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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 1 August 2018

State Counsellor visits Nay Pyi Taw dairy farm, pasteurised milk factory, Pe Taw modern layer poultry farm project

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the Nay Pyi Taw dairy farm, pasteurised milk factory and Pe Taw modern layer poultry farm project yesterday morning.

The State Counsellor, accompanied by Union Minister for Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Office of the President Deputy Minister U Min Thu and officials, arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw dairy farm and pasteurised milk factory at 8:30 am.

The State Counsellor was welcomed by Myanmar CP Livestock Co., Ltd. CEO Mr. Sooksunt at the project briefing hall.

Myanmar CP Livestock Co., Ltd. CEO Mr. Sooksunt then delivered a welcome speech to the State Counsellor at the project briefing hall and Technical Support Department head Dr. Min Thit Lwin explained the project details; that the project was a joint venture between the government, the related rural area and CP company; systematic breeding of dairy cows, milk production and distribution; and arrangements made for students from the University of Veterinary Science to conduct a field visit.

Next, Myanmar CP Livestock Co., Ltd. Chairman Mr. Wirat explained the company's international investment; status of producing and distributing products such as milk, eggs and meat; dairy farm and pasteur-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits Nay Pyi Taw dairy farm, pasteurised milk factory in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ised milk factory in Nay Pyi Taw; and the production and distribution of fresh and nutritious milk to the market with a video clip.

Later, the State Counsellor and party went around the dairy farm to observe the dairy cows systematically kept and fed, health care system and waste

disposal system, as well as the pasteurised milk production system where Technical Support Department head Dr. Min Thit Lwin provided the necessary explanations.

The State Counsellor and party then took a commemorative group photo with officials

from the Nay Pyi Taw dairy farm and pasteurised milk factory and University of Veterinary Science students.

In 2014, the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and CP Group reached an agreement to construct a pilot dairy farm and pasteurised milk

factory. The farm and factory is situated on 36 acres of land near 216-mile 5-furlong post of the Yangon-Mandalay expressway. The dairy farm is an enclosed, air-conditioned farm, currently raising the highest milk-producing American cow breed.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Fourth-day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 9th regular session held

THE fourth-day meeting of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 9th regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung confirmed as Central Bank of Myanmar Governor

At the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the agreement of the Hluttaw on the President's proposal to appoint U Kyaw Kyaw Maung as the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Approval of Revenue Appellate Tribunal Bill

Next, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the deliberation of the Hluttaw on the Revenue Appellate Tribunal Bill paragraph-wise and approved it.

Discussion on Union Legal Supporting Group's six-month report

Later, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, Daw Nan Than Than Lwin of Hpa-an constituency, U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency, U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Kyaw Myo Min of Monywa constituency, U Kan Oo of Salin constituency, U Win Win of Minbu constituency and Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5 had a discussion in support of the six-month work report of the Union Legal Supporting Group.

In her discussion, Daw Khin Hnin Thit said the Union Legal Supporting Group is the main requirement for the country to know the actual situation. If the



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives attend the fourth-day meeting of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 9th regular session. PHOTO: MNA

group can do its work well, it will be a force that will benefit the people and the country. There is a requirement to provide legal assistance directly to the poor people who need it and the group needs to be a strong one that can provide legal matters covering the entire country.

U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency said the group was formed with the aim to support the work of not only the courts, detention centres, jails, police personnel, attorneys and advocates, but also the plaintiffs,

suspects, witnesses related to legal cases and is a group that's required for the people.

U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency suggested that since the group is a union-level group, reforming it with deputy minister-level officials will enable it to conduct work more quickly, effectively and correctly, making it a more dependable entity for the people.

U Win Win of Minbu constituency, meanwhile, suggested that the next six-month report of the Union Legal Supporting

Group should include the progress of its works and findings. He added further that once the legal support groups are formed at the state/region, district and township level, this information should be made known to the people so that timely support can be provided to people who are in need of legal support.

The fifth day of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 1 August, it is learnt.—Thura Zaw, Han Lin Naing ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein receives Panna Institute CEO and party



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Panna Institute Chief Executive Officer U Pe Aung Zin in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development U Tun Tun Hein received Panna Institute Chief Executive Officer U Pe Aung Zin and party at the Hluttaw Building, Pyithu Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker's office, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to conducting discussions and talks on Hluttaw representatives using information tech-

nology to contact and inform the constituents about regional development work, and social media and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Platform to connect with the public.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 32/2018

4th Waning of Second Waso, 1380 ME
31st July, 2018

Appointment of Central Bank of Myanmar Governor

In accordance with the provisions stated in Section 9 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; U Kyaw Kyaw Maung has been appointed as Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

U Kyaw Moe Tun presents his Credentials to the Director-General of the United Nations

U Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, Geneva, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Michael Moller, Director-General of the United Nations, on 26 July 2018 in Geneva.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor visits Nay Pyi Taw dairy farm, pasteurised milk factory, Pe Taw modern layer poultry farm project

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There are now 78 dairy cows of which 36 produce milk. Each milk-producing dairy cow produces an average of 22 litres per cow.

From there, the State Counsellor and party went to Tatkon Township, Khayansatkone Village tract, Pe Taw Village modern layer poultry farm project where officials from Myanmar CP Livestock Co., Ltd. explained the history of the project, fund-raising for the layer chicken farm being conducted jointly by the government, private, village and local banks, break-even profit sharing status, and completion and start date of the project. The State Counsellor, in turn, raised questions about the project.

After the explanation, the State Counsellor cordially met with Pe Taw villagers in the briefing hall and told them to unitedly participate in the project, that the village fund committee should be unbiased and conduct things equitably, that villagers are to discuss, and work together to overcome problems and difficulties, and explained the importance of keeping the surrounding environment clean together.

She added that the most important things are education and health. Only when children are healthy can they get a good education and for their lives to be fruitful, they need to be educated. She spoke of the importance of providing good nourishment for the children with local products and to strengthen their bodies with sports and exercise.

The State Counsellor also asked about the availability of sufficient teachers, furniture and teaching aids in Pe Taw Village



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Pe Taw villagers at the Pe Taw modern layer poultry farm project. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects the dairy farm at Pe Taw Village yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

school, health care for the villagers, availability of electricity and water for agriculture, and coordinated over the necessary details with the officials.

After the meeting with villagers, the State Counsellor inspected the layer poultry farm. The State Counsellor also paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Zawana of Pe Taw Village Thiri Thukha Yadana monastery and offered offertories.

From there, the State Counsellor visited Pe Taw Village Basic Education Primary School and cordially met with teachers, parents and students.

The Pe Taw Village modern layer poultry farm is being jointly implemented by the government, private, village and local banks in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Tatkon Township, Pe Taw Village. A total of Ks2,000 million was invested in the project and it has full biosecurity and does not pollute the neighborhood. At the moment, the project is more than 80 per cent complete and arrangements are being made to commence work

in August. The project includes three-layer chicken farms, with each farm holding 25,000 layer chickens. Modern equipment is used in the farm, which is fully enclosed. Feeding, waste disposal, egg size sorting, egg transportation and packaging are all automated. The plan is to produce and distribute over 60,000 eggs in the market every day.

Starting from the day the project started, Pe Taw Village is receiving annual land rent of Ks6 million, and when the project reaches its 10th year, the entire project will be transferred to Pe Taw Village. Households in Pe Taw Village will each receive a share of the profit, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Australian Ambassador Mr. Nicholas Coppel

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nicholas Coppel at the Union Attorney-General's guest room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to the

success of Myanmar's transformation to a democratic system, democracy norms and work on protecting people's basic rights, progress and improvement in the rule of law, cooperation between prosecutors of the two countries on cross-border crimes, including drugs, strengthening a free

judicial system, human resources development and sending more state scholars.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Director General Dr. Thida Oo.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Australian Ambassador Mr. Nicholas Coppel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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International Tiger Day celebrated at Yadanabon Zoological Gardens

INTERNATIONAL Tiger Day was celebrated at the tiger cave and at the entrance of Yadanabon Zoological Gardens, which is located at 12th street, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 29 July.

Authorities conducted awareness talks about nature and causes leading to the extinction of the tiger to people who visited the zoological gardens.

Habitat loss, poaching, and prey depletion continue to be major threats to tiger

survival in the world.

International Tiger Day was celebrated at zoological gardens across the world to conserve the tiger in cooperation with the public.

According to Myanmar Protection of Wildlife and Protected Natural Areas Law, tigers have been added to the protection of wildlife animal list. Currently, Yadanabon Zoological Gardens has nine Bengal tigers, being bred in the gardens, for public viewing.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



A tiger seen at Yadanabon Zoological Gardens. International Tiger Day was celebrated at the zoo in Mandalay on 29 July. **PHOTO: THIHA KO KO**

Myanmar to host ALSA international moot court competition

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR will host ALSA International Moot Court Competition (AIMCC 2018) in Yangon for the very first time, according to Asian Law Students' Association (ALSA) Myanmar.

