stricken people in Daw Lann Village Paingkyone, Hpa-an District.

Rice, instant noodles, canned sardines, cooking oil, water purifying tablets and medical supplies were donated

to Dama Wihara Monastic School in Natkyun Village for 1,364 people from 267 households from the flood-stricken Natkyun and Kankaye villages in Hpa-an Township.

The Mon State Disaster Management Committee has transferred Ks20,766,900 to the Chairman of the Bilin Township Disaster Management Committee for 12,303 local residents from

2,900 flood-stricken households in Bilin Township.

Likewise, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Bago Region Disaster Management Committee has provided the 27,294 local residents from 13 wards, four village-tracts and 33 rescue centres taking shelter in Bodha Athan Sasana Beikman building in Bago Region,

with Ks136,046,400 in financial aid, canned sardines, packets of instant noodles, Ks12,037,180 worth of cooking oil, 100 sacks of rice worth Ks2.3 million, financial support of Ks600,000 for the surviving family members of two people who died in the floods, humanitarian support, and Ks1,248,000 worth of financial aid for 1,000 households.—Myanmar News Agency ■

BFM Foundation donates K50 million to each flood-hit region, state

KANBAWZA Brighter Future Myanmar (BFM) Foundation donated Ks50 million to each flood-hit region and state to help those affected by the floods, as part of its recent pledge to donate Ks1,000 million as relief aid to victims in the country.

Representatives of the BFM in Mawlamyine and Dawei handed over Ks50 million each to the Mon State and Taninthayi Region governments yesterday, and followed up handing the same amount to the Kayin State government on 29 July.

"The donation from BFM would be spent on rice, cooking oil, medicines and other necessities for the people displaced by the floods," said Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, as he accepted the donation at the office of the Mon State government yesterday. Meanwhile, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Daw Lae Lae Maw also accepted the cash from the representatives of BFM, expressing her gratefulness for the donation to the flood victims in the state.

"We will arrange to send aid,

including rice, cooking oil, and dried food to over 1,000 flood victims from over 200 households taking shelter at temporary relief camps," said the chief minister.

The people in Taninthayi experienced a flood caused by overflowing water from the Taninthayi River some 20 days ago. BFM's donation will also go to Rakhine State and Bago Region. Since it was founded, BFM has contributed over Ks144 billion so far towards regional development and humanitarian aid in regions and states.—Thura Lwin (Eco) ■



Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan accepts the donation from Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation representatives. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Beware of fake news

NOWADAYS, news of natural disasters is spreading fast all around the country. with Internet acting as the fastest and the most effective distributor of information, whether it may be true or not. Let alone the print media, the social media is even much faster than its electronic counterparts — radio and television. But all of us must be aware of the spread of fake news, some released with the sinister intention of causing panic among the people and instability in the country.

It is true that Bago Region, Mon and Kayin states and certain areas of the country are facing monsoon floods. But we all know that this is not the first time our country has

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department is releasing daily weather forecast in connection with precipitation, cyclones or strong winds and water levels of rivers, through the print media and the electronic media in real time.

The impact of downpours raises water levels and adds strength to water currents, turning rivers into dangerous waterways. And on land, floods with strong currents can sweep away property, people and animals. Researchers suggest that a body of water four feet in depth and moving at 20 miles per hour can cause of lot of damages. As humans and farm animals are terrestrial, they find it difficult to make movement in the water, especially when it is chest-deep and moving. Moreover, moving water can take away property or humans or animals to deeper parts where they can be drowned. So, we should not try to cross the currents during the downpours.

All in all, we must all pay serious attention to weather forecasts and warnings issued by the relevant bodies. Additionally, we must have awareness of the fake news and information, and if possible, we must identify them and fight back. ■

faced floods, particularly at this time of the rainy season, when monsoon comes with the highest level of precipitation.

We have ways to alleviate the impact of a natural disaster, especially through advance preparations. We will be like the grasshopper of one of the Aesop's Fables if we fail to take preparatory measures as it is a common knowledge that our country is usually prone to floods, during the peak of the monsoon season.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department is releasing daily weather forecast in connection with precipitation, cyclones or strong winds and water levels of rivers, through the print media and the electronic media in real time.

The National Natural Disaster Management Committee, on its part, is providing the whole country with knowledge of natural disasters and preventive ways. But we are not sure whether the great majority of the country is seriously heeding those warnings and advice.

Flood management and disaster mitigation measures

By Khin Yadanar

HEAVY rains have caused floods and landslides in several parts of Myanmar during this week. As a result of these natural disasters, people residing in Taninthayi and Bago regions, Mon and Kayin states have suffered flash floods, transportation delays and loss of life. With Myanmar being one of the world's most disaster-prone countries in the world and exposed to multiple hazards, it costs the country over US\$184 million annually, according to a World Bank's report.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited flood-stricken areas in Kayin and Mon states last week and gave words of encouragement, food supplies and monetary support to the people there. She then went to temporary flood relief centres and asked the people there about their livelihoods, health conditions and support being given, followed by a distribution of rice, cooking oil, medical supplies, food supplies, clothing and financial assistance.

President U Win Myint also met with Bago Region administrative, legislative and judicial officials and urged swifter government reforms. Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee attended and addressed the committee's meeting on 28 July. Ellen Goldstein, World Bank Country Director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, said that the threat of climate change is increasing and preliminary measures should be taken to help the country prevent and minimize risks, so that Myanmar is ready when a disaster strikes, and, if needed, efforts to respond and recover quickly, so that families are safe and able to return to their daily lives soon after a disaster strikes.

Dr Kyaw Moe Oo, Director General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, said that a low pressure area that occurred in north of Bay of Bengal caused rains across the country, especially in coastal areas of Myanmar.

The water level of the Sittoung River rose above its danger level in Taungoo and seven feet above the danger level in Madauk. The water level may continue to rise in those places. In the past few years, official said, the water levels there always reach their respective danger levels. The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk hit a record, reaching its danger level this year and caused flooding in Bago, Shwegyin and Madauk townships.