Organized by ALSA, the AIMCC will run a simulated hearing of an International Investment Dispute Settlement

from 24 to 27 August.

Ko Kaung Myat Arkar, president of the ALSA Myanmar, said that the move aims to help law students in Myanmar acquire more trial experience through international moot court contests.

He added: "The main purpose is to enable Myanmar law students to get into the habit of taking part in a simulated court

or arbitration proceedings at a moot court. Law students in other countries are participating in it extensively. In our country, law departments hold local mock trials only. There should be more moot court competitions in Myanmar in order that Myanmar law students can keep abreast with international students."

The competition is titled,

'International Investment Arbitration Moot Court'. Twenty teams from Asian countries, including three from Myanmar, will take part in the competition stage by stage. The competition covers three steps: general round, semi-final round and final round. Arbitrators, lawyers and legal experts from home and abroad will act as moot arbitrators during the competition. ■

Public can begin using first roadside restroom in Mandalay from today

PEOPLE from Mandalay Region will soon have access to the first public roadside restroom, built according to international standards, from 1 August in Mandalay, said U Ye Lwin, Mandalay Mayor, on his social network account.

"The first public roadside restroom in Mandalay can be used from 1 August at 5 am," he added.

Public roadside restrooms are being constructed for those going for morning walks/exercises, Mandalay residents, locals and foreign tourists. The restrooms are being constructed with funds donated, and are located at 70th street between 26th and 27th streets. They will be open between 5am and 8pm daily.

Mandalay authorities are planning to assign three male and three female cleaners for the public restrooms on a rotation basis. Authorities are also making arrangements to provide advanced training to those assigned as cleaners. Moreover, authorities are planning to appoint two supervisors and security for the restrooms.

Mandalay authorities will also collect Ks200 per person using the public restroom. They are also planning to install CCTVs outside the restroom area for the safety of the users.

The international standard public restroom will include two separate rooms for male and female users, as well as one for people with disabilities.



Roadside public restroom service starts from 1 August in Mandalay. **PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)**

The female restrooms include a hand washbasin with a sensor system and a hand dryer.

The male restroom includes three urinals and a washbasin. People with disabilities could use a separate room with a special walk way.

Every room has an air conditioner. The restroom also includes an inverter system for emergency light. Waste from the restrooms will be disposed of using a biotank system.—Nyein Nyein/ Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Myanmar Companies Law 2017 comes into effect today, MyCO launched

By May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Companies Law 2017 has come into effect from 1 August and a company's registration process can now be done electronically, starting from today.

All companies are required to re-register within six months from August the effective date of the Myanmar Companies Law. Re-registration can be completed through the Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) system or in person at the offices of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), using the prescribed forms for re-registration.

Under the previous Myanmar Companies Act 1914, restrictions were imposed on foreign companies, leading to the hesitation of investors. It also resulted in obstacles to foreign capital flow, hindering economic

development.

According to the new Myanmar Companies Law 2017, foreigners are allowed to own or control up to 35 per cent of ownership interest in local companies, which makes it easier to do business and paves the way for further cooperation between foreign investors and local businessmen, said U Aung Naing Oo, Director General of DICA.

Businesses with more than 35 per cent of stake by a foreigner are classified as foreign companies.

"This new law tackles the obstacles and restrictions to a greater extent. This can attract more foreign investments," said U Aung Naing Oo.

"We really think this is an important milestone and will simplify the process of transparency and the governance aspect, which are crucial. So, it is very positive to domestic and foreign

investments," said Director Sona Shrestha from the Trade Division of the South East Department of the Asian Development Bank.

The new Myanmar Companies Law will bring about exemption to small companies, allowing them to set up a company with a single shareholder and a single director. Additionally, there will be no extension of company registration and no blacklist. It also ensures easier decision-making and cutting down of the working process. Also, small companies no longer need to submit financial reports.

The new law also allows foreigners to engage in export/import, insurance and the stock market. The MyCO system provides better corporate governance, ensuring compliance.

All the companies can register or re-register through www.mycodica.gov.mm in the stipulated form, and online payment

can also be made.

According to Notification 63/2018 of the DICA, registry transactions carried out using non-electronic means for Form (A) Group, application for incorporation of company, and for Form (B) Group, application for re-registration of an existing company, will require the payment of an additional Ks100,000 for each single application. Registry transactions carried out using non-electronic means for Form Groups other than Form (A) Group and Form (B) Group will require the payment of an additional Ks50,000 for each single application.

"We would like to encourage businessmen to register online in the stipulated form. However, registrations can be made at the office in person in case there is difficulty in digital payment," said U Myo Min, Director of the DICA.

Re-registration will make the Company Registration number the same as the Tax Identification number issued by the Internal Revenue Department.

The launch of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 and Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) was held at Melia hotel, Yangon, yesterday, attended by Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, officials from DICA, ADB, Japanese embassy and entrepreneurs.

The union minister delivered an opening speech saying the government is aiming to bring about economic development, support private companies, increase capital and have easier access to foreign investors.

In order to be adaptable with the current age, the Myanmar Companies Act 1914 was amended and after four years, the Myanmar Companies Law was instituted. ■

Price of soybeans increases in Muse border trade zone due to low supply



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market.
PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

THE price of soybeans has increased to Ks850,000 per ton in the Muse 105-mile trade zone due to lower supply, according to Muse traders.

"Soybean enters the market on alternate days. On some days, around 4,000 tons of soybeans enter the market, a decline compared with the same period last year. The sales in the soybean market have also cooled down. Recently, China restricted some soybean imports from other developed countries," said U Sai Thein Lin, a soybean trader from Taunggyi-Muse.

Currently, 16 tons of soy-

beans from Shan State enter the Muse trade market per day. The lowest price of soybeans is Ks740,000 (3,500 yuan), while the highest price is Ks850,000 (4,000 yuan), which is a slight increase this year compared with the same period last year. Although the price of soybeans has slightly increased, the supply has declined in the local market.

"Myanmar soybean is mainly imported by China, the EU, Mexico, Japan, Thailand, Egypt and Indonesia. Last year, the price of soybeans was Ks978 per viss (3.6lb). But this year, the price of soybeans is Ks2,000

per viss. China uses soybeans not only as a vegetable oil but also as soap, pesticides, house paint, printing ink and for use in medicine production," said U Khine Lat, market manager of Mandalay- Muse soya-bean merchant group.

There are three varieties of soybeans in Myanmar. Shan State cultivates soybeans during the monsoon season and harvests them in August and September. Then, local people from Shan State cultivate other crops such as sunflowers, winter potatoes, garlic, onions and wheat.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)■

Price of multi-coloured sesame seeds up by Ks100,000 per ton in Muse market

THE prices of multi-coloured sesame seeds is up by Ks100,000 per ton in the Muse market, depending on the quality, said Mandalay-Muse sesame merchants.

The export of sesame seeds, without the husk, might increase this year. Samone black sesame is selling well at a high price. Around 1,400 tons of monsoon sesame are supplied from Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and Nay Pyi Taw, said U Myat Tun Oo, Ayeyarmyay depot owner in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay. This year, the price of white sesame seeds

increased from over Ks1.7 million to over Ks1.8 million per ton, while the price of brown sesame seeds went up from Ks1.6 to Ks1.7 million per ton. Black sesame seeds fetch over Ks1.9 million, up from last year's price of over Ks1.8 million. China accounts for 70 per cent of Myanmar's multi-coloured sesame seeds. They are sent to China through the Muse and Chinshwehaw border gates.

Heavy rain in May and June damaged some sesame cultivation. Some regions did not have sufficient water during the

sowing season, and the yield of sesame seeds might drop. The increase in price is attributed to a high demand when there is less supply. There are fewer stocks as the monsoon sesame has not been harvested. This week, market prices of sesame seeds are Ks125,000 per three-basket bag for black sesame and Ks145,000 for Samone black sesame. The price this month increased by Ks10,000 per bag compared with June, said U Kyaw Zaw Aung, Mandalay-Muse sesame merchant. Myanmar gets a market share of 6.4 per cent in the glob-

al sesame seed export market, while India has a 20 per cent market share, followed by Ethiopia with 18 per cent, Sudan with 11 per cent and Nigeria with 8.3 per cent. Sudan, Ethiopia and African countries constitute 37 per cent of the global sesame seeds market share.

Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions are the main producers of sesame seeds. Of the edible oil crops in Myanmar, sesame plantation acreage is the largest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)■

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 7/2018
3rd Waning of Second Waso 1380 ME
(30 July 2018)

Statistical bulletin on additional drug seizures, acting on tip-offs from public

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department**, publicized on 26 June 2018, to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on additional drug-related offenses from 21 July to 28 July 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizures and legal action taken
1	Information received of multiple buyers of illegal drugs in Myothitgyi Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State	On 24-7-2018, local police arrested Ma Than Than Soe (a) Mi Nge in Myothitgyi Ward, Myitkyina, together with powder heroin. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Myitkyina) MaYa(Pa)97/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of a group of plastic bag traders selling illegal tablets near Daw Aye Kyi Tea Shop, south of market in Yamethin, Mandalay Region.	On 21-7-2018, local police arrested La Pyae Phyo (a) Poe Thi Kaung, 19, in the store next to Daw Aye Kyi Tea Shop, Yamethin, together with tablets branded with “88/1”. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa(Yamethin) MaYa(Pa) 7/2018, under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection led to the arrest of Kaung Myat Soe, 21, in Thilawa Lane, Panthein Area, Myoma Ward, together with tablets branded with “88/1”. A case has been opened against Kaung Myat Soe and La Pyae Phyo with MaMaSa(Yamethin) MaYa(Pa) 8/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of illegal drug sales in Anauk Village in Kaungbo Village-tract in Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South).	On 21-7-2018, local police arrested U Tin Tun, 52, Aung Myint Oo, 21, and Myo Than Kyaw, 24, together with WY psychotropic tablets in Kaungbo Anauk Village, Kaungbo Village-tract, Yaksawk Township. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Yaksawk) MaYa(Pa) 35/2018, under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of U Maung Zaw and his wife Ma Thandar Lin operating large-scale illegal drug sales nightly in Ohn Taw Street (1), Ohn Taw Ward, Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region.	On 20-7-2018, local police entered Maung Zaw (a) Khin Maung Zaw’s home in Ohn Taw Street (1), Ohn Taw Ward, Taungdwingyi Township. Although no traces were found of illegal drugs or other illegal substances, Maung Zaw is notorious for selling illegal drugs and psychotropic substances, therefore local police acted on Taungdwingyi Township Administration Committee Notification No. 3/1-5(001) (23-7-2018) and opened a case against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Taungdwingyi) MaYa(Pa) 2/2018, under Section 25-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Myo Aung from Shwegeny Village, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs in the area for four years.	On 23-7-2018, local police arrested Myo Aung, 40, together with WY psychotropic tablets in Ward 1, Shwegeny Village, Bokpyin Township. A case has been opened against him in accordance with NaMaSa(Mandaing) MaYa(Pa) 14/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of illegal drug distribution near basic education high school in Swar, Yedashe Township, Bago Region.	On 26-7-2018, local police acting on tip-off entered the home/store of Khin Lay Thein (a) Chaw Chaw, 38, in Ward 6 near the school, Swar (South), and arrested her along with Thant Zin Win, 43, in possession of WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against them in accordance with NaMaSa(Swar) MaYa(Pa)1/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of illegal drug selling in Shwebonchar Ward, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region.	On 24-7-2018, local police on investigation in Shwebonchar Ward in Bokpyin Township saw Myat Lin and Hein Min Phyo suspiciously entering U Myo Thant’s garden and a stakeout revealed the duo, both 29, and Nyi Nyi Zaw, 33, carrying WY psychotropic tablets. They have been arrested and a case opened against them in accordance with MaMaSa(Bokpyin) MaYa(Pa) 19/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation revealed U Myo Thant, 53, in possession of WY tablets in his home. A case has been opened against him and the aforementioned three in accordance with MaMaSa(Bokpyin) MaYa(Pa) 20/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Ma Tin Tin Moe and her younger sister Ma Sandar Moe selling illegal drugs in Nyaungwine Village, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region.	On 24-7-2018, local police entered the home of Ma Tin Tin Moe, 35, and sister Ma Sandar Moe, 28, in Nyaungwine Village, Maubin Township and discovered WY psychotropic tablets in their possession. Ma Tin Tin Moe attacked the police officers with a kitchen knife and was consequently constrained. While police officers frisked her, Ma Tin Tin Moe grabbed a thanakha stick and attacked, injuring Sub-inspector Nwe Nwe Yin’s forehead. A case has been opened against Ma Tin Tin Moe with MaMaSa (Maubin) (Pa) 636/2018 under Section 333 of the Penal Law, together with Ma Sandar Moe in accordance with MaMaSa(Maubin) MaYa(Pa) 3/2018 under section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of Kyaw Htay selling illegal drugs in Mhotauk Village, Natnan Village-tract, Homalin Township, Sagaing Region.	On 24-7-2018, local police arrested Kyaw Htay, 36, of Mhotauk Village, Natnan Village-tract, Homalin Township, Sagaing Region in possession of heroin and WY psychotropic drugs. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Homalin) MaYa(Pa) 67/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of the entire village of Hlwasin, between Mandalay Region and Magway Region, using and distributing illegal drugs with illegal drugs also available in Kaungsw, Ywartaw, Kyuntaw, and Nyaunggone villages.	A police force of over 200 officers conducted investigations on 18-7-2018 and arrested four male suspects in possession of illegal drugs, heroin, psychotropic substances, marijuana, and opium residue. Six cases were opened and information relating to the arrests has been made public on 23-7-2018. Additional investigations performed on 23-7-2018 led to the arrest of Kyaw Gyi, 31, living in Paypin Village, Paypinshay Village-tract, in possession of psychotropic tablets branded with “88/1” and one air rifle. A case has been opened against him in accordance with YaKaSa(Nyaunggone) MaYa(Pa) 2/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

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11	Information received of U Mya Aung and U Win Maung selling illegal drugs in Konewaryonetar Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region.	On 21-7-2018, local police arrested Mya Aung, 56, in Konewaryonetar Village, Mawlaik Township, in possession of powder heroin. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Mawlite) MaYa(Pa) 15/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Aung Than, 75, Win Maung, 56, Kyaw Htay, 43, Than Htay Win, 45, and Kyaw San Min (a) Kun Fu, 31, in possession of powder heroin. A case has been opened against all five suspects in accordance with MaMaSa(Mawlaik) MaYa(Pa) 16/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of Thein Soe selling illegal drugs in Thetkeltaung Village, Minekaing Village-tract, Homalin Township, Sagaing Region.	On 23-7-2018, local police arrested U Thein Soe, 50, in Thetkeltaung Village, Minekaing Village-tract, Homalin Township, in possession of powder heroin. A case has been opened against him in accordance with NaMaSa(Minekaing) MaYa(Pa) 43/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	Information received of Sai Nay Aing selling illegal drugs in Shwegeny Village, Shwegeny Village-tract, Pyigy Mandaing Sub-Township, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region.	On 23-7-2018, local police arrested Sai Nay Aung, 32, in Ward 3, Shwegeny Village, Shwegeny Village-tract, Pyigy Mandaing Sub-Township, Bokpyin Township, in possession of powder heroin. A case has been opened against him in accordance with NaMaSa(Mandaing) MaYa(Pa) 14/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14	Information received of U Ba Khin planting and selling speciosas from his garden in Khawmhupun Village, Bilugyun Township, Mon State.	On 23-7-2018, local police inspected U Ba Khin's garden in No.265, Ward 6, Khawmhupun Village, Chaungzon Township, and discovered five speciosas. He has been arrested and a case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Chaungzon) MaYa(Pa) 6/2018 under Section 16-A/16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
15	Information received of groups of people selling illegal drugs daily on the hilltop in Group 10, Ward 4, Kutkai Township, Shan State (North).	On 23-7-2018, local police staking out at the intersection of Mahasasana Yeiktar Street and the street leading to the cemetery, Ward 8, Kutkai Township, arrested Aik San, 30, from Hokyan Village in possession of heroin. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 65/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection led to the arrest of Aik Sa, 40, in possession of heroin. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 66/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection led to the arrest of Long Zay, 40, in possession of WY psychotropic tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 67/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection on 24-7-2018 led to the arrest of Lauk He (a) Min Lauk He, 50, near Kolong Lake, Kolong path, Ward 8, in possession of “88/1” psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 68/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection on 26-7-2018 led to the arrest of Aik Yi Bone, 31, near milepost 223/3 on Pyidaungsu access road, Manpan Village, Kutkai Township, in possession of heroin. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaYa(Pa) 69/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection led to the arrest of Aik San (a) Ah Shwin, 42, in possession of WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 70/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection on 28-7-2018 led to the arrest of Honam Village native Zaw Bone, 26, near the Chinese cemetery, Ward 4, Kutkai Township, in possession of “88/1” psychotropic tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 71/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

16	Information received of caches of black opium hidden in a hut to the south of Daw Khin San Win's house in Padaukchat Ward, Singu Township, Mandalay Region.	On 24-7-2018, local police entered the house of Daw Khin San Win, 58, in Padaukchat Ward, Kyintaukpauk Village, Singu Township, and arrested her, her husband U Thaung Hla, 65, U Win Bo, 50, from Paukgone Village, and Ko Thein Thein Win, 22, from Ohkchaulklone Village, in possession of raw opium. A case has been opened against them in accordance with NaMaSa(Letpanhla) MaYa(Pa) 7/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
17	Information received of illegal drug trade in Kyansittha Street, Kamakatwe Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region.	On 26-7-2018, local police on patrol in Kyansittha Street, Kamakatwe Ward, Dala Township, arrested Lwin Moe Aung (a) Kalar Lay, 25, in possession of WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Dala) MaYa(Pa) 27/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
18	Information received of U Poe Khar selling illegal drugs in Ywarthitgone Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region.	On 28-7-2018, local police entered the farm sentry hut of Poe Khar, 47, two miles north of Ywarthitkone Village, Phaungpyin Township, and found him and Chit Oo, 41, from Kaukkyway Village. Poe Khar complied with the arrest but Chit Oo jumped out from the hut and tried to flee. Police pursued Chit Oo, who attacked Constable Hein Htet Aung with a knife. Constable Hein Htet Aung fired a warning shot but Chit Oo continued attacking, prompting the Constable to shoot Chit Oo twice in his legs. Police arrested Chit Oo, who suffered no major injury, and confiscated from his backpack heroin and WY psychotropic tablets, along with additional caches in Poe Khar's hut. A case has been opened against both suspects under MaMaSa(Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 51/2018 under Section 19-A/21/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Chit Oo has also been charged with MaMaSa(Phaungpyin) (Pa) 81/2018 under Section 307 of the Penal Law.
19	Information received of U Min Lwin selling illegal drugs from Room.50, Warden Street 3, Shanpo Village, Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region.	On 26-7-2018, local police entered the house of Min Lwin, 50, in Warden Street 3, Shutpone Village, Palaw Township, and arrested him, his wife Ma Hmwyae (a) Ma Hmwyae Shin, 42, and his son Paing Oo (a) Min Paing Oo, 22, with powder opium. A case has been opened against them under MaMaSa(Palaw) MaYa(Pa) 29/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
20	Information received of U Hla Myint and his wife Daw Myint Myint Khine from “Shwebawdar” Restaurant and Thein Soe from a car workshop in Kyaw Village, Gangaw Township, Magway Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 28-7-2018, local police entered the restaurant/home of U Hla Myint, 42, in Shwe War Tun, Ward 3, Kyaw Town. U Hla Myint was absent but police arrested Daw Myint Myint Khine, 39, after discovering heroin and “88/1” psychotropic tablets in their bedroom wardrobe. A case has been opened against Daw Myint Myint Khine in accordance with MaMaSa(Gangaw) MaYa(Pa) 5/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Local police also arrested U Thein Soe, 40, in Ward 1, Kyaw Town, in possession of heroin, with a case opened against him in accordance with MaMaSa(Gangaw) MaYa(Pa) 6/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 77 cases have been opened as of 28-7-2018, and 100 men and 19 women have been arrested with seizures of 593.12 g of heroin, 0.55 g of ICE, 30 g of black opium, 31,326 g of raw opium, 10 g of opium, 24.50 g of opium residue, 1,462 g of powder opium, 3,266 g of speciosa, 17,375 stimulant tablets, and 131.08 g of marijuana. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.

4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles/motorcycles acting upon given information, resulting in 232 cases being opened between 22-7-2018 and 28-7-2018, and 286 men and 51 women have been arrested. Seizures of 9,370.00 g of heroin, 2,151.77 g of ICE, 54,924.96 g of raw opium, 16.33 g of opium, 1,054.65 g of powder opium, 107,139.5 stimulant tablets, 572.74 g of marijuana, 1.1 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.002 litres of liquid heroin, 0.3 g of powder ecstasy, 60 tablets of buprenorphine tablets, 0.03 litres of diazepam, and 100 tablets of tramadol.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drug dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President through the following contact numbers:

Contacts : Auto telephone No. — 067-590200
Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Flood response shows strength of the people

WITH rivers in Bago and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states hitting record water level in more than 50 years, people in the flood-hit areas came together to avert the disaster.

The National Natural Disaster Management Committee showed a quick response to the flooding and aiding victims sheltering at temporary places.

While working to protect the people in flood-hit areas, the committee witnessed that people from nearby areas distributed meal packs and water bottles voluntarily to the flood victims.

They also demonstrated the power of community collaboration.

Not only Myanmar, but also the world is suffering the impacts of the climate change. The other countries are facing worse situation than Myanmar. The government, together with the people, is committed to preparedness, effective response, rehabilitation and resettlement.

We can't overlook community volunteers who stand at the ready to help those in need — yet another demonstration of a strong community.

Meanwhile, the government has provided cash aid to flood victims, including pregnant women, senior citizens, children and mothers of under-six-month-old infants to help them overcome their other challenges.

These united efforts are the silver lining to the flooding which has hit four regions and states.

In fact, the personnel from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is not enough to effectively help the victims. Therefore, we appreciate those volunteers from civil service organizations and local communities for their strong collaboration in the disaster.

Myanmar is no stranger to the flooding. Yet the worst of Mother Nature also brings out the best in the country. It is the strength of the people. We need to strengthen this.

Not only Myanmar, but also the world is suffering the impacts of the climate change. The other countries are facing worse situation than Myanmar.

The government, together with the people, is committed to preparedness, effective response, rehabilitation and resettlement.

Myanmar is a country where natural disasters occur every year and it is also among the countries that are not ready to face and overcome natural disasters.

Through collaboration from the regional communities and quick responses from the government, we made the best of a potentially devastating weather event. This united strength should serve as a model for handling crises in the future. ■

Interview with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye

WITH Myanmar being one of the world's most disaster-prone countries in the world, the authorities concerned have been making concerted efforts to mitigate the impact of floods, and cooperation is needed to take a proactive approach in dealing with the risks and also providing aid to flood victims nationwide. Regarding the measures of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, Resettlement, the following are some excerpts from an interview with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Question: Now that some of the regions and states in the country are being faced with flood hazards, could you elaborate on the process of providing relief and assistance to the flood victims?

Answer: Regarding the flash flooding, the first thing is that they have to move and take shelter at the relief camps. I have found out that the proportion of flood victims and relief camps are not equal, that is overpopulated. The main challenge is the sanitation problems, which are in need of awareness. There are just a few toilets for them, thus we are trying to cope with this problem as much as we can. People will have to take temporary refuge in these camps about a week or ten days. Compared to today's situation, the water level has been declining in Bago Region. But the water level in Bilin Township is not falling. It was learnt that there were over 18700 flood victims till 28 July, and there were over 20000 on 29 July.



There are 17000 victims in Mon State and 6000 victims in Taninthayi Region as well. Efforts are being made to relocate the flood victims in Mon and Kayin states as well as in Bago Region. Camps have been opened in flooded quarters in many places. There are about 14000 flood victims in Kayin State, and there are a total of 42 relief camps in the whole of Bago Region. We are not in a position to shut down the flood camps due to various reasons. Originally, there

Q: Being a concerned official, what are you planning to do next?

A: As for the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, efforts are being made to provide necessary assistance to those who are in need of help. For instance, cooperation is needed

not to break Madauk Dam, and we are determined to respond to it as fast as possible. For instance, Bago and Thanatpin townships had to suffer flooding, besides wind hazards which destroy many roofs of houses in these regions. That's why we provided what they really needed. We are making attempts to fulfill their requirements relentlessly. As you already know there are many volunteers and social organizations that contributed their voluntary services to

the flood-stricken areas. Many social organizations distributed rice packets and drinking water bottles in Nyaunglebin, Pyuntaza, and Peinzalote. The government also provides necessary assistance to the needy.

Moreover, we provide cash assistance to the families that are unable to cook rice on their own. We are also aware of it and we could set up a scheme to provide them with some money, especially to those who are expecting a child,

We are making an endeavor to mitigate the impending dangers, and to be ready to respond to the dangers with the most effective ways and means. In case of emergency and crisis, people can contact us, so that we can tackle these hazards as a top priority.

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung



Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 31-7-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River
According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (5½) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (2) feet during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River
According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (5½) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may fall about (2) feet during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level. It has fallen about (½) foot on the highest water level.

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.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 31st July, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1st AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Nay Nyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Wave height will be about (9 - 13) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint meets with Australian Ambassador Mr. Nicholas Coppel.

PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives Australian Ambassador Mr. Nicholas Coppel

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nicholas Coppel at the Ministry of Information guest room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cor-

dially and openly discussed matters relating to the scholarship programme Australia is providing to Myanmar, the status of ensuring people know more about this through information program, media freedom in a democratic system, importance

of freedom of speech and the safety of journalists, and hate speech on social media, print media and broadcast media.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and other officials.—MNA ■

Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman tours Lewe Township

CHAIRMAN of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, members Colonel Min Naung and U Aye Maung Sein and officials from the Roads and Bridges Department conducted an inspection tour of Lewe Township, looking into bridges that were destroyed by torrential rains yesterday.