The country's economy and society is still largely dependent on agriculture, which relies heavily on rain. Thus, if there is too much or less rain, it would have much impact on agriculture. Too much rain fall will cause floods which will impact on the production of agricultural products.

In 2015, when the worst flood in decades hit central Myanmar, the response to the floods was limited, and flood warnings did not reach the people. Weak response to the disaster led to misunderstandings about evacuation efforts. While people are in the midst of facing floods, local authorities should make sure that warnings issued by the weather bureau reach the at-risk communities well ahead of time.

Floods are common during the rainy season in Myanmar. Hence, the weather bureau has alerted people living near rivers in Hpa-an, Bago, Shwegyin and Madauk to take precautionary measures because the water level of the rivers there has gone above the danger level. The level is expected to rise at least one foot further over the next two days because of heavy rains.

As for the authorities concerned, efforts are being made to mitigate the impact of floods, and cooperation is needed to take a proactive approach to dealing with the risks and also providing aid to flood victims nationwide. We need to inform and educate the people about the risks and educate the flood victims staying currently at the shelters about water-borne infectious diseases, how to prevent them and how to treat them.

Local and health officials are advised to be ready in helping

treat the diseases and in training volunteers on how to fumigate potential breeding sites and spread messages to communities about dengue prevention.

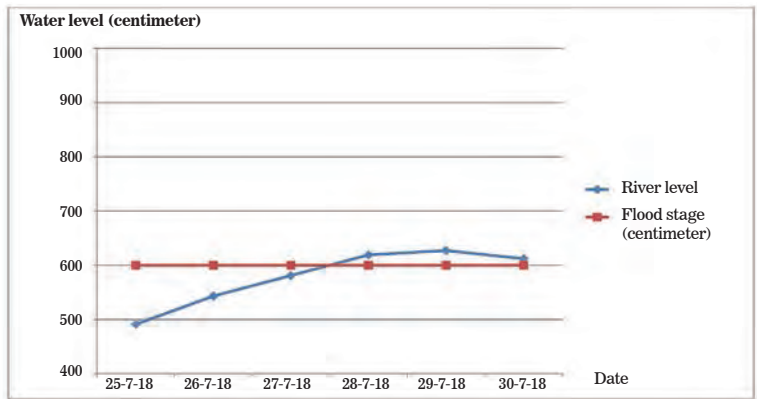
To reduce the loss of life due to water-borne infectious diseases, an immediate flood response that includes surveillance for these diseases, particularly dengue, is very important. Fast response to an outbreak is required. The most effective way to prevent the disease is public participation in preventive measures against the disease. People are urged to participate in prevention activities by keeping the homes and environment clean every day and make sure there is no water left for the insects to breed.

Ensuring that weather warnings reach the populations, who remain the most vulnerable to floods, should be given a priority. Another priority should be shifting from "a response-recovery approach" to a "risk-sensitive development approach." This includes replacing outdated drainage and sewage infrastructure, as well as enforcing land use plans and zoning regulations to keep buildings and households out of danger zones.

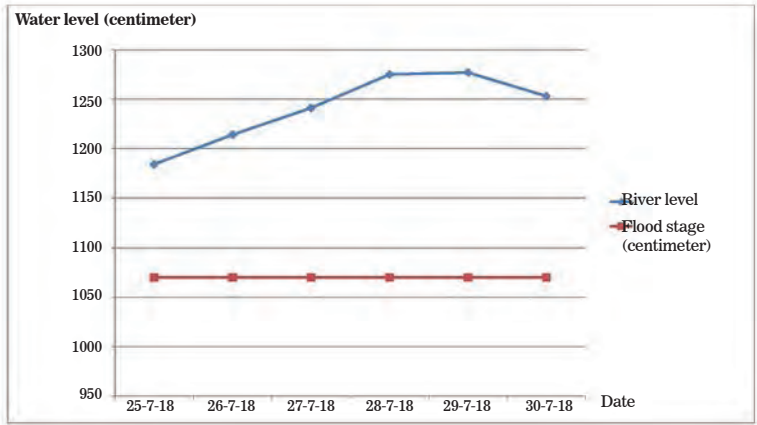
Last, but not the least, is that people faced with floods should be urged not to believe in any rumours when floods hit their areas. It is of great importance to keep a close watch on weather updates and warnings during the rainy season. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

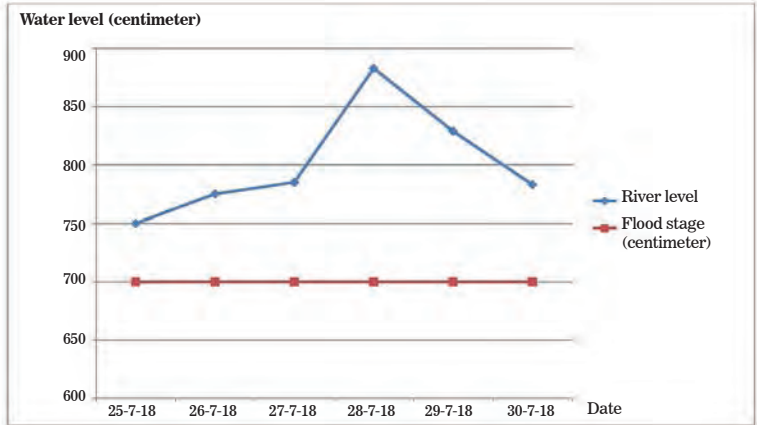
Flood stage of Sittoung River, Taungoo, Bago Region