The chairman and party inspected an inter-village wooden bridge in Thapyaygy-one village-tract and the Yenilay-Boekoelone wooden bridge that were sent adrift by strong currents, and relocation of the local people, which was necessary following the collapse of a river bank which is a part of the



Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and officials inspect bridges destroyed by torrential rains in Lewe Township.

PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

Sittoung River, experiencing rising water levels. Members of the council also inspected the erosion of the Yonebin creek. Finally, measures to possi-

bly implement some kind of water retention system were discussed with officials from the respective departments.—Township IPRD ■

Central Organisation for Prevention of Human Trafficking holds meeting

THE meeting of the Central Organisation for Preventing Human Trafficking was held yesterday at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Present at the meeting were Chairperson of the Central Organisation, who is also Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe; central organisation members; chairpersons of working committees; and chairpersons of

state and regional organisations for prevention of human trafficking.

The union minister first delivered the opening speech.

This was followed by presentations and discussions from chairpersons from the Organisation for Preventing Human Trafficking and Protecting Trafficking Victims, Legal Affairs and Prosecution Organisation,

Organisation for the Repatriation, Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Trafficking Victims, members of the central organisations, and chairpersons of state and regional organisations for prevention of human trafficking.

The union minister then concluded the meeting with a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Death toll from floods reaches 12

THE death toll from the floods has risen to 12 and over 132,000 people are sheltering at nearly 300 temporary camps in regions and states in lower Myanmar, according to the National Natural Disaster Management Committee.

Bago Region saw the most number of deaths at four, followed by Mon State with three, Magway Region with two, and Taninthayi Region, Kayin State and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area with one each.

Nearly 30 houses were destroyed in the recent flood in Ayeyawady Region.

Over 94,000 people have taken refuge in 186 camps in Bago Region.

Over 460 people living near rivers in Magway Region have moved to three camps to avoid possible floods as the water in the rivers is rising, though the region is not experiencing floods at the moment.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has spent over K554 million on aid for flood victims and on compensation for those who lost their lives.

Torrential rains, strong winds affect several areas

Torrential rains yesterday destroyed some bridges and forced residents in low-lying areas to leave their homes.

The Maebaung Creek in Hpa-an eroded and destroyed an iron-reinforced bridge yesterday.

The Tikha Bridge in Wuntho also damaged a bridge on the Wuntho-Nankham Road in Wuntho Township yesterday.

The rising water in the Dayaemichaung River in DaikU Township inundated low-lying areas. A total of 190 residents fled their homes to escape the

flooding.

Meanwhile, a six-hour torrential rainfall in Kyaukkya Township inundated six villages and nearly 200 residents fled their homes.

The flood-battered Mokkamu Dyke in Nyaunglebin Township suffered a breach yesterday morning and some 330 residents from six villages fled their homes.

Torrential rains on Monday forced schools in Nyaunglebin, Thanatpin and Shwegyin townships in Bago Region to shut down.

Torrential rain has sparked flooding chaos in Htantabin and Kawa townships in Bago Region and Paung Township in Mon State yesterday, with schools forced to close and residents taking shelter at nearby houses in highland areas.

The body of a soldier who went missing on 27 July in the flood in Bilin was found yesterday.

At the same time, traffic between Bilin and Thaton resumed, as the flood on the road section receded. People displaced by the flood are still sheltering at 20 camps as the flood is inundating several parts of Bilin.

A landslide occurred at Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda in Bahan Township, damaging a car and injuring a man. The injured was taken to the hospital and he in a stable condition.

Heavy rain flooded five sections of the Dawei-Mitta Road in Dawei Township on 30 July, forcing eight schools to close.

Meanwhile, strong winds struck Kawthoung, ripping the roofs off three houses. The same disaster also hit Danubyu Township and destroyed two houses and one house in Mawlamyinegyun.—GNLM ■

Some dams, reservoirs overflow through spillways

THE water level in some dams and reservoirs in regions and states exceeded the full tank levels due to torrential rain and overflowed through their spillways.

People have been urged not to worry about the overflowing water as it goes through spillways into the rivers, said the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Manage-

ment Department.

A total of 36 dams and reservoirs are currently overflowing, said the department.

There are over 230 dams across the country, which are managed by the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U Myint Swe presents Credentials to President of Ghana

U MYINT SWE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Ghana, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo - Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana on 17 July 2018 in Accra.—Myanmar News Agency

Constitutional Tribunal office conducts monsoon tree-planting event

CHAIRPERSON of the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar U Myo Nyunt, members and personnel of the office of the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar conducted a monsoon tree-planting event in the vicinity of the office compound yesterday morning.

First, Chairperson of the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar U Myo Nyunt and members planted teak saplings at

the designated places.

Next, the office personnel planted pyinkadoe, mahogany, padauk, star flower, gangaw, sein pan and cherry saplings, as chairperson U Myo Nyunt observed and encouraged them.

The Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar 2018 monsoon tree-planting event witnessed 500 saplings being planted.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Relief camps shut down in some states, regions

OVER 120,000 flooded victims were staying in relief camps, which had opened up in eight states and regions including Nay Pyi Taw, but now, some relief camps have been shut down in some states and regions, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

According to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as of 30 July statistics, 67 camps opened with over 25,000 victims in Kayin State, 157 camps opened with over 70,000 victims in Bago Region, 51 camps opened with over 18,000 victims in Mon State, 13 camps opened with over 6,500 victims in Taninthayi Region and three camps opened with over 400 victims in Magway Region.

Moreover, more than 300

victims stayed at some relief camps in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady and Sagaing regions.

But now, they have moved back to their homes. Moreover, two relief camps from Taninthayi and one camp from Mon State also shut down recently.

Following continuous heavy rainfall in July, there were floods in some states and regions. Therefore, people were moved to temporary relief camps.

People in the camps were provided with health care and food assistance by the union government in cooperation with the region government. As of 30 July, the government provided assistance worth Ks200 million, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

—Nyein Nyein ■

Raw opium seized in Phakant, Kachin State

THE anti-narcotic police seized raw opium from the house of Aung Win at Kayin Chaung Village, Phakant Township in Kachin State on 29 July.

Acting on a tip off, the police searched the house of Aung Win and found three

bags of raw opium weighing 3,600 grams and worth Ks6,480,000 in Aung Win's room.

Police have filed charges against Aung Win, 46, under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— Township IPRD ■



MOEE Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing and Ambassador of Finland Ms. Riikka Laatu sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on energy sector cooperation between Myanmar and Finland in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

Ministry of Electricity and Energy signs MoU with Finland Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

A signing ceremony for a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on energy sector cooperation between the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the Finland Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment was held at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy meeting

hall on the afternoon of 30 July.

The MoU was signed by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing and Ambassador of Finland to Myanmar Ms. Riikka Laatu, on behalf of the Finland Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.

The MoU was signed with the intention of Myanmar and Finland producing, distributing and managing electricity using renewable and clean energy sources and to cooperate over using energy effectively, it is learnt.—MNA ■

Myanmar Rice Federation to assist in replanting paddy in flooded and inundated farms



Rice fields in Thongwa are submerged in flood waters. PHOTO: KO KYAW (THONGWA)

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) announced yesterday that it would assist in the replantation of paddy in time in flooded and inundated farms.

Farmers who had their farms flooded or inundated should contact the MRF head office telephones 01-218266 to 68 and 01-2301128 and 29.

Commenting on the announcement to provide assistance, MRF general secretary U Ye Min Aung said, "At the moment, relief works are being conducted by the government together with relevant organ-

isations in flooded and inundated areas. When the water recedes and re-development works are conducted, MRF will assist farmers in the rice-producing areas of Bago Region, Mon State and Kayin State, so that there would not be any effect on rice production.

That is why the announcement was made today to provide required inputs to farmers facing difficulties. To provide assistance effectively, it needs to be based on actual facts. Some news reported nowadays is speculative and opinionated

and not based on facts. As such, we are discussing and coordinating with relevant organisations to obtain actual facts. Paddy can remain submerged underwater for a certain period. That is why the damage of the situation needs to be assessed when the water recedes.

We will cooperate with government organisations, Hluttaw representatives and partner organisations. Preparations and studies are being conducted now so that timely replanting, if and where necessary, can be done.—Shin Min ■

Russia may export Project 22800 corvettes to Viet Nam, India, China

MOSCOW — Russia may supply Project 22800 corvettes codenamed Kara-kurt, armed with the Kaliber missiles, to Viet Nam, China, India and other countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov told reporters on Monday.

“These ships are very successful: they have a big tonnage, good armament, and Kaliber is the most important thing.

The corvette has an acceptable price, it is small, compact and fast. I believe that it has a good export potential for a num-

ber of countries, especially from the Asia-Pacific Region - Viet Nam, China, India and others,” Borisov said.

Currently, the units of Russia’s Navy, namely the Baltic, the Northern, the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian flotilla are

equipped with the Karakurt-class corvettes, he said.

“Now the construction of the first three vessels of this class has been launched at the Eastern shipyard. I think the new models’ production will heighten interest in them.”

The Project 22800 corvettes (Karakurt) are a series of Russian multi-role artillery missile vessels of the near maritime zone developed by the Almaz Central Maritime Design Bureau.

The Russian Navy is due to receive a total of 18 small-sized Project 22800 ships, including the first two in 2018.

The vessels are armed with high-precision missiles, modern artillery systems and Russian-made power plants.—Tass ■

Spanish taxi strike against Uber continues

MADRID — The strike of Spanish taxi drivers against ride-hailing companies like Uber and Cabify continues, affecting thousands of passengers and tourists, local media reported on Monday.

Striking drivers parked their cars in the middle of main roads in Madrid and Barcelona, asserting the ride-hailing services have threatened their livelihood.

The strike started in Barcelona on Wednesday, after the Spanish government appealed against an ordinance by the Barcelona government which limited the number of licenses for taxi services booked by APPs. It was soon extended to Madrid, Bilbao, Valencia and Seville and turned violent as some strikers surrounded and kicked Uber and Cabify cars. “They have the right to strike and demand what

they feel to be their rights, but without getting violent against us,” an Uber driver Abdel Ghani told local newspaper *El Pais*, claiming his car was attacked with eggs in Madrid on Friday night.

Pedro Saura, Spanish state secretary for infrastructure, transportation and housing, had a meeting with taxi unions which asked for a law which requires only one ride-hailing license for every 30 taxi licenses.

The four-hour meeting failed to reach an agreement as the government plans to transfer powers over licensing to local governments. This offer was rejected by taxi unions, arguing that will simply pass the problem to regions instead of solving it.

Saura plans to meet representatives from ride-hailing associations on Tuesday.—Xinhua ■



These ships are very successful: they have a big tonnage, good armament, and Kaliber is the most important thing, Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov said. PHOTO: TASS

Aid sector sex abuse ‘endemic’: British MPs

LONDON — Sexual exploitation is endemic across the international aid sector, which is delusional about its efforts to tackle the problem, a British parliamentary investigation found in a damning report released on Tuesday.

The report on sexual exploitation and abuse in the sector, produced by the International Development Committee scrutiny panel of MPs, said self-regulation had completely failed to deal with the issue.

“The overall impression is one of complacency, verging on complicity,” the report said. Lawmakers were investigating the aid sector following revelations earlier this year of

a prostitution scandal in Haiti involving staff from the British charity Oxfam. That triggered a flood of complaints across the sector. The committee said the scale of the problem was impossible to define but there were suspicions that known cases so far were the tip of the iceberg.

“Sexual exploitation and abuse is happening and it is happening across organisations, countries and institutions. It is endemic, and it has been for a long time,” the parliamentary report said.

“The delivery of aid to people and communities in crisis has been subverted by sexual predators who exploit weakened systems

of governance.”

In its conclusions, the report said the international aid sector’s response to tackling abuse had been “reactive, patchy and sluggish”. It said there had been a collective failure of leadership and the aid sector was in “self-delusion” over its efforts to deal with the issue.

“Impunity for sexual exploitation and abuse is utterly unacceptable. The lack of accountability entirely undermines the notion of zero tolerance,” the MPs said. The committee called for a global register of aid workers, to prevent sexual predators seeking to drift around the sector.

“Reactions driven by concern for reputational management” will “never bring about meaningful change,” the MPs said. **October conference** Britain is hosting an international safeguarding conference on October 18 aimed at striking a common front agreement across the sector.

Britain’s International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said survivors needed to be put first. “Until the sector is fully prepared to address the power imbalance, cultures, and behaviours that allow sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment to happen, we will never stamp it out,” she said. Judith Brodie, who heads Bond, Britain’s network of international development non-governmental organisations, said the sector was working to end sex abuse.

“We as NGOs know that ‘business as usual’ is not going to cut it and change has started,” she said. Oxfam chair of trustees Caroline Thomson said the report made for “incredibly painful reading.” “We failed to protect vulnerable women in Haiti, and we accept we should have reported more clearly at the time — for that we are truly sorry,” she said.—AFP ■



Lawmakers were investigating the aid sector following revelations earlier this year of a prostitution scandal in Haiti involving staff from the British charity Oxfam. PHOTO: AFP

HUMAN-MISSING ADVERTISEMENT

MA NWAY NWAY THU, aged (41), 14/PaThaYa (Naing) 085746, Passport No. MC 516400 (Expiry Date : August 31, 2022), the wife of **U KYI THEIN** who lives at No. (117), 5th Floor, 23rd Street, No. (8) Ward, Lathar Township, Yangon Region, has left the dwelling house and missed; taking the gold, monies and assets in the house, and the documents related to the house-ownership; at (7:30), on (20-7-2018), so it is to be contacted or communicated if she was found, and it is informed that those who have accepted her must be taken the action, as per the law.

As assigned and instructed by **U KYI THEIN**,

DAW TIN TIN HTAY
Advocate (Serial No. 5205)
Tel : 09-791663466

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Japan to spend \$4.2 bn over 30 years on missile defence system radar

TOKYO (Japan) — Japan said Monday it would spend some \$4.2 billion over the next 30 years on installing and operating US radar systems to protect itself against North Korean missile threats.

The move, announced by Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera, is the latest step by Tokyo to upgrade its military. Japan says the North's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles pose a direct threat.

US firm Lockheed Martin has offered to build the radars needed for a new ground-based Aegis Ashore missile defence system at a cost of roughly 134 billion yen (\$1.21 billion) for one unit, Onodera told reporters. The combined expenditure for two units as well as maintenance

and operational costs for the next 30 years was estimated at 466 billion yen (\$4.2 billion), the defence ministry said. That does not include expected additional costs involved with the system that have yet to be outlined. "Our country's ballistic missile defence capacity will significantly improve," Onodera said. "The cost is not fixed yet. We will examine the prices at every level possible," he added.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has passionately argued for the upgrading of the nation's military in light of threats from North Korea, which has several times fired missiles over Japan and into waters near the country. Abe has maintained a hardline position against the North while the leaders of South



Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera. PHOTO: AFP

Korea, China and the United States have shifted in recent months towards diplomacy with Pyongyang.

The Aegis radar purchase comes as trade tensions between the US and Japan cast a shadow over the friendship between the country's leaders that Abe has pursued. President Donald Trump has

pushed Tokyo to buy more US products, including military equipment, but has angered allies including Japan recently with trade tariffs.

Japan's military has long been restricted to self-defence and the country relies heavily on the US under a bilateral security alliance.—AFP ■

Indonesia bans local IS-affiliated group behind deadly attacks

JAKARTA — An Indonesian court on Tuesday banned a local extremist network responsible for a series of deadly terror attacks on home soil, significantly expanding police powers to charge members and freeze funding.

Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group (IS), was involved in a deadly 2016 Jakarta attack and a wave of suicide bombings in May in Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya, according to authorities.

Two families — including girls aged nine and 12 — blew themselves up at churches and a police station, killing 13.

"Herewith we declare [JAD] a forbidden organisation," lead judge Aris Bawono Langgeng said at South Jakarta district court.

Indonesia has banned just one other radical Islamic group, Jemaah Islamiyah, in 2008 because it was found guilty of committing terrorist acts.

The ruling will beef up police powers to go after JAD, which has been connected to a series of other plots in Indonesia, including a firebomb attack on a church that killed a toddler and a plan to launch a Christmas-time suicide bombing.

Prosecutors welcomed the decision and said it could set a precedent for disbanding other IS-affiliated organisations in Indonesia.

Asludin Hatjani, a lawyer representing the group, said he would not appeal, but had previously protested that banning the group would allow police to arrest alleged members who had not committed an act of terrorism.

Formed in 2015, JAD is thought to be composed of some two dozen Indonesian groups that have pledged allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, according to the US State Department, which last year designated it as an extremist network.

The group's spiritual leader Aman Abdurrahman was sentenced to death last month for his role in the Jakarta terror attack on 14 January, 2016, that left four attackers and four civilians dead. A court indictment seen by AFP named Zainal Anshori as the group's current "Emir", or leader, in Indonesia.

The 44-year-old leader of JAD operations in East Java was jailed for seven years in 2017 over a botched gun-running operation from the Philippines to Indonesia.—AFP ■

Australia, US, Japan in Indo-Pacific infrastructure push

SYDNEY — Australia, the United States and Japan will jointly invest in infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific, officials announced on Tuesday, in an attempt to counter China's efforts to court influence in the region.

Beijing has loaned countries across Asia billions of dollars as part of its "Belt and Road" development strategy, including to island nations in the Pacific, a region Canberra views as its backyard.

The Australian government has raised fears in recent months that some small Pacific nations might get trapped with unsustainable debts, handing Beijing influence.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the trilateral partnership would "mobilise investment in projects that drive economic growth, create opportunities, and foster a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific". "We share the belief

that good investments stem from transparency, open competition, sustainability, adhering to robust global standards, employing the local workforce, and avoiding unsustainable debt burdens."