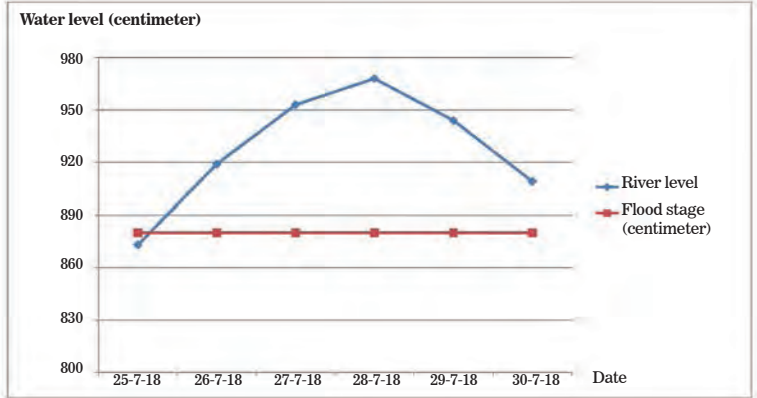
Flood stage of Sittoung River, Madauk, Bago Region



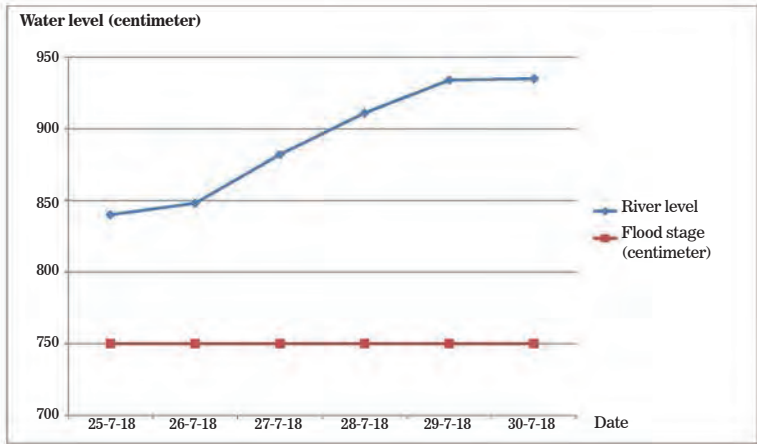
Flood stage of Shwegyin River, Shwegyin, Bago Region



Flood stage of Bago River, Bago, Bago Region



Flood stage of Thanlwin River, Hpa-an, Kayin State



ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
လူထု အကျိုးပြု ဝန်ဆောင်မှု ဝန်ကြီးဌာန
(ပစ္စည်းရေးရာ)

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 30-7-2018)

Flood conditions of Sittoung River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (½) foot at Taungoo above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (6) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (2) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Shwegyin River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Shwegyin River has exceeded by about (2½) feet at Shwegyin above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

Flood condition of Bago River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Bago River has exceeded by about (1) foot at Bago above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (6) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may fall about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level. The water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an (938) cm observed at (06:30) hrs MST observation today, is the highest of (53) years record. The previous highest water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (936) cm observed on (18.8.2002).

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River has remained it danger level at Thabaung, it may remain above its danger level during the next (1) day.

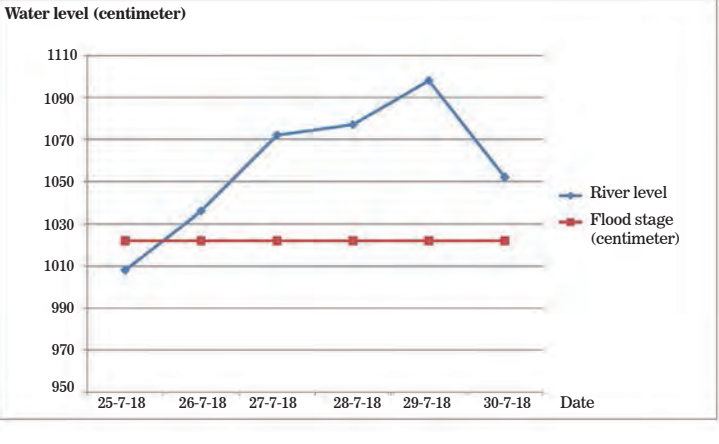
Flood condition of Bilin River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Bilin River has exceeded by about (1) foot at Bilin above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and lowlying areas in Hpa-an Township and Madauk, to avert due to the rise of water level, and in Thabaung Township, to take precautionary measures.

Flood stage of Bilin River, Bilin, Mon State



Israel releases Italians who painted mural of Palestinian teen

JERUSALEM — Israeli police on Sunday freed two Italians arrested for painting a giant mural of a Palestinian teenager seen as a symbol of resistance on the separation wall in the occupied West Bank, Italian and Israeli authorities said.

“The two Italians suspected of vandalising the security fence in the Bethlehem area” have been released, Israeli police said in a statement.

“But their visas have been cancelled and they must leave Israel within 72 hours... if they fail to comply they will be expelled”, the police added.

A Palestinian who had been arrested with the Italians on Saturday was also freed, since he was not strongly involved in their activities, the

statement said.

Italy’s foreign minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi said in a statement Sunday night he had “learned with relief... (that) the two Italian citizens arrested in Israel will quickly be able to return to Italy”.

The roughly four-metre (13 foot) image near Bethlehem in the West Bank depicts 17-year-old Ahed Tamimi.

Tamimi herself was released from prison Sunday after an eight-month sentence for slapping two Israeli soldiers, an episode captured on video.

Israeli border police said they had arrested the two Italians and a Palestinian — all masked — on Saturday after they “illegally drew on the wall”.

“When border policemen took action to arrest



Palestinian activist and campaigner Ahed Tamimi (C) in the West Bank village of Nabi Saleh on 29 July, 2018, after her release from prison. **PHOTO: AFP**

them, they tried to escape in their car, which was stopped by the forces,” the police said in a statement.

On Wednesday, a man drawing the mural had identified himself as Italian street artist Jorit Agoch.

A message was posted to a Facebook page under his name saying he had been arrested and pleading for help.

On Sunday, Tamimi and her mother Nariman — who had also been sentenced to eight months in custody — were taken from the Sharon prison inside Israel to their home village of Nabi Saleh in the occupied West Bank.

Palestinians see Tamimi as a symbol of resistance to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and she was greeted by a crowd of supporters.

For Israelis, Tamimi is being used by her activist family as a pawn in staged provocations.

The separation wall cutting the West Bank off from Israel is filled with graffiti in support of the Palestinian cause. Secretive British street artist Banksy is among those who have painted on the wall.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNISKY VOY. NO. (031N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNISKY VOY. NO. (031N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1010W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1010W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP /MITT 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (002 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (002 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1804N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1804N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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 BLPLSHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MUTSU VOY. NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MUTSU VOY. NO. (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 TOKO KAIUN KAISHA
LTD**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

NY Times publisher tells Trump anti-press attacks ‘dangerous and harmful’

NEW YORK — The publisher of the *New York Times* has warned Donald Trump in a White House meeting that the president’s escalating attacks on the news media are “inflammatory” and “dangerous and harmful to our country.”

Trump’s meeting with AG Sulzberger, who took the reins of the prestigious newspaper on 1 January, took place on 20 July, following a request from the White House for what appeared to be a routine get-to-know-you session.

The session, which also included *Times* editorial page editor James Bennet, had remained secret under mutual agreement until Trump tweeted about it early Sunday.

“Had a very good and interesting meeting

at the White House with AG Sulzberger, Publisher of the *New York Times*,” Trump said on Twitter.

“Spent much time talking about the vast amounts of Fake News being put out by the media & how that Fake News has morphed into phrase, ‘Enemy of the People.’ Sad!”

Sulzberger, in a statement released by the *Times*, said the president’s tweet effectively “put the meeting on the record,” and he described what appeared to be an unusually tough and blunt session with the president.

“I told the president directly that I thought that his language was not just divisive but increasingly dangerous,” Sulzberger said. “I told him that although the phrase ‘fake news’ is untrue and harm-

ful, I am far more concerned about his labeling journalists ‘the enemy of the people.’ I warned that this inflammatory language is contributing to a rise in threats against journalists and will lead to violence.”

With some foreign leaders using Trump’s language “to justify sweeping crackdowns on journalists, I warned that it was putting lives at risk.”

Sulzberger concluded: “I implored him to reconsider his broader attacks on journalism, which I believe are dangerous and harmful to our country.”

But the exchange comes at a time of high tension between Trump and the US news media, with Trump regularly denouncing critical news re-

ports as “fake news.”

The 37-year-old Sulzberger is the latest in a long line of Sulzbergers to lead the *Times*. When he took over leadership of the “Gray Lady” after several years as a reporter or editor, Trump tweeted that the young man’s rise gave the paper a “last chance” to prove itself impartial and to report the news “without fear or FAVOR.”

But since then, as the *Times* and other news sources have chronicled Trump’s personal and political problems and logged his frequent misstatements, the president has repeatedly lashed back. He has tweeted scores of times that the *Times* is “very dishonest,” “failing and corrupt,” and that it uses “phony and non-existent sources.”—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACIFIC TAMARITA VOY. NO. (18094)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACIFIC TAMARITA VOY. NO. (18094) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 GLOBAL MARS
SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICES CO,
LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGPAKAEW VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGPAKAEW VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-3 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 BAY LINES SHIPPING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1105W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1105W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SHANG HAI M VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SHANG HAI M VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMT-1 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS
SERVICES LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK
AND IRRIGATION
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM
Request for Bids

Date: 31st July, 2018
Credit No. BMZ-No.: 201567882
Contract: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV System for Households and Public Facilities
RFB Reference No. ICB-KfW01

- The Department of Rural Development (DRD), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has received financing from the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) toward the cost of the Rural Electrification Programme (REP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the Contract for Rural Electrification Programme - Component I SHS (REP I). For this contract, the Purchaser shall process the payments using the Simplified Disbursement Method, as defined in the KfW Guidelines, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.
- The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV systems at approximately 13,000 Households and Public Facilities in Southern Shan State.
- Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank’s Standard Procurement Documents (SPD), Request for Bids - Goods (2 envelope process) [October 2017], amended as per KfW’s Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and associated Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries [August 2016], and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- For quick referenced, some of the key qualification requirements include:
 - The average annual turnover of the last three years should not be less than 10,000,000 USD.
 - The Bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years, at least 2 contracts at least two contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 2 million USD.
 - More information is included in the bidding documents.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from DRD and inspect the bidding document following an appointment at the address given below:
*National Electrification Project
Department of Rural Development,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.
Office No. 36,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel/Facsimile: +95 67 3418635
Electronic mail address: ksaung@gmail.com,
dr.soeseoehn@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com*
- The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. GOPA-International Energy Consultants GmbH (intec)
Karsten Ley
Justus-von-Liebig-Str. 1
61352 Bad Homburg, Germany
E-mail: info@gopa-intec.de
and by presenting proof that payment of a non-refundable fee of **300 EURO (three hundred EURO)** has been transferred to the following bank account:
Account holder: GOPA-International Energy Consultants GmbH
Bank’s name: Commerzbank AG Bad Homburg
IBAN: DE 06 5004 0000 0345 3149 00
Swift address: COBADEFF 501
Bank code: BLZ 500 400 00
Account no. 345 314 900
including a clear reference to this tender: **Myanmar SHS KfW01, BMZ 201567882**
Upon receipt of payment, tender documents will be made available as download link. If requested, the tender documents can be sent by courier or electronically on a CD to the address provided, but no liability is accepted for loss or late delivery.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Monday 17 September 2018, 13:30**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked “ORIGINAL BID”, and the inner envelopes marked “TECHNICAL BID” will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **Monday 17 September 2018, 14:00**. All enveloped marked “Second Envelope: FINANCIAL PART” shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **30,000 EUR**
- The address referred to above is:

*National Electrification Project
Department of Rural Development,
Attn. Mr. U Thein Lwin, Deputy Director General
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.
Office No. 36, (Main Meeting Room, ground Floor)
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar*

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
Invitation for Bids**

Date: 29th July, 2018

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project

Reference No.: C1-G11

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of concrete pole 10 meter and 12 meter, for the total quantities of 138,212 poles to be delivered in calendar year 2018 and 2019 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 12 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:

- Minimum average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) shall be 75% of the bid price in over the last two years per each lot. In case of a bidder bidding for multiple lots, the minimum average annual turnover requirement of those multiple lots will be cumulatively applicable.
- The Bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years, at least one contract for supply of similar goods; with the value of such contract not less than 50 % of the Bid Price for the offered goods.
- More information is included in the bidding documents.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.53, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, email : nep.pmomoep@gmail.com, telephone : +95 67 3431176 and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City : Nay Pyi Taw
Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email : nep.pmomoep@gmail.com
Telephone : +95 67 3410480
Facsimile : +95 67 3410480
Web site : <http://www.moe.gov.mm>

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **11st September, 2018, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below on **11st September, 2018, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time**.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is:

Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Place : Office No. 27, Ground Floor, Meeting Room, Ministry of Electricity and Energy



Russian President Vladimir Putin. The activity aimed at strengthening and upgrading the Navy will continue, Russian President said. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russian Navy to get 26 warships, boats this year

ST PETERSBURG — This year, "the Russian Navy will get 26 new warships, boats and vessels, four of them equipped with Kalibr missiles," Russian President Vladimir Putin told a reception marking Russian Navy Day on Sunday.

The president reiterated that this year four naval surface ships, a counter-terror boat and three logistics vessels have al-

ready entered service in the Russian Navy. "A good pace of re-equipment and upgrading is a great merit of the people working in our shipbuilding sector, the result of their professionalism and responsibility," the president said.

He also added that the fleet infrastructure is also developing to meet the present-day demands.

The Kalibr cruise missiles fly at extremely

low altitude and bypass terrain relief. The trajectory helps break through adversary air defence.

Strengthening and upgrading

The activity aimed at strengthening and upgrading the Russian Navy will continue, Russian President Vladimir Putin said

"High combat readiness and efficiency of

the Navy is a major component for ensuring the country's fighting capacity, its security and security of the nationals of our state.

And of course, we will continue taking measures aimed at strengthening and developing the fleet, making it better equipped," the president told a gala reception in St. Petersburg marking Russia's Navy Day.—Tass ■

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Netflix, Inc.**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, USA, carrying on business as a service provider having its principal office at 100 Winchester Circle Los Gatos, California, USA, 95032 is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademarks:

NETFLIX
NETFLIX

(Reg. No. – IV/5937/2018 in Classes 09, 38 and 41)

Class 09: Computer hardware, firmware and software; computer hardware, firmware, software, apparatus, instruments and materials to record, transmit and receive audio, visual and audio-visual content; computer hardware, firmware and software for electronic and streaming devices; electronic devices; streaming devices; remote controls; audio, visual and audio-visual recordings and content provided by downloading or streaming from computers and communications networks, including the internet.

Class 38: Communications services; telecommunications services; telecommunications access services; streaming services via computer, the internet and other communications networks, including audio, video, and audiovisual material; video-on-demand transmission services; video broadcasting; transmission of voice, data, images, signals, messages and information; communication by computer; telecommunications connections to electronic communications networks, broadcasting services.

Class 41: Entertainment services; entertainment information; film production; educational services; providing non-downloadable movies and television shows via a video-on-demand service; providing information, reviews, and recommendations regarding movies and television shows; providing a website featuring non-downloadable television shows, movies, and multimedia entertainment content, as well as information, reviews, and recommendations regarding television shows, movies, and multimedia entertainment content.

Our client has secured registrations/ filed applications for the above marks worldwide including but not limited to USA, European Union, Australia, Chile, China, Egypt, India, Israel, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Malaysia, Norway, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Switzerland, Singapore and Turkey.

Our client has instructed us and wishes to bring to the notice of the trade and public that by virtue of extensive use as well as registrations/ applications, our client's aforementioned trademarks have acquired international fame, reputation, goodwill and are exclusively associated with our client. By virtue thereof **our client has exclusive rights to use the said trademarks and reserve its rights to initiate appropriate legal action against any party found using any of the said trademarks or any other deceptively or confusingly similar trademarks or name which is in violation of the rights of our client.**

S.S. Rana & Co. Advocates

317, Lawyers Chambers, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi -110003, India. Phone: 91-11-40123000,
Fax: 91-11-40123010. Email: trademarks@ssrana.com, foreign@ssrana.com

Cambodia PM's party wins all seats in election: ruling party tally

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's party won all seats contested in Sunday's general election, held in the forced absence of a major opposition party, according to election results tallied by the ruling party.

The results, seen by Kyodo News, mean the ruling Cambodian People's Party will get all 125 seats in the National Assembly, cementing one-party rule in the country and Hun Sen's continued grip on power that has spanned over 30 years.

The country's election commission has not announced official results yet, but the ruling party said it was pleased to see many Cambodians express their choice through their ballots. "I thank you all for going out to vote with overwhelming numbers," Hun Sen said on his Facebook page. "You all have truly



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (c) acknowledges supporters while marching in Phnom Penh on 27 July, 2018, the final day of official campaigning for the country's general election. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

chosen a path of democracy by using your rights as stipulated in the constitution." The general election was held after the main opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party was forced to dissolve, leaving the ruling party competing with 19 small, mostly newly formed parties — none strong enough to mount

a credible challenge to Hun Sen's party. While the election commission's provisional results show voter turnout was high at 82.2 per cent, the results tallied by the ruling party suggest that 9.2 per cent of the nearly 7 million ballots cast Sunday were spoiled, a sharp increase from the last general election in 2013,

which saw 1.6 per cent of ballots spoiled. Sam Rainsy, a former leader of the CNRP who lives in exile and had repeatedly called for a boycott of the election, released a statement Sunday decrying the "hollow" victory of Hun Sen, saying "the result of this false election conducted in a climate of fear is a betrayal of the popular will."

The United States issued a statement the same day saying it "regrets" an election that was "neither free nor fair" and that "failed to represent the will of the Cambodian people."