She said Australia's foreign affairs department (DFAT), the US' Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation were developing a framework of coopera-

tion. Bishop did not name China in her announcement, but Canberra has been critical of Beijing's Pacific "soft diplomacy" push and has refocused its aid programmes to win hearts and minds in the island nations. Australia last month said it will negotiate a security treaty with Vanuatu and would also fund and build an underseas communications cable to the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.—AFP ■

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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

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

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Holiday reads: Beachgoers check out French seaside libraries

ÉTRETAT (France) — Going to the beach can be tough work, but if you need a break from all the gruelling swimming and sun-bathing this summer, a trip to one of France's pop-up seaside libraries could be just the thing.

Lulled by the gentle cries of seagulls in the distance, flocks of readers have been heading to the book-filled beach huts that authorities have opened along the coast of Normandy in northern France and elsewhere.

"It's a perfect break for reading and relaxing between two dips in the sea," said 52-year-old hairdresser Isabelle from her deckchair at the library in Etretat, a Normandy resort famed for its dramatic white cliffs.

"Since I'm not going away on holiday, this is my treat every afternoon," she said, before diving back into a detective novel.

Etretat is one of 12 local resorts where authorities have set up library beach-huts this summer. Open from 7 July until 16 August, each of the wooden huts has been filled with 1,000 books.

Normandy launched its "Read At The Beach" scheme



Authorities in Normandy, France, have set up 12 library beach huts this summer. PHOTO: AFP

in 2005 with three huts and by last year was welcoming more than 38,000 bookworms along this stretch of the coast.

The idea has since taken off elsewhere in France, with the Hérault region in the south attracting 21,000 readers to its own beach huts last year.

Similar schemes have also

been launched in other countries including Australia, Bulgaria, Israel and Spain.

Poetry and gentleman-thieves

In Normandy, anyone is welcome to dip into a book, with no registration needed — but readers must stay in the deck-

chairs provided, rather than taking them down to the sea to get sand between the pages.

This year 400 chairs are up for grabs around the region at the beach huts, which are open every day between 2 pm and 7 pm, with some books in English, German and Italian provided for foreign readers.

On a recent sunny afternoon in Etretat, a dozen readers — aged between nine months and 70 — come to transport themselves to other worlds from the hut, overlooking the sea.

"We need more of this kind of place," said Romain Mace, an engineer on vacation from the city of Rouen, enjoying a volume of poetry as his baby slept beside him — a rare pleasure for sleep-deprived young parents.

Since the books cannot be taken off-site, the hut's two librarians will happily put aside a novel you've started so that you can pick up the story where you left off the next day.

Corinne Ait Amar, 47, had returned to delve back into the thrilling exploits of gentleman-thief Arsene Lupin while her daughter was engrossed in a Japanese manga comic.

"It's perfect," said the nurse, on vacation with her family from the eastern city of St Etienne.

"My daughter and I have been saying to ourselves that we might meet up with the rest of the family a little later than planned..."—AFP ■

'Stranger Things' season three delayed: Netflix

LOS ANGELES — Fans of "Stranger Things" will have to wait longer for the third season of the popular sci-fi series, Netflix has confirmed.

Cindy Holland, programming executive of the streaming giant, revealed that the show will not arrive till next summer, but has reassured that the next spell will be "better" than the second season.

Season two, which premiered on 27 October last year, received mixed responses from the fans.

"It's a handcrafted show. The Duffer Brothers and Shawn Levy, they understand the stakes are high. They

want to deliver something bigger and better than last year. I think it's going to be a fantastic season.

It will be worth the wait," Holland said.

According to EW, she was in a conversation with the critics at the Television Critics Association's press tour in Beverly Hills.

Holland also noted that the next season will have more special effects than the previous ones.

"It's a really exciting season, just takes a little more time," she said.

The show has already released a teaser trailer for the next season.—PTI ■

NZ strikes off-note by stripping ivory off 123-yr-old British piano

WELLINGTON (New Zealand) — New Zealand authorities have been accused of "vandalism" after they stripped the ivory key tops from an antique piano shipped into the country by its British owner.

The 123-year-old upright piano should have been exempt from strict rules aimed at cracking down on the ivory trade, because it was built before 1914.

But owner Julian Paton, an English heart disease researcher who emigrated to New Zealand with his wife and two children, was unaware he needed a special verification certificate for the family heirloom, according to New Zealand media.

"We are disappointed and horrified as a family at the bureaucracy," Paton told the website stuff.co.nz, adding that they had "followed all the rules that we were told to follow".

According to the report, the conservation department said the instrument was "deemed, by authorities in the United Kingdom, to have been illegally ex-

ported from the UK and illegally imported to New Zealand".

The *Herald on Sunday* newspaper slammed the department's decision as "Kafkaesque red tape" which did little to enhance New Zealand's reputation.

Paton's local MP David Seymour called the saga "outrageous" and said removing the ivory was "vandalism".

"I'm embarrassed as a New Zealander and as a local MP that this is how we welcome people,

by confiscating their family heirlooms so their kids can't play piano," he said.

Paton, who will have to fit expensive synthetic tops to the keys, intends to fight the government order that he also pay for the removal and dumping of the ivory. New Zealand is a signatory to the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which seeks to protect many threatened animals and plants.—AFP ■



Briton Julian Paton will have to fit expensive synthetic tops to the keys of his antique piano. PHOTO: AFP

Scientists' years-long observation verifies Einstein's theory of relativity

BERLIN — A group of scientists have recently verified Einstein's theory of relativity by observing how a fast-moving star's light waves were changed as it is approaching a supermassive black hole, according to the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

Scientists at the European Southern Observatory measured that the orbital velocity of the star increased to more than 25 million km per hour as it was getting closer to the black hole

at the heart of the Milky Way.

The star's wavelength stretched as it sought to escape the gravitational pull of the black hole, with its appearance turning from blue to red, Odele Straub from the Paris Observatory told the media.

Such phenomena agree with the gravitational redshift in Einstein's general theory of relativity, which predicts that the extreme gravitation field of a black hole would stretch a star's light

waves to longer wavelengths and the star would become redder. Observing the gravitational redshift in the solar system is seen as one of the classical tests of general relativity.

About 26 years ago, scientists at the observatory began monitoring the central area of the Milky Way through its Very Large Telescope to observe the motion of stars near the black hole, which is four million times as large as the sun.—Xinhua ■



Canadian immigration lawyers are concerned about law enforcement's collection of migrants' DNA to establish their nationality and the privacy of data held by websites. **PHOTO: AFP**

Canada using genealogical sites to identify deportees

OTTAWA — Canadian authorities said on Monday they have been quietly collecting DNA of migrants and matching it to distant relatives using genealogical websites in order to establish their nationality.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) says it does so only in extreme cases — such as that of a man who claimed to be Guinean but was turned back from that country after Canada tried to deport him.

Immigration lawyers, however, are concerned about law enforcement's collection of migrants' DNA and the privacy of data held by websites such as Ancestry.com and FamilyTreeDNA.com.

"The CBSA uses DNA testing in order to determine identity of longer term detainees when other avenues of investigation have been exhausted," spokesman Jayden Robertson said.

The agency said the testing assists in "determining identity by providing indicators of nationality thereby enabling us to focus further lines of investigation on particular countries."

It always obtains consent from the individual before submitting their DNA to these websites, it added.

But Toronto immigration lawyer Jared Will, who represents several people who had their DNA analyzed in order to establish their nationality, disputes that.

"In my experience, the CBSA has made these requests to detainees who are then accused of non-cooperation with removal efforts if they decline, and that non-cooperation is then invoked as a justification for continued and prolonged detention," he told AFP.

"In other words, while the detainees may formally give their

consent, the validity of that consent is dubious," he said.

Others noted that one's ethnicity or family ties may not determine their nationality.

Scrutiny of the practice comes as Canada announced on Monday it was expanding the collection of biometrics like fingerprints and photos for refugee claimants, individuals facing extradition and foreign nationals seeking a temporary resident visa, work permit or study permit.

Border security has become a political hot potato with the arrival on foot from the United States of 30,000 asylum seekers since January 2017 putting strains on Canada's refugee system and provoking a public backlash.

According to court documents, migrant Ebrahim Toure spent more than four years in Canadian detention pending removal. He initially refused a DNA swab but eventually relented last year.

Toure had arrived in Canada in 2011 using a fraudulent French passport, and was ordered deported.

He later claimed to be a Guinean national, so Canada tried to send him there. But on arrival at the Conakry airport Guinean officials refused him entry, saying a birth certificate he provided was fraudulent. They also noted that he didn't speak French, the official language of Guinea.