"We are profoundly disappointed in the government's choice to disenfranchise millions of voters," the White House said, adding that it will consider additional measures against the country, including expanding visa restrictions on Cambodian officials.—Kyodo News ■

Ministry of Construction Department of Rural Road Development Invitation of Open Tender

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Grant from Federal Republic of Germany (KfW Bank) through its Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) under Ministry of Construction towards the cost of Rural Road Rehabilitation Programme (RRRP) in Kalay Township.
2. The DRRD invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following Causeway work contracts;

	Contract	Description	Location
1	Lot3 Nat Myaung and Mhanlone Crossings	-LWCC (Low Water Crossing multi cells Culvert) -Single carriageway of 6 meter width -Nat Myaung's LWCC total length is 210 meter -Mhanlone's LWCC total length is 119 meter	Kalay Township of Sagaing Region

3. Procurement will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding Procedures and under the laws and regulations governing public procurement within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and following the KfW Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Associated Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries (KfW procurement guidelines –August).
4. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2pm, September 14, 2018.
5. This invitation is open to all bidders.
6. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information complete bidding document from:
Rural Road Rehabilitation Programme(RRRP),
Department of Rural Road Development,Ministry of Construction
Northern of (200)Bedded Hospital,Yan Aung (2) Quarter, Pyinmana, Myanmar
Phone:+956724821, Email:ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com, rbbdrrd@gmail.com

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
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ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါကတိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်သွေးဆွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။
Advertise with us. HOTLINE 09-974424848

TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE MYANMAR

Notice is hereby given that our client, **Gold's Gym Licensing LLC**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of State of Delaware, USA, having principal office at 4001 Maple Avenue, Suite 200, Dallas TX 75219, USA, **is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademarks:**

TRADEMARKS	GOLD'S GYM					
REGISTRATION NUMBER	IV/5931/2018	IV/5934/2018	IV/5935/2018	IV/5932/2018	IV/5936/2018	IV/5933/2018
SPECIFICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES	<p>Class 16: Newsletters and publications dealing with gymnasium, fitness and wellness services.</p> <p>Class 25: Clothing, footwear and headgear.</p> <p>Class 28: Gymnasium, exercise and fitness equipment.</p> <p>Class 41: Gymnasium and related services, providing services for fitness spa and gym, gymnastic and sports instructions; training and services in various health programs and techniques, organizing workshops on health and nutrition programs, fitness health club services.</p>					

Our client has bonafidely adopted and is extensively using the aforementioned trademarks in respect of the goods and services listed as above.

Our client has also secured registrations/ filed applications for the said marks worldwide including but not limited to United States of America, European Union, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, and Switzerland.

Our client has instructed us and wishes to bring to the notice of the trade and public that by virtue of extensive use as well as registrations/ applications, our client's aforementioned trademarks have acquired international fame, reputation, goodwill and are exclusively associated with our client. By virtue thereof **our client has exclusive rights to use the said trademarks and reserve its rights to initiate appropriate legal action against any party found using any of the said trademarks or any other deceptively or confusingly similar trademarks or name which is in violation of the rights of our client.**

Any inquiry relative thereto may be referred to the following:

S.S. RANA & CO. Advocates
317, Lawyers Chambers, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi- 110003, India. Phone: 91-11-40123000,
Fax: 91-11-40123010. Email: trademarks@ssrana.com, foreign@ssrana.com

Better with age? Cruise's latest 'Impossible' tops box office

LOS ANGELES — Improbable? Maybe, but "Mission Impossible — Fallout," the sixth and latest stunt-filled edition of the Tom Cruise action franchise has topped the weekend box office in North America, outperforming the five earlier "Impossibles."

The Paramount/Skydance production took in an estimated \$61.5 million for the three-day weekend, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations, more than quadrupling the \$15 million earned by second-place "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again."

"Impossible" has 56-year-old Cruise, who famously still

does his own cliff-hanging, car-rolling stunts, ordered to track down some missing plutonium and find a terror-minded villain. Critics seem to like the film despite its evident weaknesses: Though "often ridiculous," the *Washington Post* wrote, the film "works amazingly well."

Universal's "Mamma Mia" clung to the second spot for a second straight weekend, though its take was nearly 60 percent below its opening. With a star-studded cast including Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried, Colin Firth and Pierce Brosnan, the film uses plentiful flashbacks to fill in the story

of Streep's carefree character on the only Greek island with a built-in ABBA soundtrack.

In third was Sony's "The Equalizer 2," with Denzel Washington again playing a former black-ops agent — and now low-profile Lyft driver — drawn into action to avenge a friend's death. It took in \$14 million.

Fourth spot went to another Sony film, "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," at \$12.3 million. The animated comedy, whose voice cast includes Adam Sandler and Selena Gomez, follows Count Dracula and his family as they get away from their hotel for their own vacation.

In fifth was a new release, Warner Bros.' family-friendly "Teen Titans Go! To the Movies," at \$10.5 million, which *Variety* called slightly disappointing given the film's 90 per cent rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The first feature film based on a popular animated series, "Titans" has a voice cast including Kristen Bell, Will Arnett and Greg Kinnear.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

"Ant-Man and the Wasp" (\$8.4 million)

"Incredibles 2" (\$7.2 million)

"Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" (\$6.8 million)

"Skyscraper" (\$5.4 million)

"The First Purge" (\$2.2 million)—AFP ■



Tom Cruise, whose latest "Mission Impossible" film is topping North American box offices, is seen here during the movie's recent premiere in Washington. **PHOTO: AFP**



Will Smith. **PHOTO: PTI**

Will Smith is writing a book

LOS ANGELES — Will Smith has revealed he is writing a book, which will be full of "stuff" he has gathered over the years.

The 49-year-old actor is collaborating with self-help author Mark Manson, who wrote "The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F**k", on the project. Smith took to Instagram to share the news on what will be his first official book.

"I'm writing a book! I got years and years of stuff I want to say, and I'm finally going to write a book for y'all," the actor said in the video which also featured Manson.

Smith then asked the writer, "Are you feeling confident? Are you feeling like we'll be able to do transcendent art with this book?"

To which Manson replied, "I spent the last six months with crippling anxiety, but today I feel

great."