The CBSA subsequently examined his Facebook account that listed 48 friends mostly from Gambia, interviewed members of Toronto's Gambian community who knew him, concluded from a linguistic analysis that he was "very likely" Gambian, and sought to match his DNA on genealogical sites to relatives in Gambia.—AFP ■

NASA's TESS begins hunt for planets in other solar systems

WASHINGTON — NASA's newest planet-hunting satellite began operations last week and is expected to send back its first series of data in August, the US space agency said in a statement on Saturday.

"I'm thrilled that our new planet hunter mission is ready to start scouring our solar system's neighbourhood for new worlds," Paul Hertz, director of NASA's astrophysics division, said.

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), launched on 18 April, is NASA's latest satellite to hunt for planets

outside our solar system. It will monitor the brightness of more than 200,000 stars over a period of two years, eyeing temporary drops in brightness caused by planetary transits.

The primary goal of TESS is to find exoplanets that can be characterized with ground-based follow-up surveys.

Occupying a never-before-used orbit high above Earth that takes half of the moon's orbital period, TESS will study over 90 per cent of the sky and transmit observations back to Earth every 13.5 days.

The mission is under NASA's Astrophysics Explorer programme, led and operated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Kepler space telescope discovered over 2,000 confirmed exoplanets since its launch in 2009. As a follow-up, TESS is expected to match or even exceed the number.

Focusing on stars that are 30 to 100 times brighter than those Kepler has surveyed, TESS will also pave the way for further observations with NASA's upcoming James Webb space telescope.—Xinhua ■

Samsung Electronics posts \$9.9 bn Q2 net profit, down 0.1 per cent

SEOUL — Samsung Electronics on Tuesday reported a 0.1 per cent dip in its second quarter net profit from a year earlier, blaming slower sales of smartphones and display panels for the drop.

Net profit for the April to June period came in at 11.04 tril-

lion won (\$9.9 billion), slightly lower than the 11.05 trillion won in the same period in 2017, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Operating profit was 14.87 trillion won, up 5.7 per cent and in line with the estimate of 14.8 trillion won suggested in a prelim-

inary guidance report released earlier this month.

But total sales fell 4.1 per cent year-on-year to 58.48 trillion won, with the company's consumer electronics and mobile businesses suffering.

"Second quarter revenue fell due to softer sales of smartphones and display panels," Samsung said in a statement.

The company added however that robust demand for memory chips helped boost the operating profit.

The earnings are sharply down from the 11.69 trillion won net profit registered last quarter, when the company reported a 52 per cent jump on year.

But Samsung said it "expects sustained strength in the memory market and growing demand for flexible OLED panels to drive earnings higher in the second half".—AFP ■



Samsung Electronics reported net profit for the April to June period came in at 11.04 trillion won (\$9.9 billion), slightly lower than the 11.05 trillion won in the same period in 2017. **PHOTO: AFP**

2018 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship opens in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW — The opening ceremony of 2018 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship was held at the Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, with an opening speech by U Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports and President of the Myanmar Olympic Committee.

Also present at the ceremony were U Htun Myint Naing, President of the Myanmar Volleyball Federation (MVF), Dr Mya Lay Sein, Vice Minister of Health and Sports, MVF Vice President U Thein Win and Mr Shanrit Wongprasert, the Control Committee Chairman and AVC Secretary-General.

All participating teams paraded into the competition venue, waiting for the official opening to come. Shortly after that, Union Minister U Myint Htwe delivered an opening speech, welcoming all participants to the Championship and informing that the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship has been hosted twice by



Mr Shanrit Wongprasert presents AVC plaque to U Htun Myint Naing. **PHOTO: AVC**

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2016 and 2018 to help promote volleyball because the sport has so far gained increasing popularity in the country.

U Htun Myint Naing also gave a welcome speech to all participants. During this occasion, Mr Shanrit presented the AVC plaques to Union Minister U Myint Htwe and U Htun Myint Naing. After that, Union Minister U Myint Htwe, accompanied by

Dr Mya Lay Sein, U Htun Myint Naing, Mr Shanrit and U Thein Win took turns presenting souvenirs to team captains, and all participating teams paraded out of the court, followed by kickoff of the curtain-raisers between Myanmar's Asia World Club and Turkmenistan's Binagar. Myanmar's Asia World Club defeated Turkmenistan's Binagar 3-1 (25-16, 25-23, 21-25, 25-21) victory.—GNLM ■

Murray makes triumphant hardcourt return in Washington

WASHINGTON — Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray of Britain rallied for victory on Monday in his first hardcourt match since March of last year, defeating Mackenzie McDonald at the ATP Washington Open.

Former world number one Murray, still struggling after ending an 11-month right hip injury layoff in June, needed seven match points to subdue the 80th-ranked American 3-6, 6-4, 7-5. The 31-year-old Scotsman, now 832nd in the rankings, booked a second-round match against British fourth seed Kyle Edmund, who had an opening bye. After making his return from January hip surgery last month at Queens and Eastbourne, Murray skipped Wimbledon and began preparing for the hardcourt campaign.

His lone win on grasscourts came over Swiss Stan Wawrinka, another three-time Grand Slam winner fighting back from injury.

Wawrinka, the world number 198 coming back from a left knee injury that kept him

out nearly eight of the past 11 months, was set to face US qualifier Donald Young in a later match. Murray's first hardcourt match in nearly 17 months turned when he broke in the penultimate game of the second set and again on his fifth break chance in the opening game of the third set.

Murray, whose best Washington finish was a runner-up effort in his 2006 debut, served for the match in the 10th game but squandered five match points, four of them on errors, and McDonald broke back to 5-5 when Murray netted a forehand to end the 12-minute game.

At 30-30 in the 11th game, McDonald stuck his racquet over the net to play the ball, losing the point on a violation quickly called by French umpire Arnaud Gabas. McDonald then hit a forehand long to give Murray another chance to serve for the match. Murray made the most of it when McDonald hit a forehand long to end matters at 12:45 am on Tuesday after two hours and 37 minutes.—AFP ■

Neymar: I fell apart during the World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO — Neymar has declared himself a "new man", saying he has accepted criticism of his behaviour during the World Cup in Russia.

The 26-year-old was widely accused of play-acting and diving during the tournament, drawing sharp criticism from fans and inspiring countless internet memes. In a video published by one of his sponsors late on Sunday, the Brazilian admitted he exaggerated some of his reactions to being fouled.

"You may think I exaggerate. And sometimes I do exaggerate. But the truth is I suffer on the pitch," Neymar said in the advertisement. "You may think I fall too much. But the truth is I did not fall. I fell apart. I took a long time to accept your criticism. I took a long time to look at myself in the mirror and become a new man." The Brazilian talisman scored just twice in five matches in a Brazil side that was eliminated following a 2-1 defeat to Belgium in the quarterfinals.

His diving, rolling around

and constant arguing with referees were not the only causes for criticism during the

competition. The Paris Saint-Germain forward was accused of seeking attention by crying before television

cameras after Brazil's 2-0 victory over Costa Rica in their second group match.

And he was widely lambasted in the Brazilian press for refusing to give interviews during and after the tournament. "When I leave without giving interviews it is not because I only want the spoils of victory.

It is because I still haven't learned to disappoint you. When I look impolite, it is not because I am a spoiled kid. It is because I have not learned how to be frustrated," he said. Neymar recognized that his brand of football "sometimes irritates the whole world." At the end of the advertisement, he called on Brazilians to support him as he attempt to regain the respect of the football world. "You can keep casting stones. Or throw these stones away and help me stand.

When I stand, all of Brazil stands with me," he added.—Xinhua ■



Brazil's Neymar.
PHOTO: XINHUA

Mourinho confirms Matic injury while criticizing Martial absence

LONDON — Manchester United coach Jose Mourinho has confirmed the club will be without Serbian midfielder Nemanja Matic for the start of the new Premier League season.

Mourinho's side kick off the new season at home to Leicester City on 10 August, but the Portuguese coach has told the club's official website that the key midfielder won't be available.

Matic, who previously worked with Mourinho at Chelsea, has played no part in the club's American tour and his importance to the side was highlighted in their 4-1 defeat to Liverpool in the International Champions Cup on Saturday night.

"Matic arrived from the World Cup holiday, direct to surgery because something happened in the World Cup," explained Mourinho, adding the midfielder was "out for the start of the season."

"I don't know how long he will be out for," he said.

The coach has also criticized French international forward Anthony Martial, with whom he already has a poor relationship, for not being with the team in the United States.

"Anthony Martial has the baby and after the baby is born; beautiful baby, full of health, thank God; he should be here and he is not here," he complained, lamenting the effect having players on post-World Cup holidays was having on his preparations.

"I just hope the boys on deserved holidays, they take care of themselves a little bit and I hope somebody wants to do what (Marcus) Rashford and (Phil) Jones decide to do, which is to be back a little bit earlier to try and help the team, because for the beginning of the season we are going to be in trouble," said the Manchester United coach. United's next game sees them take on Real Madrid in another International Champions Cup match on Wednesday.—Xinhua ■