The "Bright" actor then joked that they are meeting five publishers for the book and they will go with the "highest bidder".

"We're going to be meeting with five publishers... We're gonna pick one. And if I had to take a guess, I feel very confident that we're gonna go with the highest bidder... I'm just saying," Smith quipped.

Manson, on the other hand, revealed that the book is due next year. "I grew up watching this guy after school. It's a true honor to work with @willsmith and help him share his incredible life with the world. Look for a book from us in 2019!" he wrote on Instagram.

According to reports, the book will be a combination of memoir and inspirational experiences.—PTI ■

Soaring production: Kabul kite makers prepare for the flying season

KABUL — Surrounded by bright-coloured tissue paper and bamboo sticks, Afghan kite maker Halim Muhammadi and his children sit in their modest living room in Kabul assembling kites in preparation for the city's flying season.

After selling hundreds of thousands of kites during the cooler months, particularly in spring when flying conditions are ideal, kite makers spend the rest of the year replenishing their stocks.

A single kite takes only minutes to make. Muhammadi, 50, expertly cuts a piece of delicate tissue paper into a diamond shape and glues it to a thin bam-

boo frame — skills he has honed since he was a child.

He then passes the fragile object to his children — daughters Madina, 18, and Nigina, 15, and his 14-year-old son Shohaib — who adorn it with simple decorations and leave it to dry in their home. While the main kite flying season starts in the winter and finishes at the end of spring, a breeze at any time of the year is enough to draw people of all ages to rooftops, dusty hills or cemeteries to enjoy one of the country's traditional leisure activities. Retailing for as little as a few cents each, kites are a cheap past-time in the impoverished country.

Banned during the Taliban's repressive 1996-2001 regime, kite flying soared in popularity after the US-led invasion, which enabled kite makers, such as Muhammadi, to reopen their businesses.

Afghanistan's kite-flying culture was made famous by best-selling Afghan author Khaled Hosseini, whose 2003 novel "The Kite Runner" became a runaway global bestseller and turned into a film.

Fierce battles waged by kite flyers, who use string coated with crushed glass to cut down other kites, ensures many repeat sales for kite retailers.

"My entire family, including



An Afghan boy prepares to fly a kite during a kite battle on a hillside in Kabul. **PHOTO: AFP**

my sons, daughters and wife, make kites (at home)," Masood, 40, a second generation kite seller, told AFP recently at his shop in the bustling Shor Bazaar in an old neighbourhood of Kabul.

"During the winter we sell between 100,000 and 300,000 kites. I make about 300,000 afghanis (about \$4,200) in three months," he added. Inside the cramped kite stores in Shor Bazaar, huge piles

of kites are testament to Afghans' love of the sport.

"People are crazy about kite flying here," said Pahlwan Karim, 65, whose family has been making kites for nearly a century.

His kites are branded with a picture of a scorpion — after his kite-making brother's nickname.

"This market sells hundreds of thousands of kites every day in winter," he added.—AFP ■

China launches new twin BeiDou-3 navigation satellites

XICHANG — China on Sunday sent twin satellites into space via a single carrier rocket, entering a period with unprecedentedly intensive launches of BeiDou satellites.

The Long March-3B carrier rocket lifted off from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province at 9:48 am, the 281st mission of the Long March rocket series.

The twin satellites are the 33rd and 34th of the BeiDou navigation system. They entered orbit more than three hours after the

launch. After a series of tests, they will work together with eight BeiDou-3 satellites already in orbit, said the launch service provider.

A basic system with 18 BeiDou-3 satellites orbiting will be in place by the year end, which will serve countries participating in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

Named after the Chinese term for the Big Dipper, the BeiDou system started serving China in 2000 and the Asia-Pacific region in 2012.



China sends twin satellites into space via the Long March-3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Xichang, southwest China's Sichuan Province on 29 July, 2018. The twin satellites are the 33rd and 34th of the BeiDou navigation system. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

It will be the 4th global satellite navigation system after the US GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European

Union's Galileo.

The satellites and the rocket for Sunday's launch were developed by the China Acad-

emy of Space Technology and China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, respectively. —Xinhua ■

Kyoto University to begin iPS clinical test for Parkinson's disease

KYOTO — A Kyoto University research team said on Monday it will begin this week a clinical test using induced pluripotent stem cells to treat Parkinson's disease, in what will be the world's first application of iPS to the progressive neurological disorder.

The team led by Jun Takahashi, a professor at the university's Centre for iPS Cell Research and Application, has received government approval and is soliciting several patients to participate in the trial to be conducted at Kyoto University Hospital, according to sources close to the matter.

The team is scheduled to hold a press conference to explain the details of the clinical test later

in the day.

Parkinson's disease reduces dopamine-producing neurons in the brain and results in tremors in the hands and feet, and stiffness in the body. While there are treatments to relieve the symptoms, there is currently no cure for the disease. In the clinical test that will start on Wednesday, nerve cells derived from other people and stored at the university will be transplanted into the brains of patients to supplement damaged nerve cells.

The team has already tested the process on monkeys in a preclinical study, in which the movement of the affected animals improved without seeing

any tumors that could develop into cancer in the brain over a two-year observation period.

The clinical trial will be led by doctors who will determine the safety and effectiveness of the test. Among other clinical tests of iPS cells, the government-backed Riken institute conducted the world's first transplant of retinal cells grown from iPS cells to a patient suffering from a serious disease in 2014.

Osaka University is also planning a clinical test for treating heart failure by using a heart muscle cell sheet created from iPS cells. —Kyodo News ■

Study sheds light on why professional women keep low profile at workplace

SAN FRANCISCO — Stanford University researchers have found that professional women are adopting a less assertive strategy to keep a low visible presence at workplace to avoid conflict or balance work with family responsibilities.

A new study published in *Sociological Perspectives* said this week that many professional women have strong reasons to ignore recommendations that urge them to have a more visible presence at work.

The Stanford sociologists found that many women tended to adopt a strategy of "intentional invisibility," which is a risk-averse, conflict-avoidant approach to navigating unequal workplaces.

The researchers, Devon Magliozzi, Priya Fielding-Singh and Swetha Ballakrishnen, spent two years on a women's professional development program at a large nonprofit organization in the United States.

Their research shows that many women were often struggling with such a dilemma: If they worked on the sidelines, they could be overlooked for job promotions. But if they adopted a more assertive presence at work, they feared that would backfire.

That's why professional women opted for a risk-averse approach and keep a low profile to avoid possible conflict in the office, the findings indicated.

The study also discovered that many women at work ques-

tioned the conventional norm that effective employees need to call attention to themselves. They did not like to appear with an aggressive, attention-seeking posture in the office. Rather, they chose to quietly challenge conventional definitions of professional success by embracing a different, more authentic work style.

On the other hand, the study shows that women generally shoulder a disproportionate share of familial responsibilities, such as more time needed to care for children at home.

Staying out of the spotlight at work helped these women maintain both professional and personal stability, although it may cost chances of making big career moves for some women, according to the research.

In the face of evolving family needs, professional women often concluded that embracing a behind-the-scenes approach allowed them to be effective while staying out of the spotlight and avoiding negative backlash.

The Stanford researchers agreed that organizations, instead of the women who work for them, should adapt to create gender equality.

"To be truly equal workplaces, organizations need to rethink the ways in which they assign and reward visibility," Ballakrishnen said. The research was conducted with support from Stanford's Clayman Institute for Gender Research. —Xinhua ■



Jun Takahashi, a professor at Kyoto University, speaks at a press conference in Kyoto, western Japan on August, 2017, about research to treat Parkinson's disease using induced pluripotent stem cells. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Thai star Ariya on top of the world after Scottish Open victory

LONDON — Thailand's US Open champion Ariya Jutanugarn won the women's Scottish Open to go top of the world rankings, posting a final round of five-under-par 66 for a total of 13-under at Gullane golf course on Sunday.

The 22-year-old phenomenon, who became the first Thai golfer to win a major at the 2016 British Open, began the day tied for the lead with South Korea's

Amy Yang and ended it a stroke clear of Australian Minjee Lee, who clung on tenaciously after also firing a 66.

"It means a lot to me. I said this week to my caddie I want to win once on a links course and I did it and it is a dream come true," Ariya told LPGA.com.

Ariya will head to next week's British Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes with a significant boost to her confidence, but

she warned that her victory on a links course did not make her a racing certainty to be a title contender.

"Still tough for me and I will have to be patient," she said. "I have a pretty good feeling so hope next week to play my A game."

Ariya's victory — her third this year — will see her go top of the world rankings for a second time in her career on Monday, having spent two weeks in top spot in June 2017.

"It means a lot to me to be number one but last time it didn't help me thinking about it too hard, so I am just going to work on my game."

Yang, one of a plethora of Korean golfers in the mix, never got going and dropped away to finish tied for fifth on seven-under after a 73 to put a dampener on the weekend of her 29th birthday.

American Tiffany Joh, who set the pace for the first two rounds before failing to cope at all with the gusting wind while shooting 80 on Saturday, rebounded slightly to finish tied for eighth on five-under having carded a 70.—AFP ■



Ariya Jutanugarn will return to number one in the women's world rankings which she occupied for a fortnight in June 2017 after winning The Scottish Open, the third victory of the year for the 22-year-old Thai phenomenon. **PHOTO: AFP**



Wayne Rooney joined DC United from Everton on a three-and-a-half-year deal earlier this month. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rooney scores first DC United goal before breaking nose

WASHINGTON — Former England captain Wayne Rooney grabbed his first goal for DC United but also suffered a broken nose in a 2-1 victory over Colorado Rapids in the MLS.

Rooney, 32, scored the opening goal against ex-Manchester United team-mate Tim Howard but was left bloodied after a clash of heads with Colorado defender Axel Sjoberg in stoppage time.

"Delighted to score my first goal for DC United," Rooney tweeted after his team won for just the fourth time in 18 match-

es this season.

Two of those victories have come since Rooney made his debut on 14 July.

The striker, England's all-time record goalscorer, said he required five stitches after breaking his nose in the collision with Sjoberg.

Rooney, who played for boyhood club Everton last season following his return from Old Trafford, signed a three-and-a-half year deal with DC United worth \$13 million earlier this month.—AFP ■

Japan women lose to Brazil at Tournament of Nations

EAST HARTFORD (Connecticut) — Japan lost 2-1 to Brazil in the Tournament of Nations on Sunday, suffering their second-straight defeat in the round-robin competition featuring four of the world's top women's soccer teams.

Rika Masuya scored for Nadeshiko Japan with a spectacular diving header in the 93rd minute at Rentschler Field, but it was too late to stop Brazil taking all three points.

Marta had opened the scoring for the South Americans in the 76th minute, beating Japan goalkeeper Sakiko Ikeda from the left side of the penalty area.

Substitute Raquel provided the assist as Beatriz doubled the lead for the seventh-ranked Brazilians in the final minute of regulation time.

World No 6 Japan opened the tournament with a 4-2 loss



Rika Masuya (19). **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

against the No 1-ranked United States in Kansas City on Thursday.

Asako Takakura's side will play their final match of the tournament against

eighth-ranked Australia in Bridgeview, Illinois, on Thursday.—Kyodo News ■

Isner wins Atlanta Open title

WASHINGTON — Top-seeded American John Isner won the Atlanta Open for the fifth time in six years after coming back to beat compatriot Ryan Harrison in the final 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday.

"It's incredible, and I'm very happy to be the champ here again," Isner said. "I'm very comfortable here. It really feels like I'm at home, and that helps so much."

The 33-year-old Isner is having his best season and the Atlanta title was his second of the year after winning his maiden ATP World Tour Masters 1,000 crown at the Miami Open in April. Earlier this month, he also reached the Grand Slam semifinals for the first time at Wimbledon. He will maintain his position in the Top 10 of the ATP rankings at No 9 when the new rankings are released on Monday.—Xinhua ■